

# PARISH OF WHEATLEY

MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of WHEATLEY held on Tuesday 29th April 2008 at The Merry Bells at 7.30 pm

Chairman Gwendolen Birks, Vice-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, N Messenger, H. P. Mulcahy-Morgan, C Sprent & J Reilly and 12 other electors of Wheatley.

ALSO PRESENT: County Councillor Ann Purse and Neighbourhood Sergeant C Hazel and PCSO K Cooney from Thames Valley Police and Mathew Beesley and Simon Hill from the Environmental Services Team, South Oxfordshire District Council

APOLOGIES: Parish Councillors J Carr, J Coveley, E Stacey , District Cllr A Hodgson. Peter Targett, Reverend J Watson & Kate Curtis.(Headteacher Wheatley Park Secondary School )

As Cllr J Carr was not present, Cllr G Birks (vice-Chairman of Parish Council) took the Chair

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and read out the Health and Safety and housekeeping announcements.

**1 MINUTES of the previous ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of 02.04.2007**, circulated previously. The Minutes were APPROVED and SIGNED by the Chairman as a correct record.

**2 MATTERS ARISING** from the minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF 02.04.2007 – There were no matters arising

### 3 REPORTS

**3(i) THAMES VALLEY POLICE** – See attached report A  
PCSO Cooney spoke to his report showing that overall in the last 12 months crime figures for Wheatley and the whole area was substantially reduced.

### PRESENTATION BY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES TEAM (SODC)

Mathew Beesley and Simon Hill from the South Oxfordshire District Council's Environmental Services team gave a brief but illuminating presentation on the work of their section covering litter, fly tipping, abandoned cars and noise pollution  
After short question and answer session the Chairman thanked them for their attendance

 16/4/09

### **3 REPORTS (continued)**

**3(ii) NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP** – Parish Councillor J Reilly gave a verbal report on the work of the NAG so far. The three priorities for Wheatley are:

- 1 Speeding
- 2 Traffic congestion and parking
- 3 Vandalism of telephone kiosks and bus shelters

**3(iii) OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

County Cllr Purse gave a verbal report concentrating on the waste disposal contract, the development south of Grenoble Road and the possible new eco-town out at Weston on the Green.

She also announced that she was to be the Vice-Chairman of County Council. The meeting congratulated her.

**3(iv) SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL** – See attached report B  
In her absence, District Councillor J Carr's report was read out by the Clerk

**3(v) WHEATLEY PARK SPORTSFIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** (Mrs Mary Blake)  
Mrs Blake gave a verbal report on the work of the Management Committee during the previous 12 months

**3(vi) WHEATLEY CHARITIES** see attached report C (submitted by Mr Peter Targett)  
Mr Audley-Miller spoke to the report

**3(vii) WHEATLEY COMMON ALLOTMENT – THE HOWE TRUST** – No Report

**3(viii) THE MERRY BELLS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Mr Audley-Miller gave a verbal report of the Management Committee. At the end he thanked Miss Mulcahy-Morgan her unstinting work as Secretary to the Management Committee

**3(ix) ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WHEATLEY** – See attached report D (submitted by Peter Jackson)  
In Mr Jackson's absence Mr Roger Bell spoke to the report

**3(x) WHEATLEY SCOUT GROUP** – See attached report E  
Mr Lowrie spoke to his report

**3(xi) WHEATLEY GIRL GUIDES** – See attached report F  
Mrs Rye spoke to her report

**3(xii) WHEATLEY INTEGRATED NURSERY SCHOOL** – No Report

**3(xiii) COMMUNITY/ADULT LEARNING** – No report

**3(xiv) WHEATLEY PRODUCTIONS** – No Report

**3(xv) FRIENDS OF THE EARTH** - No report

**3(xvi) YOUTH CENTRE** – No report

- 3(xvii) WHEATLEY WINDMILL RESTORATION SOCIETY** – see attached report G  
Mrs Dalton spoke to her report.
- 3(xviii) THE WHEATLEY SOCIETY** – see attached report H  
Dr Watson's spoke to his report
- 3(xix) ST MARY'S CHURCH** – see attached report I
- 3(xx) FUSION YOUTH AND COMMUNITY** – see attached report J  
Mr Gordon Ewbank spoke to his report
- 3(xxi) WHEATLEY VILLAGE ARCHIVE** –No report
- 3(xxii) WHEATLEY VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION** – See attached report K  
submitted by Mr Stan Buckingham  
In his absence the Clerk read out the report submitted by Mr Buckingham
- 3(xxiii) WHEATLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL** – No report
- 3(xxiv) WHEATLEY PARK SCHOOL, HOLTON** – see attached report L submitted by the  
Headteacher, Mrs Kate Curtis  
In her absence the Clerk read out the report submitted by Ms Curtis
- 3(xxv) REPORTS FROM OTHER VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS** - None
- 3(xxvi) WHEATLEY PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE REPORT** – see attached report M  
Cllr Dalton in her capacity as Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes  
Committee spoke to her report on the 2006-2007 Parish Council Accounts
- 3(xxvii) WHEATLEY PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** –see attached report  
N – In Cllr Carr's absence, the Vice-Chairman, Cllr Birks highlighted a number of  
key events mentioned in Cllr Carr's columns in the newsletter over the last 12  
months

There being no further business the Chairman invited all present to stay for refreshments

**Meeting closed 9.50 pm**



16/4/09



A

**Wheatley Parish Clerk**

**From:** Cooney Ken [Ken.Cooney@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk]  
**Sent:** 27 April 2008 11:30  
**To:** clerk@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk  
**Subject:** meeting on 29th

Hi Gareth,

As I am coming to the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup>, I thought I would provide you with some facts and figures for the meeting, either I can deliver them verbally in the meeting or you can simply copy the info into the minutes, whichever you prefer.

I am not going to do a full breakdown of each offence that took place in Wheatley since the start of the year as that would take too long.

I have provided figures for offences which I think people generally worry about such as assault, burglary etc and, of course (for Wheatley), anti social behaviour.

The figures are from between 1<sup>st</sup> January to 27<sup>th</sup> April for 2007/2008

OFFENCE	2007	2008
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	11	21 INCREASED
THEFT OF MV	2	2 STATIC
BURGLARY DWELLING	10	6 REDUCED
ASSAULT	11	3 REDUCED
ASB	61	21 REDUCED

Overall across our area, crime figures for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007-31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 have decreased.

The most relevant crime reductions are:

Theft of bicycles down by 14.1%  
 Theft from vehicle down by 6.1%  
 Wounding down by 4.3%  
 Burglary dwelling down by 38.5%  
 Theft from person down by 5.9%  
 Theft of vehicle down by 5.2%  
 Robbery down by 9.8%  
 Vehicle interference down by 12.8%

I hope this is helpful

Ken Cooney,  
 PCSO C9814,  
 Thame Police Station,  
 Greyhound Lane,  
 Thame,  
 Oxon,  
 OX9 3ZD

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28/04/2008



## WHEATLEY PARK SPORTS FIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### REPORT TO THE PARISH MEETING 2008

Members serving on the management committee during the year under review were. County Council nominated members Councillor Mrs A. Purse, Mrs S. Barter, M/s B. Price, Mrs M. Palmer, Mr S. Pearson and Mr P. Blake. Parish Nominees being Mrs J Carr, Mr R. Bell, Mr R. Cosier, Mr J. Hamer and Mr P. Willmott. During the year Mrs Palmer resigned and more recently Mrs Carr, there are two vacancies one for the County and one Parish to be filled.

Seven meetings have been held plus an Annual general meeting. The committee have been busy and active and below are some of the items they have dealt with.

Attempts have been made to resolve how the Joint Use Scheme will be run at the end of the forty year agreement in 2013. One recommendation is for a Wheatley Sports Association to take over the reigns. An option for the schools to manage the sports fields was turned down, the feeling was that the public would loose out.

The Primary pavilion was re decorated both inside and out, organized and the labour paid by the Wheatley Boys F.C. with the committee funding the materials. More recently the kitchen area has been updated by fixing cabinet doors to open shelving and the window shutter can now be lowered giving a good view of the pitches. The toilets have new seats, and on the boys side where extra wall tiling has improved the area.

The ladies toilets in the old, first built pavilion at Holton, were in a very poor condition and work to upgrade them became essential this included new toilets seats, the wood work painted, lighting improved and the floor resealed.

Lighting has been improved to the practice pitch for winter training and new lights by the pavilions will light the grid area providing an extra training area for football and rugby teams.

Problems arose with the primary school car park being locked out of school hours, and users needing to park on the road, causing lots of problems. However, by agreement with the school, sports users have been allowed keys to the barrier.

The land at the Primary school was measured with the view to re arranging football ball pitches, but this has not proved feasible. An area of land under and around the pavilions at Holton was measured a detailed plan sent to the County Council with a view to having the area released from the present Agreement- thus allowing the newly formed sports association to apply for grant aid for new buildings. However, the County have had their lawyers looking at it in conjunction with the Agreement, and various legal queries have cropped up and the matter has not progressed.



**The budget spending for the year under review was some £70,500 of which the County Council will pay 4/5s, leaving the Parish to fund the remaining 1/5 after the committees income is deducted. The books for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 are ready for auditing and the Annual General meeting will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> June.**

**Mary Blake 22.4. 08  
Secretary**



B

**Wheatley Annual Parish Meeting  
29<sup>th</sup> April 2008**

**District Councillors' Report  
Janet Carr and Andrew Hodgson**

The past twelve months have been quite eventful, the following relating to some of the more interesting points:

South Oxfordshire District Council is now a Council of Excellence, having achieved an Excellence Status Award, being only one of around twenty in the country to do so.

**Council Tax**

The Council received the lowest Government grant ever, 1.9% increase with 0.5% for 2009/10 and 0.5% for 2010/11. Council Tax increase for this year is 3.5%. We have made 3% savings within the council for the last two years, but it is difficult to find these savings into the future. We have fewer staff than other Oxfordshire councils; however, we have contracted out services with set costs. Joining services with the Vale of White Horse District Council has given savings, and we will look at more joined up services.

**Waste Collection**

Tenders have now been received, and will be considered in due course in readiness for a new contract in 2009 with wheelie bins, alternate weekly collection of recyclables, residual and glass, with weekly collection of food waste. This was not an easy decision, but we must reduce landfill and have 50% recyclables: at present they are 33%. Brown bin paid service for green waste has been a huge success. 14,000 + households taking part at £30 for this year (a little less if ordered on the internet!)

**Bus Passes**

15,500 new national passes were sent out this month. The costs are unknown as we pay for all journeys started in South Oxfordshire. The Government has given us a travel grant of £317,000 this year, which we have budgeted as covering the actual costs

**Grenoble Road**

We await the decision of the proposed development from Hazel Blears of the Government, which I understand will be announced in July.

I sincerely apologise for not being at this meeting, but I have to be at an urgent 7.30 pm meeting at Crowmarsh.

Please feel free to contact me re any questions concerning this report (or otherwise) at:

[janet.carr2@virgin.net](mailto:janet.carr2@virgin.net)

or Telephone 875126

or Council surgery at the Parish Office - 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month (except August)



# WHEATLEY CHARITIES

(Registered Charity No: 203535)

**Chairman:**

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

**Treasurer**

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

**Secretary**

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

11<sup>th</sup> April 2008

Mr Gareth Morris  
Clerk to the Council  
Wheatley Parish Council  
The Parish Office  
89 High Street  
Wheatley, Oxford OX33 1XP.

Dear Gareth

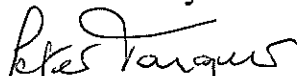
## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Further to my e mail to you of 12<sup>th</sup> February last when I conveyed my apologies for absence due to my inability to attend the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> April, I now enclose a hard copy of the Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007 as promised.

I am pleased to say that Mr Peter Audley-Miller has kindly offered to make a short presentation as our representative at the meeting.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely



Peter Targett  
Chairman.

**Trustees: P Audley-Miller, DAS John, RF Minty, PJ Targett; Rev James Watson**



# WHEATLEY CHARITIES

Registered charity No: 203535

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

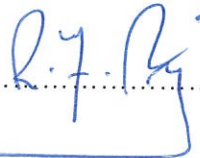
During the year a legacy of £20654.97 was received from the estate of the late Denis Farndell deceased of which £5000 has been allocated to the No 1 Charity with the balance to the No 2 Charity. It is intended that the bequest will be expended over the course of the next five years.

The total income of the No 1 Charity including the bequest amounted to £5254.16 and there were no expenses.

The total income of the No 2 Charity again after including the bequest from the late Denis Farndell amounted to £19313.71. Expenses amounted to £24.65 and during the year the Trustees approved 28 grants totalling £3525.00 leaving a surplus of £15764.06.

Signed

  
..... P J Targett  
(Chairman)

  
..... R F Minty

### TRUSTEES

\* P J Targett (Chairman)

\* P Audley-Miller

Rev'd J Watson

D A S John

R F Minty

### HON. SECRETARY

J Redfern

\* Appointed by Wheatley Parish Council

Handwritten marks or scribbles in the top right corner.



## 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 2007

2006	£	£
-	Legacy	5000.00
	Investment Income	
4.16	2 ½% Consolidated Stock	4.16
<u>-</u>	Bank Interest	<u>-</u>
4.16		4.16
<u>250.00</u>	Rent – Town Meadow	<u>250.00</u>
<u>254.16</u>		<u>254.16</u>
	Less: Expenditure	
-	Charitable expenditure approved during year	-
<u>10.00</u>	Administration costs	<u>-</u>
<u>10.00</u>		<u>-</u>
<u>244.16</u>	Surplus of Income over Expenditure	<u>5254.16</u>

### ACCUMULATED INCOME FUND

Balance at 1 January 2007	1302.68
Add: Deficit\Surplus of Income over Expenditure	<u>5254.16</u>
Balance at 31 December 2007	<u>6556.84</u>

### ASSETS OF CHARITY AT 31 DECEMBER 2007

#### 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	6520.84
Investment income not yet banked	<u>36.00</u>
	<u>6556.84</u>



## 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 2007

2006		£	£
-	Legacy		15654.97
	Investment Income		
132.38	Charities Official Investment Fund	138.98	
399.72	Charinco Income	399.72	
435.76	Invesco Perpetual UK Investment Services ICVC Income and Growth Fund (Income)	486.75	
834.76	Invesco Perpetual UK Investment Services ICVC Income Fund (Income)	1269.51	
<u>405.95</u>	Invesco Institutional Investment Services ICVC Income and Growth Fund (Income)	<u>632.81</u>	
2208.57			2927.77
<u>608.53</u>	Bank Interest		<u>730.97</u>
<u>2817.10</u>			19313.71
	Less: Expenditure		
2125.00	Grants approved during year	3525.00	
<u>-</u>	Administration costs	<u>24.65</u>	
<u>2125.00</u>			<u>3549.65</u>
<u>692.10</u>	Surplus of Income over Expenditure		<u>15764.06</u>

### ACCUMULATED INCOME FUND

Balance at 1 January 2007	10977.87
Add: Surplus of Income over Expenditure	<u>15764.06</u>
Balance at 31 December 2007	<u>26741.93</u>



## WHEATLEY CHARITIES

### No. 2 Charity (continued)

#### ASSETS OF CHARITY AT 31 DECEMBER 2007

##### Permanent Endowment

Investments	386.00	Charities Official Investment Fund Income Units
	3997.37	Charinco Income Shares
	3620.00	Invesco Perpetual UK Investment Services ICVC Income and Growth Fund (Income)
	2389.00	Invesco Perpetual UK Investment Services ICVC Income Fund (Income)
	5836.56	Invesco Institutional Investment Services ICVC Income and Growth Fund (Income)
Balance at Bank	£3888.01	

##### Accumulated Funds

Balances at Bank £26741.93



9

**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – WHEATLEY AND DISTRICT BRANCH**

**REPORT FOR 2007/2008**

The re-formed Wheatley Branch continued to grow during the past year and membership now stands at 37. In recognition of this the Branch received the Duncan Cup at the County Annual Meeting held in January. This is awarded to the fastest growing branch in Oxfordshire.

The Branch held five lunchtime meetings for its members at The Railway, Station Road. At each meeting a member spoke about his military experiences, ranging from wartime service with the RAF in North Africa, Palestine and India to work with secret signals units in Germany during the Cold War. Meetings are now held on the third Thursday of alternate even-numbered months at 12 noon in The Railway.

In August members visited the Commonwealth Air Forces Memorial at Runnymede and then had lunch at a local pub. This was organized by Ken Trueman and was attended by fourteen members. Ken has now left Wheatley and our thanks to him for his service on the Branch Committee were recorded.

The Poppy Appeal in November raised the record sum of £6700 due to the efforts of those who collected at Asda throughout the week of the Appeal, who carried out door to door collections in the villages near Wheatley and to the retailers who kindly allowed collecting boxes to be displayed on their premises.

The Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir gave a splendid concert in St. Mary's Church on 29<sup>th</sup> March in aid of Legion funds. The church was packed for this event which produced a profit of £461.60. A Branch member, Eddie Evans, is a member of the choir and it was through his initiative that the Choir was asked to sing for us.

The Branch suffered the loss by death of Don Hillsdon in March and members attended his funeral in St. Mary's Church.

Membership of the Royal British Legion is open to those living in Wheatley, Holton and Horspath and other surrounding villages. It is open to anyone, male or female, whether or not they have served or are serving in the Armed Forces. Please contact any of the officers for further details:

Chairman: Mr. Alan Cowie, 102 Gidley Way, Horspath, OX33 1TD Tel. 01865 873214  
Secretary: Mr. Peter Jackson, 110 Church Road, Wheatley, OX33 1LU. Tel. 01865 873246  
Treasurer: Mr. Roger Bell, 1 Windmill Lane, Wheatley, OX33 1TA. Tel. 01865 873246.

Peter Jackson  
Secretary,  
April 2008



E

Wheatley Scout Group  
**REPORT FOR PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING April 29<sup>th</sup> 2008**

Wheatley Scout Group has had another successful year, and membership numbers are up on last year: Scouts (11-14) 18; Cub Scouts (8-11) 30; Beaver Scouts (6-8) 15. The large number of Cub scouts has necessitated running Brownsea Pack on two nights, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from mid-April.

At the end of 2007, the Group formally transferred to Oxford Spires District, and we are already experiencing a welcome improvement in support from District and County.

Our principal focus for the year 2007-2008 has been adult recruitment and training. We were delighted to welcome two newcomers to our team of uniformed Warranted Leaders: Irène and Michael Hill volunteered to take responsibility for management of the Group and the adult team, and have already started their programme of training. We have also recruited assistant Leaders for our Cub Pack and Beaver Colony. Equally important, several parents have been willing to step forward and assist with our Committee, to manage fund-raising events, and to provide extra support on meeting nights.

The poor state of our Headquarters building in Holloway Road has been an ongoing cause for concern, and our earlier efforts to locate a new site or building have been unsuccessful. We are encouraged by the possibility of an activity and sports centre being developed in Wheatley and have expressed interest in such a scheme. In the meantime we decided to make the best of what we have. Significant sums have been spent on upgrading the heating and flooring, and work is currently in progress to repair the main back wall which suffers from damp and deterioration. Some of the finance for this has come as grant aid from Oxfordshire County Scouts. I have to stress however that money spent in this way is only meeting a need in the short term. The lifetime of the building is limited, and we have issues with traffic and the proximity to the 'Rec'.

We are appealing for a volunteer to take on the role of Group Treasurer, from June 2008. Our present Treasurer, Nigel Rudgewick-Brown, has to stand down because of work commitments and we are extremely grateful for the work he has done for the last two years. I have placed a notice in the May-June 'Wheatley Newsletter' and we have appealed to parents to find someone. This is one appointment which we must fill!

Bob Lowrie  
Group Chairman





# Girlguiding

Wheatley Guides, Brownies and rainbows

F

From Bernice Rye

As the guides had outgrown the Youth Centre in the autumn of 2007 we made a successful move to the URC Hall also changing the night to Wednesday. The brownies also moved to URC Hall on a Monday night. ~~4~~

At the time of writing we have 14 guides with ~~two~~ joining in May leaving two spaces for Sept. We can only go up to 18 as we have only 2 warranted leaders. After taking the ~~two~~ in ~~May~~ and Sept. we still have ~~3~~ on the waiting list that I am aware of.

In the autumn 2007 the guides put on an entertainment and refreshments in aid for Children in Need. We sent £50 to Children in Need.

The guides, brownies and rainbows attended the annual remembrance parade for 2007.

We have worked on activities ranging from craft to community awareness; international to the out of doors and much more at all levels.

Two guides were chosen to appear in Oxford scout and guide gang show, rehearsals took place from Sept. Along with families we went to see the show on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

At the end of May 2007 we attended a joint holiday for brownies and guides at Jubilee House, Stanton St. John, Activities ranged from crafts indoors and treasure hunt and making shelters outside in the rain!

Our future plans are to cover community awareness is 2 workshops at Wheatley fire station in which if the guides attend both sessions they will gain their Fire Safety badge or update the badge they gained two years ago.

We also are going to have a visit from the police who will talk about policing in the village and how it well affects the guides.

Our holiday this year will be in July at Jubilee House.

Girlguiding rules are that a leader has to retire at 65. I would like to have one or two leaders working with me know to there is a gently change over.

On Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup> at the URC Hall there will be a come and meet the guiders morning with refreshments, in which we will answer any questions to which is involved in being a guide leader.

I have talked to the parents and they have been very supportive, we have a helpers rota and I have asked them to talk to anyone in the village as they may be some one out there who is interested and do not know who to contact.

Girlguiding rules are that at least 2 leaders are present at all times and the legal ratio is operated.

If new leaders are not found for the guides they will close in July 2011. Both Wheatley rainbows and brownies are in the same boat.

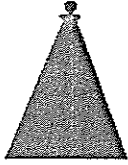


Wheatley Windmill Society Report to the Annual Parish Meeting, 29.04.08.

2007 was a notable year for our society in three ways. The first is visual; everyone knows that the sails have finally arrived and been put onto the mill. Installation week was the first week of the school holidays, so that some residents came home to find a different, transformed mill on Wheatley's southern horizon. The second landmark was the loss, first of Mrs Cripps, then of her husband Len, who was the son of the last miller, Ezra Cripps. Apart from the personal loss to the family and Len's friends, this deprives anyone who ever spoke to Len of a window into Wheatley's past and a fund of anecdotes about the mill. We were happy that Len lived just long enough to see and enjoy the sails on the mill. The third notable event was something we knew last year but could not tell you, as it was then still confidential. The society was one of the lucky local twelve charities, who benefited from a share in the legacy of the late Dennis Farndell, of Ambrose Rise. You can imagine what a huge difference this has made. For the next few years we do not have to worry where the funds for restoration will be found. The millwrights think they might finish the project within two years, though past experience leads me to touch seasoned wood here. We would also like to thank Wheatley Parish Council for having made a donation last year, at a moment when funds were temporarily very low indeed.

CMD





H

# THE WHEATLEY SOCIETY

## Wheatley Society Report to Annual Parish Meeting 2008

**Jim Watson, Chairman**

The Wheatley Society is a civic society for activities in the village that complement those of other organisations. Our programme usually includes social evenings, a quiz, talks, walks in the local area, visits to places of local interest and occasionally an exhibition. The Society takes an active role in the village by supporting local events such as the May Day celebrations, was instrumental in founding the Wheatley Festival, produced the first village newsletter, and helped to start the village Morris Men – unfortunately no longer active.

Membership of the Society is now 122 households exactly the same as last year, but unfortunately we lost 6 members who died: Marjorie Bayliss, Paddy Burrige, Emma McGowan, Jean Prest, Liz Turner and Peter Wild who was our Vice President. Also three families left the village but 9 families joined or rejoined.

Most of our reports and leaflets are available for purchase in the Wheatley Village Archive and the Library. Since late 2007 we have been working on an update of the Walkabout booklet for local footpaths which will be available for purchase sometime in mid 2008. This will be a marked improvement on the present leaflet, which is considerably out of date for example some footpaths have been affected by changes to the road network – the M40 and the A40.

News and programmes of our events were distributed by Street Representatives for which many thanks to these 10 Volunteers. During 2007 we averaged about one event per month covering Wine tasting, the May Day tea tent, the Clever Cloggs annual quiz, 6 Talks, 5 Walks and a new venture Desert Island disks with local dignitaries Alyn Shipton and Dr Malcolm Benson.

The Society tries to keep abreast of planning legislation at the District Council and anything to do with the local Environment is a priority.

In 2004 the Society prepared a Parish Plan on behalf of the Parish Council which was distributed widely. In the intervening years there has been an unquestionable major success through the Plan with improvements to the Church Road recreation ground, implemented in the end largely through the driving force of Bev Paton and Rachel Slade who persevered with fund raising and encouraged all participants to do their bit. Without them the Project would not have been finished.

Other components of the Plan which have achieved some success include Zebra crossings, pavements, new shops and services, the CAB on a weekly basis, recycling, security and bus services. But there has been much less progress, if any, with cycle ways, country footpaths, new car parks, playing fields and sports, low cost housing.



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## **Annual Parish Meeting – 29 April 2008**

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

**Worship** Following the changes introduced in 2007 we are continuing to have two services on Sunday, an 8am Communion and a Sung Eucharist at 10am. However, while the 10am service is suitable for all ages every week, on the first Sunday in the month it is more informal and suitable for families, with children involved in leading prayers and readings. As the Parish Church, St Mary's is available and used for village events such as the Remembrance Day service and for carols at Christmas, and for weddings and funerals.

**Clergy** The Vicar is Revd James Watson with Revd Mark Williams as Associate Priest.

**Church and Churchyard** Apart from worship and associated activities the church is used as a venue for concerts and other secular events. Over the past four years we have undertaken major work to ensure that the structure is sound, and this year will be spending £12,000 on renewing stonework at the west end of the building. This is an ongoing task as the church, even though it is only 150 years old, suffers like other buildings in Wheatley from the shortcomings of the local stone. This work could not be undertaken without the help of the Friends of St Mary's; some 70 local people who generously support our aim of ensuring that the church is kept in good repair for use by future generations. Lastly, the graveyard, which is available for everyone in Wheatley. It is kept tidy by a dedicated band of volunteers and we are grateful to the Parish Council for their help in meeting some of the costs. The grant recently awarded will help pay for pollarding the trees along Church Road, which will commence later this week.

Christopher Sprent  
Churchwarden





J

Fusion Youth and Community UK.  
Station Rd, Haddenham, Bucks, HP17 8AJ  
Ph: (01844) 299 329 | Fax: 0870 199 1853  
office@fusionyac.org | www.fusionyac.org

## Wheatley Area Plans for 2008 Annual Parish Meeting Report

April 2008

Fusion Youth & Community are a registered UK charity. The local team have been active in the Wheatley area for 4 years now and our aim is to help young people to find a sense of purpose and direction for their lives and, in so doing, their place in the community in which they live. In addition, in collaboration with local churches and as an expression of Christian service, we run community events with the aim of providing local people of all ages with a safe and fun environment in which to connect, celebrate our community and build new friendships. All our youth and children's work is led and supervised by trained and experienced youth and community workers and all Fusion staff and volunteers are CRB approved. Outlined below are the core programmes we hope to undertake during 2008. For further information on any of these, please do call or E mail us – details above.

### Children & Families Work

#### Summer Kidz Club

26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> August 2008

This week long holiday club attracts over 100 children and is much loved by all who attend. Early plans are already under way for this year's event, which will be the fifth in succession.

#### After School Club

Wheatley Primary School 3:15- 4:30 – once a week

The Club started after the last Summer Kidz Club and is a great opportunity for regular creative and fun time with about 15-20 children.

#### Foundations for Families

Thursday evenings, May 2008

A new initiative for the Wheatley area, this tried and tested support programme/course for parents and families is both fun and informative. An evening series (4 sessions) is to be run during May.

### Community Work

#### Festivals

St. George's Day Family Funday – Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup>

Harvest Family Funday – provisionally Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October

Festivals bring local inhabitants together, giving them a taste of what community can be like. Fusion aims to create an Open Crowd – where everyone is welcome and where love and service are core values. This year's St George's Funday attracted nearly 600 from across the community, despite inclement weather.

#### Advent Pageant

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008

After the successful initial event last December, plans are under way to run a bigger Pageant at the end of 2008, working with local schools and churches to re-tell the Christmas story in a fun and engaging way. Children dress as characters from the Christmas story and process, with a donkey, through the village, asking for a 'room at the Inn' but being turned away and finishing at a stable scene for carol singing and presentations by the pupils.

### Youth Work

#### School Lunch Programme

Wheatley Park School, weekly from 1:15-2:00

Fusion has been doing lunch time programmes at Wheatley Park school with the year 7/8's for 2 years now. The team, by providing positive role-models and activities for students, has been able to establish a popular and engaging lunch-time environment. Our team will be doing similar work later in 2008.

#### School Tutorial Groups/Mentoring

Each term, as arranged

To date Fusion has hosted tutorials in Money Management for the 6<sup>th</sup> form, as well as training 2 teams of over 30 year 11s in the skill of mentoring – all aimed at helping young people develop and become more of who God made them to be.

#### Daytrips

Second Saturday of each month throughout 2008

Daytrips are high-energy outings currently attracting up to 60 young people from around Oxfordshire. They take place every 4-5 weeks, giving youngsters an experience of a vibrant community where they are loved, valued and can find more of who they are and how they can best work with others.



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## Wheatley Village Produce Association

The "V.P.A." now in its 67<sup>th</sup> year, had a very successful year in 2007-2008. The number of members is about 125, mostly Wheatley residents but with a few from Holton and Tiddington who are former "Wheatley" people.

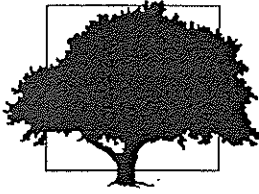
During the year, we held 13 meetings. Eight of these were lectures, with an average attendance of sixty.

We had two outings; an Annual dinner; and the Show, of members produce, crafts and cookery.

So far this year the number of members attending the lecture programme has been well up to scratch.

S. A. Buckingham  
Hon. Secretary





## WHEATLEY PARK SCHOOL

### Report for the 2008 Annual Parish Meeting

Wheatley Park has been undergoing a period of change, development and improvement. The following achievements will be of interest to the local community:

#### Student Achievement

- 2007 saw a further improvement in GCSE results, with a 10% increase over 2 years in the percentage achieving 5 higher grades. 56% achieved this threshold and a further significant improvement is expected in 2008.
- A particular improvement in 2007 was seen amongst the lower attainers. 97% of our cohort achieved 5 GCSE pass grades (a 19% improvement over 2 years). We hope that this will contribute to a reduction in anti-social behaviour as the young people have improved employment prospects.
- Results have improved at all other key stages, including 'A' Level: we expect record 'A' Level results this year.

#### Opportunities for Youth

- We have extended our International Programme, with new visits taking place this year to Italy, Brazil and the USA. We are developing a strong link with Makerere College in Kampala which we aim to develop and extend.
- Our Media Arts status continues to offer excellent opportunities for our young people. The highlights of the last 12 months were our Film Festival, our Playwriting Festival and our whole school production of "South Pacific". Our partnership with Wheatley Productions is growing and we hope to extend this.
- We work in ever-closer partnership with Garsington Opera. Our Youth Opera group meets every Wednesday evening and involves around 30 young people. This is an unusual and exciting project.
- Sport is a growing strength of the school; our website [www.educationthroughsport.co.uk](http://www.educationthroughsport.co.uk) shows many examples. A major fitness initiative in January was Indoor Rowing in partnership with Concept 2. Every member of the school took part.
- We are embarking this term on a School Film Club as part of a national scheme. This may be able to develop into a community cinema facility.

## **Facilities and Resources**

- We have worked hard and stretched our available resource to improve the fabric of the buildings and the condition of the site.
- Our new English and Media Centre is under construction and will be complete in the Autumn of 2008. This 2.2 million pound facility will be an exciting space for learning and will house a media editing suite and workshop spaces. The building has low environmental impact: it uses ground bore heating, rainwater harvesting and has a "green roof".
- Our hall and performance spaces have been improved and are available for lettings.
- There have been some exciting archaeological finds (from our Archaeology Club) including a medieval file and a road dating back to the 13<sup>th</sup> Century.

## **The future**

Wheatley Park is committed to providing an excellent education for its students and to supporting community cohesion. We are proud of our recent improvements and aim to build on this.

For news and developments, see our website;  
[www.wheatley-park.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.wheatley-park.oxon.sch.uk)

Kate Curtis  
Headteacher

28<sup>th</sup> April 2008

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## **Parish Council financial report for the financial year April 2006-March 2007.**

This financial year proved to be the year of the contingency. First, an unsafe poplar beside the footpath from Crown Road to Ambrose Rise had to be taken down but in order to reach it from Crown Road,, two further poplars had first to be removed. The second big contingency expense was to extract the sycamore, which had grown into the wall of Church Road Recreation Ground, opposite the Scout Hut. In this case, the tree was perfectly healthy but was gradually levering the stone wall apart. The tree had to go and the stone wall was replaced in the same style as the rest of the boundary there. Regrettably, in November 2006, our long serving council employee Steve Wensley had to have hospital treatment, followed by extended sick leave. After two uncomfortable months with no paid help of any kind, while litter and dead leaves swirled about, the council engaged John Funge to do 15 hours a week, initially while Steve was on sick leave. The state of play now is that Steve has returned to light duties, while John roams the village boundaries clearing litter.

On the positive side, financial planning for the new recreation equipment in Church Road Rec continued throughout the year, although, as everyone knows, the play area actually opened in the financial year which has just finished. The council had some tense moments, when in September 2006 Playdale wanted to raise their prices before we had all the financial package in position. It was due to the help of a skilled volunteer negotiator that the size and scope of the equipment originally chosen could be retained. The sources of money came from four streams, fundraising within Wheatley, grants from grant giving trusts, the parish council and SODC community support fund.

Provision of five a side posts and nets in Cullum Road Rec., paid for out of this budget, was a more modest but popular improvement. The council also spent some of the reserves earmarked for pedestrian measures on dropped kerbs in Crown Road, Station Road and on Ladder Hill. This has enabled hitherto housebound registered disabled people to reach the village centre unaided.

During the year, the clerk took further training in the use of the Sage Accounting Software. It enabled him handle our finances with increased confidence and gradually relax his reliance on Parish Councillors' professional experience..

The council continued to produce and distribute a newsletter throughout Wheatley and Holton, under the able editorship of Jim Watson. The advertising revenue the newsletter generates means that it runs at a modest profit. The council supported Wheatley Archive Room for the third year of three. It also began to support the Citizens' Advice Bureau to hold an outreach session one afternoon a week.

CMD 28.04.08



# Wheatley Parish Council

## Income & Expenditure Account For the year ended 31 March 2007

Year ended  
31 March 2006

Year ended  
31 March 2007

	INCOME	
74575	Precept	80907
2410	Interest received	2848
78	Allotments	31
8500	Capital Receipts -Coopers Close	-
11	Photocopies	70
11716	Newsletter Advertising	13425
1580	Green & Recycling Bags	280
3414	Playground fundraising	1046
736	Miscellaneous	500
-	OCC for verges	1800
-----		-----
103020	TOTAL INCOME	100908
=====		=====
	EXPENDITURE	
22283	Clerk's Salary incl n.ins	23763
18003	Other Establishment Costs	14008
1889	Section 137 Running Costs	3759
12999	Open Spaces - wages, n.ins & expens	11316
17967	Open Spaces - other costs	18701
2545	Old Burial Ground	273
1290	Green bags, Eco & Plastic sacks	228
10769	Publicity(costs of Newsletter)	11023
45570		41540
2716	bus tokens @£5	( 228)
-	Prov'n for part-time youth worker	1500
1235	Capital spending	16213
3380	Loans(repayments and interest)	3270
234	Provision for doubtful debts	460
-----		-----
95309		104285
=====		=====
-----		-----
95309		104285
=====		=====
	GENERAL FUND	
25439	General Fund O/B	15036
103020	Income	100908
128459		115944
95309	Less Expenditure	104285
33150		11659
18114	Transfers from General Fund	( 15908)
15036	Balance at 31 March	27567
=====		=====

# Wheatley Parish Council

## Detailed Balance Sheet For the year ended 31 March 2007

Year ended  
31 March 2006

Year ended  
31 March 2007

	£		
		<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
74285		Cash at bank	70912
1669		Debtors	4455
-		Prepayments	-
773		VAT recoverable	1932
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>			
76726			<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>
			77300
		<b>less CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	
848		Creditors	3297
550		Accruals	2050
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>			
1398			<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>
			5347
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>			
75328		<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>
<hr style="border-top: 3px double black;"/>			<hr style="border-top: 3px double black;"/>
			71954
		Represented by	
		Earmarked Reserves	
34230		Pedestrian & Road Safety Measures	28230
12414		Playground Equipment	2506
1951		Bus Shelters	1951
4000		Seating & Lighting Reserve	4000
7700		Maintenance Reserve re Coopers Clo	7700
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>			
60295			<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>
15036		General Fund at 31 March	44387
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>			
75331			<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>
<hr style="border-top: 3px double black;"/>			<hr style="border-top: 3px double black;"/>
			27567
			<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>
			71954
			<hr style="border-top: 3px double black;"/>

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

Signed:

Chairman

RFO

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**Wheatley Parish Council Chairman's Report to 2008 Annual Parish Meeting – Janet Carr**

**PARISH COUNCIL REPORT – July – August 2008**

As you will know, after the Parish Council Elections, the four members who did not stand for re-election were replaced by: Maggie Fyffe, Nigel Messenger, Rachael Slade and Paul Wilmot, whom we welcome aboard. Thanks are due to Moira Watson, John Hamer, Eileen Dungey and Mike Hogan for contributions made during the past four years. At the Annual General Meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> May, I was privileged to become the Chairman, and whilst we will all have our own differing views, and it is not always possible to completely agree with each other, my fervent wish is that the Parish Council can enjoy healthy debate, unite for the good of the Parish when the need arises, and achieve the desired results.

It is good to see Steve Wensley back with us, who will be sharing the workload with John Funge for the time being, and I am sure they will make a great team. Various projects are ongoing at this time:

- The Old Burial Ground (would prefer to rename as "Memorial Garden"!), decision on necessary renovation and replacement of seat donated by the WI is imminent.
- The Church Road Recreation Ground is nearing completion, when the children will be able to hopefully get much pleasure from its use in time for the summer holidays.
- The Cullum Road Recreation Ground: proposals are being considered for goal posts and nets as research suggests this is what is most needed at this time. However, some feedback from families in this area is desirable in order that we can assess the needs of all who use this area. Either contact Gareth at the Parish Office, or myself at 44 Crown Road (tel: 875126): children's comments welcome!
- Grass Cutting, few hiccups recently, but should be resolved shortly.
- Farm Close Road Footpath, some trees have been cut down and rubbish removed. However, the large area of soil will have to be removed in order to make the ground level with the path, which will then be seeded with grass. The various items of rubbish underneath this soil is quite dreadful and a lot of work will be necessary (and costly) to achieve the end result.
- Littleworth, the seat on the green is to be re-stained and the notice board renovated.
- Roman Road, notice board to be renovated.
- Simons Close, dropped kerbs should soon be in place.
- Primary School Crossing, due to be put in place in July.

There will of course always be ongoing projects, and new ones in the pipeline, but the main thing as I see it, is that we move forwards and not backwards in order to get the job done! Not necessarily as quick as we would like, as it is more important to ensure all is dealt with in the proper manner.

I would like to finish by saying that I paid a visit to the Windmill today as it is quite some time since my last visit, and I am amazed at the work that has been done, it really is fantastic! I was fortunate enough to meet two gentlemen with such expertise who showed me around (I went up to the top of the inside!). I thoroughly recommend a visit on one of the open days.

**PARISH COUNCIL REPORT – September – October 2008**

At the time of preparing this report, the weather is really lovely (10<sup>th</sup> August) and I have been walking around the village to look at improvements made, and aware of others yet to be made, a never ending quest! These include:

**Memorial Gardens:** A decision has been made to renovate these gardens, and as soon as estimates have been considered, work will commence as soon as is possible. Renovation has been needed for a very long time, and it will I am sure be much more attractive to all. The replacement seat donated by the Women's Institute will also be installed.

**The Church Road Recreation Ground:** There is no doubt that the children are thoroughly enjoying themselves playing on the new equipment, especially since school holidays commenced. In due course a cycle rack, notice board and new waste bins will be installed. Rachael Slade and Beverley Paton can be well justified in being proud of the work they put into researching a new play area, well done girls, and thank you.

**The Cullum Road Recreation Ground:** Five a Side Football Nets should be in place by the time this newsletter is issued, as there are many young prospective footballers in this area, and it is hoped that they will score plenty of goals and not kick balls into gardens! Consideration will also be given to a revamp of the play area in due course.

**Senior Youngsters:** Having spent some time in talking to young people, they obviously feel at a loss at times as to where they can "hang out", especially when it is raining, and the young men would like to play football. I have asked a couple of them if they would come to a Parish Meeting and give us their views, and no, they do not have to where a tie, as one of them suggested! These suggestions will be followed up.

**Primary School Crossing:** At this time, this very necessary crossing is nearing completion, and will obviously make crossing Littleworth Road so much safer for the children, and in turn will assist Pat Turner the Lollipop lady.

**Muddy Lane Fly Tipping:** PLEASE, PLEASE, whoever is leaving rubbish of any sort, in this lane, will you please stop. I had to plead with SODC to remove dangerous sheets of asbestos, and recently a partially destroyed caravan. This is very unfair on everybody, as these collections add to the costs of Council Tax.

**Shops:** How lucky we are to have such an assortment of shops. This was brought home to me while considering the Village of the Year competition, as so many villages do not have even one shop! However it is important that we do not get complacent as it is certainly true that "if you don't use them, you lose them", including the Post Office, the Bank, and the Chemist. So nice to see that some shops have started putting pots of flowers at the front of their premises, it makes such a difference, and many people have admired them. Who knows, perhaps others will follow! The Post Office always looks attractive with its flower baskets, maybe The Bank will put a tub outside!

## **PARISH COUNCIL REPORT – November –December 2008**

Much seems to have happened since writing for the previous newsletter, but first I would like to congratulate our local firemen for winning two awards for their services. We can be justifiably proud of Clive Durbin and his team. It is also very gratifying to have won The South Oxfordshire Village of the Year award, and thanks are due to Maureen Grant and Bekki Hogan for their help on the day of the presentation. We only had about 10 days notice, therefore all had to be done in a rush, ie photographs of areas of the village, and people who attend various organizations etc.,etc., typing relevant details for judges to read and so on. The presentation was based on the community spirit in Wheatley, the many activities available, good transport, including many voluntary schemes, drama, sports, needs of young people, senior citizens club, coffee mornings, indeed the list was endless! Maureen spoke to the judges about various organizations, Bekki talked about the youth, and I discussed the needs of the elderly etc. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> October we were proud to be presented with a framed certificate, and a cheque for three hundred pounds to be spent on an organisation of our choice (to be decided).

**Church Road Recreation Ground:** On the 22<sup>nd</sup> September the official opening of the new playground equipment took place by Rob and Gaz Coombes, two of the members of the band group "SUPERGRASS". It was a lovely sunny morning, Rachael Slade and Bev Paton were presented with flowers as a token of thanks for their hard work, Rowan, Sean, Samuel and Daisy handed round lollipops and gobstoppers, and the boys eventually cut loose the balloons! Thank you Rob and Gaz for your time, and complimentary remarks in relation to the playground and

Wheatley as a whole. Last but not least, my thanks to Jim Riley and Gwendolen Birks for their support on a very enjoyable, and pleasant day.

Memorial Gardens: At this time new York Stone steps are in place, the front walls have been renovated, gravel replaced with Cotswold Chippings and all railings repainted black. The front gates are to be replaced as soon as relevant welding to stanchions has been dealt with. These improvements have been needed for a very long time, and should all be finished in time for Remembrance Day. The W.I. seat is also to be replaced

Postmen and Postwomen: At what must be a very difficult time for Royal Mail employees, we are fortunate that our Postmen/Postwomen continue to deliver whatever post is available, and many people have indeed commented on their appreciation of this service to which I include my own.

Carer's Support and Information Group: It is good to see that we have yet another facility in this village, which I am very happy to promote. This Group is run by Stella Inston, a Care Support Worker and by Liz Barry both from the Alzheimer's Society, and supported by Age Concern. Anyone who is caring for a relative, friend or neighbour with dementia is very welcome to attend for support, friendship and a cup of tea or coffee and cake. The person being cared for is also very welcome. The meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 1.30 pm until 3 pm at the United Reform Church Hall, Crown Square. To anyone who may wish to drop in to one of these sessions, but may feel a little unsure, please rest assured that it is a very welcoming group from the minute you walk through the door (and the home made cake is excellent!)

### **PARISH REPORT – January – February 2008**

One of the nice things about being the Chairman is responding to various invites. I was recently invited to talk to the children at Wheatley Primary School about the "Wheatley Winner in the Oxfordshire Calor Village of The Year Competition", which I found to be a very enlightening experience. On this particular morning the children were dressed in pyjamas as part of "Children in Need" fund raising ( I did take my own pyjamas in case I was the only adult in day clothes!)

Some would say it could be quite daunting to stand and talk to 283 children plus teachers, but I was made so welcome that this was not the case at all.

After the talk I had coffee with teachers in the staff room, and was then taken all over the school by the Headmistress, Joan Morters, who pointed out the improvements made, including impressive security/safety measures. I understand that new windows and improved plumbing are next on the list. The outdoor shelters (French style I believe) are also quite an asset. All in all I have to say I was very impressed with the various improvements, and the warm atmosphere I found as I went from classroom to classroom, and I would like to say thank you to Joan Morters, teachers and especially the children for their welcome.

### **NOT SO YOUNG CLUB**

It was decided to give the cash prize of three hundred pounds received with the Village Award certificate to this club, in order to assist with the cost of an outing. This was very well received as cost of coach travel is now so expensive, and will no doubt become more so in view of yet further increased fuel prices.

### **CHURCH ROAD RECREATION GROUND**

The picnic table, bench and waste bins have now been put in place, and a cycle rack is imminent. Five a Side nets are also due to be installed, and consideration is being given to a youth shelter, for which much research is being made.

### **TRAFFIC MATTERS**

These are of course ongoing and the following are in addition:

1. Consider action to reduce road noise from the A40 affecting the village.
2. Traffic weight on Wheatley Bridge re recent proposal "This council supports the installation of traffic lights on Wheatley Bridge to ensure one way traffic, thereby preserving the fabric of the bridge from excessive traffic weight and enabling the provision of a cycle track, the method of pursuing this goal to be decided on at a later date"

3. Letters to be sent to businesses at the east end of London Road, to request that their lorries should enter and leave the village via Wheatley Bridge and not London Road.

All matters relating to traffic do take considerable time to resolve as we are to a greater extent reliable on the County Council in relation to costs etc., etc., but much is in hand, mainly thanks to the Chairman of TRAC, Councillor Gwendolen Birks, and does involve a great deal of work.

#### **MEMORIAL GARDENS AND SQUARE**

Thanks are due to Wally Boater who answered my request for help to prune roses etc., in addition to which Wally planted violas and wallflowers in both places. Although the Parish Council paid for the plants, Wally was kind enough to also collect them, Your efforts are very much appreciated Wally, thank you.

#### **JIM (DOLPH) SHORTER**

I would like to pay tribute to Jim in relation to his tremendous support during the fight (yes, I do consider this is the right word!), to retain Windows Court for the purpose for which it was built. Jim felt the actions taken were a serious injustice to elderly people, and did all he could to assist myself and others, in at the very least allowing residents to stay in this village, rather than being sent to other areas suggested. I shall never think of Windows Court without thinking of Jim, he will be sorely missed.

#### **WEATLEY PARK SCHOOL and PTA**

Having just returned (30<sup>th</sup> November) from the Christmas Craft Fayre, I was very interested particularly in the Victorian Prints stall, which featured framed prints and cards of snow scenes at Holton Park House, including a picture of the Tyndale-Biscoe family who were the apparently the owners of this property. The prints are really very attractive as they were taken from 19<sup>th</sup> century glass photographic plates. Money raised from this event will go towards furnishing the new state of the art English and Media Block due to be built during 2009, and from the look of the design is very impressive, and will no doubt be an asset to all of our village children who attend Wheatley Park

#### **PARISH REPORT March – April 2008**

##### **PRECEPT/BUDGET 2008/9**

Following much discussion the Parish Council have decided to increase the Parish Precept from £89,128 to £92,693 an increase of 4% per cent. Much has been attended to in the village during the past year, but there is ever increasing pressure to do more. Employees, one full-time, two part time, account for just over 42% (£39,443) including National Insurance Contributions and Pension Contributions. Other administration costs include post, telephone, office rental, business rates, insurance, audit, training courses, electricity, gas, etc.

Costs relating to recreation grounds and open spaces include grass cutting, grass verge cutting, tree work, repairs and renewals, dog bin contract, footpath works, etc. In addition, a regular contribution is made to the Wheatley Park Sportsfield Management Committee as part of the current joint use agreement with Oxfordshire County Council, relating to the Holton Sportsfield (owned by the Wheatley Parish), and the Sportsfield at the Primary School (owned by Oxfordshire County Council), which costs between £8,000 and £10,000 per year.

£5000 will be available for the provision of a part-time youth leader.

These are just some of the items included in the 2008/2009 budget, but the full list can be seen in the Parish Office at the usual opening times (9.30am-11.30am Wednesdays and Saturdays), otherwise I am always happy to assist with a breakdown, details of the budget, and the healthy balances in hand (telephone 875126 or 07815580971) or I am available at the Parish Office 9.30am -11.30am the second Saturday each month.

Meanwhile, the 4% increase amounts to £3565, meaning an increase of £2.18p per household for the year 2008/2009.

Overall, the cost to the parish is now £1.09p per week for each household, an increase of 4pence per week.

I would like to add that none of the 15 Parish Councillors receive any remuneration for their contribution to this Parish (a question I have been asked on occasion).

# WHEATLEY PARISH MEETING MONDAY

2<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2007

## AGENDA

- 1 **MINUTES** of the previous Annual Parish Meeting of 03.04.06
- 2 **MATTERS ARISING**
- 3 **REPORTS**

The following reports have been invited. Where a report has been received already it is marked with an asterisk . Presenters may vary from those given below.

- i **THAMES VALLEY POLICE** (PC Gregory)
- ii **COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP** (Cllr Ellie Stacey)
- iii **OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL** (Anne Purse)
- iv **DISTRICT COUNCIL** (Sarah Gray and/or Roger Bell)
- v **WHEATLEY SPORTSFIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** (Mary Blake)
- vi **WHEATLEY CHARITIES** (P. Targett)
- vii **WHEATLEY COMMON ALLOTMENT-THE HOWE TRUST**
- viii **MERRY BELLS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** (P. Mulcahy-Morgan)
- ix **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – Men’s and Women’s Sections**
- x **WHEATLEY SCOUT GROUP**
- xi **WHEATLEY GIRL GUIDES**
- xii **WHEATLEY INTEGRATED NURSERY SCHOOL**
- xiii **ADULT LEARNING (FORMERLY COMMUNITY EDUCATION)** (Mary Stiles)
- xiv **WHEATLEY PRODUCTIONS**
- xv **FRIENDS OF THE EARTH**
- xvi **YOUTH CENTRE** (Kevin Jackson)
- xvii **WHEATLEY WINDMILL RESTORATION SOCIETY** (Caroline Dalton)
- xiii **WHEATLEY SOCIETY** (Jim Watson)
- xix **ST MARY’S CHURCH.**
- xx **WHEATLEY VILLAGE ARCHIVE – Sue Prest**
- xxi **REPORTS FROM OTHER VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS**
- xxiii **PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE REPORT** (Cllr J Carr)
- xxiv **PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN’S REPORT** (Cllr Caroline Dalton)

At the end of the meeting all those attending are welcome to stay for refreshments

