

WHEATLEY NEWS

Published by Wheatley Parish Council



“Flight” | Crown Road | John Guy

Merry Bells Trustees - Pages 10 & 11
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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 **16th November** for the next issue.

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

Head to bit.ly/wnl-info for further details and to download a booking form.

Meetings & Dates

Full Parish Council

Merry Bells, 19:30
2nd October
6th November

Planning Cmte.

Parish Office, 19:30
11th October
8th November

Finance Cmte.

Parish Office, 19:30
16th October

Open Spaces Cmte.

Parish Office, 19:30
20th November

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

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Distributor

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

Disclaimer

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

September traditionally brings shorter days, late afternoon sun and cooler mornings. However, the last few days have seen temperatures of 28+ which has completely mucked up the garden schedules. Is it me or does the whole world seem out of sorts and out of the natural rhythm of things?

However, in the village business continues. Our Holton Park Group continues to meet with the developer Crest Nicholson as we try to influence outcomes for the benefit of our community.

We had a village walk around with officers of OCC Highways dept, who have come up with a proposal for parking in Wheatley. It will be discussed at our October meeting.

We continue to work with Wheatley Playing Fields Trust to raise money for the new pavilion and will resume meetings on the Littleworth Field project after the summer break. Our Cadet Hut project has stalled a bit, but we are hoping to progress as soon as the previous leaseholder has completely surrendered their lease and OCC can offer one to us. We hope that won't be too long.

For those who live around Ambrose Rise/Leyshon Road/Cullum Road,

Cullum House is being stripped ready for demolition. As a consequence, there are many contractors' vans on site and on the road. Please take care when proceeding up Ambrose Rise!

I also want to give a gentle reminder relating to Cullum Road. The residents in the SOHA bungalows are elderly, disabled or both and depend on frequent visits from carers or caring relatives. If you need to park on the road, please avoid these properties if you can manage it.

We have our Volunteer Awards ceremony to look forward to, which is our night to say thank you to those who put so much effort into making local efforts run smoothly. In fact, one of the nicest things since the last newsletter is receiving some really positive feedback about the village from existing residents and visitors alike. There has been a consistent theme from all – 'Wheatley is definitely a community - there is always something going on!' That is true, but we have volunteers amongst others to thank for that.

Enjoy the Autumn season.

Alison Sercombe

While I am one of the first to dread the darker evenings, I am also looking forward to the Christmas Fair, that we are organising along the High St. It will follow in the same vein as previous years' supporting many local businesses and organisations. Do make sure you put Friday 24th November in your diary.

Be part of the great work going on in the village.

If you have attended any of our meetings, read the minutes or skimmed through our Strategic Plan you will get an idea of some exciting projects the parish council are working on, but with only 10 out of a possible 15 councillors we really do need more of you to come and join us, and help us deliver them. It doesn't matter about your background (as long as you meet the eligibility criteria) the wider ranges of ages, interests and skills really is a benefit to us and more importantly your community.

The commitment is a couple of hours a month, with some reading or emails in between. The council provides training sessions, so you gain an understanding of the role of being a councillor and the work of a local council. If you want to take this

further there are lots of opportunities to use or develop your own skills and to make a real difference to Wheatley.

Facelifts to village infrastructure

If you have used the bus in the last few months, I hope you have noticed the facelift that our grounds team have given to the stone bus shelters, paint has been applied, wood treated, and roofs repaired.

The benches are systematically being spruced up too, with many dotted through the village we are working our way through them and hope to be able to install one or two new ones, so keep an eye out.

Could you help in an emergency?

Do you have a skill or piece of equipment that could help the community in an emergency. We are compiling a list of people who would be willing to help. This list will be held in line with our privacy policy but could really make a difference in times of extreme weather or utility shortages. If you can help, please do get in touch.

Michelle Legg

Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan Report



This Newsletter arrives as October 2023 begins. Our Planning Examiner, Andrew Ashcroft, forwarded his '**Report to SODC on the W.N.D.P. Review, 2019 - 2035.**' It is understood that a Referendum on this for Wheatley and Holton residents is 'scheduled' for 23 November 2023. (More of that for another Bulletin.)

A 'Review' gives the chance to correct a misstatement, poor wording, and add an omission. 'Review' is built into most public hearings.

W NDP was 'Made' on 20 May 2021. To include the provisions of the new Local Plan [LP2035] a first review of the new WNP was submitted to SODC on 31 October 2022. It included the Village Enhancement Proposal and Design Guidance and Codes. Consultation carried out by WPC and SODC for the WNP Review was submitted for Examination on 24 March 2023 It also prompted Representation to the Examiner from 14 organisations, which he followed up by enquiry and personally visiting the WNP Area.

The Examination process allowed him to conclude that the NP has a range of policies in its search for sustainable development in the WNP Area and seeks positive and sustainable development in the WNP Area. It focuses clearly on releasing land from Green Belt to be allocated for housing and mixed development. All parts of the community have been engaged in supporting it. Subject to Examiner's Modifications, Mr Ashcroft found that the WNP Review meets all necessary legal requirements and that it should proceed to Referendum within the Neighbourhood Area.

For Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan, see link to DODC main home page:

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/Wheatley-NP>

[see third paragraph, Line 1, 'take a look at the Examiner's Report']

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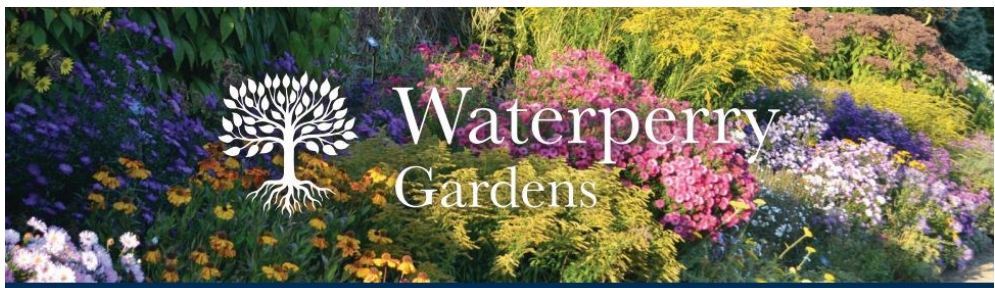
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- Anything not listed, please do not hesitate to contact us, details below:

Linda McMahon on 07715 600524 or email lindalizzymac@outlook.com

Moira McMahon on 07715 609968 or email moiramaccr@outlook.com



Waterperry Gardens

Waterperry Gardens, spectacular in September and October. Nature's own masterpiece exploding with colour like popping fireworks in the form of Michaelmas daisies, Goldenrod and Heleniums. The first frosts of October bring grand finale to a mesmerising performance in these enchanting gardens.

October 8th 10am-4pm

Why not visit the orchards with a tour of the various varieties of apple trees, tree nursery and apple juice production. Plus a chance to sample some of the Taste Award winners 2023. £3 entry, free for season ticket holders and day entry visitors.

October 21st- 5th Nov 10am-5pm

For younger visitors the garden becomes a magical trail of Halloween surprises. Collect a map and stickers, follow the clues to see who is hiding in the gardens! A prize at the end from the garden shop. £3 per child who must be accompanied by an adult (garden entry fee applies).

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The Merry Bells Village Hall

In our last issue, we wrote about how a Trust was formed to represent the legal ownership of the Merry Bells on behalf of the village. The Trust Deed specifies that a Management Committee consisting of elected members and representatives of the various user groups be the Trustees responsible for developing and maintaining the building on behalf of Wheatley. Therefore, we felt that rather than be a 'faceless committee', we would in this issue provide some background about the nine volunteer members, who are registered with the Charity Commission as Trustees for the Merry Bells.

In order of 'length of service', our longest serving member is Julia Slade, who moved to the village forty years ago and became a member of the W.I. 'rising through the ranks' to become their spokesperson on the Merry Bells Committee eleven years ago and also our Minute Secretary for our monthly meetings.

For length of service, Julia is closely followed by Tim Blightman, who joined ten years ago firstly being our Treasurer and now our Chair. Tim has lived in Wheatley for thirty-four years having spent his career in

Market Research. Tim is also actively involved with Sustainable Wheatley.

Next is John Morrison with seven years on the Committee, firstly representing the Wheatley Society and then the Village Produce Association. John, who was a Church of England priest for all of his working life ending up as the Archdeacon of Oxford and a Canon of Christ Church Cathedral. Among his other contributions, John is responsible for organising the monthly check of the Merry Bells fire alarms.

John Guy moved to Wheatley in 2014 and has served on the Committee for six years and in his own words, acts as the Merry Bells 'Head Gardener' working hard to maintain the floral displays on our forecourt, which is available for anyone to meet and have a chat. John is an active member of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church and also a committee member of Wheatley Area Churches. Another contribution to the village is that John founded Fairtrade Wheatley. In a previous life John was an Academic Research Chemist and College Principal in Hampshire.

Representing the Merry Bells' Coffee

Wheatley Windmill - Last Opening for 2023

Wheatley windmill will be open from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. on Sunday 8th October. This will be the last afternoon opening in 2023. See round the windmill. Watch Millie the mobile mill grind some wheat grown at City Farm, Garsington. Give a donation for a bag of wholemeal flour. Buy some refreshments and some souvenirs. Sit in the autumn sunshine and enjoy yourselves.

Caroline Dalton | Secretary

Mornings is Fay Fox, who moved to Wheatley nineteen years ago and joined our committee four years ago. Fay is a qualified Nurse having spent her last twenty-two years before retirement at the JR.

Joining the Committee three years ago, Ian Germain is our Treasurer having previously been in business for almost fifty years living and working in different parts of the world for the Automotive Sector. Ian moved with his family to Wheatley twenty-seven years ago from Brussels. He is perhaps best known for 'treading the boards' with local Theatre Companies and especially for adapting, writing, and directing the annual Pantomime for Wheatley Productions. With many local references and the Pantomime villains always coming from Holton, he wrote an original Production called, 'The Dragon of Wheatley'.

Our last (but not least) three members to join our committee two years ago are Ian McGregor, Stephanie Cox, and Lizzie Tully.

Ian McGregor moved with his family to Wheatley in 1999 and retired in 2019 after thirty-five years as a pilot finishing on long-haul flights with British Airways. Ian was first introduced to the Merry Bells helping

with Coffee Mornings and was elected to the Committee in September 2021 and has taken on many different responsibilities very successfully in that time.

Steph Cox also joined in September 2021 representing the Wheatley Archive, recently providing valuable contributions to the content for our June Open Day Event. Unfortunately, Steph has not been well recently, and we offer her our support and a safe recovery.

Finally, the Merry Bells has always had a close relationship with the Parish Council, with their Office being located in what was at one time the village library and their monthly meetings always being held in the Hall. This means they have a representative on our committee and since September 2021 it has been Liz Tulley, who with her connections and knowledge is a valuable member.

As you can see, you don't have to have been living in the village for 'generations' and even if you have moved here quite recently you are very welcome to get in touch about joining our committee. Further help is always very much appreciated.

The Merry Bells Trustees

WHEATLEY CARE

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

SECRETARY

- Take and distribute minutes for 1-2 hour meetings four times a year.
- Communicate with drivers and deal with all other correspondence.

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



Wanted – Garden Tools

Up on The Howe we're constantly planting, trimming and digging - and with a growing team of volunteers we desperately need more tools. Do you have any unwanted garden rakes, forks or spades? If so, we'd love you to donate them. We're also interested in any spare loppers, hedge shears, secateurs, and gardening gloves.



Photo by Zan on Unsplash

Volunteer Working Party Dates

Fancy helping us? Come along and join in on one of our working party project days. Working in a team you'll help us complete larger projects. Come for the whole day or just a few hours. All ages welcome. No experience required. We're a friendly bunch and volunteer perks include FREE hot drinks and homemade cakes!

- Sunday October 15th 10am to 4pm – Hedge Renovation
- Sunday November 19th 10am to 4pm – Tree Planting (Coronation Copse)
- Sunday December 10th 10am to 4pm – Bramble Clearing

Want to find out more? Check-out our NEW website at www.howetrust.org.uk. Here you can sign up to register your interest or contact us to ask any questions about our volunteer work - we'd love to hear from you.

Christmas Hamper Campaign – Donations and Volunteers

This initiative helps the most vulnerable families in our community and now in its 4th year thanks to generous financial donations from our community. Donations can be made via our Just Giving Page, personal cheque, cash or bank transfer. Volunteer drivers also needed for the hamper deliveries on Saturday 23rd December. For more details see our website or contact Maggie.

Allotment Association

Interested in having an allotment on The Howe? We currently have some vacant plots. To find out more please get in touch by completing a contact form on the allotment page of our website, or call Michele Gregory on 07920 060710.



Wheatley Playing Field Trust

Report to Wheatley Parish Council for its meeting on September 4th 2023

September 1st marked the 8th anniversary of the Trust taking over responsibility for the maintenance and development of Wheatley Parish Council's playing field at Holton.

A Joint User Agreement (JUA) was drawn up in 1973 between the Parish Council and Oxfordshire County Council, enabling school use of the Wheatley Playing Field and giving community access to the Littleworth Road field. In 2014, ODST, as academy sponsors and lease holders of the Littleworth Road field, asked OCC to terminate the JUA. The fields were handed back to the Primary School and the Parish Council on 31st August 2015. The Trust took over the management of the field from that date with a grant of £10,000 from the Parish Council of which £8000 was used to pay off existing Parish Council's liabilities.

Since signing the lease with Wheatley Parish Council on 28th February 2018, the Trust as a charity has been able to raise £50,000 of matched funding. It has spent more than £30,000 on repairs to the old buildings and a further £30,000 on improving the quality of the pitches for all users. Some of these repairs have included replacing all lighting with LED units and controls on heating where none previously existed.

As well as improving the facilities, the Trust has encouraged increased use of the playing field, developing football from mini to adult by adapting the size and layout of the football pitches to the changing needs of the teams. It also helped introduce and encourage the growth of women's football and netball where neither had taken place previously.

The Trust continually engages with all users and encourages them to respect and take pride in the facilities. To this end a primary user agreement has been drawn up, agreed, and signed between Wheatley Rugby Club and the Trust. The agreement was ratified by the RFU to allow the Trust to seek funding, when available, on behalf of rugby. Also, a long-term agreement of hire was negotiated with Wheatley Park

School and signed. This agreement guarantees that the school can fulfil its Physical Education curriculum which was a concern of WPC in 2018.

In addition to the users of the sports facilities, the Trust has encouraged further community use of the field and clubhouse. Over the past few years, there have been two 'Play Days' and a number of celebration events, including community picnics. In 2018, the Downs Syndrome Oxford group held a 21-hour sponsored walk around part of the field to celebrate their 21 years of existence. They were able to raise considerable funds and the Trust was delighted to support them.

The Trust had gained grants from OCC and SODC and more than matched these to enable a club-standard artificial cricket wicket to be put down in July to replace the original and dangerous one.

During this summer holiday, the floodlighting to the tennis courts is being overhauled and added to, increasing the area that will be available for new activities such as walking sports.

The Trust has managed and maintained the playing field for the past 8 years at zero cost to the Parish Council other than the Council's commitments under the terms of the lease. When the JUA was terminated in 2015, the Council's financial commitment could have been £15,000 to £20,000 per year without OCC support.

As required of all charities, the Trust keeps a small reserve as a contingency fund in case of any unexpected expenditure or loss of income. This resilience was proven during the years of Covid when maintenance had to be paid for at a time of little income. The Trust continues to invest funds and be awarded grants to improve the facilities.

Do get in touch at:

enquiries@wheatleyplayingfieldtrust.co.uk

www.wheatleyplayingfieldtrust.co.uk

Paul Willmott | Chairman

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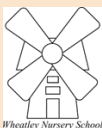
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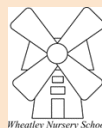
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Forest school is running for children between the ages 2-11 years.

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

Visit our website for more information www.horspathnursery.org.uk

Ofsted April 2022 Rating: Good

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



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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

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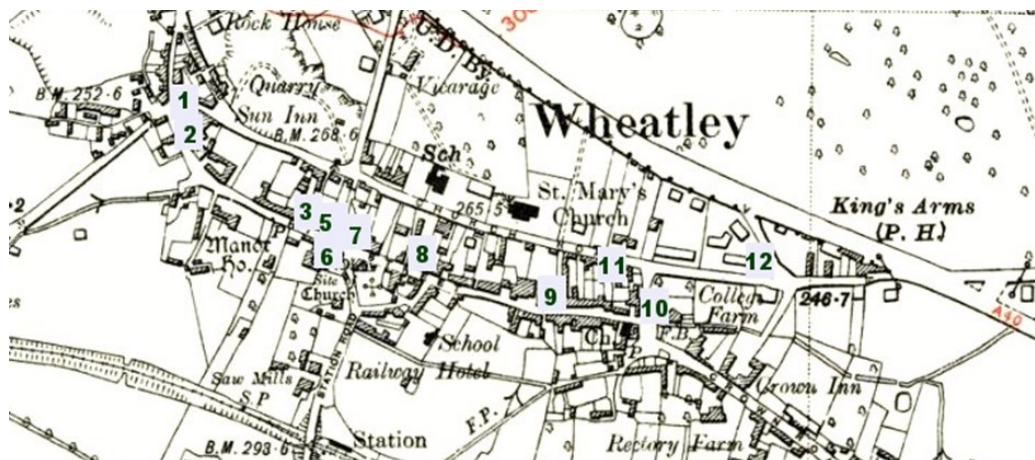
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YOUR Wheatley Village Archive

The second in the series of **Wheatley in the 1930s**, shows additional services and facilities, some absent from the map. Numbers 1-12 were on the map in the previous newsletter article (Aug-Sep 23).



13. Infant school
14. National School
15. St. Mary's, URC, Catholic churches
16. 2 doctors (Orchard & Savill absent)
17. 8 pubs
18. 2 local milkmen (Allen and Harris)
19. 1 carrier (Alfred Jones)
20. 2-3 garages, Bax, Turners
21. Hotel (Bridge, absent)
22. 2 cafes, (Last Chance & Allens absent)
23. A horticultural nursery (Paris, absent)
24. Undertaker (not shown)
25. 2 Blacksmiths (Brazill and Sheldon)
26. Dentist (Carlo Pratelli in Mott House)
27. Builders (Hathaway)
28. Mobbs Coal Yard, Ladder Hill
29. Railway Station (employed about 15)
30. Avery Saw Mills (employed about 10)
31. Brickworks (employed about 40) in Littleworth



21. Bridge Hotel



22. Last Chance Café, London Road



31. Littleworth Brickworks 1930s

Steph Cox

Our speaker in July was Stephanie Walklet who, together with her husband Richard, run "Sign Together U.K." which is based in Bicester. Richard is hard of hearing and therefore had first-hand experience of the challenges faced by deaf people during the pandemic when everyone was wearing masks. Stephanie is hearing but is fully aware how isolating and challenging life is for deaf people.

Their BSL (British Sign Language) tutorial courses are aimed to enable people affected by hearing loss to lead full and inclusive lives and are offered online or in person.

Despite this being a very serious subject to discuss we had great fun. Stephanie took us through the alphabet in BSL and numbers one to twenty. Then came the hard bit, learning how to sign simple phrases and ask questions. I don't think any of us did very well, but it was great fun trying.

On a beautiful summer evening in August ten members met at The Howe for our annual picnic.

The weather was perfect, unlike last year when we spent the evening sitting under umbrellas.

The residents of Windmill Lane were probably relieved that this year they weren't subjected to our singing. Instead, we sat and talked, enjoying the warm evening and the view over the Chiltern Hills.

HISTORY SNIPPETS 1923:

The issue of lighting in the village is ongoing. For the second time the council's reply was of an evasive and unsatisfactory nature (Surely not!). The committee decided that further pressure should be brought to bear. It seems to have worked as they had a more positive response the following month.

It was proposed that the Institute should entertain all the old age pensioners in Wheatley and Littleworth during January. A Christmas tree should be provided, and a small present given to each guest.

It was also proposed that a duplicator be bought for the secretarial work of the Institute. Many of us will remember those as an office necessity.

The Wheatley Christmas Fair is being held on Friday November 24th. Look out for the W.I. stall when we will once again be selling our chutneys and jam and running the very popular chocolate tombola.

On 17th October we will be having a craft evening run by members of our craft group, now famous for their post box toppers. The meeting on 21st November will be our annual members show, followed by a cream tea.

Our meetings are held in The Merry Bells beginning at 7.15 pm. Visitors will be made very welcome.

A donation of £4 is suggested.

Stephanie Brooklyn

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To check eligibility and register for the Home Library Service
or for further information call 01865 810259 or email
homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Is time in Green Space a luxury?

Our gardens and green spaces are as important as our bank balance, careers, and our future. Yet it is so easy not to prioritise time out in green space as part of daily living seeing it as a luxury and not a necessity.

We often say our landscape should be 're-wilded' but in the UK however, land ownership too strongly influences how "truly wild" an area can be. Alongside re-wilding our landscape, we should be re-wilding ourselves.

The NHS see the real and true benefits of time spent out in green space on its patients and the government's Treasury Department now see the value as well. As they agree, it is good for our health, wellbeing, and productivity.

In my opinion, ongoing detachment from the natural world can slowly eat away at us metaphorically speaking, our wellbeing and life expectancy.

It can be a challenge though as access to natural places isn't as easy and inclusive as you may think. This is due to the exclusion that comes about because of land ownership and trespass laws – this will soon be made stricter. The UK public still only has legal right of access to 8% of the land and 3% of the waterways.

It's easy to see why large parts of our society in the UK don't have access to green space as not everyone can live near the 8% of land and 3% of waterways.



Royal British Legion

2023 Poppy Appeal

This year's Poppy Appeal Commences on **Thursday 26th November**.

Poppies will be displayed in various outlets through the village, along with collecting tins. So please give generously.

Again, this year I am hopeful that we will be collecting at ASDA and the Welcome Break service station.

I will be contacting the volunteers from last year to see if they are willing to spend a couple of hours or more at the RBL table with poppies and various other Remembrance Items.

To make the time spent on the stalls less onerous more volunteers are always looked for. So please consider volunteering yourself for a stint. It can be quite a sociable couple of hours (or more).

We will have to work hard to match the **£22,000** that the branch raised last year.

Many thanks.

Gareth Morris | Poppy Appeals Organiser

So, we need to demand access to green space in all our communities and until that point, gardens will remain an essential facility for us as individuals, our friends, and our neighbours.

The garden is not always that thing you vaguely glimpse through your window. It is not that chore that has to be maintained whilst we strive to find a new property to live in - one with a smaller garden or no garden at all often see on some new estates. These estates often offer unused communal gardens that are then turned into parking places as it's claimed they have become overgrown and unwanted.

Our gardens, we may soon discover, are more important to us than we may initially think. A connection to green space isn't a luxury, it is an essential part of life and living but we might try to avoid seeing that. Whether we like it or not, it is too easy to say we don't have time to enjoy the nature around us that we are part of. In my opinion, human health can suffer from a disconnection with nature – this could be seen as self-sabotage in the extreme!

Happy Gardening!

01865 747243 | www.wildmaninspires.co.uk

Stuart Mabbutt | Wildlife Gardening Specialist



**Wheatley
Halloween Trail
coming soon!**

October 22nd to 28th inclusive

If you live in Wheatley/Littleworth and would like to join in the fun by creating and displaying your own scarecrow or other Halloween themed character(s) of your choice, please email Laura at walkwheatley@hotmail.com or call or text [07896175991](tel:07896175991) by 18th October.

This year, we will be selling trail maps for £1 each to raise funds to send local dance students at Studio25 Dance Academy to a residential competition this November.

To support our cause, why not take a stroll around Wheatley's whimsical creations! For more details on where/when you can buy a map, look out for our posters around the village, join our WalkWheatley group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1143048322791353> or visit <https://walkwheatley.wixsite.com/halloween>

St Mary's Churchyard - We need your help!

Over the last thirty years volunteers have kept up the churchyard, where so many villagers of Wheatley - parents, grandparents, friends - are buried.

In recent years Michael Lancashire has led a team of four to trim and mow the grass on a Monday morning during the summer months.

Recently, we have encouraged rewilding around the perimeter in the older parts of the churchyard, in order to encourage insect and bird life, and then mowed these parts the end of the summer.

But we need new volunteers to keep up this work and help to mow these burial grounds.

Can you help? Do you have any time to spare to keep this lovely centre of the community in good order?

If you can, please contact Jane Fanning (jipfanning@gmail.com) or Zannifer Mason (zannifermason@gmail.com)

WHEATLEY CARE SCHEME IS IN NEED OF MORE VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

Have you recently Retired? Can you HELP us!!

If you can Spare any time to transport Wheatley, Holton & Littleworth Residents to Medical Appointments.

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Please contact **Kath Lamont 01865 876609**

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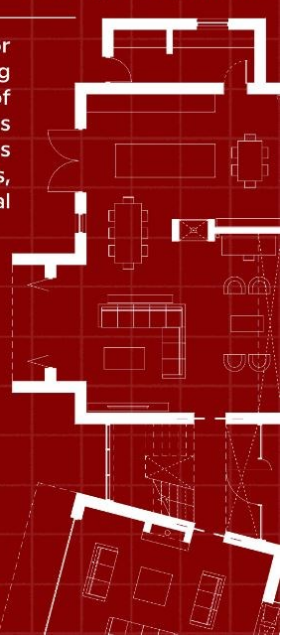
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Littleworth Nature Reserve

We are very grateful to a volunteer group (pictured with Chris Hallsworth) from local company, Stratagem IPM, who cleared the paths around the 'tunnel' end of the Nature Reserve in July. Since then, other volunteers have been out clearing some of the branches that were brought down by the heavy rain in August. Recently we witnessed the mystery appearance of a padlock preventing access through the kissing gate at the Horspath end. Enquiries showed that the owner of the adjacent land knew nothing about it, so the lock was forcibly removed. Upcoming activities will include another mowing of the butterfly glade and a final clearance of the footpaths, so look out for opportunities to join working parties. All are welcome!



Walking the reserve: <https://youtu.be/iKpd4UdDw2U>

Geoff Stephens | Friends of Littleworth Nature Reserve

WHEATLEY CARE COORDINATOR

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

If you like speaking to people, we would love to hear from you. We depend on the support of the community, so please help if you can.

Please contact **Kath Lamont 01865 876609**



Holton & Wheatley Cricket Club

For Holton and Wheatley Cricket Club, 2023 has been a tricky season. Never mind the weather: we have also suffered from the inevitable problem affecting many friendly cricket clubs these days, which is a shortage of available players. So, we are very grateful to the newcomers who have joined us this year, whether for several games or for just one or two. By mid-June, we were much more confident of getting a team out, and eventually of winning! Overall, we have played 11 local matches (with one to come at the time of writing), plus two on tour on the Isle of Wight at the start of September. And since the start of July we have won six out of eight!

There can't be many seasons when we have had three century makers, so well done to Deepak Malhotra, Chetan Walia, and recent guest Amit. Chetan's effort was part of our best total of 252/5 against BBC Caversham in July, and of a victory by 127 runs. In other highlights, the local derby in late July against Great Milton was much tighter, but after we bowled them out for 120 Kashif Hafeez and your correspondent brought us home with three balls to spare. At Haddenham in August, it was the bowlers who won us the game when our opponents needed 93 with all ten wickets in hand. Biren Rathod,

Chetan and debutant Jay Chawali were the stars with three wickets each. Finally, our most recent triumph came on the Isle of Wight at the start of the September heatwave. Darren Brown rescued our innings against Porchfield with a maiden 50 before tour organiser John Kelly won the game with a superb haul of seven wickets.

Among those not mentioned above, many thanks are owed to skipper Robin Taylor for his fourth season in charge, stalwart committee members Simon Switala and Graham Hawkins, regulars Richard Barrett and Rohit Aggarwal (with his club best of 73 against Appleton) and injured club president Guy Burford, who will be back playing next year. Let's not forget others who have played more or less often including Tom Kitchin, Alex Deacon, Rahul Nair, Dan Jacobs, Kavi Thakore and our longest-standing player Neil Robinson - and Great Haseley CC, who again hosted most of our home games. We look forward to summer 2024!

You can find more information or contact us via our website:

www.hawcc.co.uk

or contact Hugh Kitchin:

07788 672864.

Hugh Kitchin



Wheatley Singers

Wheatley Singers

**Long live the Wheatley Singers!
Come and join in!**

After a bleak couple of years thanks to COVID, Wheatley's very own local choir, the "Wheatley Singers" are truly re-born; their most recent triumph being a massive performance of Haydn's incredible "Creation" in St Mary's, Thame, supported by the choirs from Great Milton and Cumnor.

Wheatley Singers meet every Tuesday at 7.15pm in Wheatley's URC and they would love to welcome new members. This term they are working towards an exuberant performance: "Happy & Glorious," including Handel's "Coronation Anthems" (have to sing them this year!) and Brahms' most exquisite "Song of Destiny". They're also grabbing the opportunity to include Walton's amazing "Crown Imperial." You won't want to miss it.

Their usual performance home, Wheatley's St Mary the Virgin church, will be out of commission for a few months. So, the concert will take place in St Mary's, Great Milton, on Saturday December 2nd.

Choir numbers have grown recently. But Wheatley Singers can never have enough enthusiastic singing members and are super-keen to welcome new and former members. Rehearsals are relaxed and informal, but effective. If you can read music, great, but it's not essential. Enthusiasm and commitment are far more necessary! Do consider coming to join.

Contact:

Matthew (Secretary - 07885 059633 | matthew.maier@mmaier.co.uk)

Kate (MD - 07729 887244 | topcopykate@btinternet.com)

or any choir member for more information or encouragement.

Celia Pagel



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Wheatley Primary School and Acorns Nursery

We have had a lovely start to the new school year and have been pleased to welcome several new families to our Reception cohort and also to Acorns Nursery. We have grown to 10 classes this year and as always, we are making the most of the space available inside and out! There are some exciting events in the school calendar starting with our Sponsored Walk through Shotover on Friday 22nd September.

We were inspected under the SIAMS framework, (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) in July and we were very pleased to end the school year on a high with an overall inspection rating of good.

There are two Open Days for prospective families later this term – both for children due to start school next September 2024 and for families wanting to find out more about what

our nursery Acorns has to offer for 2–3-year-olds. These will take place on:

Tuesday 10th October 1.30pm and
Thursday 2nd November 9.15am.

Please contact the school office on 01865 872366 or

office.3165@wheatley.oxon.sch.uk to book in your visit.

We are looking forward to working closely with the Parish Council on the future of the school field over the coming months. This space is open to the community out of school hours and we'd like to extend a polite reminder to all dog owners: please do take the time to clean up after your pets. We need your support to maintain a clean, healthy environment for everyone, including our children who play and exercise on the field. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

Mrs Gillian Standing | Headteacher



The Maple Tree

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info@mapletree.org.uk

WALKS PROGRAMME OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2023

OCTOBER

- Sunday 1st Meet at Stokenchurch for a 6½ mile circular walk into the Wormsley estate and up to Ibstone.
- Thursday 5th Undulating 8 mile walk from Ibstone Common visiting the villages of Turville and Fingest. Bring a picnic.
- Tuesday 10th Leisurely, social 2½ mile walk from Priest End, Thame, via Cuttle Brook Nature Reserve, finishing with coffee at the Thatch.
- Saturday 14th Meet in Tetsworth for a 7½ mile walk via Adwell and Stoke Talmage.
- Wednesday 25th Meet at Moulsoford recreation ground car park for an 8 mile walk via Lowbury Hill. Bring a picnic.
- Tuesday 31st Moderate 5½ mile walk from Queens Lane Coffee House, Oxford, visiting parks and river on eastern side of Oxford.

NOVEMBER

- Saturday 4th Meet at Upton (near Didcot) for a 6½ mile walk towards Blewbury Down.
- Thursday 9th Undulating 6 mile walk with good views from Piddington (West Wycombe) via Wheeler End Common.
- Saturday 11th 10:30am Scenic 5 mile walk through Aston Rowant Nature Reserve from Lewknor Village Hall to precede the Thame & Wheatley AGM.
- Tuesday 14th Leisurely, gentle 2½ mile social walk on easy paths from Kingston Blount Village Hall via Aston Rowant. Coffee at the Cherry Tree near the finish.
- Saturday 18th 10:30am Glorious, leisurely 4 mile walk from Frieth (by the church) through Chilterns woodland and along lanes.
- Thursday 30th Scenic 5½ mile walk starting at Horspath Sports Ground, going up to Shotover Plain and returning through Littlemore Nature Reserve.

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

Please check the website to find additions to the programme and to confirm walks details as they are subject to change:

www.ramblers-oxon.org.uk/thame-wheatley/walking.html or phone 01844 213608

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

High Street Road Closure

Fri 24th

November

11:00-23:00

**For Wheatley
Christmas Fair**

(please come along!)

St Mary the Virgin

Autumn Fair

Merry Bells

Sat 14th Oct

10.30 – 12.30

[stmaryswheatleyevents
@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryswheatleyevents@gmail.com)



Wheatley Christmas Fair

Fri 24th

November

14:00-20:00

High Street

Wheatley Productions

Theatre Quiz

20 Oct 7.30pm

New Club, Wheatley

Teams of up to 6

£30 prize for winning
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wheatleyprods@gmail.com

Wheatley Village
Produce Association

Members

Annual Dinner

Sat 21st October

7 for 7.30pm, The

Fox & Goat

wheatleyvpa@gmail.com

Wheatley Village
Produce Association

Annual General

Meeting

Followed by Cheese
& Wine

Tue 14th November

7.30pm, Merry Bells
wheatleyvpa@gmail.com

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Funeral Service Celebrating the Life of **Robin Gladwin**

Wheatley United
Reformed Church
Friday 6th October
12pm

chris_gladwin@live.co.uk



Apple Pressing

Sat 21st October
10:30-13:00
Merry Bells
(weather permitting)

Community Larder

Thursdays
14:30 -15:30

Wheatley URC
Help reduce food
waste and support
local causes



Wheatley Singers

Wheatley Singers

Concert

Brahms song of Destiny,
Handel Coronation Anthems
Walton Crown Imperial
Sat 2nd December
7.30pm St Mary's
Church
Great Milton
See article on page 33

The Wheatley Society
Bill King on "*Dad's
Underground Army*"
12th October

Pat Jeffs "*Desert Island
Discs*" interviewed by
Malcolm Benson
26th October

Both Merry Bells 20:00

The Wheatley Society
Simon and Toby
Shew "*Metal Detection
– Amazing Finds*"
9th November

Deb Bales genealogy for
beginners "*People Your
Past*"
16th November
Both Merry Bells 20:00

WHEATLEY WINDMILL

Open 14:00-17:00
Sun 8th October
Last opening for 2023

See round the
windmill. Give a
donation for a bag of
wholemeal flour. Buy
some refreshments
and some souvenirs.

Triangle Care Home

Coffee Morning

Fri 27th October

then every fourth Friday
in month
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care home for coffee
and cake

All welcome

triangle.activites@fshc.co.uk

Wheatley URC
Sunday Tea
First Sunday of month
14:30 to 16:00
Come to meet and
make friends with
tea, cakes, and chat
in the **URC Hall**

Day by Day

MONDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TUESDAY

Wheatley Library | Open 14:00-19:00

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

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

Wheatley Singers | URC Hall | 19:15-21:00 | 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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

Parish Surgery | Parish Office, High Street | 09:30-11:30

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 | 07731 321991

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

Guides & Rangers | URC | Term time 19:00-20:30 | Age 10+ | wheatley.guides@yahoo.co.uk

Brownies | URC | Term time 17:30-19:00 | Age 7-9 | 1stwheatleybrownies@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAY

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

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

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

Memory Cafe | URC Hall | 10:00-12:30 | 2nd in month | laurencelalanne99@gmail.com

Wheatley Library | Open 14:00-17:00

Community Larder | Wheatley URC | 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

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

- From September 23 by appt only | please email info@wheatleyarchive.org.uk

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

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

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

Day by Day

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY

Parish Surgery | Parish Office, High Street | 09:30-11:30

Wheatley Library | Open 09:30-13:00

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

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

SUNDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wheatley Community Church | office@wheatleycommunitychurch.org

- Wheatley Primary School | 10:30



Are we already heading for Autumn? September saw the restarting of our programme with two events:

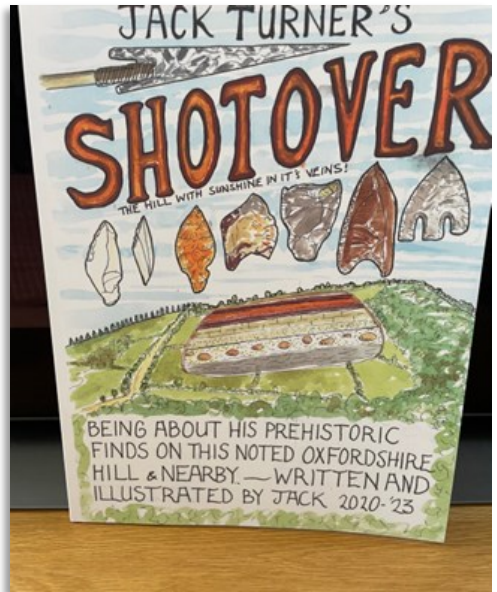


“Always Ready, Always Willing: Fires and Firefighting in Oxford,” a joint event with WVA History Group, was the title of a talk given on September 14th by John Lowe served in the Oxford City fire brigade until his retirement. It was really interesting to hear more about the history of firefighting and to understand how the service operates today. It is true that calls are made to rescue cats up trees – but skeletons of cats are never found in trees!

Thursday 21st September was an evening with Jack Turner who was promoting his book **“Jack Turner’s Shotover”** – his “biggest and best to date” according to his partner and daughters. As always, he gave us a fascinating and informative account of the artefacts he has found in and around Shotover and brought them to life by letting us see and touch them.

Upcoming events in October are a talk by Bill King on “Dad’s Underground Army” on Thursday 12th.

October at the Merry Bells. This is a joint activity with WVA History Group. Then on



Thursday 26th we will have another “Desert Island Discs”. This time the interviewee will be Pat Jeffs and the interviewer Malcolm Benson.

In November Simon and Toby Shew will present “Metal Detection – Amazing Finds” at the Merry Bells on 9th November. You will find out more about what metal detection actually involves and see some of its finds. For those of you who have always intended to investigate your family tree; on Thursday November 16th Deb Bales will introduce us to genealogy for beginners to set us off on our ancestral hunt through her talk “People Your Past”.

We look forward to seeing you at these events – more details will be provided nearer the time.

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SOCIAL MEDIA: Twitter (@wheatleynewclub), Instagram (@wheatleynewclub) and Facebook (The New Club Wheatley). In addition, keep an eye out on our website www.thenewclubwheatley.com.

COMING UP:

Saturday 21st October - Blue Dayz Band (The 50s and beyond!)

Saturday 15th November - Comedy Night (Buy tickets from Breakthru Events)

Friday 1st December – Oasish Tribute Band (Buy tickets from Breakthru Events)

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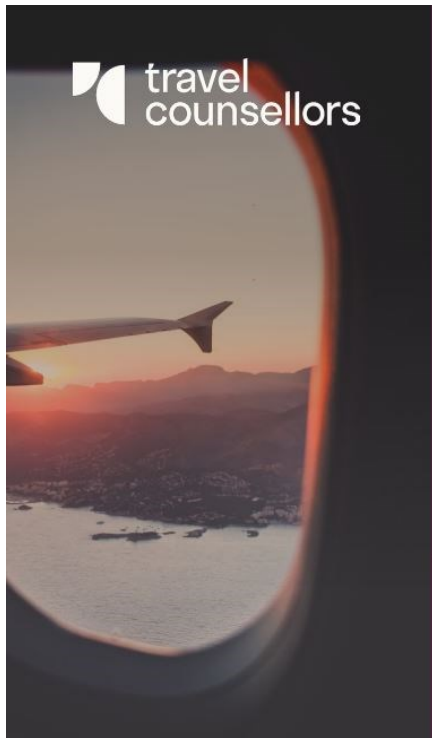
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We can change the world – slowly!

Last April, I wrote that the world was feeling more fragile than we had been led to assume: the war in Ukraine, higher temperatures, flooding, wildfires, as well as the consequences of the pandemic, were all uppermost in our minds. 18 months on, the world feels no less fragile. In Rowan Williams' humbling words, the more secure and prosperous members of the human race "are less different from their fellow human beings than they find comfortable."

It is a time to reflect upon how we interact with the world, and how we might seek to change it. How do our actions and decisions in Wheatley impact, ripple-like, into the world beyond.

At OLL, we see ourselves not only as members of the Village community but also as members of the global Catholic Church. Pope Francis's leadership of change within the Church is based not upon how to exercise hierarchical power, but how we should respond to the cry of the earth and

the cry of the poor. He has even suggested that high-ranking church prelates in Rome should see their futures in returning to their communities as shepherds to experience "the smell of their sheep." It hasn't always gone down too well!

Pope Francis began an exercise known as the Synodal Pathway inviting parishioners everywhere to reflect upon the church and its activities, encountering each other, listening, and discerning a way forward. Parish discussions have flowed into diocesan and then national syntheses which will flow into an international Synod in Rome this month. Concerns from the impoverished global south will carry equal weight to those from the conservative north, so change is already happening. And of the 364 voting Synod participants, mostly bishops, more than 50 will be women. It may be slow, but it represents a real and welcome change for the Church - and it began in parish communities like ours at OLL.

John Guy

Wheatley Community Church

office@wheatleycommunitychurch.org

Community Ceilidh

Following the success of the inaugural Community Ceilidh last year, Wheatley Community Church will again be hosting an evening of music, dancing, and fun at the Primary School from **7-9pm on November 4th**. We're excited to welcome back local Ceilidh legends "Mouse & Trousers" and everyone is welcome – young and old! Entry is free, although donations are welcome, and there will be soft drinks and nibbles provided. Do join us, and invite your friends.

It may feel like a fair way until Christmas, but looking further ahead, please put the date

Wheatley United Reformed Church

01865 873859 | secretary@wheatleyurc.org.uk

Time for God

The start of the academic year always brings changes, and August 27th was a bittersweet day for the congregation of Wheatley URC, as we said a loving farewell to our first Time for God volunteer, Elisa Pizzo. Elisa, whose home is in Bonn, had just returned from a Taize pilgrimage and was about to start her studies at the University of Cologne.

All of the youth and family activities in which Elisa was involved will continue. We are particularly pleased that this includes the Friday Afternoon Hangout, where secondary students, of all faiths and none, can spend some time chatting, playing games or even doing a spot of homework in the gently-supervised, safe environment of our Church Hall, on the corner Crown Square and the High Street, on term-time Fridays, from 2 to 5 pm.

We are delighted to announce that we have a new Time for God volunteer, Wiebke Keizers, will have been commissioned at the all-age service on September 24th, and will

be active in the community by the time you read this.

There will be a Fairtrade stall, kindly provided by our friends from Headington Fairtrade, at our Harvest Festival on Sunday October 1st, which again takes place in the richly evocative setting of the organic Sandy Lane Farm in Tiddington.

Continuing our series of notes on the ministry teams, based on the priesthood of all believers, whereby a majority of members of our congregation employ their particular skills to enhance a particular area of the church's work, our Adult Christian Education Ministry team has over the years provided many lectures and bible studies, plus a number of retreats, one of which led to the setting up of our Mindfulness Sitting Group which meets in the church hall, at 9.00 am on a Monday morning and 8.50 am on a Thursday morning, the latter also on Zoom, and is open to those who have completed the eight-week mindfulness course.

Mike Matejtschuk

in your diary for Carols on the Rec. As in previous years, we will be gathering on the Church Road recreation ground on the first Sunday of December – December **3rd at 4:30pm**. We will sing a selection of popular carols, after which there will be mince pies and mulled wine! We look forward to seeing many of you there.

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

office@wheatleycommunitychurch.org

Al McNicoll | Pastor

St Mary's Church

01865 872224 | vicar.wheatley@gmail.com

From the Vicar

After a disappointing summer, autumn has arrived, though as I write we are enjoying a brief burst of warmth at the beginning of September.

Autumn ushers in the season of Remembrance. The Church celebrates All Saints at the beginning of November, recalling saints from every age, those whose lives give us an example of holiness to follow. Immediately following All Saints, we keep All Souls, which in some parts of the world is known as the Day of the Dead, a chance to honour the memory of loved ones departed this life. Our usual pattern at St Mary's is to have a service for All Souls on the first Sunday in November, but as our building is off-limits this year we will be coming up with an alternative plan. If the weather is good, we may gather in the churchyard for a short service and the placing of candles on graves, but dodgy weather may force us to make alternative provision. Please keep an eye out for the details as we get closer to 5th November.

Remembrance Sunday this year is on 12th November, and, as with All Souls, we are going to have to make alternative provision for our community's honouring of those who fell in conflict. We will let you know as soon as we have a plan, but the timing will be the same as usual, 3pm in the afternoon.

As the nights draw in and the weather cools, please remember to keep an eye out for those who might struggle in the colder weather, and those who will be lonely in the long hours of darkness.

Building Works at St Mary's

Over recent years we've been telling you from time to time about our plans for renovating St Mary's church and making it a better resource for the village and for ourselves. Many of you have contributed financially to the funds needed for the work, and others have made useful comments about the proposals. The covid pandemic, The Victorian Society, and the getting of permissions have all slowed the process down. We had thought that it would all have been complete by 2020!

But now we have finally signed a contract with our builders, Savvy's, and the works will start very soon. The total value of the works (with associated fees) is just over £600,000, and the projected finish is June/July next year. As the work goes ahead we hope to keep you informed of progress.

During the works the church building will be off-limits to unauthorised persons, but the churchyard (apart from some building access routes) will still be accessible to the public. We will do all that we can to minimise disruption to the tranquillity of the churchyard, but please be patient with us for a few months whilst the works are taking place.

Our thanks go to the large number of people who have been involved, directly and indirectly, in getting us to this point. We look forward to inviting the community in to see the re-vamped building in 2024.

Revd Nigel Hawkes

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust – sponsored Ride and Stride

Wheatley churches, once again, took part in the OHCT sponsored Ride and Stride on Saturday 9th September. The purpose of this event is to raise funds for the preservation of churches in the region and St Mary's has recently benefitted from a welcome grant towards the current refurbishment of the church building.

Representatives of St Mary's church, the URC, members of the Community Church and Our Lady of Lourdes took part by cycling, walking, or stewarding the event and raised significant sums for the Trust - 50% of which will be returned to the individual churches. The final total has not yet been calculated but will be gratefully received.

Our thanks go to all those riders, striders and stewards who braved the hot weather and to the generous donors who supported them.

Elaine Parsons

WHEATLEY REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP (WRSB)

WRSB will be holding its next collection on Saturday 28th October 10.00am -12 midday. This will be at the URC hall in Crown Square. We will collect clothes, bedding, and other items, as before, for Global Aid Network for refugees in Greece, Bosnia, and Ukraine. We will collect food for Asylum Welcome Food Bank. Full details will be in posters in the village, and circulated, nearer the time.

WRSB has been supporting Afghan families housed in a nearby hotel since arriving in September 2022. We started with a party in December with a visit by Father Christmas, games, and gifts for all 56 children plus adults, food and drink. Apparently this was their first invitation into the local community. Since then we have provided regular support especially through childcare to mothers attending classes in English and other subjects to aid advancement in a very unfamiliar society. We have been impressed by the level of support provided by Asylum Welcome, local authorities, The Maple Tree, and other agencies. All families have now been rehoused, many by the MoD following the support that they previously gave to the British forces.

Following a successful showing of the film 'Flee' we plan to continue with film showings, along with informative talks on a regular basis. We also hope to compile a suggestion list of relevant films that may be watched at home.

To be kept informed of these regular activities through our email circulation, please contact us on wheatleyrefugeegroup@gmail.com.

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It's not too late for you to help if:

- you have a fruit tree which you are unable to pick? Or you know of a fruit tree in the village whose fruit is unpicked.
- you would like to help pick fruit that will otherwise go to waste.
- you are involved in a group or a project that could benefit from this fruit (in the past we have left it outside local shops, given some to the community larder as well as other local groups).

If you can help in any of these ways, please contact either Jane (01865 874588) or Nick (07919 528849).

We will also be having our traditional apple pressing day outside The Merry Bells on Saturday 21st October (10.30am - 1pm) where we will turn any remaining apples into juice; you are welcome to bring your own apples along for juicing.

Swapshop

If you missed the Swapshop on 30th September, you can pencil in the next one which will be on Sat 20th January 2024.

An Appeal

The impact of Climate Change is becoming more and more obvious, and more action is needed to combat it and so if you want to help and bring some much-needed energy and expertise, we are always pleased to have new faces and ideas. Please get in touch at:

sustainablewheatley.org

sustainablewheatley@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/sustainablewheatley

Wheatley Village Produce Association

Our local garden club

My goodness, what a month September was!

Hopefully, some warmth will still be lingering in the soil.

October

Make good use of any residual soil warmth to plant out spring cabbages. Any tender plants will need to be moved indoors or wrapped up against frost. Perennials can still be divided and it's a good time to split up rhubarb crowns. Keep on picking top fruits for storing or juicing. If you can't pick them yourself, do contact Sustainable Wheatley for help. Before winter really closes in, now is a good time to give lawns and hedges a last tidy up. Don't be too tidy – some perennials can look good in winter and they provide important homes for all sorts of wildlife.

November

This is the time for fallen leaves, but they do make a welcome addition to the soil, so leave those in borders and let the worms deal with them. If, like me, you have been storing tulip bulbs, now you can get on with planting them out, as well as pansies and other winter bedding. Protect fruit trees



from winter moths by grease banding their trunks. To minimise the risk of winter damage, prune roses, wrap any special plant pots and raise them up on feet. Whilst netting cabbages is the best way to keep pigeons off them, putting out bird food will give much-needed help to all our wild birds.

Coming up:

Saturday 21 October

Dinner at The Fox & Goat

Tuesday 14 November

AGM followed by cheese & wine

Queries to wheatleyvpa@gmail.com

Geraldine Surman



Wheatley Library | 01865 875267

Hello, my name is Sophie and I'm the new Library Manager! It's been lovely to meet so many people from Wheatley village over the summer and I look forward to meeting many more of you as the months go by. Please feel free to introduce yourself and let me know if there's anything I can do to help you have a positive library experience.

The "Ready, Set, Read!" Summer Reading Challenge for kids was a smashing success! We are very happy to have had nearly 150 children participate, with many of them completing the mini or main challenge and receiving award certificates.

****We're looking for new library volunteers!****

Volunteers play an important role in keeping your community library stock organised, receiving deliveries, shelving and so much more. We would appreciate additional support on weekdays and alternate Saturdays, as well as more readers for upcoming Storytime sessions. If you're interested in volunteering, please visit bit.ly/WheatleyVolunteer online to apply.

Here's a reminder of our regular events:

- Rhymetime: *free* & every Friday, 10:30 a.m. for kids up to 5 yrs old
- Art Group: every Monday afternoon, 4 – 6 p.m.
- Fibre Group: 1st & 3rd Monday afternoon, 2 – 4 p.m.
- Knit 'n' Natter: 2nd & 4th Monday afternoon, 2 – 4 p.m.
- Jigsaw Puzzle Swap: first Saturday of each month, 9:30 – 12:30 p.m.

For news and event updates, follow the 'Friends of Wheatley Library' Facebook page. Our Wheatley Friends Group would benefit from additional members so if you'd like to join, please visit wheatleylibrary.org or send a Facebook message. There will be a Coffee and Catchup session for the Friends members on Tuesday 17 Oct. at 12:30pm so if you're a member, please join us!

Now is the time to prepare for the winter ahead and much colder temperatures. Oxfordshire County Council provide guidance and support to help you stay warm through the winter online at bit.ly/KeepingWarmOCC.

For queries, call 01865 875267 or email wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Hope to see you soon.

Sophie Silverstone Grant | Library Manager



Hello from The Maple Tree!

The children are back at school and the nights are drawing in – autumn is truly here again, so why not treat your little one to a visit to The Maple Tree to brighten their day? We have sessions to fit all interests:

Mondays

Messy Mondays at 10:00-11:30am

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

Baby and Bump Cafe at 10:00am-12:00pm

Thursdays

Little Explorers at 10:00-11:30am and Twinnies at 2:00-4:00pm

Fridays

A new session: Little Chatterboxes* at 10:00-11:30am

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

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

*Little Chatterboxes is in response to parent and teacher concerns about the lack of communication and language skills of children entering reception. Join us on Friday mornings for tips and tricks to enable children to become more effective communicators!

Check out our Website and Facebook page for more details.

Have you thought about becoming a Friend of the Maple Tree offering monthly financial support or volunteering at one of the sessions above? These are two ways that you can support our lovely charity. (Charity number: 1174117)

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

01865 236700 or 07849 466249

info@mapletree.org.uk

www.mapletree.org.uk

FB: www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley

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

Laura Spencer | Centre Manager

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ASDA Wheatley Community Update

As Autumn arrives, we are supporting Breast Cancer Awareness month throughout October, having in September supported a charity Zumbathon® held at David Lloyd Oxford to raise over £400 for both Tickled Pink and Dementia Oxfordshire. This was an hour and a half of energetic dance fitness routines hosted by a number of ZUMBA instructors across Oxfordshire; so many thanks to all those who volunteered to make this a huge success.

Plus, over the weekend of the 7th and 8th of October, we are holding a static bike ride in our foyer, with a team of Colleagues cycling the distance from Oxford to Cambridge. So, if you're in Store please come along and cheer us on! We have also arranged for Thame Concert Band to play in our foyer on Sunday 15th October.

Next, during November we will be fundraising for Children in Need, with visits planned to local schools, nurseries, and children's community groups in Oxfordshire. Plus, we will also be running other activities in the Store, including a Christmas gift wrap service in the foyer over the weekend of the 18th and 19th November.

As usual, at the beginning of November we will be supporting the Poppy Appeal as part of our continuous support for the local community. This is part of our regular programme of helping local organisations and during July and August we welcomed seven groups into our Store to fundraise over £1,800, including charities, who support the visually impaired, two local animal charities and Blood Bikes.

In addition, our final Grant round of the year is now open, having already

supported ten Groups in 2023, who have had successful Grant applications through the ASDA Foundation, including The Maple Tree, who I visited as part of their Family Fun session back in August. £500 was awarded to help transform the outdoor area and to purchase planters for children to grow seeds at the Centre. The children were delighted by the ripe cherry tomatoes, which they had for their snack-picked and eaten from the garden.

During the last Grant round, we also supported The Sharing Life Trust in Thame, who provide Food Bank Services to rural areas in Thame and surrounding villages including Wheatley, and I have been supporting with outreach hours, as part of my role for this Group for the past two years. Sadly, the food donated to foodbanks is not stretching to meet the demand and hopefully our small grant of £500 will help the charity to purchase top-up foods.

If you are planning any fundraising locally, please get in touch early to request Store donations. I will continue to try and support as many groups as possible to help make that difference to the Causes that our customers are passionate about supporting. I will shortly be planning and organising our 2024 diary, so will be planning future bookings for fundraising in our store, please get in touch.

As it is always a busy time at the end of the year, there is always the opportunity to join our team.

My email address is:

community_wheatley@asda.co.uk

if you wish to get in touch with me.

Linda Blackmore



Morland House Surgery

Morland House Surgery, Morland Close, Wheatley OX33 1DP

Opening hours and access to medical services are detailed on page 47.

**The surgery's in-house dispensary will close permanently on
Friday 29th September 2023**

WHEATLEY PHARMACY WILL REMAIN OPEN

There will be no change to the process of ordering your repeat prescription. If you already collect your medication from Wheatley Pharmacy, then you need not do anything. If you have not yet nominated a pharmacy to pick up your medication, then please do so by 29/9.

Check or alter your nomination via your NHS login - NHS (www.nhs.uk) or contact the surgery's dispensing team via morland.dispensary@nhs.net or 01865 872448 (option 3).

Flu and Covid Vaccines - All eligible patients who have been booked in for a flu vaccine from mid-September onwards will be offered a Covid vaccine at the same appointment. To find out if you are eligible, please visit www.nhs.uk and search for "Covid Vaccination".

For a wealth of information and guidance on managing a vast number of health conditions, symptoms, and treatment, please visit www.morland-house.co.uk

Morland House PPG

SODC Waste Collections — October & November 2023

Collection day Monday unless *changed	Which bins and other items?
Oct 2nd, 16th & 30th Nov 13th & 27th	Green, brown, food & oil waste, textiles
Oct 9th & 23rd Nov 6th & 20th	Grey, food & oil waste, small electricals

Key Contacts

Local Governance:

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

Local information:

Wheatley Post Office | 0845 722 3344 | Open Mon-Fri 09:00-17:30, Sat 09:00-13:00
The Maple Tree (Children's Centre) | 01865 236700 | laura@mapletree.org.uk
The Merry Bells Village Hall | 01865 872073 | merrybells.org.uk
Howe Trust Allotment Assoc. | Chair | Georgina Glenny | 01865 874450
Wheatley Library | 01865 875267 | wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Wheatley Park Sports Centre | 01865 872128 | better.org.uk/venues/park
Wheatley Park School | 01865 872441 | wheatleypark.org
Wheatley Primary School | 01865 872366 | wheatley.oxon.sch.uk
Wheatley Good Neighbour Scheme | 07907 104856 | wheatleygns@gmail.com

Services:

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

Transport:

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



Wheatley Christmas Fair



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2PM-8PM



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