

# WHEATLEY NEWS

Published by Wheatley Parish Council



Windmill at Sunset | Martin Gibson

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## Contributions

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

Submissions should be made by **18th May** for the next issue.

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

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

## Meetings & Dates

### Annual Parish Meeting

Merry Bells, 24th April, from 19:00

#### Parish Council

Merry Bells, 19:30

3rd April

Annual 15th May

#### Planning Cmte.

Parish Office, 19:30

12th April

3rd May

#### Finance Cmte.

Parish Office, 19:30

17th April

#### Open Spaces Cmte.

Parish Office, 19:30

22nd May

#### Parish Surgery

Parish Office

09:30 - 11:30

Every Wed & Sat

#### District Cllr Surgery

Parish Office 10:30

2nd Saturday in each month

## WHEATLEY NEWS

### Publisher & Billing Enquiries

Wheatley Parish Council

The Parish Office

The Merry Bells

89 High Street

Wheatley, OX33 1XP

01865 875615

[clerk@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

[www.wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### Editor & Artwork/Content Enquiries

Pete Collinson

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

### Distributor

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

### Disclaimer

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

Hello everyone, its nearly Easter! Where has the time gone?

We are coming up to the local elections and I just wanted to thank those parish councillors who are not standing again for another 4-year term. You know who you are and I thank you for your service.

Since May last year your council has continued with activities in our community. Here is just a flavour...

- Worked alongside Holton Parish Council in consultation with Oxford Brookes on the proposed development at Wheatley Campus
- Delivered several Cuppa, Cake and Chat events to help combat isolation.
- Supported several village charities and initiatives.
- Initiated an annual Volunteers Awards Event where contributions can be recognised.
- Agreed our communications strategy and developed a village logo.
- Lobbied SODC and grant funders for the rebuild of the Pavilion at Wheatley Playing Fields.
- Delivered a Table Tennis table for the Recreation Ground
- Working with OCC and South East Forces Cadet Association (SERFCA) to bring the empty cadet hut back into community use.
- Worked more closely with Wheatley Primary School to be inclusive for all of our villagers young or old. We will be setting up a Youth Council in 2023-24 to support the Parish Council ensuring the voices of our children are taken into consideration. Please let us know if your child is interested in being part of this initiative.

The Volunteer Award Scheme will be launched shortly, so please do some thinking about nominating people who you think have contributed to the wellbeing of our community. Their Majesties King Charles and Camilla, Queen Consort, also wish to recognise volunteers as part of the celebrations for the coronation so I encourage you to nominate those who you feel knit the community together.

As part of the Coronation celebrations on Monday 8th May, we are organising a Local Produce Fair in the High Street to celebrate local producers, more news on that further within this edition. Please come and support local producers.

However: As a responsible dog owner, I deplore the levels of dog waste I see and plead with dog owners/walkers to carry bags whilst exercising their dogs around the village. The pavements aren't wide and the likelihood of a small child or an elderly person walking through it is high. It is very unpleasant and antisocial. If your dog defecates in the street, please clear it up. On the same topic, please refrain from allowing your dog to jump up onto the raised beds in the High Street and leave a mess. These are beds that are tended by our parish team, and in some cases by children so please be considerate.

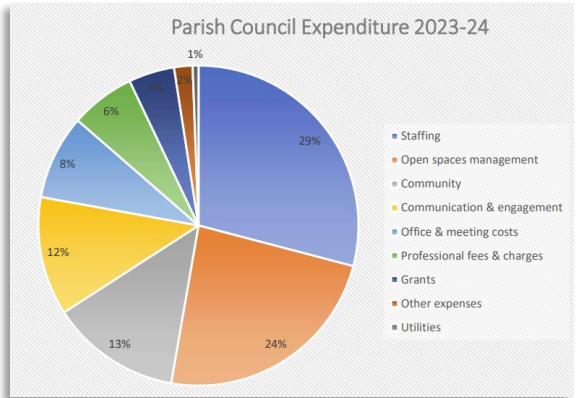
Finally, the first signs of Spring are becoming visible – budding shrubs, signs of leaves on the trees and longer days, all helping us to feel better and top up our vitamin D!

May I wish you all a happy Easter.

**Alison Sercombe**

It is lovely to be sitting writing this in the warm Spring sunshine, and to see the bulbs popping up around the village. Spring brings the close of another council and financial year, so we are busy focusing on completing the seasonal tasks including our financial statements, which will be finalised later in the year. We have also scheduled the Annual Parish Meeting for Monday 24th April, in the Merry Bells. This meeting is open to the whole community to raise any topics and will include a review of the past year, plus news on new and ongoing projects. Do come along from 7pm, with the formal meeting starting at approximately 7.30pm.

Spring also sees the delivery of council tax bills, where you will see that the parish council has had to increase the precept (its part of your council tax) by 7.5%. The rise followed a year of 0% increase, but ongoing challenges with price increases and some key projects to support the community. A brief summary is shown here, but further information is available from the parish office.



## Elections

This year is also the end of the current council term, and all 15 councillor seats are up for re-election on 4th May. Some councillors will not be standing, and we really need new blood to step up and represent the community. The parish council is closest to the community and best placed to work with and to support the community. As a parish councillor you really can make a difference and help steer the council to work even harder and smarter. We would love to have a wide representation from across the village, skills, and interests. Please consider standing and becoming a councillor.

There is plenty of support available from officers, training opportunities and peer support. For an informal chat please do get in touch.

## Local Produce Market

Monday 8th May - make sure this date is in the diary. Following the ethos of our new King Charles III we will be welcoming a range of local producers to the Merry Bells, with lots of opportunities to purchase fresh, local produce or gifts made from local sources, enjoy refreshments and entertainment. Check out the advert on the back page!



## Table Tennis

In partnership with South Oxfordshire District Council, we are pleased to have installed a brand-new table tennis table in Church Road Rec, expanding the range of activities on offer. All you need is to take your own bats and ping pong balls.

**Michelle Legg**

## Voting ID | 4th May

**For the first time voters will be required to show photo identification to be able to vote at polling stations on 4th May.**

The new requirements, introduced by the UK government last year, mean that you must show ID to be able to cast your vote in local elections as well as Police and Crime Commissioner polls and general elections. Many people are unaware of this change so please make sure you have acceptable photo ID (passport or driving licence) with you when you come to vote (it doesn't apply to postal voters). If you don't have an approved form of ID, you can register for a postal vote or if you'd like to vote in person, you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate – for this you only need a passport sized photo and your National Insurance Number.

Please don't lose your democratic right to vote! Applications close on **25th April**.

### **Which forms of ID can you use to vote?**

You may already have a form of photo ID that is acceptable. You can use any of the following:

- Passport
- Driving licence (including provisional license)
- Blue badge
- Certain concessionary travel cards
- Identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- Biometric Immigration document
- Defence identity card
- Certain national identity cards

A full list of other acceptable forms of ID can be found by Googling "SODC voting ID", or here: <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/local-democracy-and-elections/elections-and-voting/new-for-2023-you-will-need-to-show-photo-id-when-voting-at-a-polling-station>

# Traffic Hints #4 - Blue Badge Parking

It seems that the incidents of dangerous, illegal, and inconsiderate in Wheatley are reducing so thank you to everyone who thinks about others before they park.

We need to make a point of clarification about parking on yellow lines. It is in fact legal when the car is displaying a blue badge (disability parking permit). So, if you see a car parked on yellow lines please check if it has a blue badge before taking any action and please be polite and respectful, if you feel you should speak to the driver.



On a related topic, accessible parking spaces are for the use of blue badge holders only. If you park in one without a blue badge you could be stopping someone in need from using it and you can receive a fine.

**Wheatley Parish Council Traffic Working Group**

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2023

MONDAY 24TH APRIL 2023 FROM 7PM

IN THE MAIN HALL OF THE MERRY BELLS

Come along, hear updates from your local councillors  
and the opportunity to raise your questions.



Wheatley Parish Council, 89 High Street, Wheatley, OX33 1XP  
T: 01865 875615 E: [clerk@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
W: [www.wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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# Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan Report



1. Examiner Andrew Ashcroft re-joins us to help SODC examine the final WNP Review. He first led us in 2019-20, when Wheatley Parish Council (our Validating Body) had submitted our first WNP Draft to SODC. Secretary-of-State Jenrick and SODC had clashed, and Mr Ashcroft advised against anyone's guessing how long stalemate might last. WNP had observed all basic Planning Principles, but Whitehall disputed SODC Local Plan 2034. In February 2020, the Examiner advised that we remove all WNP proposed Enhancements requiring Green Belt. Littleworth alone (no G.B. involved) remained our only WNP Enhancement – but sufficient to be a WNP and to be re-made ten months later (December 2020), Whitehall and SODC made peace. A Green Belt policy specific to WNP proposals was secured within a new L.P. 2035. By 2022, WNP was then draft-reviewed through consultation. It then went to Wheatley PC to be forwarded to SODC for Examination. Mr Ashcroft leads and advises on this – and decides on any need for Referendum. We welcome him back.
2. A 'Two Week Consultation' (6-19 March) leafleted in early March without notice, has raised eyebrows and questions. WNP Committee (JF/RG) contacted the OBU Team and a prompt apology came from OBU Mark Tugwell blaming failure by consultants. I thanked him, but requested we meet to talk 'community'. It is unclear whether any of the '2 Week Consultation' responses will be shared with District Planners or with fellow community respondees. (Both are key elements of any consultation.) This 'Two-Weeker' imitates Planning Consultation, but it rings hollow and no signatory or officeholder identified with the leaflets. 'OBU and an unnamed property developer' are the stated recipients of this 'feedback on design and layout' at the site. OBU will then send 'a reserved matters application' to SODC in April, following Outline Planning Permission (500 homes) given in 2020.
3. OBU 'Consultation' maps show the Western entrance/exit road but say nothing of negotiating it with OBU/OCC or Wheatley Park Academy. Nor have SODC/OCC yet ruled on the Waterperry Rd double accesses/exits proposed by OBU's remote agents. Local anger peaked (Consultation, Jan-Mar 2023) in defence of a trapped part of our community whose real concerns are not seen to matter. The current 2-Week Consultation, says nothing to an entire community facing 1,000-1,200+ vehicles daily exiting and entering this site through both villages; nothing of engine noise pollution, exhaust pollution, headlight and streetlight pollution on local roads near capacity (A40, London Rd, Old London Rd, with the M40 close and hinterland traffic developing from well beyond Waterperry – not forgetting OBU's para-legal 'One Miler' on the map here. This 'Two Week Consultation' smacks of contempt for real community concerns. OBU housing volume is too large for its setting. Surely, a review or enquiry is now needed.
4. Brookes Liaison Group: Wheatley and Holton Parish Chairpersons, (Alison Sercombe and Robert Barter) speak with one voice as Brookes Liaison Group. On 27th February they met Bidwells (Consultants) and Mark Tugwell (2 i/c OBU Trust) at WPC Office.

**John Fox | WNP Committee Chairman**

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- **Singer Joe Holic performing Ska, Reggae and Northern Soul on Saturday 20th May 2023**

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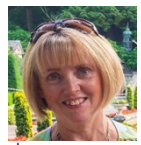
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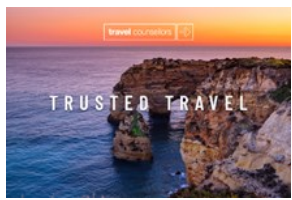
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## Hello from The Maple Tree!

We celebrated International Woman's Day in March – look at all our lovely Mums with their babies at our Baby Café!

If you haven't already attended one of our sessions, please do come along for a cuppa and enjoy some of our amazing activities with your child or grandchild. All welcome!

**Monday:** Messy Mondays at 10:00-11:30am

**Tuesday:** Story and Rhyme Time at 10:00-11:30am

**Wednesday:** Baby Cafe at 10:00am-12:00pm

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

Social Butterflies at 10:00-11:30am

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

Village Outreach: The Maple Tree at Forest Hill Village Hall on **Thursdays** from 11:00am-12:00pm.

There is a suggested donation of £3.00 per family per session.



Check out our Website and Facebook page for more information about our special events, our programmes, and popular our First Aid classes!

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**Laura Spencer | Centre Manager**



# LitterCrew WhatsApp Group

This group of volunteers was formed just over a year ago so you may have seen members in hi-viz out and about the village. The aim is to support our two part-time Parish outdoor workers in keeping a litter deluge at bay while they get on with other jobs in the playgrounds and public areas. There are several hotspots around the village where litter is a particular problem - chiefly the High Street, the alleyway by the bakery, the Memorial Garden, London Road, Old London Road, Littleworth Road and Cooper Close footpath. At the other end of the village the footpath at the rear of ASDA is often litter-strewn. We occasionally cover Holton Turn and the various lay-bys on the outskirts of the village.

All these areas are impossible to keep spotless, so we monitor the worst areas and then go along as individuals or sometimes team up with another member when more help is needed. Many of these places have convenient bins which are emptied by Biffa up to three times a week, but it always amazes me how these are often ignored. We don't cover private premises and sometimes remind businesses such as the Co-op, ASDA, and Travelodge when there is a litter problem in the vicinity of their sites - with varying results.

If you'd like to join the Litter Crew and try to keep our village free of litter, then please contact [sustainablewheatley@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablewheatley@gmail.com). When you join you will be asked to sign a Risk Assessment and Terms of Engagement so you understand the health and safety issues when litter picking in public areas. All our equipment has been purchased with the help of a grant from our SODC Councilor and is available for members to use.

Jane Cotton



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# Wheatley Playing Field Trust

## News from The Trust

Wheatley Park School has used the Wheatley Playing Fields at Holton for the past 50 years. For the first 42 years, the playing fields (together with the playing field on Littleworth Road) were managed by the Wheatley Park Sportsfield Management Committee, under a joint user agreement between Wheatley Parish Council and Oxfordshire County Council.

Since 1st September 2015, the playing fields have been managed by Wheatley Playing Field Trust which continues to work closely with Wheatley Park School to ensure that the school can deliver its PE curriculum.

Part of the agreement with the school is the shared use of the pitch on the school campus behind the Park Sports Centre. Up until early 2020, the Trust managed and maintained this area which included a rugby pitch and two junior football pitches. These pitches fell out of use and deteriorated during the Covid pandemic when the area was needed by the school to segregate the different year groups.

The Trust, following recent discussions with the school, will begin work shortly

to recover and restore this area so that sport can be played again on it. There is an ever-increasing demand for pitches. Wheatley Playing Fields and clubhouse are used 7 days a week by up to 450 members of the community, in addition to the students of Wheatley Park School. This takes a heavy toll on the facilities, particularly the grass pitches. The Trust is carrying out work in the Spring to further improve the field. Good, strong grass growth, with deep roots, will allow increased playing time on each pitch.

A date for the diary. Following their inaugural and most successful football festival last year, Wheatley Oaks FC are organising their second festival to be held on 24th June this year. If there is anyone in the community who is thinking about playing netball, football or rugby or just wants to improve their fitness, please contact the clubs directly or use the Trust contact details below.

Do get in touch at:

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

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

**Paul Willmott | Chairman**

## Wheatley Windmill Volunteers

Volunteers are invited to an induction morning on **Saturday 22nd April** at Wheatley Windmill starting at 11 a.m.

You will learn how to put on and take off sails from the mill, operate the brake lever, guide visitors up the inside of the mill, be part of the team of stewards for the grounds, or join the busy refreshment team. Any questions? Please get in touch with Caroline Dalton, using [secretary@wheatleywindmill.co.uk](mailto:secretary@wheatleywindmill.co.uk)



HOLTON & WHEATLEY  
CRICKET CLUB

# Holton & Wheatley Cricket Club

Holton and Wheatley Cricket Club will be back for the 2023 season and welcomes new players of all ages and abilities. Last year, our age range stretched further than ever, from 16 to 81. In the absence of a suitable field in the village, we will continue staging home games nearby, mostly at Great Haseley CC but also twice in Stanton St John. We have indoor nets session scheduled, so there will be a chance for anyone whose kit has been hibernating in the back of a cupboard to get some practice in. And we can accommodate players who are only available occasionally, as well as regulars. For details, just get in touch with Hugh on 07788 672864 or via our website at [hawcc.co.uk](http://hawcc.co.uk).

All our games are Sunday afternoon friendlies. Let's hope the rain stops in time for our first game on April 30th. The first home fixture is a week later on May 7th. From then on, we play on roughly three weekends in four right through to late September.

We look forward to seeing you!

You can find more information or contact us via our website, [www.hawcc.co.uk](http://www.hawcc.co.uk), or contact Hugh Kitchin on 07788 672864.

**Hugh Kitchin**

**MACMILLAN** **MAMMOTH**  
**CANCER SUPPORT** **QUIZ**

## Macmillan Quiz Update

I would like to thank those of you who were able to join us for the Quiz for Macmillan on the 24th February and also those who were not present but who made a donation. As a result of your generosity we have contributed £660 to Macmillan Cancer support.

I would also like to say a big thank you to the wonderful group of friends and supporters who have made the quizzes possible over the past five years.

**Sue Coombes**

Just a short note on behalf of all the Macmillan quizzers to thank Sue for these very enjoyable evenings. I'm sad to say that Sue has decided to retire from organising these events. I believe she has hosted 3 evenings on Zoom whilst we were all confined to barracks and 2 in the Merry Bells, so thank you very much Sue, also to John for collating the scores. We all look forward to your next undertaking!

**David Harverson**

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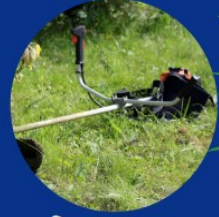
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# ASDA Wheatley Community Update

We are happy to announce the final results of our latest digital green token vote for 2022 (October - December). The vote positions with the awarded amounts are as follows:

## **Winning Group - £500**

Friends of Beckley School

## **Second place - £400**

Enrych Oxfordshire

## **Third place - £300**

Oxford & District Talking News (Oxtalk)

Our current live vote continues until the end of April, at which point the scheme will be paused.

Asda's charity, the Asda Foundation, are currently reviewing the GTG programme during 2023. As a charity, they cyclically review all their programmes to ensure funding remains relevant to local community needs. We are therefore not accepting any new nominations currently for this scheme.

In the last two months, (January & February) we have welcomed three groups into our store to fundraise. A total of £1,960.44 has been raised by these groups and we hope that every penny will make a difference. We have bookings for both awareness and fundraising sessions booked in store until June. and are hoping to run a food drive later in the year as well.

Currently, we are running Tickled Pink awareness and fundraising during March to remind people of the importance of checking our chests (breast and pecs). Plus, I am planning on running a gift wrap donation station, to wrap gifts for Mother's Day and if successful, we may plan to offer this for other dates, such as Christmas.

During the last two months, I have been out to a number of local community groups including girl guiding, youth groups, and nurseries to provide healthy eating sessions. I have also been to a local preschool as part of World Book Day to encourage reading and loved hearing about what the children were dressing up as!

If you are connected to schools, charities, preschools, or nurseries, please get in touch if you would like to run a session or arrange a store tour.

We are currently in contact with some local groups to discuss grant criteria and eligibility as round one of our grant offering is now open and is very similar to the format in the way of grant streams we offered last year. There will be three grant rounds for this year, where we are hoping to support groups which have not recently been supported in terms of a grant to enable us to help as many groups within the community.

At the start of February, our larger Spaces and Places Grant opened, and we had over fifteen enquiries expressing an interest in this grant. Together with our Store Manager, we met with three groups to discuss their project in more detail and are currently working with one of the groups to progress their application to the next stage.

We are only able to support one application for this type of major grant but would like to wish all the groups the very best with their fundraising to help create invaluable community spaces for groups to meet and run their activities.

My email address is:

[community\\_wheatley@asda.co.uk](mailto:community_wheatley@asda.co.uk) if you wish to get in touch with me.

**Linda Blackmore**

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# Wheatley Village Produce Association

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## Our local garden club

I spoke with some foreboding last time about what the weather might be like when you receive your copy of Wheatley News. I am writing this in March, and it is cold and snow is falling. That said, I am an optimistic soul, so am hoping for warmer weather in April and May!

### April

Hopefully, we can begin to sow seeds outdoors and plant seed potatoes if they are still waiting. We do still need to be on frost-watch and protect fruit where necessary. Shrubs will benefit from feeding or mulch with compost and climbing and rambling roses will need to be tied in. The weed growth will be accelerating now so hoe if the weather is dry to keep on top of them.

### May

If hedges need clipping, please check for bird's nests. Lawns can now be mown weekly but leaving some areas uncut will help wildlife. Should watering be necessary, it is best done in the morning or evening. Clumps of spring bulbs can be lifted and divided to increase their number and improve flowering. Keep an eye out for damage caused by lily and viburnum beetles and their grubs.



More excitingly, summer bedding can be planted out towards the end of the month. Keep on weeding...

### Coming up:

#### Tuesday 11 April

Gardener's Question Time

#### Tuesday 9 May

Anthony Powell on Groundcover

#### Saturday 20 May

Coach trip to RHS Hyde Hall, Essex.

Fingers crossed the weather will be fine for the Coronation!

Queries to [wheatleyvpa@gmail.com](mailto:wheatleyvpa@gmail.com).

Geraldine Surman



# FAME AND ENVY THE OPERA



In June, this year, Oxfordshire Contemporary Opera (OCO) is presenting a new opera, “Fame & Envy” a work which I have written to a libretto by Simon Kingston, another Wheatley resident. It is being performed in Thame Parish Church by six wonderful young professional singers; with a small orchestra and it is being directed by a brilliant American director Callie Nestleroth.

The story concerns the world of Fine Art and an artist of genius Florian Faber whose work, lifestyle and emerging fame arouses envy from some of those close to him. The story revolves around Florian’s latest exhibition where the tensions grow among this small group of people, leading to tragic consequences.

The work is full of colourful characters plus interesting works of art and is set to vibrant, tuneful music.

This World Premiere is my sixth full scale opera, and it is a premiere not to be missed.

There have been five of my operas performed over the years in or close to Wheatley. The first two were performed by Wheatley Productions in the Primary School Hall with “The Enchanted Loom” (full of Indian costumes and dances) being the first and “Letters to Paola” (full of Russian passion and drama) being the second.

The third “Poet and Plumber” was a very funny setting of the humorous words of Kit Arnold and was produced in Wheatley Park School Hall.

Setting up the Oxfordshire Contemporary Opera company as a charity to promote contemporary opera was inspired by the production of “Lizzie Strata” in neighbouring Stanton St John. It was the first of two operas that I wrote to libretti by David Willcock. The second was entitled “@emele” and performed this time back in Wheatley again, David directed both of them.

“Lizzie Strata” like the second opera “@emele” was performed outdoors in lovely garden settings.

OCO will move away again to Thame for “Fame & Envy” but it’s only just down the road where there is ample parking and a good bus service. You will find more details of the work and how to get tickets in the Wheatley Newsletter or on the OCO website ([www.oxcontemporaryopera.org](http://www.oxcontemporaryopera.org)).

Hope to see you there.

**Roger Simmonds**

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  - Discontinuation of blister pack recycling
  - 24/7 breastfeeding support
  - Expansion of bowel cancer screening programme

**Morland House PPG**

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# Wheatley Scout Group

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The scout group in the village is a busy thriving hub of activity with many young people enjoying and learning many things every week. The group comprises of **Beavers** (6 – 8 years old), **Cubs** (8 – 10), and **Scouts** (10 – 14).

There is also an **Explorer Scout** section (14 – 18 years old) which currently has some spaces.

But we would like some help...

Volunteering to be a leader is really rewarding – do you think you are up for a challenge and ready to have some fun and adventures?

The cub section (ages 8 – 10) needs more adult help – **could you volunteer your time once a week?**

If you cannot commit to weekly meetings how about supporting the leaders in other ways with finances, admin, building maintenance, gardening or equipment.

The scout hut is in some disrepair and ideally, we would like to move premises – do you have some land or know of land where we could relocate our scout hut?

Please get in touch if you have any queries about anything above.

[nathalie.soanes@gmail.com](mailto:nathalie.soanes@gmail.com)

07745 285938

**Nathalie Soanes | Scout Leader**

## **WHEATLEY CARE SCHEME IS IN NEED OF MORE VOLUNTEER DRIVERS**

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# Notices | Clubs | Events

Wheatley Parish  
Council

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Monday 24th April  
From 19:00  
Merry Bells Main  
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The Merry Bells  
**OPEN DAY**  
Sat 13th May  
**10:00-14:00**

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**Isambard**

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Wheatley Village Produce  
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## Ground Cover

Anthony Powell

**Mon 9th May**

**7.30pm, Merry Bells**

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Wheatley Village Produce  
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## Coach Trip to RHS Hyde Hall

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## MONDAY

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

**Art Club** | Library | 16:00-18:00 | £1 donation | [tina\\_everett@btinternet.com](mailto:tina_everett@btinternet.com)

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

**Not So Young Club** | URC Hall | Fortnightly exc. B/H | 14:00-16:00 | [albarjoiner@btinternet.com](mailto:albarjoiner@btinternet.com)

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

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

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

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

**Messy Mondays** | Maple Tree Centre | 10:00-11:30

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

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

**Zumba** | Wheatley Primary | 19:00-20:00 | Maz: 07773 651154 [mmccann36b@hotmail.com](mailto:mmccann36b@hotmail.com)

## TUESDAY

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

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

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

**Wheatley Singers** | URC Hall | 19:15-21:00 | 07769 037110 | All welcome

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

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

**Story and Rhyme Time** | Maple Tree Centre | 10:00-11:30

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

## WEDNESDAY

**Maple Babies** | Maple Tree Centre | 10:00 & 13:00, one hour each

**Acorns Theatre Music** | Merry Bells | 09:30-10:30

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

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

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

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

**Brownies** | URC | Term time 17:30-19:00 | Age 7-9 | [1stwheatleybrownies@gmail.com](mailto:1stwheatleybrownies@gmail.com)

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

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

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

**St Mary's Church** | 01865 872224 | [vicar.wheatley@gmail.com](mailto:vicar.wheatley@gmail.com)

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

## THURSDAY

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

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

**Prayer and Reflection (+ coffee)** | URC | 10:00 | 1st in month | [albarjoiner@btinternet.com](mailto:albarjoiner@btinternet.com)

**Memory Cafe** | URC Hall | 10:00-12:30 | 2nd in month | [laurencelalanne99@gmail.com](mailto:laurencelalanne99@gmail.com)

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

**Community Larder** | St Mary's Church | 14:30-15:30

**Wheatley Wine Circle** | Merry Bells | 1st Thursday in month | 19:30

**Little Explorers** | Maple Tree Centre | 10:00-11:30

**Twinnies!** | Stay & Play for twins | Maple Tree Centre | 14:00-15:30

**Maple Tree at Forest Hill** | Forest Hill Village Hall | 11:00-12:00 | [laura@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:laura@mapletree.org.uk)

**Wheatley Village Archive** | Wheatley Library | 14:00-16:30 | 01865 425909

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

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

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

# Day by Day

## FRIDAY

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

**Table Tennis** | URC Hall | 10:00 | All abilities catered for | [val\\_farmer40@hotmail.com](mailto:val_farmer40@hotmail.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Martial Arts** | Primary School Hall | 07731 512682 | Ages 3-7+ | [mrsfox@mattfiddes.com](mailto:mrsfox@mattfiddes.com)

## SATURDAY

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

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

**Family Fun** | Maple Tree Centre | 3rd in month | 10:00-11:30

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

**Our Lady of Lourdes RC Church** | 01865 762433 | [corpuschristi.oxford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:corpuschristi.oxford@rcaob.org.uk)

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

## SUNDAY

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

**Family Board Games Café** | URC Hall | 2nd in month | 14:30-17:00 | [kevin@kbetts.com](mailto:kevin@kbetts.com)

**St Mary's Church** | 01865 872224 | [vicar.wheatley@gmail.com](mailto:vicar.wheatley@gmail.com)

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

**United Reformed Church** | 01865 873859 | [secretary@wheatleyurc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wheatleyurc.org.uk)

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

**Wheatley Community Church** | [office@wheatleycommunitychurch.org](mailto:office@wheatleycommunitychurch.org)

- Wheatley Primary School | 10:30





# THE WHEATLEY SOCIETY

Parish Newsletter

April / May 2023

Already Spring has arrived, and we have had three events. The first in February was Peter Fanning's presentation of his book on his great grandfather, Henry Beeching, Dean of Norwich (1859 to 1919) Professor, Poet, and Priest. It turns out that two audience members realised they are in fact related to Peter!

Continuing our joint talks organised by the Wheatley Village Archive History Group we have had a highly entertaining evening with Liz Woolley listening to Leisure & Entertainment in Victorian & Edwardian Oxford. Then Michael Heaney's talk - The Ancient English Morris Dance: Pagan Fertility Ritual or Courtly Dance took us through the historical highs and lows of Morris dancing.

Our AGM on March 10th was really well attended. Maybe it was the welcoming glass of wine or more likely the chance to hear from Wendy Stanton about the different topics now within the remit of Sustainable Wheatley. They range from Swap Shop to 30% Wild via Litter Crew, Thame River Monitoring and Village Harvesting. A Great Big Green Week is planned for 10th to 18th June. If you want to find out more do look at [www.sustainablewheatley.org](http://www.sustainablewheatley.org).

As usual our 2023-24 programme has a wide range of types of events and those coming up in April May starts with a visit

to the "Rewley Railway Swing Bridge Area" as part of a guided tour around North Osney led by Tom Hassall.

The Railway theme continues with a talk at the Merry Bells "Preserving our Heritage – A Steam Railway" by Stanley Hart, Chairman of the Chinnor and Princes Risborough Rail who will take us on a ride through its history. Merry Bells 7.45 for 8.00 on **Thursday 20th April**.

Then, still linked to the railway theme, Gareth Morris will remind us of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's great engineering achievements which made him so famous. **Thursday May 11th** at the Merry Bells 7.45 for 8.00.

In May we also have an opportunity to tour Ripon College Cuddesdon to see the beautiful modern chapel and have a cup of tea whilst learning more of the work that goes on there.

The month will end with a Tour and Tasting at Brightwell Vineyard where we can see how this local vineyard has developed and taste its wines.

Look out for further details and enjoy the events.

**The Wheatley Society Committee**

# Thank You Wheatley!

After 35 years of running the Post Office in Wheatley, we have decided to sell the business. On March 3rd, we handed over the business to Jigar and his wife Palak Patel. Denish will mostly be running the business along with Jayne, whom you all know.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the entire village for the support and kindness that you have shown us over the years. We first came to Wheatley in November 1987 and had no idea how long we would stay. You, our customers, are the reason we have stayed as long as we have. We have had a lot of fun along the way, (sorry for some of the jokes!) We were very lucky to move to such a vibrant and friendly village.



*Photo (L to R): Denish, Palak, Jigar, Josh (Post Office), Neil, Anette*

As you know, six years ago we were lucky enough to take over the bank premises. This gave us a new lease of life. It has been such fun developing the shop and going to trade shows where we have met so many amazing people from across the world with exciting new products for us to sell in Wheatley. We also owe a very special thank you to our daughter, Emily who as well as keeping her own busy full-time job going, has spent hours helping us to set up the shop. She always attends trade shows with us to give us a young person's slant on what to buy, for which we are very grateful. We also could not have done it without our son Casper and his wife Maggie who also gave us a lot of help with painting, building shelves and generally helping wherever they could, it truly was a family affair. We also owe a big thank you to Jayne, who has tolerated us for the last 5 years.

Jigar, Palak, and Denish are delightful and very hardworking, and we have really enjoyed getting to know them over the last few months. We feel very sure that they will do a great job in keeping the business going and we wish them every success and hope that you will continue to support them, the way you have supported us over the years.

Once again, thank you all very much, we have loved every minute and we look forward to bumping into you around the village.

With love,

Anette & Neil

**Anette & Neil MacCormack**

## **A Thank You from Garsington Players**

We would like to say thank you to everyone who either bought a programme or made a donation to Cancer Research UK at our recent production of *When We Are Married*.

The collection, in memory of Angie and Peter Watts, who both sadly passed away in 2022, raised £300.17 for the charity. We are all very grateful for your generosity towards this good cause.

**Kate Lockey**

## **Emma Wilson Memorial Fund**

Seeing the daffodils flowering all around the village's grass verges, it is good to see that the bulbs purchased by the Fund to celebrate the Millennium and planted by volunteers in 1999, continue to brighten up our green spaces 23 years later.

The Memorial Fund was set up in January 1990 to commemorate the life of Emma Wilson. She was a pupil at Wheatley Primary and Secondary Schools and studied at New College, Oxford, until her tragic death in a road accident in the village. Throughout her short life she was very involved in many aspects of school and village life, with a particular interest in music and the environment.

The fund seeks to recognise young people from Wheatley and Littleworth who have given their time, care, and skills to help individuals, groups, and organisations in our community. Last year the fund made three awards to local teenagers for their outstanding community service. The Fund's Young People's Initiative Fund has also made a grant to help the Wheatley Park School's Sustainability Group. This group of pupils, representing all year groups in the school, helps to organise the recycling of waste paper and wrappings around the school and is currently active in helping to sustain and improve the school's environment by tree and hedgerow planting and the creation of wildflower meadows.

In 2022 the Parish Council launched its Celebrating Volunteers Awards which included the category of Young Volunteer. Our trustees are now in discussion with the Parish Council about pulling together both award schemes for young people in 2023. Please help us by nominating young people for the 2023 awards. For further information please contact the Trustees through Chantal Brierley at: [ewmf@thebrierleys.co.uk](mailto:ewmf@thebrierleys.co.uk). Thank you.

**EWMF Trustees**

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### Contact details

[moiramaccer@outlook.com](mailto:moiramaccer@outlook.com) mobile 07715609968  
[lindalizzymac@outlook.com](mailto:lindalizzymac@outlook.com) mobile 07715600524



# Waterperry Gardens

## April & May at Waterperry

**The Big Easter Bunny Hunt 1st – 16th April** Join the Big Easter Bunny Hunt around the ornamental gardens. £3 per child with a prize! (Children must be accompanied by an adult for whom the normal garden entrance fee applies).

**Fritillary Season** See the county flower of Oxfordshire in all its native splendour as it flowers throughout April in our wildflower meadow and riverside walk. Normal garden entrance fee applies - £10.50 per adult.

**Gnomestastic 27<sup>th</sup> May – 4th June** Half term fun - help the gnomes who have forgotten their names. £3 per child with a prize (children must be accompanied by an adult for whom the normal garden entrance fee applies).

**Waterperry Saxifraga Day 27<sup>th</sup> May, 10am till 4pm**

Visit Waterperry Gardens to see the largest collection of Saxifraga in the UK.

**Vacancies: We are currently looking for a chef to join our team at the Waterperry Teashop, see our website for more details.**

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

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The Association manages 110 allotment plots and is open to anyone in the local area who would like an allotment. Allotments vary in size, with 'half plots' averaging 100 square meters and whole plots 190 square meters. We also have a number of 8' x 4' raised beds available for those who have difficulty working at ground level and they are surrounded by paving to facilitate access. Rental for this year is £25 for a whole plot, £12.50 for a half plot and £10 for a raised bed.

We welcome new members, both beginners and those with more experience. Plot members share ideas, tips, plants, and seeds and are happy to provide advice about how to get started. Whilst members are responsible for their own plots and hand tools, there is access to shared machinery such as cultivators and strimmers.

We currently have some vacant plots and April is a great time to start growing. If you would be interested in finding out



more about the allotments and/or getting a plot, please contact:

Michele Gregory on 07920 06010

Georgina Glenny on 01865 874450

### **Maggie Fyffe**

Chair, Howe Trust

[magsandmat@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:magsandmat@yahoo.co.uk)

07889 639986

### **E Morgan-Jones**

Secretary, Allotment Association

01865 874413

**Georgina Glenny**



**WALKS PROGRAMME APRIL/MAY 2023****APRIL**

- **Saturday 1st:** 6 mile walk from Tetsworth.
- **Thursday 6th:** Undulating 6½ mile walk from Nettlebed.
- **Sunday 9th:** Meet at Wheatley (car park off Church Road, behind King and Queen PH) for a 7½ mile walk.
- **Saturday 15th:** 7 mile walk from Nettlebed.
- **Thursday 20th:** 7 mile walk in Oxford.
- **Sunday 23rd:** Meet at Cadmore End, for a hilly 7½ mile walk via Ibstone and Turville Heath. Bring a picnic to eat at Fingest church where the Walkers café will be open for tea and cakes.
- **Friday 28th:** Meet at Stokenchurch for a 5 mile walk in the area.

**MAY**

- **Thursday 4th:** Undulating 8 mile walk from Bledlow.
- **Friday 12th:** 6 mile level walk from Islip.
- **Thursday 18th:** Meet at Waterperry Garden Centre for a 6 mile walk. Optional coffee/lunch at the café at the end.
- **Sunday 28th:** Leisurely 4 mile walk from Frieth.

All walks are circular and start at 10am unless otherwise stated.

Check the website to confirm details of these walks and to find additions to the programme:

[ramblers-oxon.org.uk/thame-wheatley/walking](http://ramblers-oxon.org.uk/thame-wheatley/walking) or phone 01844 213608

Leaders' contact details and suitability of walks for dogs can also be found on the website.

**Introductory Walks on Sunday June 4th**

Thame & Wheatley Ramblers group will be offering walks to introduce people to walking with the Ramblers. They will start at 10am in Thame Upper High Street car park, a shorter one finishing with coffee and cake in Christchurch hall and a longer one finishing with a soup lunch.

All are welcome!



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# Wheatley Primary School and Acorns Nursery

We are finally emerging from winter and you can definitely detect a lighter mood for everyone! We are looking forward to spending more time with the children outside and enjoying some slightly warmer weather.

This term we are sending our year 5 and 6 children (9-11 years old) on their residential. Children and staff are looking forward to a week-long residential at Kilvrough Centre in south Wales, an outdoor activity centre owned and managed by Oxfordshire County Council. It's a lovely thing to be able to do with the children to build their confidence, resilience and independence, especially for the Y6s as they prepare for the transition to secondary school in September.

Continuing the theme of getting out and about, our year 3 and 4 children (7-9-year-olds) had a fantastic visit to The Story Museum where they explored the story

galleries and dressed up. They were also able to walk around Oxford and learn about Alice. On the sporting front, some of our children in years 3, 4 and 5 did a great job of representing us in the Oxfordshire cross-country event in Sonning Common. Our Y5/6 athletics team competed in the local area indoor sports hall athletics competition back in February and came second, meaning they were then invited to attend the regional finals last week where they represented the school really well against some tough competition!

Finally, we were delighted to receive members of Wheatley Parish Council into school for a visit this term, to show them the premises and the refurbished block at the back. We look forward to building that relationship and for Wheatley Primary truly to be a school at the heart of its community.

**Mrs Gillian Standing | Headteacher**

## Youth Club for Wheatley?

If you are in Years 6, 7 or 8 let us know what you would like by answering a few short questions.

Scan the QR code to access...



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# YOUR Wheatley Village Archive

Firstly, the archive volunteers must thank those people who contacted us in connection with the plea for info on various members of the Munt family in the last issue which has been added to the website. Do remember that if searching on the website for more than one word e.g. Post Office, they need to be in quotes like this "Post Office", single words do not.

Which reminds me...after 35 years the Post Office has changed hands. Neil and Anette MacCormack completed the sale on 3rd March to Jigar Patel and photos are on our website. Thank you and welcome to all.

Do keep looking at the website as it really is a work in progress with over 700 new images and 90 new records in the last year.

The 1921 census, which is free for all to access in the county libraries, has been analysed and this summary of the 10-page report, relating to Wheatley, will give you a taste.

## 1921 census Summary

The population of Wheatley from the 1921 census was 918. However, based on the occupation of the houses in 1911, the enumerator seems to have missed four houses at the east end of High Street. It is unlikely that these were all empty. With a possible 14 living in these, a revised total of 932 people in 247 living units in 1921 (1901 – 872, 1911 – 966).

The Great War took its toll amongst its

men folk with 17 men, who had been living in Wheatley in 1911, being killed. In four cases, these deaths appeared to have led to abandonment of their 1911 dwelling.

Between 1911 and 1921, 54% of the Wheatley population of family units (of whatever size) were still in the same dwelling. This was not a great surprise as most occupiers were tenants, presumably on short leases. Some 35% of dwellings were occupied by people new to Wheatley since 1911. 11% had moved within the village. This level of incomers is not unusual today and is even on the low side of the at least 50% of dwellings now being occupied by incomers over a 10-year period.

There were 370 people gainfully employed. Agriculture was still the largest employer (63 people), building trades and servants were the next highest with 40 in each category.

The variety and number of shops were largely unchanged since 1911. Ernest Sheldon had opened a cycle and motor agent business at 94 Church Road and Thomas Putt had become a shoe repairer.

Of the ten pubs trading in 1911, there had been a change of licensee by 1921 at White Hart, Railway Hotel, Kings Arms, Plough, and Cricketers. The Red Lion in Blenheim appears to have not been trading.

The full 10-page report which has a huge amount of other information is available on our website...remember "1921 census".

**Steph Cox**

SANDRA

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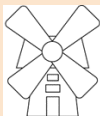
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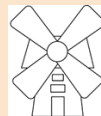
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Wheatley Nursery School



Wheatley Nursery School

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[www.wheatleynurseryschool.org](http://www.wheatleynurseryschool.org)



## Register Now for September 2023

**Nursery Hours 7:30am – 5:30pm for 2–4-year-olds**

Our curriculum is planned carefully to provide a wide range of exciting play opportunities and to develop basic skills and the knowledge necessary for a smooth transition into school.

15/30 hours Government Funded spaces available.



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

**All Stars After School Club Hours 7:30-9.00am and Monday-Friday 3.00-5.30pm**

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

**Please contact us on 01865 876750 or email us at [staff@horspathnursery.org.uk](mailto:staff@horspathnursery.org.uk)**

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

**Ofsted April 2022 Rating: Good**

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



## Acorns Nursery



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Our nursery is led by passionate Early Years Practitioners, specialising in Early Years education. Our curriculum is planned alongside our Early Years Lead and qualified Reception teacher.

We are education providers for children from the age of 2 to 5 and are proud to be part of the Wheatley Primary School family, working closely together to build firm foundations for future learning for all children along with access to the vast playing field and forest space on site.



Wrap around breakfast and after school club is available on site through Cool Kids. Opening from 7.30—5.30pm Monday to Friday and also offering a holiday club during half term.

**Nursery is open 8.50—3pm Monday to Friday**

**Visit [www.wheatley.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.wheatley.oxon.sch.uk) and click on the Acorns tab for more information or call 01865 872366 and ask for Sue**

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## Become a Parish Councillor

Stand for election on  
4th May





On a cold January evening a good number of our members turned out for an evening of gentle exercises with Michele Jacobs. The lights were dimmed, and Michele guided us through some very simple but beneficial exercises and some relaxation techniques. Who would have thought that a hall full of ladies could be so quiet and calm.

Four resolutions were put to the meeting and it was decided by a majority vote that that the resolution to be put forward by our WI this year was "Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife". A resolution is a call for change on a current issue in society. Through national and local campaigning members play a big role in achieving change on important issues. A short list is drawn up and the final decision is made at the Annual Meeting of the National Federation. When a resolution is adopted it will form the basis of a WI campaign.

In February we held a pudding evening and what a great evening it was. There were 15 different puddings for us to try and as it was Shrove Tuesday there were also freshly made pancakes. I think "naughty but nice" would describe the evening perfectly. Nobody

gave a thought to expanding waistlines and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to taste such a wide and varied selection of puddings.

## History Snippets 1922:

The talks given in April and May were both about other countries. The April talk was entitled "Home Life in South Africa and Australia" In May Capt. Kettlewell gave a talk on the recent discoveries in Egypt. This must have been a really interesting talk as the tomb of Tutankhamun had only been opened the previous November in 1922.

An outing to Southsea in July was planned and it was hoped to be able to hire a charabanc with 29 seats at a cost of 11/- per person.

Our meeting on April 18th is a gin talk and tasting by Chalgrove Artisan Distillery. On 16th May we are celebrating the coronation and members have been asked to wear red, white, and blue if possible. It is planned to hold a meeting with a very royal theme.

Visitors always welcome. £4 donation suggested.

**Stephanie Brooklyn**

## Our Lady of Lourdes

01865 762433 | [corpuschristi.oxford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:corpuschristi.oxford@rcaob.org.uk)

### Chrism, a Royal and Sacred Oil

In March, the Chrism oil to anoint King Charles at his Coronation was consecrated at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem by the Patriarch and the Anglican Archbishop Naoum. Olives from the Mount of Olives had been pressed near Bethlehem and Patriarch Theophilus ceremonially mixed that oil with sesame, rose, jasmine, cinnamon, neroli, benzoin, amber and orange blossom, according to an ancient formula last used for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. This holy and fragrant Oil of Chrism represents the deep historic link between the coronation, the Bible ("my head thou hast anointed with oil," Ps 23) and the Holy Land.

On Maundy Thursday, Catholic and Anglican Bishops across the world will be performing similar ceremonies in their cathedrals to bless three holy oils for use in ceremonies in churches throughout their dioceses.

The Oil of the Sick, pure olive oil, is blessed by the Bishop for anointing the seriously ill. In the Catholic Church, the priest traces a cross with the oil on the forehead and hands of the sick person, often bringing spiritual and emotional peace.

The Oil of Catechumens, a simple olive oil, is blessed to anoint those preparing for baptism.

The Oil of Chrism is different. During the Maundy Thursday service, in the presence of the clergy of the diocese, the Bishop will mix olive oil, signifying strength, with balsam, representing the aroma of Christ (2 Cor 2:15). In this way, the fragrant Oil of Chrism is created and then consecrated, just as the Patriarch did in Jerusalem in March.

The Patriarch's Oil of Chrism will be carried to Westminster Abbey for the Coronation and, similarly, the diocesan clergy carry the three newly blessed and consecrated oils back to their parishes from the cathedral.

The Oil of Chrism will be used throughout the year to consecrate people to God's service; it is used in baptism, confirmation, ordination to priesthood, the consecration of a bishop... and the coronation of a king.

**John Guy**

## St Mary's Church

01865 872224 | [vicar.wheatley@](mailto:vicar.wheatley@)

### From the Vicar

After many years of thinking, planning, and fund-raising we are, at last, beginning the work in St Mary's church building to replace the floor, improve the heating and provide additional modern facilities. After Easter the church building will be closed and handed over to the builders for the duration of the works. We anticipate being back in possession of the building in the autumn. These are exciting times, and we are all longing forward to seeing how things will turn out. I hope that you will take the opportunity to take a look later in the year. In the meantime, the congregation at St Mary's will be 'camping out' at Our Lady of Lourdes on Sunday mornings, thanks to the generosity of our Catholic friends.

Anyone who has had the builders in for a home extension will know the disruption that this causes and that sometimes you might wish you had never started the whole process. I am sure that we will be feeling much the same from time to time. But I am equally sure that once it is all done we will be thrilled to see our

gmail.com

'home' renovated and more fit for purpose. It will be great to have a building that we can comfortably use throughout the year, and which will be available for many groups to use.

Having got to this stage of the project, I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to it, either financially or through your enthusiasm and ideas. From the start we have tried to involve as many people as possible; we have sent round leaflets and asked your opinions and have asked you for money to help with the work. In all this you have been generous and encouraging, and have given us the tenacity to keep going. Thank you.

As the work progresses, we will try to keep you up to date with developments, but please do ask us if there is something you are not sure about. And please remember, if you can spare a little to help us achieve all that we want to do, there is still the chance to make a financial contribution to this project.

**Revd Nigel Hawkes**

## Wheatley United Reformed Church

01865 873859 | [secretary@wheatleyurc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wheatleyurc.org.uk)

### The Falcon School, Zimbabwe

In 2020 our Care For The World Ministerial team chose Zimbabwe among their priority areas for love and (where possible) financial support in these challenging world times.

We wanted to identify a direct cause to support with which we could develop a relationship and monitor the benefits of our efforts. We were fortunate to be put in touch with the Reverend Wilbert Sayimani who, with his late wife, several years earlier, had purchased a sandy block of land on the outskirts of Harare with the aim of building the Falcon Primary School for local children whose parents could not afford to send their children to state school.

One classroom was already almost completed in early 2021 but with funds from efforts as diverse as a quiz walk, preserve sales and personal donations we have helped purchase school uniforms, teaching resources and build both a second classroom and teachers' accommodation.

The school has 80 pupils; the younger ones now confidently 'graduate' from Early Learning stages, while a new Grade Seven class has recently been established to prepare pupils for transition to state secondary school.

Development resources are still much needed and targeted funds will need to be raised. If you think you can help the Falcon School financially please contact Wheatley URC as shown above.

#### Join our Pilgrimage

Wheatley URC supported by Wessex Synod Youth Team, alongside the Oxford Diocese, offer a group pilgrimage to Taizé for young adults aged 16-24. The Pilgrimage is from 13th to 20th August 2023 and deadline for applications 1st May.

Further details:

[wheatleyurc.org.uk/taize2023](http://wheatleyurc.org.uk/taize2023) (includes a link to a video insight into what Taizé is like).

**Mike Matejtschuk**



# REVIVAL at St Mary's

## Moving on!

**A BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who has contributed to the Revival over the last few months and years. The response from the villagers of Wheatley has been tremendously encouraging. And if anyone thinks they missed out and would still like to contribute, we'd be delighted to hear from them.

### GETTING ON WITH THE JOB.

We're in touch with a builder and plan to begin the refurbishment shortly after Easter 'making Saint Mary's an even more welcoming place to meet the wider needs of the community'. Work should be completed in time for Christmas.

### EVENTS PAST...

February saw Saint Mary's packed for a superb jazz concert by Alyn Shipton's Jazz Quartet; a brilliant evening of virtuoso playing, with a cast of international players. Marked by 'ensemble cohesion and rhythmic certainty' (Sunday Times and Observer), the group covered works by many of Jazz's greatest performers.



### ...AND FUTURE

The final Concert before refurbishment sees The Angelorum Choir, **Sunday 16th April at 4.00 p.m.** with an hour of beautiful choral music from across Europe – followed by tea.

**The Revival Team**

## WHEATLEY CARE

Wheatley Care has an important position that we need help filling:

### SECRETARY

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- Communicate with drivers and deal with all other correspondence.

Please contact: **Kath Lamont—01865 876609**

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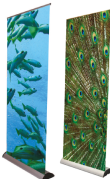
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# The Merry Bells Village Hall

## Open Day | 13th May

Discover or re-discover your Village Hall on **Saturday 13th May** and its progress from a Temperance Hotel to a well-appointed modern village hall, which also houses the Library and Parish Council Office.

In 1888 Mrs Dorothy Miller of Shotover House commissioned the building of The Merry Bells Coffee House as a Temperance Hotel. This was because at the time aside from agriculture, Wheatley's local industry was quarrying and brick-making, and it seems that the workers were prone to drunkenness! So, with the growth of the temperance movement The Merry Bells Temperance Hotel also became a community centre providing a library, various societies and clubs, such as The Pig Club and The Slate Club, as well as a meeting-place for self-improvement.

The last records of The Merry Bells being used as a hotel were in 1932 and it remained a community centre and library until it was sold to our village in 1970 and the first management committee met in August to take responsibility for sustaining its development, while operating on a 'not

for profit' basis as a charity. As Trustees they immediately set about a programme of modernisation and repair, which has continued through to today, so providing a modern well-equipped facility for the village.

On 13th May from 10.00am you will have the opportunity to discover and celebrate over fifty years of village ownership including the fascinating history; the building of the extension in 1999 to house a new kitchen and modern toilets; the installation of solar panels in 2016; our modern Bluetooth audio-visual equipment, plus examples of today's clubs, classes, and activities available.

While you explore your village hall you can 'partake of refreshments', as at the inauguration in 1888; there will be activities for children; you can also meet today's Trustees responsible for the 'self-supporting' principles originally established and buy some unique specially commissioned beer from Shotover Brewery called 'Temperance'!

We look forward to meeting you on **Saturday 13th May**.

**The Merry Bells Trustees**



After winter dormancy, we are all springing back to life so here are some updates about some of our projects.

## **Swapshop Saturday 22nd April**

The usual guidelines apply: Bring reusable goods between 9-10.15am and take useful objects away with you between 10.30 and 12. See our website for more specific guidelines.

## **Litter Crew**

Our team of volunteer litter pickers have been very hard at work about the late winter trimming of hedges. Their work supports the parish grounds maintenance workers who would otherwise be overwhelmed with the amount of rubbish abandoned around the parish. Please use bins provided or take rubbish home with you for proper disposal.

## **30% Wild**

This is a new initiative for Sustainable Wheatley. It has been inspired by projects elsewhere in the country and by the UN conference on biodiversity during which it was agreed that 30% of the planet should be rehabilitated for wildlife to help protect our ecosystems. This is an attempt to ensure food, water and air security for the future. Can you add any wildlife habitat in your space?

## **Save the date:**

### **Great Big Green Week 10-18th June**

This is a nationwide celebration of climate action and the environment. So far, our plans include

- Swapshop, 10 June
- Sunflower trail
- Get to know your Howe, Sunday 18 June 2-5pm
- Kids Quiz at Littleworth Nature Reserve

If you have any questions, please get in touch:

## **Contact us:**

**email** [sustainablewheatley@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablewheatley@gmail.com)

**website** [www.sustainablewheatley.org](http://www.sustainablewheatley.org)

**Facebook page** [@sustainablewheatley](https://www.facebook.com/sustainablewheatley)

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# The Howe Trust

## Would You Like to Plant a Tree\* to Commemorate the King's Coronation?

### Community 'Coronation Copse'

The Howe Trust would like to give everyone in the community the chance to mark the event in a nature positive way - by planting a tree on The Howe!

Our aim is to create a 'Coronation Copse' in the bottom field at the bottom of The Howe. We'll be choosing species that are of particular value to wildlife - such as Cherry Plum, Bird Cherry, Hazel, Rowan, Silver Birch, Crab Apple, Whitebeam, and Alder.



Photo: Veronica White on Unsplash

£5 buys a 90-120cm bareroot sapling, plus a cane and biodegradable spiral tree guard (to protect the sapling from rabbits and deer while it grows). If you'd like to join in, then we're taking advance orders now. We will organise a special planting day\* in November.

\*If you are unable to plant your tree yourself, for whatever reason, then you can choose to have this done for you by one of our volunteers.

### 'Adopt an English Oak'

We are also hoping to plant some much larger, specimen trees and we'd like to give the opportunity to individuals, groups, organisations or local companies to 'Adopt an English Oak'.

The bareroot oak trees will be approximately 6ft high and will require sturdy staking as well as deer-proof protection measures. They will be planted across the paddocks in areas with sufficient growing space for them to reach their full size.

A £175 donation will cover cost of the tree plus the labour and materials to protect it. For an additional £75 we can also arrange for your tree to have a personalised brass plaque with your name and a short message. We are taking orders now until end July for planting in November.

### Interested?

We'd love to hear from you. You can send an email to [maggiiefyffe@gmail.com](mailto:maggiiefyffe@gmail.com), a text or WhatsApp to 07889 639986 or message us via our Facebook page. Alternatively, pop a note in the post to The Furlongs, Windmill Lane OX33 1TA.

**Maggie Fyffe | Chair, Howe Trust**

## SODC Waste Collections — April & May 2023

Collection day Monday unless *changed	Which bins and other items?
Apr 3rd & 17th   May *2nd & 15th	Green, brown, food & oil waste, textiles
Apr *11th & 24th   May *9th & 22nd	Grey, food & oil waste, small electricals

## Key Contacts

### Local Governance:

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Local information:

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

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

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

Howe Trust Allotment Assoc. | Chair | Georgina Glenny | 01865 874450

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

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

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

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

Wheatley Good Neighbour Scheme | 01865 873737 | [wheatleygns@gmail.com](mailto:wheatleygns@gmail.com)

### Services:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Transport:

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

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

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

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

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

# WHEATLEY LOCAL PRODUCE MARKET

The finest fresh local veg, fruit, bread, honey, beer & more.  
In & outside the Merry Bells, High Street, Wheatley, Oxford

**10:00 - 14:00**

**Bank Holiday  
Monday 8th May**

**Free Entry**

