

# PARISH OF WHEATLEY

MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of WHEATLEY held on Monday 2nd April 2007 at The Merry Bells at 7.30 pm

Chairman Caroline Dalton, Chairman of Wheatley Parish Council  
Officer: Gareth Morris, Clerk to the Parish Council

PRESENT: 20 members of the public including: Parish Councillors: C. Dalton (Chairman), R T Bell, P. Audley-Miller, E Stacey, G Birks, H. P. Mulcahy-Morgan, J Carr & M Watson and 10 other electors of Wheatley.

ALSO PRESENT: County Councillor Ann Purse and District Councillor Sarah Gray

APOLOGIES: Parish Councillors M Hogan, J Coveley, J Reilly & C Sprent, Peter Targett, Suzanne Woodward

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and read out the Health and Safety and housekeeping announcements. The Chairman invited all those present to stay for refreshments at the end of the meeting and to vote for their favourite poster from those on display that year 3/4 of the Primary School had designed on 'recycling'.

**1 MINUTES of the previous ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of 03.04.06**, circulated previously. The Minutes were APPROVED and SIGNED by the Chairman as a correct record with the addition of Cllr M Watson's name to those giving apologies for absence.

**2 MATTERS ARISING** from the minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF 03.04.06

## 3 REPORTS

**3(i) THAMES VALLEY POLICE** – No Report

**3(ii) WHEATLEY COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP** (Cllr E. Stacey)

Cllr Stacey Spoke to her report (See attached report A)

Dr Jim Watson asked if the Fire Service had complained about the situation re parking along Old London Road. The answer was they had made representations to Brookes University.

Mr J Reay asked about the powers of the Community Support Police Officers. It was pointed out that they did not have the full powers of a police officer

**3(iii) OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL** (Anne Purse)

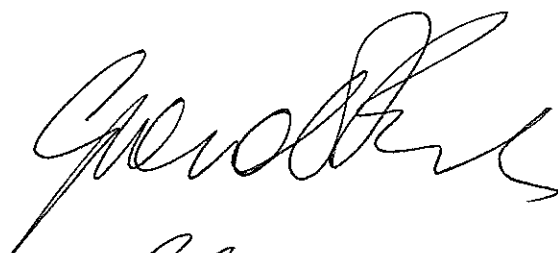
Cllr Purse spoke to her report (see attached report B)

*Caroline Dalton*  
V.C.  
29/4/08

- 3(iv) SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL** (District Cllr Sarah Gray)  
District Councillor Gray spoke to her report (See attached report B)  
Wheatley's District Councillors would be attempting to change the District Council's policy on not replacing the public toilets demolished recently, despite the obvious need. A paper was going to the Cabinet on spending on toilets and there would be an attempt to get this to be referred to the Scrutiny Committee.  
Mrs Gwendolen Birks proposed and Mrs Janet Carr seconded the motion '**This Parish Meeting requests South Oxfordshire District Council provide public toilet facilities in Wheatley**'. This was passed unanimously
- 3(v) WHEATLEY CHARITIES** (submitted by Mr Peter Targett)  
The Clerk read out the report sent in by Mr Targett (See attached report C)  
The Charity is concerned that they have very few applications for assistance and requested that those present spread the word that financial aid is available for the under 25s to help further their education
- 3(vi) WHEATLEY PARK SPORTSFIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** (Mrs Mary Blake)  
Mrs Blake spoke to the report of the management Committee (See attached report D)
- 3(vii) WHEATLEY COMMON ALLOTMENT – THE HOWE TRUST** (Mrs Caroline Dalton)  
Mrs Dalton spoke to her report (See attached report E)
- 3(viii) THE MERRY BELLS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** (Mr Peter-Audley-Miller)  
Mr Audley-Miller spoke to the report of the Management Committee (See attached report F)
- 3(ix) ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WHEATLEY**  
a) Men's Section Mr Roger Bell spoke to the report submitted by the Chairman Mr A Cowie (See attached report G) Mr John Reay asked where he might find the winners to the Poppy Appeal raffle. Mr Bell said he would try and find out.  
b) Women's Section – an oral report was given by Mrs Janet Carr. The section now has 38 members and continues to undertake welfare work, collect for the Poppy day appeal and provide teas on Remembrance Sunday. During her visit to the South Atlantic it was her privilege to lay a wreath on behalf of the Women's Section at the Port Stanley War Memorial
- 3(x) WHEATLEY SCOUT GROUP** – No report
- 3(xi) WHEATLEY GIRL GUIDES** (Mrs B Rye)  
Mrs Rye spoke to her report (see attached report H) They Guides were desperate for more leaders as they were turning away possible members

*Janet Carr*  
VC  
29/4/08

- 3(xii) WHEATLEY INTEGRATED NURSERY SCHOOL** (Mrs Suzanne Woodward)  
The Clerk read out Mrs Woodward's (See attached report I)  
Mrs Woodward had provide a number of portfolios put together by the pupils of the school and those present were encouraged to look at them at the end of the meeting
- 3(xiii) COMMUNITY/ADULT LEARNING** – No report
- 3(xiv) WHEATLEY PRODUCTIONS** (Mr G Morris)  
Mr Morris spoke to his report (See attached report J)
- 3(xv) FRIENDS OF THE EARTH** - No report
- 3(xvi) YOUTH CENTRE** – No report
- 3(xvii) WHEATLEY WINDMILL RESTORATION SOCIETY** (Mrs C Dalton)  
Mrs Dalton spoke to her report. (See attached report K)  
There a number of technical questions about the size of the sails, what is the braking mechanism and would corn ever actually be ground at the mill. Mrs Dalton said that modern day Health and Safety rule may prevent this.
- 3(xviii) THE WHEATLEY SOCIETY** (Dr J Watson)  
Dr Watson's spoke to his report (See attached report L)  
He informed the meeting that the society was formed some 33 years ago as a 'ginger group' looking at the environmental issues within the village. Nowadays it is rather more of a social group.  
Mr Audley-Miller asked why didn't the Wheatley Society take a greater role in looking at planning applications etc. Dr Watson replied by saying that they have tried to follow up the clutter in the field below the windmill with the SODC Enforcement Officer and they had been in touch with the same council over the removal of the public toilets
- 3(xix) ST MARY'S CHURCH** (Rev James Watson)  
Rev. James Watson gave an oral report in which he highlighted; a change in the format of services for a one year trial period, the church as a venue for concerts eg Wheatley Choral Society, major works carried out had been the removal of the wall between the two churchyards and repair of the wall along Church Road. The church was grateful to the Friends of St Mary's and the Parish Council for financial help towards these projects.
- 3(xx) WHEATLEY VILLAGE ARCHIVE** –No report

  
29.4.08

**3(xxix) REPORTS FROM OTHER VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS**

- a) The Village Produce Association – the Clerk read out a report submitted by the Village Produce Association (See attached report M)
  
- b) Community Action Group – Mrs Caroline Dalton presented an oral report on CAG highlighting the 'Swap Shops' that had been held in the Merry Bells which provide an alternative to land fill for article people no longer required themselves

**3(xxix) WHEATLEY PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE REPORT (Cllr Janet Carr)**

Cllr Carr spoke to her report (See attached report N)

**3(xxx) WHEATLEY PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Cllr C Dalton)**

Cllr Dalton spoke to her report (See attached report O)

There being no further business the Chairman invited all present to stay for refreshments and to inspect the portfolios of the students from The Wheatley Integrated Nursery School which were on display and to vote for their favourite recycling poster as designed by pupils from Year 3/4 at the Primary School

**Meeting closed 9.20 pm**

*Caroline Dalton*  
*29.4.08*

A

## **Wheatley Community Safety Group**

**A report for Wheatley Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007**  
by Ellie Stacey, Chair.

The Wheatley Community Safety Group held its first meeting at Wheatley Fire Station in September 2005. The membership of the group now includes representatives from: Wheatley, Holton, Horspath and Great Milton Parish Councils, The Fire Service, SODC officers, Police Community Support Officers and the Crime Reduction Advisor from Thames Valley Police, Wheatley Neighbourhood Watch, Youth Services, Wheatley Park School and Wheatley Primary School. Many of these representatives are reporting separately to the Annual parish meeting tonight.

### **An update**

The Wheatley Community Safety Group was formed with the aim of promoting the safety and well-being of people living and working in Wheatley and the surrounding villages, through working on issues from drugs and alcohol misuse to anti-social behaviour and vandalism. The focus on the meetings, which are held every six weeks, is the sharing of information, and finding solutions to problems.

This is a flavour of the issues that have been discussed this year:

- the level of crime, including drugs and alcohol abuse, in Wheatley and surrounding villages
- the role of the Police Community Support Officer
- the role of SODC in supporting the community
- anti-social behaviour
- Wheatley dispersal order
- parking issues in Wheatley, especially in relation to Brookes campus in Wheatley.

### **The level of crime in Wheatley and surrounding villages**

The CSG hears crime figures for the area at each of its meetings, and this is a low crime area.

### **The role of the Police Community Support Officer**

Their work is very much about providing a presence, crime prevention and building relationships with communities to offer support, and ensure that people have an accurate perception of the level of crime.

### **Anti-social behaviour and the Wheatley dispersal order**

The Dispersal Order that came into effect in September 2006, to counteract the anti-social behaviour in some locations in Wheatley: the High Street, Morland House Surgery, Wheatley Park School and the Park Sport Centre in particular. It

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses.



allows the Police to move people on if their behaviour is anti-social, or it is perceived that it might become so. One effect is that there is now more reporting to the Police, which leads to greater 'tasking' of Wheatley, and there have been fewer incidents as a result.

There is concern from some residents that groups of youths gather in Wheatley but it would be sad if there was a perception amongst some that all young people are 'up to no good.' The handful of youngsters that cause trouble are known to the police and are a very small minority; most of our young people are worthy and active members of the community.

**Parking issues in Wheatley, especially in relation to Brookes campus in Wheatley.**

Parking problems, in particular those connected to the students who park in Wheatley instead of on the Brookes campus are regularly discussed. The Fire and Rescue service is represented on the CSG. The Brookes parking problems are of concern to them as there are occasions when the fire engine is delayed in getting out of the station.

The CSG would like to widen its membership, from residents, shopkeepers and young people. However, Neighbourhood policing is being introduced in the Thame area very soon and the process is underway to hold public meetings across the Thames Valley area. The formation of the Neighbourhood Action Groups may impact on the Community Safety Groups. It is something that needs to be watched closely to ensure that the two groups are not trying to tackle the same problems and each group may decide to fold or continue and have input to the Neighbourhood action groups. There may be less police attendance at the community safety group meetings to meet the demands of the NAG groups.



B

## **District Councillors' Report to the Wheatley Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007.**

(Roger Bell and Sarah Gray)

Over the past twelve months a number of things have taken place or decisions made at SODC which have affected Wheatley. Below are some of the more interesting points.

### Playground Facilities

In July the parish council was successful in its application for a substantial grant from the Community Investment Fund towards its project to upgrade the playground facilities in the Church Road Recreation Ground and we are pleased to note that this work is just about to start.

### Garden Waste

The new system of collecting garden waste by the provision of brown wheelie bins seems to be very popular judging by the number seen around on alternate Mondays in spite of the fact that residents have had to pay up to £29.00 extra over and above their council tax in order to get this service. About 20% of residents have taken up the offer. However we have lost our bi-weekly community green waste vehicle and the facility for those with small gardens, to have brown sacks and to put them out for collection when convenient.

### Public Conveniences

We have lost our toilet facilities in the High Street and at present the council seem to have no inclination to replace them although many other towns and villages in our district are to have large sums of money spent on their facilities in order to bring them up to standard with the intention of persuading the local town & parish councils to take over the running costs. A paper is before the cabinet tomorrow in which all this is set out and Wheatley is not mentioned. We do need a concerted effort to convince them of the need in a village of this size, and in the 21<sup>st</sup> century to provide facilities for the many visitors, tourists and locals that come to the High Street. The physical shape of our community, long and thin demands it.

A new facility would still leave room on the site for other community provision and ideas are still awaited.

### Sheltered Housing

The long awaited report on housing and housing for the elderly was issued in September and, in particular, this showed what we had expected, namely that our rapidly ageing population will require more facilities, and of a much higher standard than at present. An extract from the report highlights the situation. –“Most of the rented sheltered housing in South Oxfordshire was built in the 1960s/1970s. The location, design and amenities of many schemes no longer meet the needs and expectations of older people. When most of the schemes were built, sheltered tenants were predominantly in their 60s and 70s. Older and frailer tenants moved on to institutional care. The trend is now to support older people in their own homes wherever possible, and consequently the age and frailty profile of sheltered tenants has increased

considerably. Schemes which were designed for fit and active newly retired people are very unlikely to meet the needs of older tenants with mobility and health problems. In addition, tenants' and applicants' expectations have risen, and the standard of sheltered tenancies and amenities in schemes that would have been "state of the art" 30 or 40 years ago are now no longer attractive or even acceptable to older people. For some years, bedsit sheltered flats have been hard to let."

### Council Tax

SODC has again been very fortunate this year to have a generous increase in government grant towards its expenditure. This means that no increase in the SODC portion of council tax is needed. The actual budget for SODC expenditure is rising from £13.6m to £14.1m. A band D property will pay £116.17 for District Council services. (For comparison, band D tax in the Vale of White Horse will be £102.07)

### Staffing

SODC continues to have problems in the recruitment and retention of senior staff. This may be related to the level of salaries compared to the very high cost of living in South Oxfordshire. As a result, the Planning Department, in particular, remains understaffed and this is adversely affecting its ability to respond to cases where contravention of planning law requires enforcement action. Currently, only cases considered to be high priority are being fully pursued by officers and even then considerable delays are evidenced.

# WHEATLEY CHARITIES

(Registered Charity No: 203535)

**Chairman:**  
PJ Targett  
The Orchard  
5 Holloway Road  
Wheatley, Oxford  
OX33 1NH

**Secretary:**  
Janet Redfern  
35 Ambrose Rise  
Wheatley  
Oxford  
OX33 1YG

**Treasurer:**  
RF Minty  
24 Old London Road  
Wheatley  
Oxford  
OX33 1YW

Gareth Morris  
Clerk to the Council  
Wheatley Parish Council  
The Merry Bells  
Wheatley

1<sup>st</sup> April 2007

Dear Gareth

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Thank you for the copy of your letter addressed to all major organisations in the Wheatley area dated 22 March 2006 inviting us to send a representative to the above meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007.

Due to the extreme short notice of only a few days, as it was received after I went away on that day for a short break until yesterday, I regret I have another engagement that evening and am unable to attend. In those circumstances and as requested, I am enclosing an advance copy of the Trustees Report and the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006. The full copy is not available as it was thought the APM would be held later this month. If the Council would like a copy of the full Report in due course we will be pleased to provide this on hearing from you.

I would like to draw out from the Report the fact that the Trustees are still concerned about the low number of grants issued from both the No 1 Charity (2005 and 2006 no grants paid) and also the No 2 Charity (2005 25 grants and 2006 only 17 grants). I would like to reiterate, as I did at last year's Annual Meeting, that we would appreciate any assistance the Parish Council can give in getting more eligible persons to apply. We have continued our practice of publicising the availability of this financial help through posters around the village, the library, Wheatley Park School and by articles in The Wheatley Newsletter two more of which are due to appear in the next issue.

Hopefully, with the Council's support and increased word of mouth around the village, we may get more applicants this year.

We are still hoping that the Council will correct the nominative Trustee anomalies this year as requested on a number of occasions by our Secretary and myself over the past few years.

Yours sincerely



Peter Targett  
Chairman.

Trustees: \*P Audley-Miller, DAS Jola, RF Minty, PJ Targett, Rev James Watson  
\* Nominated by Wheatley Parish Council

## WHEATLEY CHARITIES

No. 1 Charity for the benefit of poor residents in the Parish of Wheatley (being the Simons Close, Town Meadow and Doctor Cyril Jackson's Charities).

### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

2005		
	Investment Income	
4.16	2 ½% Consolidated Stock	4.16
	Bank Interest	
4.16	Rent - Town Meadow	4.16
<u>250.00</u>		<u>250.00</u>
<u>254.16</u>		<u>254.16</u>
	Less: Expenditure	
	Charitable expenditure approved during year	
<u>20.20</u>	Administration costs	<u>10.00</u>
<u>20.20</u>		<u>10.00</u>
<u>233.96</u>	Surplus of Income over Expenditure	<u>244.16</u>

### ACCUMULATED INCOME FUND

Balance at 1 January 2006	1058.52
Add: Deficit/Surplus of Income over Expenditure	<u>244.16</u>
Balance at 31 December 2006	<u>1302.68</u>

### ASSETS OF CHARITY AT 31 DECEMBER 2006

Permanent Endowment	
1. Town Meadow, Wheatley	
2. Investments - £166.67 2 ½% Consolidated Stock	
3. Balance at Bank - £61.72	
Accumulated Funds	
Balance at Bank	1270.84
Investment income not yet banked	27.53
Debtor - income tax recoverable	<u>4.31</u>
	<u>1302.68</u>



Blair

15<sup>th</sup> April 2007

WHEATLEY CHARITIES

No 2 Charity for the benefit of the residents of the Parish of Wheatley under the age of 25 years in  
a) assisting them to prepare for any trade, occupation etc.  
b) otherwise promoting their education

(being the Charities and the Educational Foundation of Dame Elizabeth Curzon and Joseph Sims).

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

2005	Donation		
	Investment Income		
123.91	Charities Official Investment Fund	132.38	
399.72	Charinco Income	399.72	
365.48	Invesco Perpetual UK Investment Services ICVC Income and Growth Fund (Income)	435.76	
695.54	Invesco Perpetual UK Investment Services ICVC Income Fund (Income)	834.76	
531.61	Invesco Institutional Investment Services ICVC Income and Growth Fund (Income)	405.95	
2116.26	Bank Interest	2208.57	
582.66		608.53	
2698.92	Less: Expenditure	2817.10	
2800.00	Grants approved during year	2125.00	
	Administration costs		
2800.00		2125.00	
(101.08)	Surplus(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	692.10	
<b>ACCUMULATED INCOME FUND</b>			
	Balance at 1 January 2006	10285.77	
	Add: Surplus of Income over Expenditure	692.10	
	Balance at 31 December 2006	10977.87	

WHEATLEY CHARITIES

No. 2 Charity (continued)

ASSETS OF CHARITY AT 31 DECEMBER 2006

Permanent Endowment	
Investments	386.00
	3997.37
	3620.00
	2389.00
	5836.56
Balance at Bank	£3888.01
Accumulated Funds	
Balances at Bank	10977.87

Charities Official Investment Fund Income Units  
Charinco Income Shares  
Invesco Perpetual U.K. Investment Services ICVC Income and Growth Fund (Income)  
Invesco Perpetual UK Investment Services ICVC Income Fund (Income)  
Invesco Institutional Investment Services ICVC Income and Growth Fund (Income)

D

## **WHEATLEY PARK SPORTS FIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

### **REPORT TO PARISH MEETING APRIL 2007**

**During the year covered by the report the committee have met on ten occasions including the Annual General meeting.**

**The Parish Council voted off the committee three of their nominated members. Roland Read the then Chairman, Peter Audley Miller – Vice Chairman and Sally Howard. They were replaced with two Parish Councillors, and a Primary school governor. The present serving members are:-**

**For the Parish Councillor Janet Carr; Councillor Roger Bell; Councillor John Harmer; Councillor Mike Hogan; Mr Peter Bayliss and Mr R. Cosier.**

**Members nominated by the County Council are Councillor Mrs Anne Purse, Mrs Sonja Barter; Mrs Amanda Palmer; M/s Beverly Price; Mr Percy Blake and Mr Stephen Pearson.**

**The two Head Teachers were also invited to all meetings. The Parish Chairman attended one meeting. The caretaker was asked to attend on two occasions.**

**The precept amount for the year under review and just ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 was £67,553.59. The County Council paying 4/5 of the total expenditure whilst the Parish Council pay the balance of the remaining 1/5 after the management committee's income is deducted.**

**Various sub committee meetings also took place, one reviewed the committee's expenditure covering :- Isis Accord; insurances; gas; repairs and renewals etc. Various reports/breakdowns were called for during the year, one requested average monthly/daily income and expenditure. The figures were based on 2005/6 audited accounts and showed the costs of the joint use scheme. The County's contribution cost them £3,956 per month or £131.86 per day. Whilst the Parish share was £591.35 after an average months income of £357.75 was considered, or after income, £19.72 per day.**

**Another sub committee reviewed employment contracts for the Secretary and Caretaker.**

**The management committee called for a meeting with the County and Parish Council together with members of the committee and sports clubs. This to give ideas for a new Agreement to replace the existing one which has only six years remaining of the original forty years. No real progress has been made since that time although a County officer has met with the Head Teachers and made proposals to them.**

**It now seems the County and Parish feel the Agreement with some minor alterations should continue to run until a new suitable long term agreement can be arrived at.**

**Main Agenda items have been:-**



**The Agreement; the Pavilions; Skate and Climb; Unauthorised use; S.O.D.C. sports audit; Fire Assessment; Hours worked daily/weekly, Work undertake by Secretary and Caretaker; Contract of Employment; Precept for 2007/08. Review of charges for sporting facilities.**

**Minor work has been undertaken to the Holton pavilions to bring them to a better standard. The worry being they may be condemned as unfit for their purpose unless such work was undertaken. The fact that the boiler in the first pavilion is over thirty years old is of concern.**

**Skate Boarding was hoped to take place in June last year, this proved not possible. However, the event is now booked for Wednesday April 4<sup>th</sup> 2007 in the sixth form car park, Wheatley Park school.**

**Unauthorised use of the playing fields has been encouraged by the management committee. Whilst crickets nets for the Primary school are still under review.**

**All things considered this has been a busy year for the management committee. My thanks go to the Chairman and committee, and to the schools for their co operation and to Anthony Shepherd of Isis Accord for his help and assistance.**



**MARY BLAKE (Mrs)  
SECRETARY**

1



Report on Wheatley Common Allotment alias the Howe Trustees, 2007.

This year, the trustees have managed to complete one more part of the sale of a tiny piece of land behind certain houses on Ladder Hill, which the Charity Commissioners allowed us to sell as long ago as 2002. It has been a lengthy process to tie up all the details about boundaries, not least because Pye Housing had kept a ransom strip behind the gardens of the houses concerned, to which however they had lost title, as it had never been separately fenced. We have also continued to work on our long term scheme to strengthen the fences of all our boundaries and have now nearly met up where we began. There is still a short strip to fence beside the footpath to Windmill lane and west of the mobile home site. The allotments seem to be almost 100% occupied and in a thriving condition. This is due to the good management of the allotment holders' association, which manages them for us. We lost one long standing user of grazing land but are beginning with a new person at the end of May. The builder of the new houses in Windmill Lane has filed up a big dip in the ground, which was the site of an old hand dug quarry in exchange for a new gate and reseeding his tracks across the field.

Our plans for future work include the possibility of converting a small patch of very old orchard at the down hill end of the field into a nature reserve for the primary school children. During the year, we lost a very long standing member of the committee, Harry Johnson, who died in July. There will be a bench in his memory, which will go just inside the second gate and marks one of Harry's favourite views.

*Caroline Mary Dalton*



F

**COPY FROM THE MERRY BELLS (VILLAGE HALL)  
FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, WHEATLEY : 2 APRIL 2007**

Built as a Temperance Hotel by Mrs Miller of Shotover House in 1888, The Merry Bells is a structurally sound, red-brick, two-storey building in the middle of the village of Wheatley. It provides a good-sized Hall for general meetings and charitable events, and a Coffee Room which is also hired out for committee meetings.

Like the Forth Bridge The Merry Bells needs constant repairs and renewals, and we made a number of these in 2006-2007. The old gas fires in our upstairs rented offices have been replaced by modern radiators – and the opportunity taken to put fibreglass insulation into the roof above them. A fine new notice board, glass-fronted, now attracts much attention on the wall outside the Hall. It is kept up-to-date with posters of events booked in The Merry Bells – but we also add posters concerning village events of general interest.

We have recently suffered an amount of vandalism around The Merry Bells : broken windows (7), overturned flower pots, stones from our exit gate strewn all over the carpark at the rear of the building. This has been done at nights (accompanied by considerable rowdiness) since the Public Toilets beside the shops were demolished recently, and the youngsters who used to congregate there have moved to The Merry Bells carpark instead. We hope that Wheatley Police, whose office is in the old 'Stables' on the carpark, will gradually control these nuisance-makers, through the use of Dispersal Orders, which are to be in force till September 2007.

The Merry Bells is well used, by Playgroup, monthly meetings of British Legion, Village Produce Association and Women's Institute, Parish Council meetings (every two months) and leisure use of the Coffee Room by Senior Citizens every morning (10-12) from Tuesday-Saturday. We have numbers of charity sales on Saturday mornings (10-12) and parties to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries (such as Dolf Shorter's party on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2006), as well as exhibitions on topical matters.

MISS PAT MULCAHY-MORGAN  
Hon. Secretary  
The Merry Bells Management Committee





## WHEATLEY BRANCH

### Report to the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 2nd April 2007.

Since our re-birth in March last year membership of the branch has grown from the initial 20 or so existing members to 37 by the end of February 2007 with three or four in the pipeline, though with the recent sad death of Gwen Trueman we are now 36.

At the AGM held in November the following were confirmed to hold office for the next twelve months:-

Chairman Mr Alan Cowie 102 Gidley Way, Horspath, OX33 1TD, 01865 873214.

Secretary Mr Roger Bell, 1 Windmill Lane Wheatley, OX33 1TA. 01865 875286

Treasurer Mr Peter Jackson, 110 Church Road, Wheatley, OX33 1LU 01865 873246.

We have been meeting on a quarterly basis at the Railway in Station Road and at our last meeting, which 16 members attended, had a fascinating and amusing talk by one of our own members Stephen Wagstaff on his life as a National Serviceman in the Royal Army Medical Corps and at the Military Hospital over in Holton.

A number of members had a very moving day at the Royal Albert Hall on the Saturday before Remembrance Sunday including Ken & Gwen Trueman and on the next day our own Remembrance Service was well attended with a an excellent young bugler Tom Hogan.

We have been trying to organise a trip to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire on 25th April but so far numbers are a bit low. Unfortunately today we have had to cancel this.

Our Poppy collection last November was a great success raising over £6,000 and we hope to increase this again later this year. We do however need a few more active collectors to help at Asda as some of us are getting a bit elderly.

In the meantime anyone interested in joining should get in touch with any of the three officers mentioned above. Membership is open to those living in Wheatley, Holton & Horspath and other surrounding villages.

I would stress that membership of the British Legion is open to anyone, male or female... whether or not they have served in the forces.

Unfortunately I am unable to be present on Monday evening but I am sure Roger Bell can deal with any questions.

Alan Cowie.

Chairman

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007.





H

## Girlguiding

Wheatley Guides, Brownies and rainbows

From Bernice Rye.

Wheatley Guides, Brownies and Rainbows are flourishing very well but we have a shortage of adult help.

Some of the guides joined Watlington for their 80year celebration camp. There brownies and rainbows went to the open day on the Saturday. It was a most enjoyable weekend.

Other events have been a joint Christmas Party. All units celebrating Thinking Day in their units.

The guides had a visit to Wheatley Fire Station to complete their Fire safety Badge.

The Brownies and rainbows enjoyed a variety of activities.

In February a coach trip to the London Museums was arranged for all rainbows, brownies and guides and their families.



# I

# Wheatley Integrated Nursery School

Wheatley Integrated Nursery School (WINS) is a stand alone school dedicated to educating 2-5 yr olds. It is integrated with John Watson Special School (JWS) and any child aged 2-5 who attend JWS is automatically placed on the roll of WINS as well. This means we have up to 8 children with Severe Learning Difficulties being educated alongside up to 28 mainstream children.

WINS is dedicated to learning through play and we have child initiated resources both indoors and outside for children to play with throughout the session, whatever the weather. Adults take on the role of key workers and play with children to assess their understanding and interests and plan appropriate activities to extend their learning.

I have provided a file showing a range of photographs of children engaged in activities which identifies the learning objectives for each activity. Also provided are several Record of Achievements which children take with them when they leave WNS as a record of their time. These also show children playing with a range of resources and engaged in activities, explaining the aims for each activity or resource.

All aims are taken from the Oxfordshire Child Profile which is a document produced by Oxfordshire Local Authority based on the Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage which is now part of the National curriculum.

Many thanks for our invitation to attend this meeting and apologies for my absence. We really do encourage your interest and ask that anyone who would like to become more involved in the School or become a Governor contact the School on 01865045275

Suzanne Woodward



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# Wheatley Productions

## Report for the Annual Parish Meeting Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007

2006-2007 was a relatively quiet year for Wheatley Productions with only two productions undertaken, though for different reasons they were both quite memorable.

No May production, but instead a joint production with Garsington Players of Keith Dewhurst's adaptation of Flora Thompson's 'Lark Rise'. This was originally commissioned for the Royal National Theatre in the late 1970s, with music by the Albion Band. This joint production would use the original script and music. Garsington Manor saw three performances of the show in late July, the weather was glorious, and it was brought to Wheatley Primary School for a further 3 performances in August. A final 'one performance only' was staged at Towersey International Folk Festival on the Sunday of August Bank Holiday.

In January 2007 we performed 'If You Go Down to the Woods Today'. A family show written by Cath Hogan to cater for the female teenage talent that we have at the moment – 12 principal boys!! Around 700 people attended the 3 performances.

The next year is looking busier.

In May we are co-operating with Wheatley Park School's Play writing competition by putting on 3 one act plays that have been written specially. No sooner than that is over than we are off to Juniper Hill, Flora Thompson's birthplace to perform 'Lark Rise' as centrepiece to their tribute to Flora Thompson who died 60 years ago.

In October we are staging a second opera written and composed by Roger Simmonds, 'Letters to Paula', and then one final performance of 'Lark Rise' in the Assembly Rooms in Derby. In January there will be another locally written family show.

Since drama was resurrected in Wheatley in the late 1970s there have been around seventy shows and the momentum shows no signs of abating.

Gareth Morris  
Treasurer

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Report on Wheatley Windmill Restoration Society, 2007.

The society is still solvent and still supported to 50.6% by SODC. Last year, shortly after the Annual parish meeting, it became evident that our lead millwright, Christopher Wallis was very ill. He died in early May and is much missed by everyone in the vernacular buildings world. This year by contrast is a very exciting year for us, because we plan to put the sails back onto the mill. The history of the sail project is, 1999 trees felled, 200-2002, trees seasoning in woods, 2003 trees brought to the mill site, 2004, trees debarked and roughly sawn to size, 2005, trees morticed for small sail timbers and continued to dry out further on site. As you can see, it is not a quick process. The projected month for reinstallation is July 2007. when the date comes, it will be advisable not to park your car near the entrance to Windmill lane, otherwise you might find it has been customised for you by some passing windmill sails on a low loader. We will give plenty of warning.

Caroline Mary Dalton



# PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE REPORT

Presented by Councillor Janet Carr, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee of the Council to the Annual Parish Meeting 2nd April 2007.

A copy of the audited accounts for the year ended 31st March 2006 with comparisons for 2005 are attached.

At that date you will see the council had balances to carry forward of £75,331 compared with £67,620 a year before.

A good part of this is set aside for traffic and pedestrian safety measures. The unallocated reserves amounted to £28,000. According to provisional figures the balances at the 31st March 2007 will be about £68,000, which includes just over £7,000, being the remaining part of a lump sum received from the developer, to provide for the upkeep of Coopers Close public open space.

On current income & expenditure we have actually underspent by £7,711.

This year there are many reasons for the substantial increase in the precept ie: Employee Pension.

Tree felling Ambrose Rise Lane (safety aspect).

Increased grass cutting costs.

Playground Church Road.

Clearing of Farm Close Road footpath.

Tree removal &

rebuilding of stone wall Church Road Recreation Ground (safety aspect).

Dropped Kerbs

In conclusion, our finances are in a healthy state, but there is no doubt of the pressure from residents to do even more, and I am confident that this council will endeavor to put money available to good use for the benefit of all age groups.

Janet Carr  
1st April 2006

02/04/2007



# WHEATLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Income & Expenditure Account For the year ended 31 March 2006

Year ended  
31 March 2005

Year ended  
31 March 2006

<b>£</b>	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>£</b>
76,289	Precept	74,575
2,298	Interest received	2,410
42	Allotments	78
-	Capital Receipts -Coopers Close	8,455
38	Photocopies	11
3,599	Newsletter Advertising	11,716
1,738	Green & Recycling Bags	1,580
-	Playground fundraising	3,414
917	Miscellaneous	736
£84,920	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	£102,975
=====		=====

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
16,042	Clerk's salary incl n. ins& pens contrib	22,283
21,595	Other Establishment Costs	20,673
1,300	Section 137 Running Costs	1,889
10,963	Open Spaces - wages, n.ins & exps	12,999
18,365	Open Spaces - other costs	17,967
964	Memorial Gardens	2,545
1,754	Green bags, Eco & Plastic sacks	1,290
6,323	Publicity(costs of Newsletter)	10,769
38,368		45,570
-	Capital spending	1,235
3,490	Loans(repayments and interest)	3,380
-	Provision for doubtful debts	234
£80,794		£95,264
=====		=====

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		
21,313	Opening balance 1 <sup>st</sup> April	25,439
84,920	Income	102,975
80,794	Less Expenditure	95,264
25,439		7,711
-	Transfers from General Fund(see note 13)	33,150
£25,439	Balance at 31 March	17,414
=====		£15,736
		=====

# WHEATLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Detailed Balance Sheet  
for the year ended 31 March 2006

Year ended 31 March 2005		Year ended 31 March 2006
£		£
	<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
68,882	Cash at bank	74,285
421	Debtors	1,669
2,000	Prepayments	-
1,029	VAT recoverable	775
72,331		76,729
	<b>less CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	
3,010	Creditors	848
<u>1,702</u>	Accruals	<u>550</u>
4,712		1,398
£67,620	<b>NET ASSETS</b>	£75,331
=====		=====
	Represented by	
	<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>	
34,230	Pedestrian & Road Safety Measures	34,230
6,000	Playground Equipment	12,414
1,951	Bus Shelters	1,951
-	Seating & Lighting Reserve	4,000
-	Maintenance Reserve re Coopers Close	7,000
42,181		59,595
25,439	<b>General Fund</b>	15,736
£ 67,619		£75,331
=====		=====

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority and reflects its income and expenditure during the year.

Signed

*Cassie Mary Dalton*  
Chairman  
3<sup>rd</sup> July 2006.

RFO *[Signature]*

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Report on Wheatley Parish Council, 2006-2007.

My report this year will begin by concentrating on the achievements of the parish council. We can consider these in two dimensions, the tangible ones and the intangibles.

Beginning with the tangible achievements, we have four new benches, two in London Road and two in Crown Road. The county council responded to our plea to improve the footpath from Station road to Farm Close Road. We have part financed six dropped kerbs, some of which have already been put in place. These make it easier for those in mobility scooters to get about. The new scheme for Church Road Rec will be installed from April 16<sup>th</sup>. We have made it clear to Playdale, the contractors, that they must be finished and out of the way by 7<sup>th</sup> May, the date of the May Day celebrations, organised by Gareth with his other hat on. The best bit of news is that the scheme for a crossing outside the primary school is now to go ahead. It received the go-ahead from the County Council last Thursday morning and will be put in this coming July. This is excellent news because it means that for the first time ever, primary school children will have a safe crossing point to get to school and to after school activities. You may think it is odd that I am including it as one of the parish council achievements, as we are not funding it. The reason I am so doing is, the crossing is the result of determined lobbying by members of the parish council and a series of on-site meetings. By the end of it, David Deriaz, our almost resident traffic engineer, realised that he was not going to be allowed to go home if he did not promise to draw up a scheme for Wheatley primary school children. As ever, nothing is perfect. The proposed crossing does not serve anyone coming down the lane from the mobile home site, because, as the pavement is discontinuous on the south side of Littleworth Road, they will not be able to reach the new crossing safely. This problem is however one for a further campaign. One of our minor but pleasant activities was to plant 25 kilos of daffodils in November. These were a present from a resident. We also held some

The intangibles were: the community safety group continued to meet roughly once every ten weeks. We are promised that shortly we will get part of the attention of a police community safety officer at no extra charge to the parish Council, whereas when we first heard about these people, we were asked to share one third of a PCSO at an approximate cost of £10,000. The housing needs survey has moved forward a notch, in that we held a meeting with the rural housing enabler to identify the sites suggested by members of the public in their answers to the survey. She then went to the SODC planners to see what would please them and is now approaching a shortlist of owners, to see whether they are willing to sell sites. We have dealt with ~~2~~<sup>79</sup> planning applications and amendments during the year, as ever winning some and losing others. We held our customary annual litter blitz on a chilly weekend in March this year. The clerk and several councillors have attended training sessions on various subjects. The clerk has begun a course of distance learning, which will equip him with encyclopaedic knowledge of clerical affairs. We held two social events. One was a lunch in church Road Rec for the first riders along the Sustrans cycle trail in June. The other was a 'thank you' party for everyone who helps the parish council in any way, held in February and unofficially known as 'not the Christmas Party'. Finally, we have dealt with several bulky and often tedious consultation documents which filtered down to us from higher levels of local government.

You will remember that last year, we entered the redesigned Best Kept Village competition for the first time for many years. Much to our surprise and delight, we won second prize in the war memorial class. Gareth has the award in his office to prove it.

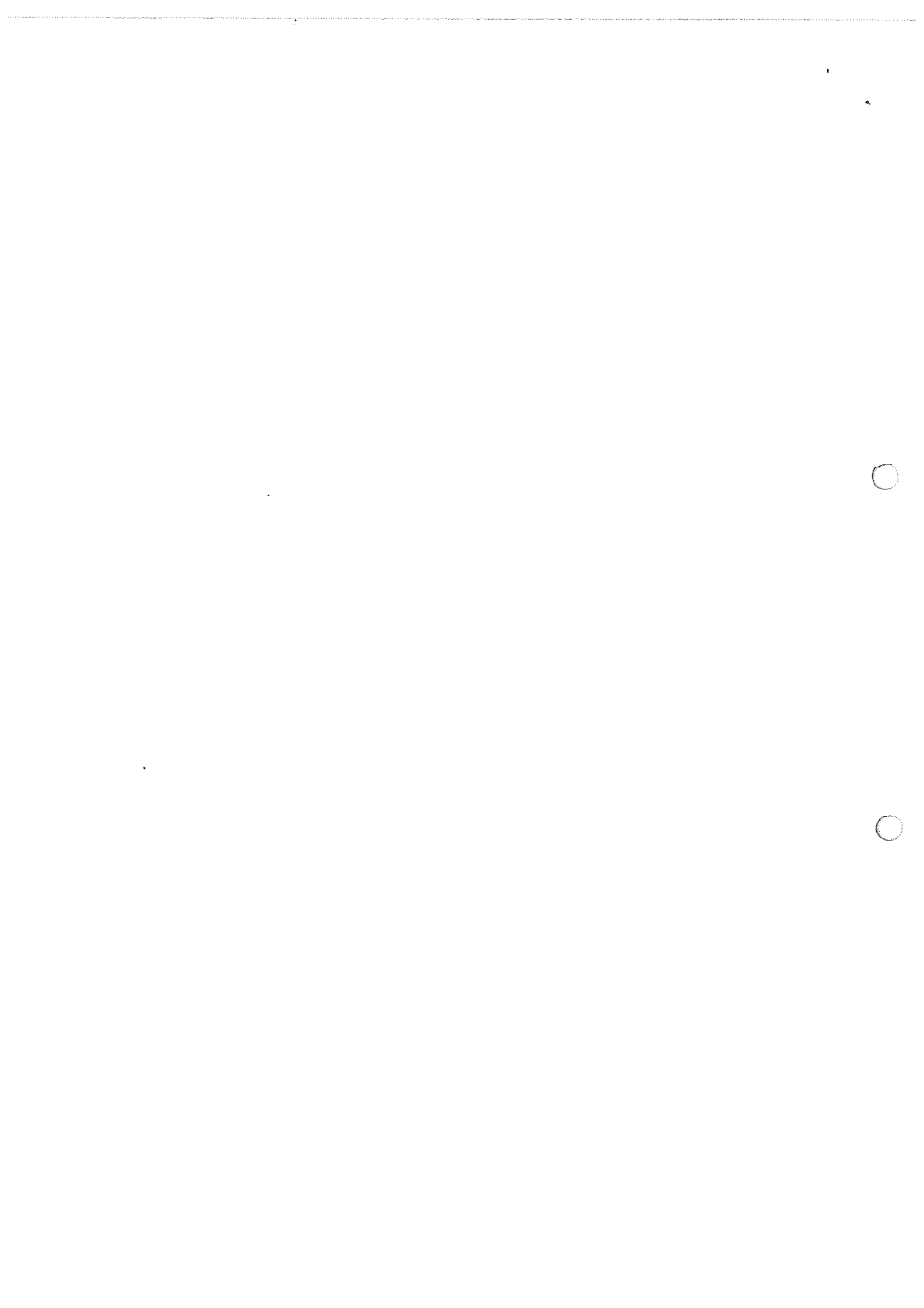


There were two not so happy events this year. The first was, our long-standing employee, Steve Wensley went into hospital for heart surgery in November 2006. He has made a remarkable recovery but is still not able to start work again yet, despite being very bored. Meanwhile, John Funge has begun to do fifteen hours of work every week for us. We hope that Steve will eventually come back. He had become part of the regular scene here. In the mean time, the streets are beneath the bristles of an efficient broom.

The second unhappy event was that on the night of the <sup>14<sup>th</sup></sup>~~xx~~th March, the office, along with other parts of the Merry Bells was burgled. We lost £4.50, a bunch of keys and the charity box. We are currently considering what security measures, if any need to be introduced. The crime prevention officer has already specified a stronger door from the internal corridor.

Things still to do are: sort out the Old Burial Ground in a sympathetic way. Jeremy Price is working out a scheme. Attend to the footpath from Ambrose Rise to the junction of Crown and Roman Roads: get on better terms with the aimless youth of the village.

Caroline Mary Dalton



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