

# WHEATLEY NEWS

Published by Wheatley Parish Council



Snowy Horse Chestnut | St. Mary's Close

**Recruiting Play Workers - Page 5**

**VPA Show Winners - Page 15**

**Cullum House Levelled - Page 43**



## 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 **11th January** for the next issue.

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

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

## Meetings & Dates

### Full Parish Council

Merry Bells, 19:30  
4th December  
8th January

### Planning Cmte.

Parish Office, 19:30  
13th December  
10th January

### Finance Cmte.

Parish Office, 19:30  
18th December

### Open Spaces Cmte.

Parish Office, 19:30  
15th January

### 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.

# Chair's Column

We are all hurtling towards Christmas, which is a time of celebration but also an opportunity to reflect on those not as fortunate.

In this edition I want to talk about volunteering as our annual Volunteers Awards Ceremony is in planning. They will be later than we expected due to competing parish pressures, but we will be celebrating those who give of their time willingly to support others.

Volunteering offers many benefits to both the volunteers in terms of wellbeing and common purpose, but also many village organisations would not thrive, even survive without willing hands. Volunteers are needed to support the village as we know it.

We have some wonderful assets in the village to enjoy. The Howe Trust is 26 acres of land available for walking and getting out and about, but it does need maintenance and volunteers are always welcome to help with that. If you are interested, please go to The [Howe Trust and Allotment Association](#) Wheatley Oxfordshire. The Howe Trust is also fundraising for their annual Christmas

Hamper Campaign. This is a worthy cause and donations are welcome.

Second on my list is Wheatley Windmill on Windmill Lane. A proper working windmill that mills flour during the summer months, and through Millie, the milling machine. Volunteers are also required to help with maintenance and Tea Duty on the Open Days. If you would like to get involved, please contact Wheatley Windmill Website ([wheatleymill.co.uk](http://wheatleymill.co.uk))

There are many other local organisations that could do with willing hands e.g. The Wheatley Good Neighbour Scheme, but don't forget the national charities that have a footprint in our village that would benefit from local people supporting our elderly, very young or disadvantaged residents.

Thank you to those who came to the public meeting we held on the County Council traffic flow proposals, we have taken note of your feedback and will forward it on.

Finally, may I wish you all well over the Christmas period and I hope it's a time of celebration and joy for you and yours.

**Alison Sercombe**



*This Christmas the Parish Office will be closed from*

**SATURDAY 23RD DEC UNTIL  
TUESDAY 2ND JANUARY**

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



What a fabulous night the Christmas Fair was and thank you to everyone who came along.

This was the first year that Wheatley Parish Council has taken on the event and a special thanks to Lucy Collinson (Assistant Clerk) for organising such a great community event.

## **New councillor co-opted but we still have four vacancies.**

In October we welcome Sophi Davis to the council, who was co-opted into one of our vacancies.

Sophi is keen to use her skills and interests to support the community, especially our young people.

We still have four vacancies and would love to hear from you if you would like to join the council, in making a real difference to the village, its residents and the community. If you are unsure of our priorities, do read our Strategic Plan, or skim through the minutes of our meetings. With only 11 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.

## **Council business**

Since the last edition we have held several public meetings. The first was well attended and discussed Oxfordshire County Council's proposals for new road markings in and around the village centre. Shortly after we held a series of sessions, explaining the Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan Referendum. We hoped you found these useful.

If you voted – thank you for taking the time to. At the time of writing the results had not been announced. But in summary a 'YES' vote will see the revised plan being our core planning document, a 'NO' vote will see us continuing to use the initial Neighbourhood Plan documents.

At the same time, we have been busy trying to balance the books and our budget for 2023. Councillors remain aware of the financial pressures' residents are experiencing and cost increases that affect local businesses and the council's functions. It is always a difficult discussion to have.

## **As the leaves fall...**

...our grounds team (Richard and Steve) have been out and about trying to keep on top of the fallen leaves, but also to give some of our areas a seasonal facelift. If you see them about, please say hi! If you spot an issue do consider reporting it on [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com).

## **Final message of 2023**

Wheatley is an amazing village and me, Lucy, Richard, and Steve wish you all a joyous Christmas filled with light, laughter, and happiness x

**Michelle Legg**

## Recruiting – Play Workers / Youth Workers

The Oxfordshire Play Association (OPA), working in partnership with Wheatley Parish Council has secured funding to deliver a weekly Junior Youth Club in Wheatley.

The project is designed for Children and Young People in School Years 6, 7 and 8 (Ages 10 to 13) and will look to support them through the transition from Primary School to Secondary School.

Following a consultation with Young People in Wheatley the project will be delivered at the Merry Bells in Wheatley on an evening TBC from 6pm to 8pm.

The sessions will last for 2 hours and will be delivered weekly, we are looking for staff to work 5 hours per week (including prep, delivery, monitoring etc).

The project will provide fun and positive Play opportunities within a Safe and Supportive environment within Wheatley. This project will increase Childrens opportunities to Play and meet in a Safe Space whilst promoting Positive Activities and Behaviours, Increased Levels of Physical Activity and Healthy Lifestyles.

The Oxfordshire Play Association is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Registered Charity Number 1160320) and has been delivering a Countywide service across Oxfordshire since 1974.

Our Vision is to ‘Improve Lives Through Play’

Our Mission Statement is to ‘Champion and support the rights of all Children and Young People to have access to high quality, inclusive, play opportunities to promote their physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing.’

Our new Playworkers will work 5 hours per week (2 hours prep, 2 hours direct delivery and 1 hour monitoring and reporting) at an hourly rate of £12.68 per hour (£14.21 per hour including Holiday Pay)

As this job involves working with Children and Young People it will be subject to an enhanced DBS / CRB check, satisfactory receipt of two references and completion of relevant Safeguarding Children and Young People Training.

We are unable to accept CV’s for the role, to request an application form please contact; Martin Gillett, OPA Manager:

T = 07436 270267 or E = [martin.gillett@oxonplay.org.uk](mailto:martin.gillett@oxonplay.org.uk)

**Martin Gillett**

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Last August the “Apple Team” were raring to go. We had booked the Merry Bells for a pressing day, set up a WhatsApp group for pickers and even had plans to buy our own apple mill. We got out the spreadsheet of contacts and started to call the tree owners who we have worked with in previous years. But it was not good news. Many people told us that they had very little fruit on their trees, and what there was, was often very small. For this, and a variety of other reasons, only one of our ten usual contacts had fruit for us to pick this year. There were a few trees in the village that had a good year and we were pleased to be contacted by a couple more residents who asked us to pick for them.

In all we picked 130kg of fruit, the best of which was placed outside the shops or taken to the food larder for people to share. Some of the small and damaged fruit went to village chutney makers. For comparison, last year we picked over 600kg of fruit and in one particularly “fruitful” year we picked over a tonne.

Since we did not have enough apples left for juicing, we had to cancel the pressing day. This was disappointing as it is always a lovely social occasion which has begun to feel like part of the village’s social calendar.

Thank you to the shop owners who host our baskets of fruit, the tree owners who share their crops, the pickers who offer their time and everyone else who contributes. We hope for a more successful year in 2024.

Don’t forget the next Swapshop is on Saturday 20th January. As usual please bring any usable items between 9.00am and 10.15am (after which we won’t accept anything) and take away anything you want from 10.30am -12.00.

Please get in touch at:

[sustainablewheatley.org](https://sustainablewheatley.org)

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

[www.facebook.com/sustainablewheatley](https://www.facebook.com/sustainablewheatley)



## Merry Christmas from The Maple Tree!

This month we have some dates for your calendar as well as our ongoing programme;

**9th December** – Christmas Tree pick up, The Maple Tree Market, gift stalls, refreshments, with mince pies galore! 10:00–11:30am

**16th December** – Double Trouble at Twinnies Christmas! 10:00–11:30am

**22nd December** – Christmas Disco from 4:00-5:30pm

**20th January** – the return of our popular Silent Auction

**Mondays:** Messy Mondays at 10:00-11:30am and Twinnies at 2:00-4:00pm

**Tuesdays:** Once Upon a Time at 10:00-11:30am

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

**Thursdays:** Little Explorers at 10:00-11:30am

**Fridays:** 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.

Check out our Website and Facebook page for our opening times over the Christmas break and 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)

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported us this year, and especially to our lovely volunteers, who go above and beyond helping us during and after every session. We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a very happy, healthy 2024!

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

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Laura Spencer | Centre Manager

# Wheatley Village Produce Association

## Our local garden club

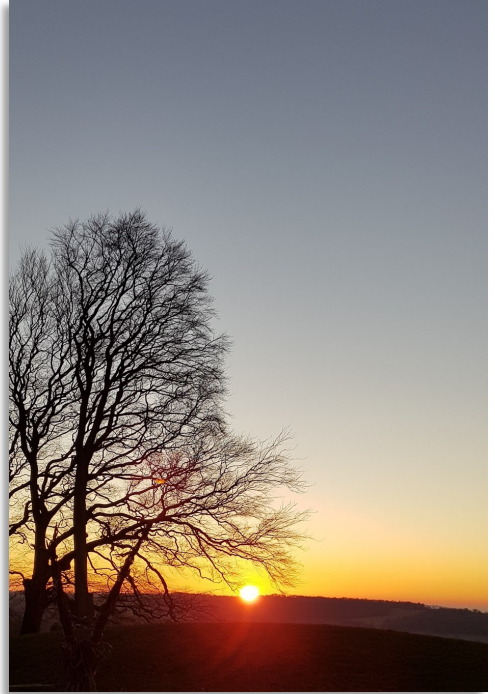
Hopefully you don't have too many jobs to do in the garden right now when daylight is a scarce resource and temperatures are decidedly chilly. It is a great opportunity to review the last year and plan for the next. Curl up with a good book – or seed catalogues!

### December

Now is the time to take hardwood cuttings which are easy but usually need more patience to yield results. I have a silver birch, grown from a tiny whip, and I shall pollard it this month to keep it small and if you need to prune acers or vines, now is the time to avoid them 'bleeding' catastrophically. Standard apples and pears also need pruning now to retain an open, healthy structure. New trees and shrubs can also be planted now while dormant. I have just given up my allotment but I'm sure many of you have lots of lovely, winter veg to harvest!

### January

As we turn the corner into another year, green shoots of bulbs are already visible and lift the heart in these still dark but gradually lightening days. Crisp sunny days lure us outside – and why not? Birds are already bobbing about busily – do put out food and water. Check all your structures for damage and make



good. I have a young peach tree in a pot and I will need to shelter it from excess wet and the risk of peach leaf curl. I will also be checking dahlia tubers that I have in store. I no longer have rhubarb but if you do, you can bring a crown or two on early by covering it from the light – something to look forward to!

### Coming up

Tuesday 9 January, Members General Knowledge Quiz Evening

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

Geraldine Surman

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# VPA Show 2023

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The show this year was a great success, even with the difficult growing conditions of the year. The committee extends its thanks to all those who entered and attended. Particular thanks to the judges, stewards, and all of the volunteers who made this event possible.

## This year's winners:

**Banksian Medal** - E. Morgan-Jones

**Millennium** - not awarded this year as no eligible entrants

**Basil Hurdley Award** (best in potato classes) - John Morrisson

**Desmond Coveley Plate** (best in class 4, runner beans) - Joyce Edwards

**Fred Davies Cup** (best in tomato classes) - E. Morgan-Jones

**George Bowler Cup** (best in onion classes) - Jim Reilly

**Wilfred Sheldon Cup** (best in vegetable selectin class) - Steven Ackroyd

**R.F. White Challenge Shield** (most points in giant veg categories) - E. Morgan Jones

**Dr Orchard Cup** (best in plant/flower classes) - Lucy Collinson

**George Smith Countryman Cup** (best single rose) - John Allmond

**Oscar Wilde Society Plate** (best in carnation class) - Mick Rodgers

**Markham Jubilee Prize** (best in pot plant category) - Lucy Collinson

**Wyevale Garden Centre Cup** (most points in category) - Mick Rogers

**Best Kept Garden Award** - Lesley Long

**Ridge Trophy** (best cake) - Neil Ramsden

**Wilfred Sheldon Rose Bowl** (most points in cookery exc. preserves) - Steven Ackroyd

**VPA Preserve Cup** (most points in preserve classes) - Stephanie Brooklyn

**Jubilee Trophy** (best in art and crafts) - Lucy Collinson

**Harold Pidgeon Award** (best photograph) - John Guy

**Harding cup for Junior's Garden** - Joshua and Reuben Ackroyd (joint winners)

**Harding Awards for Merit** - Isabel and Grace Collinson; Joshua and Reuben Ackroyd; Matilda, Annie and Bea Gleave

**Elizabeth Murphy | VPA Show Secretary**

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# ASDA Wheatley Community Update

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What a whirlwind October was! With one of our biggest fundraising months to date, our Tickled Pink fundraising was a huge success, with a number of colleagues getting involved in our cycle event in the foyer over the weekend of the 7th and 8th each pedalling for at least an hour, so a huge challenge for us all. There was so much positivity from everyone to keep going, and we all really appreciated the moral support.

We also had 3 volunteers come in to support our fundraising efforts, and again many thanks to everyone for getting involved. We raised £527.95 over this first weekend.

On Sunday 15th October, Thame Concert Training Band, played in store which sounded amazing, to help us raise a further £187.55. An update of our 2023 fundraising for our National Charities will be provided in the next newsletter which will include all of our Children in Need activity.

We are incredibly proud of what we have raised this year, but of course as always, it's a huge team effort from customers and colleagues and supporters alike to make this happen.

At the time of writing, we have had two successful grants for Grant Round 3 which closed on Friday 3rd November. Firstly for Oxford City Farm who applied for funding for kitchen cleaning equipment to help run cookery sessions. They were awarded £500, which was presented to them at their autumn fair during October.

Our other success grant application was for the Howe Trust, who applied for an Empowering Communities Grant to help create a pond in a wild community nature garden in the half an acre paddock known as Dalton's Field. This new garden will be a special green place for everyone in the village to visit and enjoy for many years to come. A grant of £535 was awarded and presented at the Tree plant during November.

With regards to other fundraising over the last two months, a total of £2, 417.49 was raised outside of Tickled Pink with 5 other groups running awareness or fundraising activity in our foyer.

We supported a number of events over half term with donations of pumpkins for carving, and Christmas fundraising requests have been coming in for the last few weeks to support activities such as raffles and Christmas fairs over the next couple of months. We will try to support as many of those causes as we can.

We are also looking at partnering with a couple of local schools with our Christmas Card activity, to send cards to local care homes. If your schools or community group would like to be involved with this, please get in touch. A post box will be located in the foyer, and I will leave a few blank cards for children to colour by the community board, so please only post these back in this post box. I will get these delivered the week prior to Christmas. If you could leave the inside blank and I will add a message.

In the pipeline, early next year, we are looking at setting up a community hub, possibly on a quarterly basis for networking and groups to share best practice. I have made contact with a number of my current connections, but if you would like to join let me know. The first one of these is likely to be held at the end of January or early February, so may not be in time to share in the next newsletter.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for the festive period.

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**

# YOUR Wheatley Village Archive

In January, members of the Archive team will host individual teach-ins for those who are finding the search process of the archive website at [www.wheatleyarchive.org.uk](http://www.wheatleyarchive.org.uk) difficult to use. The following no-appointment drop-in sessions have been arranged at the Library

- Saturday 13 January 2024 10.30a.m – noon.
- Wednesday 17 January 2024 2-3 p.m.

In the third part of the series on Wheatley in the 1930s, we look at its employment in the 1930s.

There is a record which shows, in 1936, Wheatley had 117 employees at Morris/Pressed Steel. The 1939 census, probably typical of the 1930s, suggests other local employment to have been 60 in building trades, 50 in shops and hospitality, 40 in the brickworks, 15 at the sawmill, 20 in farming, 30 as servants, 20 with driving jobs, 25 as gardeners or market gardeners, 10 on the railway, 10 teaching in the two schools, 5 as smiths and 120 or so in various other roles, a total of over 500. There was full employment in Wheatley and living standards had risen significantly, based on the move from agriculture to industry.

In an essay J G Key, headmaster of the C of E School from 1925 to 1954, was concerned about the effect that new local industries paying much higher wage rates would have on Wheatley's social fabric. But he noted that, in addition to new Council houses in the late 1920s,



more than fifty private houses had been built. These were occupied by people 'possessing some talent for leadership', resulting in many local clubs and societies being formed.

Key asked whether the social life of the village should be under the direction of the Parish Council. In the early 1900s, the Council had organised and financed village celebrations. He noted that it now took almost no role in such arrangements, put together and financed by the multitude of local organisations which then existed.

He went on to praise Wheatley's move from a unitary authority in 1932, passing over many of its local roles to a new District Council, which he felt at the time would lead to greater efficiency and cost saving – a conclusion now much in question!

**Steph Cox**

After the summer break it was lovely to meet up again for our September meeting. Our speaker for the evening was Gary Sherwood, accompanied by his daughter Melanie. Illustrated with slides Gary spoke of his life as a member of the Royal Ballet. He told us that, as a child, he went to tap dance lessons and as the result of a competition was spotted by a talent scout who saw his potential as a ballet dancer and was offered a scholarship. As a result, at the age of 12 he was enrolled at the Royal Ballet School. After years of hard work, he went on to take lead roles dancing with many famous ballerinas. On taking a break from ballet he turned to contemporary dance and later on when he retired from dancing became a teacher and coach. During his career he met many famous people and travelled to almost every country in the world. As he said himself, "Not bad for a lad who grew up on a council estate."

In October we made an early start with our Christmas decorations when the craft club guided us through the making of Christmas baubles using old Christmas cards which would otherwise have ended up in the recycling bin. There was a lot of laughter, and frustration, as we got to grips with the task. However, the end results were a lovely selection of baubles which, when hung on our "Christmas tree", looked very pretty and festive.

December is our Christmas meeting (members only).

In January Trudy Hill from "About Face" will give a demonstration of beauty treatments.



## History Snippets

### December 1923/January 1924

The main event in December was the Christmas party that was being arranged for the villagers of Littleworth, Holton and Wheatley. Each man was to receive 1oz tobacco and each lady ¼ lb tea and some sweets. After tea scenes from "Cranford" were performed by the drama group. The party was a great success with over 70 attendees.

At the December meeting there was a talk on some famous Christmas paintings with carols being sung to illustrate them.

Visitors always welcome.

(£4 suggested donation)

**Stephanie Brooklyn**

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- Preparing & cooking hot meals
- Anything not listed, please do not hesitate to contact us, details below:

**Linda McMahon on 07715 600524 or email [lindalizzymac@outlook.com](mailto:lindalizzymac@outlook.com)**

**Moira McMahon on 07715 609968 or email [moiramaccr@outlook.com](mailto:moiramaccr@outlook.com)**





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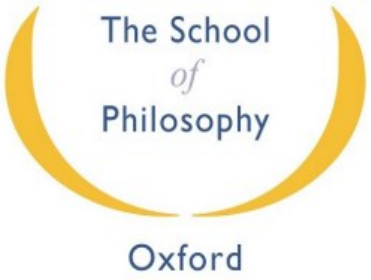


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#### Aylesbury Multicultural Centre

Wednesday 17th Jan, 7:00-9:15PM

[www.schoolofphilosophyoxford.org](http://www.schoolofphilosophyoxford.org) 07856 197881

Registered charity numbers 313115 and SC039950





# The Merry Bells Village Hall

## Investing in the Village Hall

As we approach the end of the year, we are pleased to say that we are recovering well from the lean few years of Covid, with the Trustees and Management Committee continuing not only to maintain the facilities to a high standard but at the same time investing in new developments.

With winter here one such development has been the installation of a 'state of the art' thermostat linked to our automated online booking system. This means for every booking in the Main Hall the heating will automatically come on one and a half hours before the start of the booking and turn-off when it finishes. How about that? When booking the Hall you no longer have to worry about it being warm enough for when you start your meeting or celebration. And it means we don't have to heat it when it's not being used.

Routine maintenance and repairs remain necessary in a building that dates from 1888 and as we have written before, since the Merry Bells became a Charitable Trust for the benefit of the Village just over fifty years ago, the Trustees and Management Committee have invested over one million pounds in its development and maintenance.

Some of the recent maintenance has or will include re-pointing the building's brickwork and repairing the steps from the Car Park to the High Street.

We are proud to be part of and contribute to a vibrant Community, such as making the facilities available for the very successful Christmas Market.

Finally, we would like to say 'thank you' to Dave and Carol Parker of the Farm Shop on London Road for supplying the plants free-of-charge for our displays on the Merry Bells forecourt. **Thank you.**

Speaking of the forecourt, we need to ask for your help, as follows. While we are very pleased to see many people using the chairs and tables on the forecourt, we need to ask that they are kept clear of the defibrillator, so there is easy and immediate access. As you will be aware if the defibrillator is needed, it will be an urgent emergency and those using it, will need to get to it straight away, without having first to move tables and chairs.

We thank you for your help by making this very important village facility readily available.

**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**



## **Christmas Hamper Campaign – Donations and Driver Volunteers Wanted!**

Now in its fourth year, this initiative helps some of the most vulnerable families in our community by providing the ingredients for a Christmas Day meal. But it's only possible with help from the generous financial donations from our community. You can donate via our Just Giving Page:



*Photo by Sam Carter on Unsplash*

[www.justgiving.com/campaign/howetrusthamper](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/howetrusthamper), by personal cheque, or by cash or bank transfer.

Volunteer drivers are also needed to deliver the hampers on Saturday 23rd December from 12 noon. Please contact us to sign up if you can – all you'll need is a car and 1-2 hours of your time.

### **Volunteer Working Party Dates**

Come along and join in on one of our working party project days. Working in a team you'll help us complete larger projects on The Howe. Come for the whole day, or just a few hours. All ages welcome. No experience required. Volunteer perks include FREE hot drinks and homemade biscuits/cakes!

- Sunday December 10th 10am to 4pm – Bramble Clearing
- Sunday January 28th 10am to 4pm – Tree Planting
- Sunday February 18th 10am to 4pm – Hedge Restoration

### **Wanted – Garden Tools**

With a growing team of volunteers, we desperately need more tools. Do you have any unwanted garden rakes, forks, or spades? We're also interested in any spare loppers, hedge shears, secateurs, and gardening gloves of all sizes.

### **Allotment Association**

Interested in an allotment? Find out more by completing a contact form on the allotment page of our website or call Michele Gregory on 07920 060710.

How to Get in Touch You can get more information on any of these topics on our website [www.howetrust.org.uk](http://www.howetrust.org.uk) or our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/howetrust](http://www.facebook.com/howetrust). Alternatively email [maggiiefyffe@gmail.com](mailto:maggiiefyffe@gmail.com) or call, text, or WhatsApp me on 07889 639986.

**Thanks, and Merry Christmas!**

**Maggie Fyffe | Chair**



# Wheatley Playing Field Trust

As mentioned in previous reports, this summer Wheatley Playing Field Trust has installed more floodlights on the tennis courts/tarmac area. It is hoped that activities, such as walking football or rugby, can be introduced. As a general rule, walking sports are for those aged over 55 but not exclusively. Anyone who would like to take part in some exercise that is not overly strenuous will be welcome. If you are interested in this form of activity, please contact the Trust (contact details below), or leave your contact details in the Parish Office in the Merry Bells.

These activities will need to be run by volunteers and if you are interested in helping, please do get in touch. Even if you have no previous experience it is suggested, for example in the case of walking football, that you complete the FA Playmaker course. This is free and takes roughly four hours to complete via online modules. This is designed to support the delivery of safe, fun, and inclusive football. It is also recommended that you complete the FA introduction to first aid in football course.

The weather recently has left the pitches in not the best of conditions. There should be no unauthorised use and the pitches can only be used through booking by a registered user. Also, if all pitches have been fully booked then this means that there is no availability for use. Misuse of the booking system spoils it for the bona fide clubs.

Major tree works are planned to take place soon now that the trees have become dormant. Please be aware of this and keep away from any work being undertaken.

In addition, 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**

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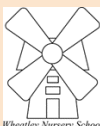
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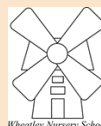
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Wheatley Nursery School



Wheatley Nursery School

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## 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



**Places available for the next school year**

***Giving each unique child the tools for life and the love of learning***

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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# Notices | Clubs | Events



## VACANCIES PLAY/YOUTH WORKERS

5 hours per week  
£12.68 per hour

See page 5 for details  
[martin.gillett@oxonplay.org.uk](mailto:martin.gillett@oxonplay.org.uk)

## Wheatley Productions Christmas Quiz

Sun 6th Dec  
6.00pm

New Club, Wheatley  
Teams of up to 6  
£30 Prize for winning  
team!

Tickets £5 on the door  
[wheatleyprods@gmail.com](mailto:wheatleyprods@gmail.com)

Wheatley Village  
Produce Association

## Members General Knowledge Quiz

Tuesday 9 January  
7.30pm, Merry Bells

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

## Wheatley Good Neighbour Scheme

For befriending -  
transport to events -  
and more

**07907 104856**

WGNS here to support  
our community

The Howe Trust

## Volunteer Drivers Needed

To deliver Christmas meal  
ingredients to vulnerable  
families

Sat 23rd Dec from 12:00  
for 1-2 hours

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

The Howe Trust

## Volunteer Working Party Dates

Work in a team to complete  
projects on the Howe  
Whole day or a few hours  
between 10am-4pm

**Sun 10th Dec**

Bramble clearing

**Sun 28th Jan**

Tree planting

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

## Art Club

Every Monday  
afternoon 4-6 pm  
Wheatley Library  
All welcome - bring a  
project  
£1 donation to the  
library

Contact Tina on  
[tina\\_everett@btinternet.com](mailto:tina_everett@btinternet.com)

## NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

**Every other Monday**  
exc. Bank Holidays  
**URC From 2.00-4.00pm**  
Chat, play bingo, tea and  
cake, occasional short  
talks of interest

[albarjoiner@btinternet.com](mailto:albarjoiner@btinternet.com)

Frances Simpson  
01865 873248

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Wheatley WI

Guest Speaker

**About Face**

**Trudi Hill**

**Merry Bells**

**19:15 16th Jan**

Trudi will be talking about, and giving demonstrations of, various beauty treatments



**Sustainable  
Wheatley**

**SWAPSHOP**

Merry Bells

**Sat 20th Jan 2024**

**09:00-10:15 Drop off**

useable goods

**10:30-12:00 Take away**

as much as you like, even if you didn't bring anything

**Community  
Larder**

Thursdays

14:30 -15:30

Wheatley URC

Help reduce food waste and support local causes



Wheatley Singers

Wheatley  
Singers

**Concert in St Mary's  
Church Great Milton**

**Sun 28th Jan 3.00pm**

Brahms' Song of Destiny,  
Handel's Coronation  
Anthems

Walton's Crown Imperial

See article on page 55

Triangle Care Home

**COFFEE  
MORNING**

**Fri Dec 22nd**

Come join us for tea/coffee and cake and to socialise with the residents.

For more information and future events:

[triangle.activities@fshc.co.uk](mailto:triangle.activities@fshc.co.uk)

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

**Wheatley Village  
Archive**

**is now in the library**

(available during opening hours)

A volunteer will be there to help you on Thursday afternoons 14:00-16:30 or by appointment. See you soon!

Triangle Care Home

**Coffee Morning**

Every fourth Friday in month

Come and join us at our care home for coffee and cake

**All welcome**

[triangle.activites@fshc.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:hello@coachemma.co.uk)
- Art Club** | Library | 1st & 3rd in month | 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

**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](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** | 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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

**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](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





October and November saw a wide range of events.



On October 12th an excellent speaker, Bill King, gave a very interesting talk on “Dad’s Underground Army” covering its origins and activities nationally and locally. This was a joint activity with the WVA History Group.

“Desert Island Discs” returned on October 26th. This time the interviewee was Pat Jeffs and the interviewer Malcolm Benson. The large audience was there to hear about Pat’s life through his choice of discs – a wide ranging selection of both jazz and classical music.



In November Simon and Toby Shew presented “Metal Detection – Amazing Finds” on the 9th. We learnt a lot more about what metal detection actually involves and what happens to the finds.

On the 16th Deb Bales introduced us to genealogy for beginners through her fascinating Presentation “People Your Past”. Armed with her sources of information and advice this winter may see many members set off on their ancestral hunt to find out “Who They Really Are”.

As the holiday period approaches, we still have our final event - the “Annual Clever Clogs Quiz” on December 1st. Our Quizmaster, John Duffelen, has the questions prepared and it is always a very enjoyable if challenging evening. 2024 will begin with “An Evening with Jane Austen” courtesy of Elizabeth Hess and Keith Phillips on January 26th. More details to follow.

2023 has been a busy year with over 16 events. Although they are mostly social in nature the Wheatley Society continues to undertake its civic function. In particular we were active in keeping members informed about the Waterstock Planning Application which has been turned down – at least for now.

2024 promises to be even busier as it will be the 50th anniversary of the Wheatley Society and plans are afoot to have an exhibition on May 18th in the Merry Bells to highlight the changes that have occurred in Wheatley over the past 50 years. The production of an accompanying booklet is also underway.

Finally, we wish everyone a Happy Festive Season wherever and however you spend it.

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## A Gardener's Optimism

At a challenging time for many, we need to grab hold of the positives in life and the world. Optimism is something we need to cultivate, in ourselves, those around us and our communities.

Saving the seeds of optimism is one thing, knowing how to grow them, tend them, harvest them, is another. Gardeners' are the unexpected teachers' and mentors of this, due to gardeners' optimism, they are almost always a sustaining influence.

A gardener is always planning ahead with a clear vision, whether they are flower gardening, vegetable gardening, alpine gardening, tree, shrub or rose gardening, they are always thinking ahead. They are sowing seeds to provide plants for the future, pruning something to turn it into the shape they want. Or feeding plants and the soil so they grow better going forward, or training something so that it covers a wall a bit more.

All that is a euphemism for cultivating and tending optimism in ourselves, others and in our communities. It all takes time and sustained effort.



This is all that now remains of Cullum House in Ambrose Rise. Social landlord Soha Housing is redeveloping the block on the same footprint to become its first entirely net zero carbon emissions scheme. Development Manager Marc Gregory says “We’re thrilled to be working with RJ Leighfield, along with various zero carbon specialists, on this project to achieve our ambitious target of delivering a scheme achieving net zero carbon. After all the pre-construction due diligence, Soha started work in earnest in October. When completed, Cullum House will have twelve self-contained apartments: eight one-bed and four two-bed homes. Externally, the development will be soft landscaped with turf, low level shrubbery and parking, including electric car charging points for each apartment. Handover is anticipated around the end of summer 2024 but we’ll be sure to offer regular news updates to the Wheatley Newsletter.” For more information please contact Marc and the Soha Development team on 08000 141545 (Freephone).

**Liz Roberts**

A good starting point is just to smile and say hello to people we see in the street. Sow the seeds by just being nice, tend those new connections by genuinely asking how people are or if they need anything.

A gardener’s optimism is something we need to tap into as we move into the shorter days, longer nights and the time of year when we naturally want to hibernate.

It’s a time of year where our neighbours could be struggling behind closed doors so let’s grab hold of the positives in life taking seasonal inspiration from any gardeners’ in our community and start to build connections and support people who may be struggling.

**Happy Gardening!**

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### 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](mailto:jipfanning@gmail.com)) or Zannifer Mason ([zannifermason@gmail.com](mailto:zannifermason@gmail.com))

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

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Wheatley Singers

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# Wheatley Singers

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**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. Since the last Edition of the Newsletter we have rearranged the date and time of the concert. It will still be taking place in St. Mary's Church, Great Milton but it will now be on **Sunday, 28 January 2024 at 3.00 pm**.

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](mailto:matthew.maier@mmaier.co.uk))

Kate (MD - 07729 887244 | [topcopykate@btinternet.com](mailto:topcopykate@btinternet.com))

or any choir member for more information or encouragement.

---

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# Wheatley Primary School and Acorns Nursery

It has been a busy Autumn term at Wheatley CE Primary so far. Maintaining a broad and balanced curriculum with additional opportunities for enrichment is important to us. We have celebrated netball success with our newly formed team winning their first tournament and we were the winners of the recent local partnership of schools Maths Challenge for Y5/6 pupils.

Our Y5/6 pupils have also been involved in an exciting song writing project with Oxford Contemporary Opera, culminating in a special competition where they had the chance to showcase their songs in front of an audience. This was a fantastic opportunity for them to work with a very experienced and accomplished composer – a huge thank you to Roger Simmonds. Phase 2 of the project later

this academic year will involve the songs being used to create an opera, alongside compositions from pupils at Wheatley Park.

We were pleased to welcome several prospective families for a tour earlier this term. If your child is due to start school in September 2024 and you have yet to look around, please contact the school office on 01865 872366 or [office.3165@wheatley.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3165@wheatley.oxon.sch.uk) to book in your visit.

Finally, we are now looking forward to the build up to Christmas which is always a special time in primary schools. All pupils across the school will be performing on stage and we are also holding our annual family carols outside school on 18th December when we will unveil our advent window.

**Mrs Gillian Standing | Headteacher**



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## WALKS PROGRAMME

### DECEMBER 2023

- **Sunday 3rd** Meet at the windmill in Brill for a 7½ mile walk via the duck decoy.
- **Thursday 7th** Meet in Stokenchurch for a 6 mile walk through woods and over commons.
- **Tuesday 12th 10:30am** Meet at Queens Lane Coffee Shop, Oxford, for a leisurely, gentle 2½ mile social walk around Christchurch Meadow. Coffee at the start and options for eating at the end.
- **Thursday 14th** Meet in Wallingford Bridge, Riverside car park, for a 5 mile varied circular walk around Wallingford, including the castle gardens, ramparts and parks.
- **Saturday 16th** Moderate 5½ mile circular walk from Stadhampton prior to the Thame & Wheatley group Christmas lunch (advanced booking required).

**The January programme has not yet been finalised so be sure to check the website regularly for updates.**

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](http://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.

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We have a function room which can be used for many occasions including; weddings, birthdays, christenings, baby showers and any other occasion you wish to celebrate. Please pop in or call us (01865 873530) to discuss this further or for more information.

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

#### COMING UP:

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December - Madnezz Tribute Band (Buy tickets from Breakthru Events)

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December - Prize Raffle, 8pm (Buy tickets from the bar)

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December - Meat Raffle, 4pm (Buy tickets from the bar)

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December - Family Christmas Party! Disco and party games (6-9pm, £5 per child - present given!) Disco continues until 12am – all welcome!

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45A High Street, Wheatley, Oxford OX33 1XX

For more information and to meet or join our therapists visit

[www.wheatley-clinic.co.uk](http://www.wheatley-clinic.co.uk) or call Mark on 07881 516969

 [@wheatley\\_clinic](https://twitter.com/wheatley_clinic)

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**Morland Close, Wheatley OX33 1DP**

The usual surgery opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm  
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Enhanced access hours are offered outside these times, please speak to  
one of the reception team on 01865 872448 for more information.

When the surgery is closed, please contact the Out of Hours service by  
phoning 111.

**The surgery's in-house dispensary closed permanently on Friday  
29 September 2023 WHEATLEY PHARMACY REMAINS OPEN**

There is 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.**

Check or alter your nomination via your NHS login - NHS ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk))  
or contact our prescription clerk team via [morland.dispensary@nhs.net](mailto:morland.dispensary@nhs.net)  
Tel 01865 872448 (option 3)

**Flu and Covid Vaccines** - All eligible patients have been offered their flu  
and covid vaccines. If you are eligible and have not yet had yours then  
please contact your nearest pharmacy to make an appointment. To find  
out if you are eligible, please visit [www.nhs.uk](http://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](http://www.morland-house.co.uk)

Also on the website are details of the new rules relating to accessing  
your medical records - see <https://tinyurl.com/3879mz6p>

## Our Lady of Lourdes

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

### Don't Let Their Light Go Out

The Advent card delivered to all homes in the Wheatley area announces, "The true light has come into the world." It is a challenging statement in a world racked by war and anger – especially in the Holy Land, where the light originated and is in danger of being extinguished.

Members of the parish Justice and Peace Group attended the recent candlelit Peace Vigil held in Broad Street by Oxford's civic and faith leaders, including Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, and Buddhists; it was an act of solidarity with those who suffer on all sides.

For some years at Our Lady of Lourdes we have supported The Friends of the Holy Land (FHL), an ecumenical Christian Charity whose patrons include the Archbishop Justin Welby, and Cardinal Vincent Nichols. The Friends of the Holy Land work for peace and reconciliation in Israel, the West Bank, Jordan, and Gaza and offer particular support to the minority Christian population.

For example, at the time of writing, FHL is supporting Sr Nabila Saleh, a religious sister serving in the small church of the Holy Family, Gaza, where she is housing over 700 people seeking refuge. She said, "There is only destruction and desolation around. We have been shut in here now for weeks in a seesaw of information from the outside that increases our anxiety." An aggressive flu virus is spreading among the refugees, and they are only able to access medicine through brave FHL workers, still operating in Gaza City.

There is a real fear that the devastation of Gaza and unrest on the West Bank will drive the last members of the ancient Christian community to leave forever the land where Jesus walked, the homeland of the Christian faith. FHL seeks prayers and donations to enable it to respond to families' urgent and increasingly desperate needs in Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Israel. Donations may be sent via [www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/donate](http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/donate). It is an especially worthy cause to shield that light this Advent.

**John Guy**



REVI

### Finally

Finally, the furniture has been packed off to storage – and the builders have moved in. St Mary's Church is now a building site. The floors are up, the tiles are piled away and the diggers are in action.

The whole refurbishment operation will run until early July 2024, by which time there will be a stone and tiled floor, much improved heating, lighting, and new toilets. Meanwhile, church services are taking place in Our Lady of Lourdes in Crown Road, courtesy of the Catholic Church.

The annual Remembrance Service took place in the Primary School, as will the Christmas Carol Service.



There has been some discussion about the Church clock, by which many villagers still keep the time. Though it has stopped at the time of writing, there are plans for the clock to start again

## VAL at St Mary's



shortly. Meanwhile, the Wheatley Bell Ringers continue to practice on Friday evenings and to ring on Sundays.

And the cost of it all? £650,000. Thanks to the generosity of so many people in Wheatley and beyond – as well as to several grant bodies - a large sum has been raised. Finance was recently boosted by a major grant from the SODC and a generous second grant from the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust. But we are still a good £25,000 short of breaking even. Fund raising continues, but we are very nearly there.

Our grateful thanks to so many people, who have supported the work thus far. It's been a long and tortuous journey, but by next summer, the end should be in sight.

**The Revival Team**

## Wheatley United Reformed Church

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

### Care for the World

Many readers will be sorry to hear of the passing, on All Saints' Day, of the Reverend Charles Brock, who died peacefully at his home in Pennsylvania, and was the minister of Wheatley URC, for 36 years from 1963, during which the church flourished and many friends were made in the local community.

Continuing the focus on our ministry teams, our Care for the World team, which has a focus on our responsibility to care for the wider community, meets regularly and is responsible for supporting, through dissemination of information and fundraising, a number of charitable organisations. These have previously included Asylum Welcome, Oasis of Peace (a school and community in Israel, dedicated to peace and equality, run jointly by Israelis and Palestinians) and, over the past three years, a key priority has been supporting Zimbabwe, and particularly the Falcon Junior School on the outskirts of Harare, where education is provided for children unable to afford the costs of state education in that desperately poor country. [youtu.be/Kr-rvk-XXMs](https://youtu.be/Kr-rvk-XXMs) gives a good impression of the school.

We also support Christian Aid, with its ever-deepening concern for climate change, Amnesty International, and an Oxford foodbank. We are guided in our work by the national URC's Commitment for Life team, and also lend a hand with the church's Fairtrade commitment, One World Week, and the annual World Day of Prayer, which this year came from Taiwan and next year will be from Palestine. The Care for the World team organises an annual service focusing on these issues, usually in Fairtrade Fortnight with an accompanying stall of goods from Headington Fairtrade. If anyone in the wider community would like to learn more and maybe contribute to the Falcon School, please email me at [michael.matejschuk@virgin.net](mailto:michael.matejschuk@virgin.net) and I can give you further information and also bank transfer details.

We are already looking forward to our Christmas services, both the traditional candlelight carol service at 6pm on Sunday December 24th and the usually lively Christmas morning service at 10.00 on the 25th, to both of which, of course, all are welcome.

**Mike Matejschuk**

# WHEATLEY REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP

## COLLECTION FOR GLOBAL AID NETWORK (GaiN) on 28<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

Many thanks once again to all in our community and beyond for the many donations of clothes and bedding for GaiN, including boxes of knitted blankets and clothes from Shared Knitting (Headington).

We also received much food for the Asylum Welcome Food Bank. These donations continue to be of great value for the clients of both organisations – refugees in Greece and Eastern Europe, and asylum seekers around Oxford, respectively.



We plan to hold a similar event in late February or early March 2024.

It is important to our group that, in addition to members supporting refugees from Ukraine living around Wheatley and those Afghans accepted for settlement that were in hotels locally, we do not lose sight of those who must challenge for their right to a place of safety, when governments around the world are closing doors on those endangered by war or repression.

We keep our supporters informed on campaigns and other activities, including things you can do, along with events that we organise. For example, we recently arranged a highly informative talk on the recent history of Afghanistan, and in January we will be showing another inspiring film, Ken Loach's recent 'The Old Oak'.

If you'd like to be added to our circulation list, you can contact us on:

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

**Nick Vernede**

## St Mary's Ladies Guild

It was back in 1984 that Mary John, Christine Jackson, and the Revd. Michael Farthing formed the Guild. We have a membership of approximately 30 ladies, and we meet once a month on the third Tuesday at 2:15pm in the URC hall.

We have a large variety of speakers touching on many subjects and charities.

At Christmas we have a tea party and, in September, a lunch prior to our AGM.

We are a very friendly group and would be delighted to welcome you to our guild. It is open to all – you do not need to be a church member.

So, please come and join us, or contact Mary John (872909) for more information.

**Mary John**

# WHEATLEY

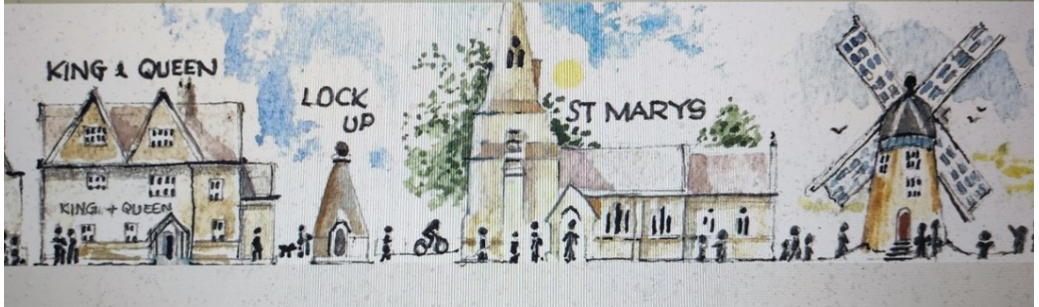
DAILY INFO

HOME

EVENTS

ORGANISERS

ACCOUNT



**Want to know what's happening in the Wheatley area?**

[www.wheatleydailyinfo.org.uk](http://www.wheatleydailyinfo.org.uk)

Find out about clubs, societies, courses, one off events, church services and much more. Events are listed in date order, just click on it and all the information will be there. There's no charge for organisations or users.

So, whether you want to know when the next Swap Shop is, where you can play table tennis, or take your baby to music club: one click takes you there.

Any questions? Contact Deb at [wheatleydailyinfo@gmail.com](mailto:wheatleydailyinfo@gmail.com).

**Deborah Bale**

## Become a Parish Councillor

We have 4 vacancies,

Please consider standing for your community



# Wheatley Community Larder

We are still, very kindly, being hosted by the URC but we are glad to see that work has now been started on the refurbishment of St Mary's. We are delighted to tell you that, this year, we have been able to donate **£2,348.05** to the following charities:

- Pulse
- Hang Out at the URC
- Disaster Emergency Committee  
Turkish Earthquake
- Wheatley Good Neighbours Scheme
- The Oxford Food Bank
- Thomley Hall Centre
- 1st Wheatley Brownies
- Maple Tree
- URC
- Wheatley Scouts
- Wheatley Primary School
- John Watson
- Style Acre
- The Howe Trust

**Thank you to all who gave donations.**

We are also delighted that “Meg’s Cafe” with her welcoming tea and biscuits continues to be very popular and provides a chance for many people to get together for a chat. Continuing thanks to Cornfields for providing us with any bread left unsold on a Wednesday and also to anyone who has provided us with lovely fresh produce from their allotments.

Huge thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who make the larder possible. We are always on the lookout for new volunteers so if you think you can help out every so often, please contact: [val\\_farmer40@hotmail.com](mailto:val_farmer40@hotmail.com) or [penny.willmott1@ntlworld.com](mailto:penny.willmott1@ntlworld.com). As well as helping out on a Thursday afternoon we would welcome any drivers who would be willing to go to the Food Hub in Botley on a Thursday morning to collect food. We have a rota of drivers.

We would like to remind people to come early to the larder as food goes very quickly.

**There will be no larder on 28th December.**

Finally, we would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas.

**Penny Willmott**

## SODC Waste Collections — December 2023 & January 2024

| Collection day Monday unless *changed  | Which bins and other items?               |
|--|---|
| Dec 11th & *27th   Jan *9th & 22nd     | Green, brown, food & oil waste, textiles  |
| Dec 4th & 18th   Jan *3rd, 15th & 29th | 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 | 07907 104856 | [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 Area Churches invites you to the

# Village Carol Service 2023

A service of carols  
and readings



this year held in  
Wheatley CE Primary School Hall  
whilst St Mary's is being refurbished.

**Sunday 17 December**  
**6pm**

Wheatley CE Primary School Hall  
Littleworth Road, Wheatley

