

WHEATLEY NEWS

Published by Wheatley Parish Council



Martin Gibson

Morris Returns - Page 17
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Contributions

The Wheatley Newsletter welcomes contributions and adverts from residents, 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 **10th September** 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
7th September

Planning Cmte.

Parish Office, 19:30
12th August
9th September

Finance Cmte.

Parish Office, 19:30
No Meeting

Open Spaces Cmte.

Parish Office, 19:30
21st September

Parish Surgery

Parish Office
09:30 - 11:30
Every Wed

District Cllr Surgery

Parish Office 10:30
Not currently running

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.

Many of you will have seen the recent consultations about our Sports and Leisure Strategy, and the use of the Cadet Hut.

The Sports and Leisure Strategy is important because it will inform us what we need to provide for residents moving forward into the next decade and beyond. We need you to tell us what you want the Parish Council to provide, not just now, but in the future.

The second consultation is about the use of The Cadet Hut. We have been working on this for some time and have plans for it. The responses reflect that a Youth hub is overwhelmingly the preferred option, with a great many responses coming from Wheatley families. It would be wonderful to provide somewhere for our young people to go to have their own space.

Wheatley Parish Council (WPC) are looking for a couple of volunteers to represent the council as trustees for the Howe Trust. WPC should have three trustees serving on the Trust, but currently we only have one. Due to the number of projects we have on the go, contributions to other community groups and impending local government re-organisation, we are all fully committed. If you are interested in representing the parish council, please contact me for more information. You do not have to be a councillor, just someone with an interest in the

community and some knowledge of the area.

At our last meeting we discussed the draft plans for the Flood Attenuation Scheme that South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) want to install on Littleworth Field. Another scheme will be installed on Shotover Estate. The two schemes will work together to hold water back in the event of another period of severe rainfall like the one that impacted our residents so badly. WPC has some safety issues with the current design, so we are doing further work to ensure we have a design that works for all of us. As this develops, I will update you in later newsletters. We have released a statement in this regard.

STOP PRESS. On Thursday 16th July it was announced that Wheatley would be part of a Greater Oxford Unitary Authority from 2028. I notice that this has not been met with universal acclaim, and many of us are aggrieved that the decision was not part of a democratic process. In other words, 'we the people' did not have the opportunity to choose who we wanted to provide our local services. We await further details on how much our services will change and how much it will cost us!

Your Parish Council is now in recess and does not meet again until 7th September so, until then, have a lovely break and we will speak again soon.

Alison Sercombe

alisonsercombe@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

I hope you are all enjoying the summer weather and staying as cool as possible!

It was lovely to see those who attended The Play and Activity Day enjoying this weather and our lovely playing fields. Thank you to Martin at Oxfordshire Play Association for partnering with us again, the event sponsors and all the local groups and residents that came along.

General Updates

- Three new vehicle activated speed signs have been installed and are now fully functional.
- The Sports and Leisure Strategy Consultation closed on the 25th July. We will provide updates as to the analysis of the consultation once available.
- A reminder that the village has 3 play areas: Church Road, Cullum and Farm Close Road. We do hope you enjoy making the most of these during the school holidays.
- Noticeboards: There are 4 noticeboards in the village, 3 of which are open to the public to display information:
 - Outside the Parish Office: This is for Parish Council materials.
 - London Road opposite the Triangle Nursing Home
 - Littleworth Green
 - Roman Road outside Iffley Vets

Parish Council Surgeries

The Parish Council holds a surgery every Wednesday from 9:30 – 11:30am. We have been holding Saturday surgeries but there hasn't been a great deal of attendance at those. So, we have decided to trial not having a Saturday surgery in August and September.

We are always available via phone/email/in-person meeting by appointment. If you feel that it would be beneficial to reinstate the Saturday surgery, please feel free to get in touch.

Parish Councils Demystified

We recognise that the roles of Parish, District, and County Councils can be confusing for residents. Local Government Reorganisation will begin in 2028 but, until then, we will try and help explain a bit more about key topics in the coming newsletters.

In this issue, I'll talk about Oxfordshire County Council (OCC).

There are several areas that affect Wheatley which are not the responsibility of the Parish Council, but rather OCC. Some of these are:

- Highways – This includes pothole repair, road maintenance (including making the Parish Council aware of roadworks), road markings, streetlights, some overgrown vegetation.
- Rights of Way

- Education
- Public transport – Parishes can have a Parish Transport Representative who can act as a liaison between the Parish and OCC as to local needs.
- Waste recycling centres

The County Councillor for Wheatley is Tim Bearder and his email address is tim.bearder@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

The Parish Council can communicate with OCC on how the above issues affect the parish, if they are known/made known to the Parish Council, but residents are also encouraged to report any issues themselves. Some of these ways would be:

- Fix My Street: fixmystreet.com. Here you can report issues affecting highways noted above.
- Countryside issues: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/countryside/countryside-access/public-rights-way/report-footpath-issue: Here you can report issues such as those affecting rights of way and trees.

Upcoming events

September Artisan Market: The next Artisan Market will be held on Saturday the 19th September.

Wheatley Christmas Fair: Returns on Friday 27th November 2pm-8pm with festive stalls, and entertainment along High St and inside the Merry Bells.

Recruiting two councillors!

Wheatley Parish Council has seats for 15 councillors who meet the first Monday of every month. The Council has 4 committees – Planning, Finance, Open Spaces and Staffing – and manages several assets including 3 playgrounds. The Council carries out several events during the year such as the Christmas Fair, Artisan Markets and the Play and Activity Day.

Being a Councillor involves attending meetings where informed decisions are made on behalf of residents. Decisions range from how finances are spent, comments on planning applications, management of village assets, consideration of future projects and more.

The Council welcomes and encourages members of the public to attend meetings and communicate with the Council as this is the best way for us to represent the Parish.

Wheatley Parish Council have a clear strategy to:

- Act against Climate Change
- Support our village to become vibrant, sustainable and safe
- Make the council accessible to all and to promote inclusivity and wellbeing

The criteria are to be over 18, on the electoral register, live/work/own/rent property in Wheatley or within 3 miles of the village.

The Council is a very proactive team and welcomes anyone who has even a spark of interest and enthusiasm to contact the parish office.

Traffic Working Group Report

I'm pleased to report some improvements to the roads in Wheatley over the coming weeks that will resolve some problems with traffic congestion and parking.

The parking spaces on the north side of Church Road (Church side) will be removed and this will help stop the congestion, especially for buses. Secondly, the parking spaces outside the shops will be repainted, making them easier to get in and out of.

The Traffic Working Group is now working with Oxfordshire County Council to identify other areas for improvement around our community.

Oxford Congestion Charge

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) are considering introducing a temporary congestion charge to reduce traffic around Oxford during Network Rail's extended closure of Botley Road.

The scheme is designed to improve bus services and make it easier for those with permits, including community health and care workers, carers, blue badge holders, and traders, to travel by car into and around the city. However, it could also have implications for communities outside Oxford, as it is likely to increase traffic and parking in our villages.

OCC is carrying out a survey that will help shape the proposals and help councillors make an informed decision about the temporary charge. More information and the survey can be found at: letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/congestion-charge.

Parking In Wheatley

I would like to make a request to drivers in our community and ask them to be considerate to others when parking their vehicles. Vehicles should not be parked:

- Opposite or within ten metres of a junction,
- Obstructing footpaths for pedestrians, especially the vulnerable,
- Near a school entrance or bus stop,
- On double yellow or zig zag lines.

Thank you.

Christine Vernède

15/05/1943 – 13/06/2026

Chris died on 13th June after a period of ill-health, and I would like to thank all the many people who have written such kind tributes and words of condolence following her passing.

She was well known in the village for her beauty, elegance, and smile, but also for the warmth of her personality, her sense of humour, and what she brought to the community through her work as an active committee member of the Wheatley Society and, for several years, in coordinating the distribution of the Wheatley Newsletter.



In 1983, after an active early life involving enjoyable years in Tasmania and Europe, she and Robin founded their English language school in the High Street, which they ran for nearly 30 years. During this time, Chris was in charge of placing foreign students with local host families, a task which she fulfilled with great skill (and tact when any issues arose). She derived great pleasure and satisfaction from the close and enduring friendships which would often develop between students and hosts. At busy times, she would herself host students, sometimes three or four at a time, and many came to regard her as a 'second mother' and are still in touch to this day.

In her later years, Chris enjoyed her involvement in a book club, wine tasting at home and abroad with Wheatley friends and, above all, frequent contact with her family, including five grandchildren.

She is much missed.

Robin Vernède

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Wheatley Gardening Club

August is traditionally holiday time, so you might need to enlist the help of friends and family to look after the garden while you're away. When you are at home, take time to prune summer flowering shrubs such as Lavender once they have finished flowering.

September is generally a cooler and gustier month and the days are noticeably shorter. While there's not much to do in the ornamental garden at this time of year, if you have a fruit or vegetable garden you'll be busy reaping the rewards of harvest. It's also time to get out and start planting spring flowering bulbs for next year and you can collect seeds from various plants for next summer's colour.



There is no meeting in August but now is the time to join the Wheatley Gardening Club and work out what you will be entering into the Annual Show on Saturday 5th September at the Merry Bells, or just come along and view the exhibits. Doors open at 2pm.

The plant for this newsletter is Dahlia. Dahlias are available in many types and mainly grown from tubers but can be purchased from garden centres in bloom now.

Meetings are held at the Merry Bells commencing at 7.30pm.

Non-members are welcome to attend for a fee of £3.00 per meeting.

Queries and information: wheatleygardeningclub@gmail.com

Adrian Shepherd | Secretary



Soha Housing's Neighbourhoods team will be at The Merry Bells every second Monday of the month from 11am till 1pm. Do drop in to discuss anything that's on your mind, including rents, repairs and – also for the wider community – estates or neighbourhoods issues, or contact the team at any time on neighbourhoodteam@soha.co.uk or by calling 0800 014 15 45 (Freephone).

Liz Roberts

Wheatley Windmill Preservation Society

On 14 June, during the open afternoon at the windmill, the Revd Clare Joyce presented the prizes for an art competition entered by pupils from Wheatley Primary School, Wheatley Park School, and John Watson Senior School. The competition celebrated 50 years since the restoration of the windmill began.

There were 97 entries from Wheatley Primary School, one from Wheatley Park School, and 17 from John Watson Senior School. All the entries had been displayed in Wheatley Church for a fortnight before the big day.

Four prize-winners were the only entrants in their respective classes and therefore automatically received first prize. Phoebe Standing won for her painting of the windmill in the younger secondary school category, while Reuben Ackroyd, from the primary school, won first prize in the junior collage category. Mariah C., the only entrant to use a camera, also won a prize for her lively collage, which combined several photographs of the windmill to create an image of the whole mill. Mason won the junior collage class. Mariah and Mason are both pupils at John Watson Senior School.

The other winners were:

From John Watson Senior School, the winners of the senior collage class were Sofia S. in first place, Abdullah in second, and Isabel in third. In the senior painting class, Ruby S. came first, Hannah B. second, and Tahim third. In the junior painting class, Szymon came first, Yasmin G. second, and Holly J. third.

From Wheatley Primary School, Grace Collinson, Marlene Porter, and Rae Berry came first, second, and third respectively in the senior collage class. In the senior painting class, Ruby Chadbone came first, Teo second, and Archie Burbury third. In the junior painting class, Billy S. came first, Carcy-Lou Hopkins second, and Kaysha third.

Every prize-winner received a certificate and an envelope containing prize money, generously provided by the parish council. The sun shone, the temperature was comfortable, the brass band played, and plenty of cake was eaten and gallons of tea were drunk. There were tours of the mill and several other attractions, and a good time was had by all.

Wheatley Windmill and surrounding attractions will be open to the public from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. on Sundays 9th August and 13th September. On 9th August, the Ukulele Orchestra will again be playing and singing for us. There will also be a musical interlude in September, which is currently still in the planning stage. Even if you don't fancy touring the mill this time, at least come to buy a slice of our excellent cake and a cuppa, while you listen to some attractive music.

Caroline Dalton | Secretary

Hopefully you will be reading this in warm sunshine, not the extreme heat we experienced at the end of June. Watching how the school coped during this period brings an extra thank you to staff, parents and pupils and is a good reminder of how resilient the Wheatley Primary family is. Staff worked hard to provide creative solutions, from sitting with feet in trays of water to moving lessons outside under the trees, and providing home learning programmes for those who stayed at home.

In our last report, we looked forward to all our fantastic outdoor summer activities from farm trips and teddy bears' picnics to enterprise days and bellringing. In addition to these, we have enjoyed 3 sports days, a summer camp-out and are looking forward to our summer fair. Special thanks go to the PTA committee who support the school so enthusiastically.

The end of the summer term brings change for everyone. Children from nursery age to year 6 have all been having visits to new classes / schools in readiness for the Autumn. The children should all be very proud of their individual achievements. Year 6's enthusiasm, maturity, and confidence in the leavers' performance and assembly serve as yet another reminder of the success of the school in

producing well-rounded youngsters who thrive in their local community.

We will also be saying goodbye to our Nursery colleagues, to 3 members of staff and 2 governors, including our chair, Rebekah, who has been a governor for well over a decade. We thank them all for their significant contributions to the school and wish them well in their new ventures. As a governing body, we are looking for new members, especially those with a finance/business background (you don't have to be a parent at the school), so please take a few minutes to consider whether you could give 3-4 hours/month to join our friendly group. Email us at the address at the bottom of this page if you would like more details.

For those of you with pre-school age children (i.e. those who will be 4 before 1st September 2027 when they will start in Reception), we would love to invite you to come and look round our wonderful school – we have Open Mornings for prospective families planned on Thursday 1st October and Wednesday 4th November both at 9.30am. Please email on the address below to book your space.

The WPS Governors

www.wheatley.oxon.sch.uk

office.3165@wheatley.oxon.sch.uk

Wheatley Morris Dancing Side

The pleas in the last few newsletters for new dancers seem to have worked. More likely, the sight of the boys dancing at our May celebrations prompted a minor influx of new dancers, which means we now have a viable dancing side with its own musician.

Therefore, it is intended that this new side should dance out, for the first time, around the village in the late afternoon/early evening on **MONDAY 31st AUGUST**. Nothing is finalised yet, so watch out for posters advertising the evening (times and locations). Please come out and support this 170-year-old Wheatley tradition.

This success does not mean the search for new dancers, both male and female, experienced or beginners, young or old, does not go on. Far from it. We practise in the Merry Bells on Wednesdays at 8.30pm for an hour. None of our new dancers have any experience of Morris Dancing so please come along and give us a try. You might be pleasantly surprised. Contact me first if you would like, details below.

Hope to see you on August 31st!

Gareth Morris | Ex Wheatley Morris Man
07713 484090 | garethmorris76@hotmail.co.uk

GARSINGTON SENIOR CITIZENS - MATTERS

Why not find time for a FREE visit to our Senior Citizens Club social meetings on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 2.00 p.m. in the Sports and Social Club, Garsington for tea/coffee & biscuits, with Bingo, Raffle, and a Bring and Buy sale for your enjoyment. Once a month during the summer and autumn we run coach trips to various, mainly seaside, towns to which non-members are more than welcome for a subsidised price of £25 per person. [Please bring a small, wrapped gift for the coach raffle]

Our first two summer trips to Bognor and Poole were blessed with plenty of summer sun and a chance to explore these two wonderful seaside destinations. In August we travel to Weston Super Mare and in September an inland destination to the pretty Cathedral city of Chichester. Please contact B.Tynen as usual. [Please note: a WC not available on smaller coaches]

We welcome new members from Garsington and surrounding villages to our bimonthly meetings, held in Garsington Sports and Social club with ample free parking available, so do please tell your friends and come along to find out more information.

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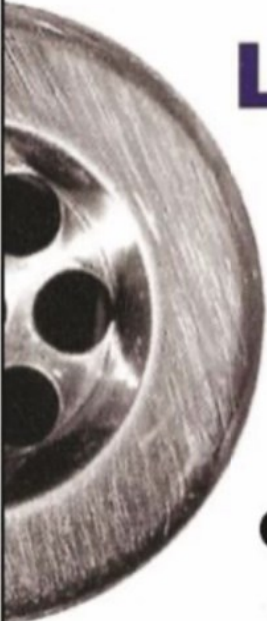
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WHEATLEY *Christmas* FAIR



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www.wheatleyarchive.org.uk



Before continuing our look at road name derivations in the village, let's take a quick look at the **Lock Up**. Following the super refurbishment of the children's playground by the Parish Council, the lock up has featured in many conversations in the village. It has erroneously been thought to have been built to house drunks (the archive's last article mentioned the large number of pubs in the village!). However, this is not the case. It was built in 1834 following a prolonged period of recession and unemployment after the Napoleonic wars with the rural labour market swamped with demobilised soldiers. Together

with farm mechanisation and enclosure farming, this led to unrest, with mobs around the country torching hayricks and breaking threshing and other 'newfangled' machinery. In May 1834 the Wheatley overseers, fearing the worst, ordered a **Lock Up** or keep as a deterrent to the rioters in the area. It was constructed by Cooper, the local mason, (details in the minute book of the Vestry). However, it appears never to have been used for its purpose and a local press report in 1853 refers to the building as not being a 'fit or sufficiently healthy place in which to confine any person' with the Superintending Constable recommending that some enlargement and improvement be made, but this never happened. The old stocks are stored within should there be more rioting!

Now back to road name derivations and those roads omitted earlier:

Gardiner Close: a cul-de-sac off Holloway Road and named after the Whalley Smythe Gardiner family.

The Glebe: a cul-de-sac built in the grounds of Morland House (the original vicarage and thus on land owned by the church).

Kelham Hall Drive: Kelham Hall was the name of a railway engine which used to pass through the village. The engine itself (number 5904 and based at Oxford engine shed) was named after a fourteenth century mansion near Newark, Notts. The mansion was rebuilt in 1863, designed by Gilbert Scott and is now a luxury hotel.

Kelly's Road: Kelly had a smallholding on this land where he kept pigs!

Keydale Road: it is believed this road is named after two prominent Wheatley people: John

George Key was headteacher here for 29 years succeeding Rees Leyshon. Miss Dale -JP - lived in the Old House in Kiln Lane, a wing of which was used as the Roman Catholic chapel. The chapel remained there until 1939, when it moved to Holton Park and later to Crown Road.

Kiln Lane: the Cooper family who lived in Old House in the 18th and 19th centuries had several kilns for making bricks nearby, some of which survive although any evidence of kiln chimneys has gone.

Kimber Close: another new development since the loss of the railway and named after the last station master of Wheatley.

Ladder Hill: an old English name describing any slope which looked like a stepped ladder. There may even have been steps at some point on its steepest part according to John Fox's work on Wheatley roads.

Leyshon Road: Rees Leyshon (a Welshman) was appointed headteacher of Wheatley School in 1891 and served there until 1925. He was organist and choir master for 34 years at St. Mary's church and also a magistrate. The family lived in the house called 'Bryn' almost opposite the Kings Arms at the east end of Church Road. He, his wife and daughter, Winifred are buried in Wheatley churchyard.

Littleworth Road: a reference to a long-lost small medieval farmhouse (little wert) around which grew a settlement. Apparently it was highlighted on Soviet army intelligence maps of the Cold war (c1973) – anybody know why?

London Road: this was constructed in 1927 as part of a scheme which straightened main roads through many villages and at the same time provided work. It was known locally as The Cutting, replacing what is now Old London Road and skirting the combined Common Brook and Foul brook which are now culverted under London Road near the speed camera. The road has had many names – Heerpath (before 956AD), Straet (after 956AD), Turnpike Road (1789).

Louse Hill: an old land name given to any sort of insect-ridden area and probably named as a result of the tanning business here and the slaughter of lice-ridden livestock. Now much sweeter and known as Mulberry Drive.

Heritage Trail leaflets are to be found in dispensers around the village and on the website.

Check out the website www.wheatleyarchive.org.uk.

(Choose: search archive, then search by map or by keywords, decades, or word.

Multiple words in inverted commas e.g. "grocers' shops")

Steph Cox



The Merry Bells Village Hall

More Upgrades on the Way

At our last Management Meeting at the beginning of July, we reviewed our activities and results for the first half of the year.

We agreed to update our bookings system with improved broadband facilities, which have now been fitted successfully. These now fully support our recently upgraded booking system, where you can book online and automatically receive your Invoice; a new system that is working very successfully.

Another new system will be the introduction of codes to replace our electronic keycards. This means that in the future you will no longer need to collect and return your keycard from and to Wheatley Estates, who as we have written before have been, and remain, excellent partners for all we are trying to achieve on behalf of the Village Hall.

In future, when making your booking, you will automatically receive your code which will last for the duration of your booking. Our regular users of the various classes and activities will receive a unique code, which will have a longer 'shelf-life' and then continually be renewed to cover the duration of your bookings.

Please keep an eye on our website for news of the new code system and its start date.

These investments are being made to make it easier for everybody, whether you are a regular or a first time hirer to use our village hall.

Speaking of first-time hirers, we are looking for a new tenant for one of our offices, which is our largest one available. Fully carpeted, office furniture included, and with a large built-in cupboard for storage, it is ideal for a growing or start-up business. We have received from Wheatley Estates a review of local market-rates for office rentals and, as always for local businesses, we try to offer our rents below the local market-rate

At our last management meeting we also reviewed our current results and they continue to be strong. This allows us to maintain investments to improve our facilities for the benefit of the village.

So, if you are making plans for autumn and/or winter birthdays, the Merry Bells is an ideal place for your celebrations. Remember our main hall is big enough to take a bouncy castle indoors, should the weather outside not prove reliable.

That's hard to imagine at the time of writing (July) but finally, now that schools have broken up for the summer, we would like to take this opportunity of wishing you and all Wheatley families a safe and enjoyable time.

Finally, as a reminder, we still have one vacancy for an additional Trustee to join the rest of our team including our full complement of Representatives for our village organisations and societies.

The Merry Bells Trustees



Wheatley Playing Field Trust

The Wheatley Play and Activity Day took place on Saturday 4th July. It was organised by the Oxfordshire Play Association and featured free entrance and activities for children and young people. Families attended in good numbers from the opening at 11.00am until the event finished at 3.00pm. This event aims to promote play opportunities and ensure inclusion for all those taking part. It was fortunate that the weather was bright and sunny all day but not with the extreme temperatures experienced recently. The Play Day was supported by Wheatley Parish Council, Wheatley Playing Field Trust, and Wheatley Rugby Club.

The investigative work carried out during the Easter holidays in the lower and upper pavilions on the Wheatley Playing Field highlighted the repairs etc urgently

needed. These include repairs to two of the columns of the wooden framework and plumbing work necessary to upgrade the 50-year old boilers and pipework. In addition, it is hoped to complete a new drainage system with a soak-away as the original drainage has been blocked up for some time and no longer conducts rainwater away from the buildings.

Finally, if you are thinking about playing netball, football or rugby or just want to improve your fitness, please contact the clubs directly or use the Trust contact details below.

Do get in touch at:

enquiries@wheatleyplayingfieldtrust.co.uk
www.wheatleyplayingfieldtrust.co.uk

Paul Willmott | Chairman

Wheatley Ancestry Day

Who are we?

At St Mary's

Saturday 3rd October 10.30am-12.30pm

join us in planting a memorial tree
find out about our village history
learn how to trace your ancestors
stalls and refreshments

FREE ENTRY!

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- Undertake a 15 minute check visit that families find invaluable, to check on their loved ones, these visits may include: monitoring and ensuring medication is taken from a dosette box, prepare and serve breakfast, or small lunch, assist to toilet or commode or just generally monitor people's wellbeing
- 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

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

What's On this August/September



Waterperry
Gardens

FREE EXHIBITION: until 6th Sept – A Brighter View

THEATRE: 1st Aug – Treasure Island, Amphitheatre

OPERA: 7th-16th Aug – Waterperry Opera Festival, House & Amphitheatre, including workshops

22nd-23rd Aug – Waterperry 'Open House' Weekend

THEATRE: 29th Aug (matinee & evening)

– The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, Amphitheatre

THEATRE: 5th Sept – A Midsummer Night's Dream, Amphitheatre

THEATRE: 12th Sept – The Great Gatsby, Amphitheatre

FREE EXHIBITION: 19th Sept until 1st Nov

– The Stitched Garden

£5.25 PER CHILD
INCLUDING COMPASS,
STICKERS & PRIZE*



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ORIENTEERING
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UNTIL 6TH SEPT
10AM – 5:30PM, DAILY



*children must be
accompanied by an
adult, for whom the
garden entrance fee
also applies.



The **Shuttle Bus** runs until **30th August** on weekends only, from **Thornhill Park & Ride** through **Wheatley** to **Waterperry Gardens**.
Please see our website for timetable.



OPEN DAILY
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and South Oxfordshire



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info@decorareltd.co.uk
www.decorareltd.co.uk

Wheatley Churches are super excited to invite you to our holiday club 2026, for children of primary school age, at Wheatley Primary School.

The club will run from Tuesday 25th August to Friday 28th from 9.30am-1.30pm, to include a family BBQ on Friday

It is free to attend. Children can expect bible stories, games, songs, crafts, dramas, team work and an enormous amount of fun.

Wheatley Holiday Club Booking
Form



Scan the QR code to book. For questions or more information please contact office@wheatleycommunitychurch.org

**'Igniting the spark to become inquisitive learners for life, to know more, to remember more,
to achieve more'**

Places now available

We are a stand alone Maintained Nursery School, led by qualified teachers and early years professionals specialising in Early Education.

We offer varied, enticing environments that encourage independent , exploratory learning through play.

Please contact the office to arrange a visit to see our fantastic learning environment.



Littleworth Road Wheatley Oxford OX33 1NN

Tel: (01865) 598044

admin@wheatleynurseryschool.com

Please visit our website for more information

www.wheatleynurseryschool.org



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3-5 yr olds**

**Working parent 2 year old funding
available**

Disadvantage 2 year old funding

Breakfast Club

Monday -Friday 8-9am

After school Club

Monday - Thursday 3.00-5.30pm



**Nursery Hours 7:30am-5:30pm for 9 months-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 to school.

15/30 hours Government Funded spaces available.

Nature Club is running for children between the ages 9 months-11 years.

All Stars 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

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

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Wellford Gardens, Park Hill, Wheatley OX33 1ND

The Orders of St John Care Trust is a not-for-profit charity. Registered charity No. 1048355.

Notices | Clubs | Events



HOWE GUIDED WALK Sun 13th Sep 14:00

Meet at the main
allotment gate on
Windmill Lane

maggieefyffe@gmail.com

Wheatley Ancestry Day Who Are We?

St Mary's Church

**Sat 3rd Oct
10:30-12:30**

Join us in planting a
memorial tree and learn
how to trace your
ancestors

FREE ENTRY



Holton and Wheatley Cricket Club

We welcome new
players! Come and join
us in 2026. Sunday
friendlies through the
season

Contact Hugh:
07788 672864

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Open Branch Meeting

New Club 11:30

Summer Lunch

Thu 20th August

All Welcome

Please contact Lawrence
Ray if staying for lunch
01865 872899

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Open Branch Meeting

New Club 11:30

Sat 19th Sep

All Welcome

Community Larder

Thursdays
14:30 -15:30

St Mary's Church
Help reduce food
waste and support
local causes

Wheatley Gardening Club

ANNUAL SHOW

Merry Bells

Sat 5th Sept

Join WGC to compete in
the show or come along
to view exhibits from

14:00

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

Wheatley Fire Station

URGENTLY NEEDS ON- CALL FIREFIGHTERS

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@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:michael.baker@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

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SWAPSHOP

Merry Bells

Sat Sep 26th

Bring stuff
09:00-10:15

Take stuff
10:30-12:00

WHEATLEY PRODUCTIONS

Circle Mirror Transformation

By Annie Baker

URC, OX33 1UE

17th, 18th, 19th

September, 7:30pm

Tickets: [wheatley-
productions.sumupstore.com](http://wheatley-productions.sumupstore.com)

Or email us at:
wheatleyprods@gmail.com

WHEATLEY WINDMILL and SURROUNDINGS OPEN DAY

Sunday 9th August
14:00 - 18:00

The Ukulele Orchestra will
again be playing and
singing for us and cakes
and cuppas will be
available

WHEATLEY WINDMILL and SURROUNDINGS

OPEN DAY

Sunday 13th Sept
14:00 - 18:00

There will be a musical
interlude and cakes and
cuppas will be available

Wheatley Refugee
Support Group

GAIN COLLECTION

URC HALL

**Sat 19th Sept
10:00-12:00**

Good Quality Clothes,
Bedding, Survival items

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For befriending -
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and more

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WGNS here to support
our community

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**

St Mary's Ladies Guild

2:15pm URC Hall
Fourth Tuesday in month

Hear speakers touching
on many subjects and
charities
Open to all

Mary John 872909

Day by Day

MONDAY

Wheatley Oaks FC | Holton Playing Fields | 19:00-20:00 | Women 30+ | enquiries.wofc@gmail.com

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

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

Beaver Scouts | Scout Hut Holloway Rd. | Term time 18:00-19:00 | 07962 243216

Messy Monday | Maple Tree Centre | 10:00-11:30 | info@mapletree.org.uk

Twins Club | Maple Tree Centre | 14:00-16:00 | info@mapletree.org.uk

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

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

Move Together Seated Exercise | Merry Bells | 14:00-15:00 | info@flowfitness.org.uk

SOMA Yoga | Merry Bells | 18:00-19:00 | megankentx@gmail.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 | wheatleywi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

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

Wheatley Gardening Club | Merry Bells | 2nd in month | 19:30

Flow Fitness Pilates | Merry Bells | 10:00-11:00 | info@flowfitness.org.uk

Smart Start | Maple Tree Centre | 09:30-11:30 | info@mapletree.org.uk

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

St Mary's Ladies Guild | URC Hall | 4th in month | 14:15 | 01865 872909 | All welcome



WHEATLEY CARE SCHEME



TRANSPORT TO MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

For residents of Wheatley, Littleworth & Holton



07505 543 750

Mon- Fri 9am-5pm

Can you help us?

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1 hour+ a week commitment

WEDNESDAY

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

Maple Babies | Maple Tree Centre | 09:30-12:00 | info@mapletree.org.uk

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

Vinyasa Yoga | Merry Bells | 09:30-10:30 | sparkyoga1111@gmail.com | 07769 584255

Pop-up Pilates | Merry Bells | 18:00 & 19:00 | 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 | St Mary's | Term time 19:00-20:30 | Age 10+ | wheatley.guides@yahoo.co.uk

Brownies | St Mary's | Term time 17:30-19:00 | Age 7-9 | 1stwheatleybrownies@gmail.com

Rainbows | St Mary's | Term time 16:30-17:30 | Age 4-7 | wheatleyrainbows@gmail.com

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

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

Midday Holy Communion | St Mary's Church | 12:00 | vicar@stmaryswheatley.org

THURSDAY

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

Wheatley Walks | Bus Shelter, Top of Holloway | 10:00-11:00 | 01865 873430

Seated Pilates | Merry Bells | 11:30-12:30 | info@pop-up-pilates.com | 07731 321991

Prayers for the World | URC | 10:00-10:30 | 1st in month

Morning Tea or Coffee | URC | 10:30-12:00 | 1st & 3rd in month | Bring a friend

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

Wheatley Library | Open 14:00-17:00

Digital Helper | Wheatley Library | 14:30-15:30 | wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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

Time to Rhyme | Maple Tree Centre | 09:30-11:30 | info@mapletree.org.uk

The Learning Leaf | Maple Tree Centre | 14:00-15:00 | info@mapletree.org.uk

Maple Tree at Forest Hill | Forest Hill Village Hall | 10:30-12:00 | info@mapletree.org.uk

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

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

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

Day by Day

FRIDAY

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

Rhymetime | Wheatley Library | 10:00-10:30 | Ages 0-5

Little Learners | Maple Tree Centre | 10:00-11:30 | info@mapletree.org.uk

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 | Suspended during Aug & Sep 2026

Wheatley Library | Open 09:30-13:00

Storytime | Wheatley Library | 10:00-10:30 | Ages 3-7

Family Fun | Maple Tree Centre | 3rd in month | 10:00-11:30 | info@mapletree.org.uk

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

St Mary's Church | 01865 872224 | wardens@stmaryswheatley.org

- Holy Communion | 08:00
- Parish Eucharist | 10:00
- Parish Praise Service | 1st Sunday in month | 10:00
- Family Choral Evensong | 17:30

United Reformed Church | 01865 803859 | secretary@wheatleyurc.org.uk

- Morning Worship | 10:00-11:00 followed by coffee | Communion 1st Sun of month
- Pulse Wheatley Youth Group | Every week term time | 18:00-20:00
- Afternoon Tea | 1st in Month | 14:30-16:00

Wheatley Community Church | office@wheatleycommunitychurch.org

- Wheatley Primary School | 10:30



THE WHEATLEY SOCIETY

The Wheatley Society's 2026–27 programme continued with a Wildflower Walk on Watlington Hill on 3rd June which was led by Fay Banks. The walk was very successful and was timed for some outstanding flowers to be in bloom. Unfortunately, variable weather put some people off attending, but the group managed to dodge the showers and gained knowledge about what to look out for on Chalk grassland. Our thanks to Fay for researching and organising the event.

The Safari Supper took place on Saturday 11th July when about 28 people had a three-course meal in three different locations, all meeting up at the end of the evening at David Keene's house for drinks, as a way to get to know one another. Grateful thanks go to those who hosted their guests and opened their homes to be hospitable. Also in July was a walk on Boars Hill taking in a variety of locations which offer wildflowers, cultivated gardens, sculpture, and of course the famous views to Oxford and beyond. Our thanks go to Caroline Sherriff for researching and organising the walk, and for leading it.

The Wheatley Society has no events organised in August but in September, on Wednesday 16th at 3pm, there is an organised visit to the BMW Mini works in Cowley. The visit has a maximum of fifteen people on it, and there will be a charge to cover the fee that BMW levies. Details will be e-mailed to members nearer the time. Looking further ahead, the society is hosting a Craft Afternoon in the Merry Bells on Thursday 8th October at 2 pm, led by Caroline Sherriff, and there will be a talk on Friday 23rd October in the evening by Mike Palmer entitled Arctic to Antarctic. Note that the date is different from the date printed in the WS programme for the year.

We look forward to seeing you at our events. If you would like to join the Society (subscription £5 a year) please contact the Secretary, Nigel Banks (sec.wheatleysociety@gmail.com). All events are also open to non-members unless otherwise stated (cost £2).



Stuart Mabbutt and William Mankelow were our speakers in May. Many will know Stuart through his regular articles in the Wheatley Newsletter. We chose five topics to discuss.

- Garden birds: the pros and cons of feeding them. The conclusion was to feed little and often and ensure feeders are kept clean. We were also shown different bird boxes suitable for a variety of species.
- Alternative gardening included moon gardening, using white flowers to attract nocturnal insects and their predators.
- We considered how to observe wildlife by listening as well as hearing, feeling as well as touching, and seeing as well as looking.
- The connected garden means helping hedgehogs and other animals move between gardens by leaving gaps in hedges and fences.
- For bees and butterflies, choose nectar-rich flowers that bloom at different times of year. Stuart explained that, despite the challenges gardeners face in supporting wildlife, four basic things can make an enormous difference: water, dead wood, different grass heights, and a good variety of flowers and shrubs. A pond is especially valuable, as many natural ponds have been lost from our countryside.

June was our annual members' show. This year's categories were a flower arrangement in a jar using garden flowers, any item made during the year, homemade fudge for National Fudge Day, and a photograph of yourself as a child. The final category

brought many smiles and memories of childhood days. The Val Targett cake competition was also judged and a cup presented to the winner. After displaying their entries, members enjoyed scones with jam and cream and a natter with friends, before voting for their favourite entry. This was not easy, as there was a pleasing number of entries in every class.

We also had our regular stall at the biennial Play & Activity Day, selling refreshments including homemade cake. Visitor numbers were lower than in previous years, but we raised funds for future speakers. We thank members for their donations and for manning the stall.

There is no meeting in August. On 15th September we will hold a Show and Tell evening.

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 19:15. A suggested donation of £5 includes refreshments and a raffle ticket.

HISTORY SNIPPETS: AUG/SEP 1926

The pageant held at Worcester College in July was a great success and worth all the hard work of the previous months. The August meeting took place at Shotover House, home of the Institute's Vice President, Mrs Miller. Members unanimously agreed to change the meeting day from Wednesday to Tuesday, which remains our meeting day today. There was no meeting in September.

Stephanie Brooklyn

wheatleywi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk



As we have done in previous years, we plan to go out over the next few months, picking and distributing local fruit around the village to prevent it from going to waste. We had a huge harvest last year, when we collected and distributed over a tonne of fruit. Much of the fruit we collected was taken from the baskets we placed outside the shops, some was donated to the food larder, local schools, and other village groups and at the end of the season the remainder was turned into around 180 bottles of juice. Some of these were shared at our juicing event and others were given to the Howe Trust Christmas Hamper Appeal.

Please get in touch with us if:

- You could help to pick fruit which would otherwise go to waste. We organise this through a WhatsApp group fixing time and venue of each session shortly in advance, depending on the weather and availability of people and fruit. All equipment is provided. Typically, we pick in groups of three to six, each session lasting up to an hour. Even if you can only make one or two sessions it would be a big help.
- You have space where we can store fruit between picking and distributing. For the six weeks from the start of September until our apple day in mid-October we sometimes have more fruit coming in than we can distribute. Ideally a space near the centre of the village would make it easy to collect apples for the frequent topping up of the baskets at the shops.
- You have a fruit tree which you are unable to pick, or you know of a fruit tree in the village where the fruit is unpicked.
- You are involved in a group or project that could benefit from this fruit.

If you can help in any of these ways, please contact either Nick (07919 528849) or Jane (07855 739147).

We plan to hold an **apple pressing day** on **Saturday 17th October** outside the Merry Bells (10am to 1pm) where we will turn any remaining fruit into juice to distribute; you are also welcome to bring along your own apples to add to the juicing.

sustainablewheatley.org

sustainablewheatley@gmail.com

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

PS Don't forget the next **Swapshop** on **Saturday September 26th**. Bring stuff from 9am to 10:15am then take stuff from 10:30 until 12:00.

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CIRCLE MIRROR TRANSFORMATION

by Annie Baker

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For example:

- **How to Stay Well and Enjoy the Summer Months**
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Happy Summer Holidays from The Maple Tree!

Did you know that we are open all summer? We have sessions most weekday mornings for families from Wheatley and the surrounding villages. In addition, we have a Family Fun session on the 3rd Saturday of the month. On **August 15th** it will be all about Bears, so do bring your favourite Teddy Bear to that one!

Mondays: Messy Monday at 10:00-11:30am and Twins' Club at 2:00-4:00pm

Tuesdays: Smart Start at 9:30-11:30am

Wednesdays: Maple Babies at 9:30am-12:00pm

Thursdays: Time to Rhyme at 9:30-11:30am

The Maple Tree at Forest Hill Village Hall from 10:30am-12:00pm

Our new afternoon session is open to all ages; The Learning Leaf (Ready for School theme in August, designed for the children who are starting

reception in September) is from 2:00-4:00pm at The Maple Tree.

Fridays: Little Learners at 10:00-11:30am (see below)

Saturdays: Family Fun at 10:00-11:30am

We will be holding our popular Little Learners on the Road again this summer in local, surrounding villages. These sessions are designed for 0-5s, but older siblings are welcome too. Here are the dates for your diary;

14th August - Holton

21st August - Garsington

28th August – Worminghall (our first time here, so please join us!)

Watch out for our Garden Fête in September too – there'll be games, treats, prizes and a fabulous raffle too!

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

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Laura Spencer | Centre Manager

The Emma Wilson Memorial Fund

Do you know a local young person who gives their time to volunteer in our community?

Would you like to nominate them for an award?

The Emma Wilson Awards are made to young members of the Wheatley/Littleworth community and Wheatley Park School students, in recognition of their voluntary contribution to school or community life. In the past few years, awards have been given to young people who volunteer by coaching sporting activities, helping at charity events, litter picking, and giving time and skill to help with children's musical activities in the village.

The Emma Wilson Young People's Initiative Fund, which is part of the EWMF, contributed to the students of Wheatley Park School's environmental project, particularly their tree planting initiative.

Nominations of young people up to the age of 21 are always welcome. If you would like to nominate a young person for an award, or would like to find out more information, then please contact the trustees either by using the google form in the QR code or at tinyurl.com/EWMFform or by email at emmawilsontrust@gmail.com



Not The Fun Run 2026

It was the hottest day in May on record, 34 degrees! But some brave and/or foolish Wheatleyites assembled like superheroes to defy the elements and do the legendary fun run course over Shotover hill and back again!

Peter Bayliss at 70 1/2 years was the only walker completing the course at a trot in 1 hour 11 mins.

1st home for the runners was **Stuart Faulkner** aged 47 in 37 mins. 2nd his wife **Cicely Arthur** aged 40 in 45:32 and soon to star in a Wheatley Production Play - Don't miss it! 3rd was **Caroline Chauasse** aged 57 in 48:31. 4th Jointly, again, **Colin Campion** aged 72 and **William Schofield** aged 40 in 49:41. 6th **Celia Pagel** aged 66 in 56:32.

Didn't they do well! Their deeds this steamy day will stand as monuments to human courage and determination!

Thanks to my son **Matthew Turner** for his performance as The Time Lord, soon to co-star with **Cicely** - and I hope you are inspired to join us next year 11am May Bank Holiday - walkers 10.30am. Best wishes.

Jack Turner (not the organiser)

INTRODUCE YOUR CHILDREN TO NATURE

Looking for something to do with your children or grandchildren this summer? Discover The Howe - Wheatley's largest community natural green space – it's FREE to visit and right here on your doorstep!

They'll see rare breed sheep and hear the chirping of the hedgerow birds. Overhead they'll discover the distinctive whistle of the red kites or the yaffle call of green woodpeckers. Our long grass is also full of life – from caterpillars, butterflies and ladybirds to grasshoppers and beetles. And if they're very quiet and still, then they might even catch a glimpse of a dragonfly or a newt, frog or diving beetle in our wildlife ponds.



Photo: Vitolda Klein on Unsplash

FREE GUIDED WALK ON THE HOWE - Sunday 13th September @2pm

Learn all about how we care for the land, our work with local children and young people, and how nature is responding to the improvements our volunteers are making to the habitats. Walks start at the main, central gate to the allotments on Windmill Lane at 2pm. Note: Booking not required. Walks generally take approx. 45-60 mins and are suitable for all the family; however, the terrain is not generally suitable for buggies and requires a reasonable level of fitness and the ability to cope with walking on uneven and muddy ground. Dogs on leads welcome.

How to Get in Touch

Get more information on our work, how to get involved as a volunteer or enquire about applying for an allotment on The Howe via our website www.howetrust.org.uk.



VACANT ALLOTMENTS

What is an Allotment? “An allotment is a small piece of ground in or just outside a town (or village) that a person rents for growing vegetables, fruits, or flowers”.

The Wheatley allotments are situated along Windmill Lane (off Ladder Hill) on the Howe Trust land and provide a valuable community asset boosting health and wellbeing for its tenants, and enabling people to grow their own fresh fruit and vegetables with all the associated benefits.

Very few allotment sites are situated in such a beautiful location as the Howe with views stretching over the village and beyond.

The Howe Trust Allotment Association manages 110 allotment plots and is open to anyone living in the local area. Allotment plots vary in size; whole plots measure about 190 sq.mtrs, half plots around 100 sq.mtrs. We have 5 limited-term mini plots, designed for those wanting to try “allotmenting” and 14 raised beds measuring 8’x4’ for those who have difficulty working at ground level. The raised beds are surrounded by concrete paving slabs to facilitate access. Annual rental is currently £30 for a whole plot, £25 for a half plot and £10 for mini plots and raised beds.

We currently have a number of plots available and would welcome new members, both beginners and those with more experience. This is an ideal time to take on an allotment and summer vegetables can still be planted. This would still leave plenty of time to prepare for next year. For inexperienced veg growers we have members who are happy to provide help and advice. There is also a communal shed with tools to borrow to help you get going. For more information on the allotments and/or getting a plot or raised bed please contact:

Ivan Trotman, 01865 874436 or complete an allotment request form available from the Howe Trust website, howetrust.org.uk/allotments.

Helen Cross | Admin Secretary

2026/27 GRANTS FOR APPRENTICES, STUDENTS, TRAINEES

The Trustees of Wheatley Charities offer training/education grants to residents of the Parish of Wheatley (including Littleworth but not Holton!) and are prepared to award funds in support of some of the costs of on-the-job training or academic study. **Applicants must be under the age of 25.**



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Ralf Eller | Secretary

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“Poet and Plumber”

Oxfordshire Contemporary Opera is a charity, based in Wheatley, which stages live events as a means of providing experience for young people pursuing a career in live musical performance and direction. Four works have been performed previously to positive acclaim.

The fifth, “Poet and Plumber”, is now underway and we hope you will look forward to attending the final productions. Performances will take place in St Mary’s Parish Church, Wheatley from 14th to 16th July, 2027.

“Poet and Plumber” was written originally by Kit Arnold with piano accompaniment by Roger Simmonds. It is a highly entertaining comic opera set in a village hall where a “Night of Poetry” is proposed to raise funds to repair its loos. Local talent, of which there is no shortage in Wheatley, performed the piece. Now it is being revised and fully orchestrated by Roger Simmonds. Already the first milestones have been reached with the appointment of a Musical Director, David Todd, and an Artistic Director, Marcus Davis-Orrom. In addition, recent auditions have identified the young professional singers who will bring to life the main characters.

To make a success of “Poet and Plumber” we need to raise funds. Three musical events have already set the ball rolling but now it is time to scale up this activity. The next event is on October 3rd 2026 when Marcus Davis-Orrom will be interviewed by Rachael Cave. They both performed in the original version. **Information:** roy@oxcontemporaryopera.org.



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

COMING UP:

Saturday 22nd August: Charity Darts Event (11:30am, £11 to enter)

Saturday 29th August: Charity Darts Event (£11 to enter)

Saturday 19th September: Disco and Karaoke (8pm-late)



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 Always take out travel insurance and make sure it covers your type of trip and destination



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Wheatley United Reformed Church

01865 803859 | secretary@wheatleyurc.org.uk

URC News

It's always a bittersweet time of year to work with young people and see them leave for fresh challenges and adventures. Many in the village have got to know Sophie Block, our latest Time for God volunteer. Her many contributions include helping the Pulse youth group; organising two family craft days; supporting Wheatley Park School's Shine group for students with parents in prison and its wellbeing course; helping the carer and toddler group at The Maple Tree; assisting at Brownies; and helping with Sunday morning coffee, itself a large undertaking.

Sophie has remarked on Wheatley's wonderful community, its warm welcome and the pleasure of different generations worshipping together. She is off to study education at Munster University in Germany, specialising in Pedagogy, German and Psychology, and goes with our deepest thanks and good wishes. Next academic year brings a pause in our Time for God schedule, but funding remains for future occasions.

Further afield, work at the Falcon School near Harare in Zimbabwe moves on apace. Staff accommodation is complete and full electrification is progressing. More exciting still is a move towards self-sufficiency, with neighbouring land producing crops and eggs for sale in a desperately poor country where government cannot provide basic education for every community. A future edition will explain how Wheatley can help.

On 11th July, it was an honour to attend a retrospective and delicious lunch for well-known Wheatley (just) octogenarian Richard Bainbridge, joined by family, friends from other faith communities and many of our congregation. Newer villagers learnt of his years in Durham and Barnsley before arriving here in the 1970s, while many were surprised and delighted by his choice of music. Richard is a shining example of inter-faith dialogue.

On a topic dear to my own heart, we hold a Fairtrade Church certificate, providing tea, coffee and sugar for church and community functions. Our coffee comes from Indigo Valley in Burford, and equipment and Fairtrade beverages from Kingdom Coffee in Reading, reducing our carbon footprint. Pop in on the first or third Thursday at 10:30 to try some in the church hall.

Mike Matejtschuk

St Mary's Church

01865 872224 | vicar@stmaryswheatley.org

Dear Friends

August and September always bring a unique rhythm to our village. August invites us to slow down and enjoy the height of summer. September then turns our minds toward the changing seasons, the start of a new school term, and the arrival of autumn.

As we look at the fields and gardens around us changing during these two months, I am reminded of the words from Galatians 6:9:

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do

Wheatley Community Church

office@wheatleycommunitychurch.org

What is Church?

Have you wondered why a church might meet in a primary school hall? Is it even a real church if it doesn't have a beautiful old building?

Well Google AI says, 'Yes, being a church is about the community and faith, not the building—many Christian congregations gather in schools, rented halls, or community centres.' That's a relief for folk from Wheatley Community Church, where you won't find an ancient building, people in robes, statues, candles, or stained glass. Those things are extras. I cherish Oxfordshire's ancient places of worship, but in the Bible the church is simply Jesus' followers meeting together round the word of God – wherever they might meet. The very earliest description of the church was a group of believers who "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

That's a fair summary. At WCC our gatherings are centred around a sermon from the apostle's teaching: the Bible. It's the most astonishing book ever written, with 7.5 billion copies in print, reflecting its claim to be the written word of God.

There's fellowship: from toddlers in creche, kids and youth on Sundays and groups mid-week, families, through to those in old age. A varied group of people sharing life together in community throughout the week. Perhaps you've met a bunch of us in Bruin's or putting on a holiday club.

Breaking of bread is a very simple meal we share together to convey that fellowship with each other, and with Jesus. And prayer: well, if reading the Bible is how we listen to God, prayer is simply talking to God, which, if you think about it, is a pretty amazing thing to do.

Curious? Get in touch to find out more.

www.wheatleycommunitychurch.org,

or email us at office@wheatleycommunitychurch.org.

Tim Hinks | Pastor

not give up."

This Bible thought is a beautiful reminder for our community. A good harvest requires patience, steady care, and working together. The same is true for our village. The small

kindnesses we show to our neighbours over the summer months—a quick chat over the fence, checking on someone living alone, or helping a family get ready for the new school year—all help to grow a stronger, warmer community.

Our church doors here at St Mary's remain wide open to everyone. Whether you wish to join our upcoming Harvest celebrations in September or attend our much-anticipated 'Ancestry Day'! ...or simply to find a quiet space for reflection, you are always most welcome.

Wishing you all a peaceful conclusion to the summer and a fruitful start to the autumn.

Revd Clare Joyce

Our Lady of Lourdes

01865 762433 | corpuschristi.oxford@rcaob.org.uk

Giving Thanks in Wheatley

I enjoy reading other people's contributions to the Newsletter – and tend to track down *the God Slot* in other publications too. But I am particularly impressed by the URC who manage to put out their own monthly newsletter throughout the year. Not only is it an info sheet for the URC community concerning their own services but it is also 'newsy' and of interest to the whole village, outlining their activities and engagement throughout the world.

Cara Heafey's Reflection on Gratitude in the June edition gave me pause for thought. Quoting the short verse from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God*, she pointed out that this is a pretty tall order!

Shocked by the Venezuelan earthquake and its deaths and suffering, we live in a world ravaged by war, hunger, and starvation, even in a world where the smartest technologies are created in an atmosphere almost preconditioned to ignore the sacred (Magnifica Humanitas, Pope Leo XIV). Leo alerts us to wake up and become aware, emphasising Cara's wise advice (from Henri Nouwen) to develop our spiritual disciplines.

Gratitude is a spiritual discipline which extends far beyond our churches into the very heart of our Village; it affects our very personae. Each week in our bidding prayers at Our Lady of Lourdes, we pray and give thanks for the Church in the world, by which we include our village and each other. As I reflect on the curious circumstances by which we were drawn to live in Wheatley, I can see a guiding hand helping us to make the choice for which I give thanks. But you have to look for it – it's not just happenstance.

So, it is easy to miss out on those opportunities to give thanks - from Cara's geese and goslings on the river to expressing our gratitude to each other at the sign of peace in church or sharing in the bread and wine – we must continually nourish our spiritual bodies to prepare us for our lives ahead in this world and the next.

Expressing our gratitude for and to each other is a start – but when we open our eyes to see more clearly, like Cara we can find gratitude for the smallest things.

John Guy



REVIVAL at St Mary's

Summer into Autumn

A crowded summer at St Mary's featured concerts by the excellent CJ Jazz Ensemble, and the wonderful Whitchert Chorale, followed by a hugely enjoyable Quiz Evening, courtesy of Val Wolstenholme.



Wheatley Area Churches

gordon.ewbank@gmail.com

Wheatley Area Churches

As I write, the last few days have been hot, very hot, and breathless, sapping energy before you've even done anything! Today is different. It's still very hot but there is a breeze, bringing a welcome sense of refreshment and life.

The Holy Spirit is described in the Bible as the breath of God, bringing new life and strength to the weary and new hope where hope had been failing.

There are many signs of hope in our village, but one of those is the friendship and cooperation between our local churches, under the banner of Wheatley Area Churches (WAC). The WAC committee meets quarterly to plan an annual rhythm of joint events. Some of these, like the village Carol service, will be familiar to many. Others, like our monthly joint services at Wellford Gardens, less so.

This summer our churches are coming back together again to run a children's holiday club in late August (contact office@wheatleycommunitychurch.org for details). For many of us who've been part of our community for a few years, this brings back happy memories of many past summer clubs and excitement that this is happening again – a new season, a new generation but the same hope!

With new ministers arriving over the last 12 months at St. Mary's, Wheatley Community Church and now Wheatley URC, WAC will be reviewing our programme this autumn to see where God might be leading us next. Like the wind, the Holy Spirit never stays still for long.

Gordon Ewbank | WAC Chair

Dates for your Diary:

- **Saturday 3rd October 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 pm.** Wheatley Ancestry Day: 'Who are we?' Join us for a memorial Tree Planting Ceremony; learn about Wheatley and family histories. Stalls, Talks, and Refreshments. Free Entry
- **Thursday 22nd to Saturday 24th October 7.30 p.m.** A thrilling production of Dr Faustus by Christopher Marlowe (Details from treasurer@stmaryswheatley.org)

The Revival Team

Royal British Legion 2026 Poppy Appeal

The 2026 Poppy Appeal will run from **THURSDAY 22nd OCTOBER 2026 to WEDNESDAY 11th NOVEMBER**. In an attempt to continue the increase in the amount that the branch raises it is hoped, again, to collect at the Welcome Break M40 service area and in the Foyer at ASDA. Covering all the two-hour collecting slots between 09:00 and 17:00 each day requires a sizeable team of volunteers. I will be contacting all previous collectors, though if you feel I've missed you out please let me know. Unfortunately, the group of regular volunteers is becoming smaller and older, so new recruits are always needed. So, if you feel you wish to get involved in collecting for this worthwhile cause and you could spare 2 hours to collect at one of the venues above, please contact me on: garethmorris76@hotmail.co.uk or 07713 484090 to volunteer your services or for more information.

It can be quite uplifting talking to people both local and from overseas about their own or their families' experiences of military service.

Wheatley Royal British Legion Branch Meetings.

The dates of the open branch meetings for August and September are as follows:

Thursday 20th August (Summer Lunch)

Saturday 19th September

Both at the New Club – doors open 11.30am

All are welcome but please let Lawrence Ray know (01865 872899) if you are staying for lunch.

Please remember that we are always on the lookout for new members and you do not have to have served in the Forces to join us. So, if you would like to join the Royal British Legion and support our armed services community please contact me:

Gareth Morris (07713 484090 or garethmorris76@hotmail.co.uk)

Gareth Morris | Wheatley and District Branch | Poppy Appeal Organiser

SODC Waste Collections — August & September 2026

Collection day Monday unless *changed	Which bins and other items?
Aug 3rd & 17th Sep *1st, 14th & 28th	Green, brown, food, oil, textiles, batteries
Aug 10th & 24th Sep 7th & 21st	Grey, food, oil, 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 Peter Ramsdale | peter.ramsdale@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 | 07427 343080 | merrybells.org.uk
The Howe Trust | Chair | Maggie Fyffe | 07889 639986 | howetrust.org.uk
Wheatley Library | 01865 815204 | 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
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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
Oxford Bus Co. (400 P&R, NU1, 46) | 01865 785400 | oxfordbus.co.uk
National Rail Enquiries | 03457 484950 | nationalrail.co.uk

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