WHEATLEY NEWS

Published by Wheatley Parish Council



Paved With History - Page 16
Bee Kind This Winter - Page 48
Be A Hamper Helper - Page 58

Wheatley PARISH COUNCIL

We are a Fairtrade Village

FAIRTRADE

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 **14th 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 for further details and to download a booking form.

Meetings & Dates

Full Parish Council
Merry Bells, 19:30
7th December
4th January

Planning Cmte.
Parish Office, 19:30
9th December
13th January

Finance Cmte.
Parish Office, 19:30
21st December

Open Spaces Cmte.
Parish Office, 19:30
18th January

Parish Surgery
Parish Office, 09:30 - 11:30, Every Wednesday

WHEATLEY NEWS

Publisher & Billing Enquiries
Wheatley Parish Council
The Parish Office
The Merry Bells
89 High Street
Wheatley, OX33 1XP
01865 875615
clerk@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Editor & Artwork/Content Enquiries
Pete Collinson
newsletter@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

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. Furthermore, inclusion of an advertisement does not imply endorsement by Wheatley Parish Council or the Editor.

Chair's Column

Gosh, this has come round quickly. The Christmas fair will be at the end of the month and I'm sure it will be another successful event.

Business is continuing at the parish, and we are very close to completion of the lease on the Community Park on Littleworth Road. We have lots of tree work to do to remove the dead and diseased trees, enabling the existing healthy trees to thrive, so there will be a lot of immediate work to be done.

As you know, the Flood Alleviation Pond work will begin in March next year. When it is complete, we will be landscaping and planting to enhance the biodiversity in the area.

There will be a lot of spoil from the digging out, so we aim to use it to create safe activity trails for junior (and senior) cyclists. Last month we met representatives from 'OX Trails' who are very excited about our project and will help us with the design. We will also be putting up a fence between the Community Park and the School to protect the land. So – lots to do and there will be more news as we develop and provide other amenities as part of this 5-year (at least) project.

Negotiations are continuing to acquire the Cadet Hut on Littleworth Road. The landowners have now offered to sell the parish council the land that the hut sits on – so we will see how negotiations progress on that. The Hut has been gifted to us, so it would be lovely for the site to be a village asset for the future.

Last Saturday I was a volunteer collector with Gareth Morris for the Royal British Legion at Welcome Break Services. I was struck by the generosity of those who were visiting the services on that day and continue to be humbled by those who give what they can to support our veterans. Despite the economic outlook, people still aspire to support others, which can be seen on a daily basis in our village. We have a lot to be thankful for and look forward to.

I'm sure I will see you out and about in the run-up to Christmas, but if not, enjoy the seasonal holidays and the very best wishes from us to you.

Alison Sercombe
alisonsercombe@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Clerk's Column

Parish Councillors

New Councillors

At the meeting of the 2nd November, the Council co-opted Helen Smith to the Parish Council – welcome Helen! Contact details for Councillor Smith are on our website.

Vacancies

Wheatley Parish Council has seats for 15 councillors. We are thrilled to have two new councillors, but there is one vacancy remaining. The Council meets 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 and Artisan Markets.

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, and to 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.

Parish Councils Demystified

For this edition of Parish Council demystified, I will talk about grounds maintenance.

The Parish Council contracts out various areas of grounds maintenance. These include:

Recreation grounds
Littleworth Green
Wheatley Village Green, High St
Coopers Close Amenity area
Highway verges and footpaths within 30mph zone

Within these areas, other elements we carry out include weed maintenance, hedge cutting/ strimming, and graffiti removal.

The Parish Council also has a grounds maintenance team who carry out routine items such as litter bin emptying, weekly recreation ground inspection, and the mowing of the Memorial Grounds.

Oxfordshire County Council cuts verges once per year. They have published a schedule of cutting which can be found on their website:
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/street-maintenance-z/verges

There can be other areas of vegetation which can need attention as well such as hedges overhanging pavements, weeds on pavements, trees. For these issues, the best way to report these is via Fix My Street: fixmystreet.com

Sometimes residents may notice issues on public rights of way. 'Public Rights of Way' is the term for public footpaths (for walkers only), bridleways (for walkers, horse riders and cyclists), restricted byways (for walkers, horse riders, cyclists and horse drawn carriages) and byways open to all traffic (BOATs): Open to all types of transport, including cars, motorcycles, cyclists, and pedestrians. Issues on Public Rights of Way can be reported to Oxfordshire County Council's Countryside Access team via:
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/countryside/countryside-access/public-rights-way/report-footpath-issue

Due to the budget constraints and lack of resources, the Countryside Access team encourages others to keep an eye on local public rights of way. Oxfordshire Area Ramblers have Parish Path Wardens who keep an eye on local public rights of way, reporting issues noticed to the Countryside Access team. Stiles and gates are the responsibility of the landowner. Bridges are the responsibility of the County Council. If you do come across any issues with regards to rights of way, please feel free to contact the Parish Clerk. Thank you to landowners, wardens and all who are assisting in making our rights of way enjoyable for all.

If you do have an issue regarding grounds maintenance and are unsure of how to report it, please feel free to contact the Clerk to the Parish Council who can point you in the right direction.

Thames Valley Police – Have your say

As you may be aware Thames Valley Police (TVP) runs 'Have Your Say' sessions, held by local neighbourhood teams, which provide the opportunity for residents to discuss any issues affecting their area or chat about crime prevention measures.

New PCSO Anna Fritsch will be holding TVP's next 'Have Your Say' day in Wheatley outside of the Merry Bells on the 19th December, 17.00 -19.00.

Officers will be on hand to offer advice, discuss local issues, and answer any questions - do go along and say hello!

Upcoming events

Wheatley Christmas Fair: Friday 27th November 14:00-20:00.

As the holiday season is upon us, I would like to take the time to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy new year! I look forward to continuing to help make Wheatley Parish the warm, welcoming place it is.

Allison Leigh | Locum Clerk | clerk@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Steve Halstead

25th June 1958 - 31st October 2026



Steve died on 31st October aged 68.

Steve and I moved from Horspath to Wheatley in 2010 and quickly settled in. We started off in Church Road before moving on to Elm Close refurbishing the houses as we went. Steve was a talented DIY-er and used his engineering skills to good effect. After retiring early Steve started working as a member of the grounds maintenance team for the Parish Council.

Steve was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer in 2024 and because the prognosis was poor he left his Parish job to concentrate on his treatment. Steve loved his Parish job and took great pride in making things better, whether that was refurbishing benches, improving things such as the play areas and memorial garden, or just generally clearing up. He enjoyed being part of the Parish team who work quietly behind the scenes keeping everything ticking over nicely for us all and, from the sounds of his tales, were great fun to work with.

Steve was involved with Scouting in Huddersfield as a boy from Cubs to being a Scout leader, and he was in the Scout Pantomime for over 30 years. Steve was in the Huddersfield Scout band when, in 1974, they came to Horspath to take part in the Scout band championship. He and I met there as teenagers (I was a Girl Guide) and wrote to each other with occasional visits over the next two years before we lost touch. 27 years on we were reunited and he moved south 2 years later. We have had the most wonderful marriage and family life together. Steve saw good in everything and everyone, and enjoyed meeting people as he worked or was out walking Wilbur our cockerpoo.

Thank you to everyone who has sent their condolences on Steve's death, he was the best of men, my sweetheart, and will be so sadly missed by all who loved him.

Lorraine Halstead

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

POPPY APPEAL

Wheatley & District Branch Report

The copy deadline for this newsletter was during the period of this year's Poppy Appeal, so a final figure can't be given as yet. One unfortunate development this year was that ASDA, nationwide, has only allowed collections on its premises for six of the possible 19 days. All other supermarkets have allowed collection for the whole period. The consequence for Wheatley Branch is that it is unlikely to raise as much as last year.

I would like to thank all those who have sat at desks at either Welcome Break Service Area or ASDA, the many retail outlets which allowed us to place collecting tins on their counters, and, of course, you, the residents of Wheatley, for giving so generously to the cause.

If you ever doubted how the Poppy Appeal enables the Royal British Legion to help veterans facing hardship after serving in the armed forces, two encounters at Welcome Break Services brought this into sharp focus. First, a woman who had served in the Royal Navy owed her survival after leaving the service to the Legion. In a separate conversation, a young man said that his family had been helped enormously by the Legion to set up home following the discharge of one of the parents.

At the Branch's Annual General Meeting held in October, Laurence Ray was re-elected Chairman, while Andy Masterman and I were re-elected Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. I also retain the positions of Poppy Appeal Organiser and Standard Bearer.

The Branch is always on the lookout to recruit new members. Remember that you do not have to have served in the Armed Services to become a member.

Gareth Morris | Branch Secretary | Poppy Appeal Organiser & Standard Bearer
07713 484090 | garethmorris76@hotmail.co.uk

MASSAGE To Match Your Needs

Lymphoedema Management | MLD for Post-Operative Care | Deep Tissue Massage | Traditional Relaxation Massage

To book or get more guidance on how I can help

Call **07803 031 469**

Linda Fowles BA, ITEC, FHT, BLSM, MLDUK MLD and Massage Therapist

Centaur Chiropractic, South Oxford Business Park, Lower Rd, Garsington OX44 9DP



Wheatley Dental Practice | 01865 873314

We are currently accepting new patients at our friendly local dental surgery.
Please phone our receptionists or call in for more details!
Tooth whitening and facial aesthetic treatments available.

Dental Surgeons: Catherine Peers BDS, Claudia Conde MClinDent London
Dental Hygienists: Rachel Hyde, Pranvera Breshanaj

96 Church Road, Wheatley, OX33 1LZ
wheatleydental@gmail.com

Wheatley Complementary Therapy Clinic.



Gift Vouchers Available

New Therapists Welcome



We offer a range of non-invasive, holistic treatments



Massage



Reiki



Acupuncture



Homeopathy



Reflexology



Counselling



Aromatherapy



Foot Health

45A High Street, Wheatley, Oxford OX33 1XX

www.wheatley-clinic.co.uk | Mark: 07881 516969

ABOUT FACE Hair & Beauty

AWARD WINNING UNISEX HAIR AND BEAUTY SALON IN OXFORDSHIRE --FOR Haircutting, styling -Organic, Vegan Colours-Perming-WEDDING Hair & Makeup-All Waxing - Electrolysis -Red Vein Removal-CACI natural face lift Facial-.OAP rates follow the window.

Call 07711336092 to book your Appt.
42 Church Rd Wheatley OX33 1LZ

OXSPINES OSTEOPATHY

for the whole community, from babies to over 80s

Swift, effective pain relief. Fixed in a few sessions.
No need for a long NHS wait. Highly respected clinic.

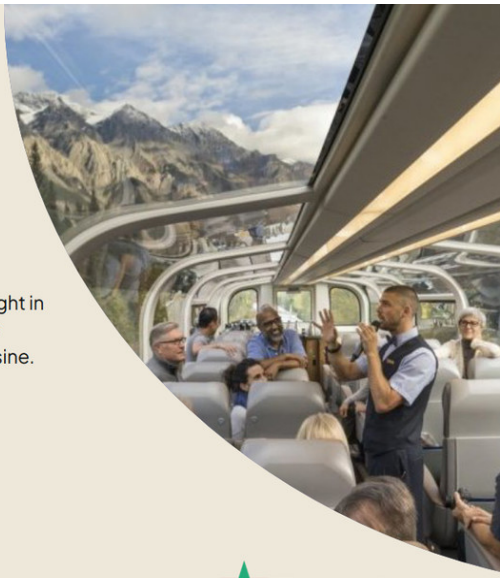
Call **07894 151654** or book online: **www.oxspines.com/book**

90 High Street Wheatley OX33 1XP

travel counsellors

The Rocky Mountaineer

Travel through the majestic Rocky Mountains embarking on a world-renowned train journey aboard the incredible Rocky Mountaineer! Delight in immersive nature experiences, stay in luxurious mountain retreats and indulge in incredible cuisine. Ask me for details!





Janet Lewis

TRAVEL COUNSELLOR

01865 989770

Janet.lewis@travelcounsellors.com
travelcounsellors.com/Janet.lewis

Trustpilot

OAK HAIRDRESSING

STRENGTH~GROWTH~INDIVIDUALITY

01865 872830

72 High Street, Wheatley, Oxford, OX33 1XP | oakhairdressing@outlook.com

CORNFIELD BAKERY

CHRISTMAS AT CORNFIELD BAKERY

Our shop is filling up with Christmas favourites, from traditional mince pies to our festive sourdoughs, alongside plenty of lovely treats for the Christmas table.



On the 27th of November we'll be at the Wheatley Village Christmas Market.

Browse our Christmas goodies, enjoy one of our freshly made pizzas & warm up with a Bailey's Hot Chocolate.



JOIN OUR NEWSLETTER FOR UPDATES & OFFERS
WWW.CORNFIELDBAKERY.COM

01865 872682
76 HIGH STREET,
WHEATLEY

durban spice
'A little taste of my childhood'

Durban Spice - A popular Supper Club and private caterer in Wheatley, Oxfordshire

Durban Spice Supper Club is something truly unique where we offer traditional South African influenced cuisine served in the comfortable surroundings of our home restaurant. Our food has its roots in Indian, Dutch, Malay & African heritage. It is fragrant, full of flavour with a touch of spice.

We offer a variety of set menu options on most Friday and Saturday nights ranging from 3 – 5 courses and often do pop up take away nights! We are available for private event bookings as well.

Follow us on Facebook/Instagram to keep in the loop with upcoming events & take aways

Shabir Ally – 07378322881 shabs@durbanspice.co.uk **www.durbanspice.co.uk**

LE SECRET GARDEN
at The Plough

Paolo and Admira invite you to Le Secret Garden, where Mediterranean flavours and French technique meet with warm, relaxed hospitality in the heart of Great Haseley.



Handcrafted dishes made with locally sourced ingredients

Signature seafood, tender meats, and vibrant vegetarian creations

Elegant wines and artisanal desserts that complete every meal

Alongside our regular service, look out for our Chef's Wednesday Specials, a seasonal set menu at a tempting midweek price. And our signature Sunday lunch.

Weddings / Birthdays / Private Occasions

Available Sunday Roast

Every Wednesday: Mediterranean Food Themes

Wednesday – Thursday
12:00–15:00 & 18:00–21:30

Friday – Saturday
12:00–15:00 & 18:00–22:00

Sunday
12:00–16:00

Le Secret Garden at The Plough
Rectory Road, Great Haseley
OX44 7JQ

01844 279283
@le_secret_garden_
@Le Secret Garden at the Plough
hello@lesecretgarden.co.uk


The New Club
Est 1937
Wheatley
NEW YEAR'S EVE
OPEN 4PM – 1AM
Live Music from
Breeze Duo
from 8pm
Disco with Domino Dave
NYE TICKETS
Members £5 | Non Members £10
PARANORMAL NIGHT
WITH WORLD RENOWNED
PARANORMAL INVESTIGATOR,
Dr O'KEEFFE
REAL PEOPLE. REAL INVESTIGATIONS. REAL ENCOUNTERS. REAL FEAR. IT'S REAL LIFE.
A fascinating evening of investigation & discovery.
SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER | 7–9PM | £15 A TICKET
LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE
TICKETS INCLUDE A BUFFET
AND A CHOICE OF EITHER AN ALCOHOLIC DRINK OR A SOFT DRINK.
The New Club | 3 Blenham Lane, OX33 1NJ | 01865 873530


acupuncture
at wheatley
Traditional Five Element Acupuncture
to gently restore health and wellbeing
木
WOOD
火
FIRE
土
EARTH
金
METAL
水
WATER
Calm, restful clinic at 79b High Street
Visit acupuncture-wheatley.co.uk



EXPERT
FOOT CARE
for Healthy Feet

Foot Care
— Sylvie Golec —

Foot Health Practitioner
Dip FHP MCFHP MAFHP
Member of the British Association
of Foot Health Professionals

Every first visit a neurovascular assessment and medical history check is included and repeated as and when necessary.

PROFESSIONAL TREATMENTS FOR:

- Toenail cut & file
- Fungal nail
- Ingrown toenail (UniBrace System)
- Thickened toenail
- Calluses / hard skin / cracked heels
- Corns
- Athlete's foot
- Diabetic foot care
- Nails diseases and disorders
- Reconstruction toenail
- Gel polish & nail varnish application

FULLY QUALIFIED & INSURED | EXPERIENCED & TRUSTED | PROFESSIONAL & CARING | PATIENT SAFETY IS MY PRIORITY

07500 665167
Healthy feet, happy you!

45 High Street
OX331XX WHEATLEY

foot.care_sylvie.golec
Foot Care- Sylvie Golec Wheatley

Howe & Co
QUALITY FISH & CHIPS

MOBILE FISH AND CHIP VAN
SERVING
WHEATLEY - LITTLEWORTH
PARK & FOREST HILL
(EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY EVENINGS 4PM TILL 8PM)
FULL ROAD LIST ON FACEBOOK.COM/MOBILECHIPPY

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO TRACK THE VANS LOCATION & SIGN UP TO THE CHIPPY CLUB TO RECEIVE OUR MONTHLY SCHEDULE



WWW.CHIPVANS.CO.UK

ALL EVENTS CATERED FOR

colombia
coffee roasters
oxford

Enjoy Our Seasonal Coffee Drinks





Made of the best, carefully sourced Colombian Coffees.

Visit us to see first-hand our coffee roastery and enjoy a cup made by our highly-skilled, award-winning baristas, or get a bag of your favourite coffee.

Ask our team for recommendations!

FOLLOW US!

@colombiacoffeeroasters
@colombiacoffeeroasters
Colombia Coffee Roasters

Unit 30, Wheatley Business Centre, Old London Road, OX33 1XW.

Open from Monday to Saturday
8AM - 2 PM
Walk-ins welcome.

Learn more about us!

Introductory Courses in

Practical Philosophy with Meditation

for a wiser, happier life

Ten weekly sessions lasting approximately 2¼ hours, including refreshments starting at:

Waterperry Gardens:

Sat 16th Jan 2027, 2pm-4:15pm

Wesley Memorial Church, Oxford:

Monday 11th Jan 2027, 7:00-9:15PM

For further details

schoolofphilosophyoxford@gmail.com

www.schoolofphilosophyoxford.org

07856 197881

Registered charity numbers 313115 and SC039950





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 year, awards have been given to young people who volunteer by coaching children's sporting activities, by helping with environmental projects and by giving their time to serve and befriend members of the community at lunch and tea events.

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 (scan the QR code) or at tinyurl.com/EWMFform, or by email at emmawilsontrust@gmail.com.

The Emma Wilson Memorial Fund

Who spotted the missing roads (again!)? Please let me know if you spot any more!

Littleworth Park has been omitted so…….

Littleworth Park (mobile home site) and Coopers Close are built on the site of several small industries which were built on what was Littleworth brickworks which closed in 1939 at the onset of war. Littleworth brickworks had, in turn, replaced Kiln Lane brickworks in 1892 when the clay there had become exhausted. The works at Littleworth were a thriving business in 1936 employing 67 men; making 150,000-160,000 bricks a week: two-thirds of which were hand-made.

The brick business in Littleworth took place on 2 acres of a 13-acre site. The business may, by then, have become part of the London Brick Company. After the closure the area was used for a variety of purposes. In the early 1950s, there was a grass-drying factory which occasionally caught fire "entertaining" the local children who often followed the Wheatley Voluntary fire brigade's engines, according to Tom Hassall. The dried grass was turned into animal feed and chlorophyll products. At the end of the 1950s part of the factory was used, for a short while, by an animal waste recycling plant, which included bone-grinding, to manufacture glue. It was notorious for the smell which used to waft over the village on the southwest wind. Both these previous uses were replaced by a Rover spare parts business called Cohen and Windsor, then G R Nixey's plant hire business which may have also sold building supplies and other small industries. The site of the old Littleworth Brickworks is now occupied by Coopers Close (previously known as Balmoral Drive), mobile homes in Littleworth Park, and light industrial units.

Several Wheatley houses and cottages were built using Wheatley/Littleworth bricks – is yours?

Now to return to our coverage of road derivations:

Park Hill – this road linking the village to the A40 stands on high ground outside the wall of the former Holton Park with large, detached houses and a new (2025) care home.



Wellford Gardens – *OSJCT Care Home*

According to Miss Ellen Gunn (a past resident of Wheatley) one house was a convalescent home, another belonged to an ex headteacher of Wheatley Park School and another (at a different period - The Mount) to John Juggins: a well-known resident and churchwarden of Wheatley who "kept a cockpit under the floor" much to the disdain of Rev. Elton.

The Mount was the first house on Park Hill in the 1880s but, by 1898, there were another four houses built by Mr Joseph Cooper, the owner of the brick kilns.

Plough Road – a drovers' road which ran from Wheatley Bridge to the crest of Bullsdown around the back of the Plough Inn (currently a tattoo parlour). In 1593 it was known as

'The Way from Wheatley Bridge'. NB: There were, however, no drovers roads *through* Wheatley.

Roman Road – This is not a Roman road but takes its name from a Roman villa or farmhouse of the 3rd century AD which was unearthed on Castle Hill in 1847. It is a continuation of Crown Road and terminates in fields near the river Thame.

Oxonian Nurseries and shop in Roman Road was run by Charles Henri Paris, who was Swiss, and his wife from 1959. They specialised in Alpine plants and lived in Gardencroft.

St Mary's Close – a development of private and local authority sheltered housing built in 1987 on land that formed part of the original primary school grounds and church. There is a beautiful horse chestnut tree still there which was in the school playground.

Simon's Close – according to Wheatley ex-resident, John Fox, Symons or Syms owned a field here in the 17th century which was rented out for a local charity. There are 12 properties now: 8 mid-20th century houses and 4 more recent additions.

Station Road – this led from the High Street to the rail station at the bottom of Ladder Hill and was named after the station, which stood there from 1864-1963. The railway line and bridge were removed in 1969 but the road name remains! The medieval chapel which stood near the crossroads had a window dedicated to St Nicholas the patron of crossroads (and Christmas!).

Sunnyside – this development off the London Road, is named after Arthur Shorter whose bungalow and orchard were on this site on London Road. The three quarter-acre plot was originally given to Charles and Elizabeth Shorter, Arthur's parents who were quarter-part tenants of the Manor House, in exchange for vacant possession in 1925.



Finally…….the Wheatley Archive would like to identify the details of these photos which were given to us recently. Please email stephjcox@gmail.com if you can help.



Pram Race – when?



Women's League of Health & Beauty
Are you there?



Carnival Queen - You?

Heritage Trail leaflets can be found in 2 dispensers around the village in Crown Square and beside the Merry Bells. Better still they're on the website!

Check out the website wheatleyarchive.org.uk

(On the website, select 'Search Archive', then search by map, keyword or decade. Put multi-word search terms in quotation marks, e.g. "grocers' shops".)

Steph Cox

The Merry Bells Village Hall

Continued Investment in Your Village Hall

As we've written in the past two Issues, there have been a lot of 'upgrades' and plans for continued investment in the Village Hall.

At the last Meeting of the Trustees and Management Committee, we decided to upgrade the seating in the Main Hall by replacing the existing chairs with lighter, easier to stack and store versions. We have had some complaints in the past that the present chairs are very heavy to carry and stack.

Also in the Main Hall, we are investigating upgrading the curtains and blinds bearing in mind that the new replacements meet the existing fire and safety regulations.

Further, we have already written about installing new electric heaters in what was known as the Coffee Room. Although our Coffee Mornings meet there three times a week with everyone welcome, we have renamed this room, as the Meeting Room with its new heating system, which can be controlled remotely to heat the room before your Meeting starts. The Meeting Room is now sustainable due to our previous investment in solar panels and storage batteries.

Whilst on the subject of heating, we are now going ahead with replacing the existing unsightly gas heaters with new modern and efficient radiators, which again can be remotely controlled. We are currently considering the three Quotes received to select the best value.

On the subject of 'warming-up' both the Meeting Room and Main Hall before your start-time, we want to remind everyone booking that the time includes an extra fifteen minutes to get ready before your start-time and an extra fifteen minutes to clear-up and vacate the Room before the next booking.

However, we have also agreed to revise our Cancellation Policy, in that if a booking is cancelled less than a week before it's due to take place, we reserve the right to charge the full booking fee. While, if the cancellation is received more than a week before the date it's due, then we again, reserve the right to charge 50% of the fee.

We have agreed to plant more drought resistant plants on our forecourt for next year and would also wish to thank our volunteers that maintain them and the Wheatley Farm Shop for supplying them.

As we wrote before, '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' and we will be continuing our support to provide the Merry Bells free-of-charge for the Fair, including Santa's Grotto.

Speaking of first-time hirers, we are still looking for a new Tenant for one of our Offices, which is our largest one available. Fully carpeted with Office Furniture and a large built-in Cupboard for storage, it is ideal for a growing or start-up Business, especially, as it's offered at below market rates.

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 plus we welcome any additional 'ad hoc' members.

If you are interested or wish to provide any feedback, please contact us on the email address below.

The Merry Bells Trustees
info@merrybells.org.uk

Wheatley Primary School

CHRISTMAS NEWS FROM WHEATLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

As you read this, you will no doubt be in the throes of Christmas preparation. At Wheatley Primary, we are doing likewise – the children have just started preparing for our Christmas performances (the staff started planning and preparing many months ago…) and we look forward to seeing many of you in our audiences.

We have benefitted from fine autumn weather which enabled us to maximise our outdoor learning activities, from playground art and outdoor science experiments to forest school adventures. Our curriculum has been further enriched by visits from community officers – we have had visits from policemen and fire officers to name a few.

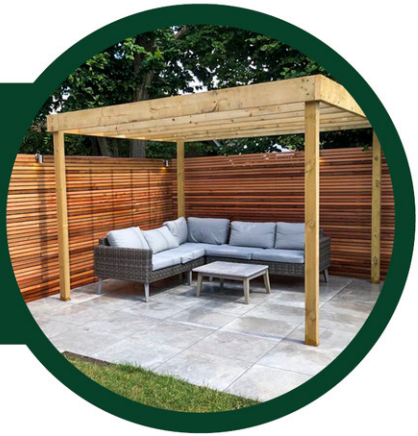
On top of our academic activities, this term has been very busy so far. You may have heard the older children in their monthly bell ringing sessions at the church, seen us on our whole school sponsored walk through Shotover, or watched us going to and from the church for our Harvest celebrations. Olive class, our Reception Early Years class, invited our friends at Wheatley Nursery and Little Cubs Childminding to come and celebrate Harvest with a morning of Harvest and Autumn related activities. We held our own remembrance ceremony, and you may have seen our wreath at the memorial gardens. At the start of November, our Y5/6 pupils took part in a netball tournament and a maths challenge afternoon competing against other local schools. Our weekly celebration assemblies are a fantastic opportunity to recognise children's achievements, both in and out of school, and our monthly family breakfasts continue to be very popular.

We would like to thank our wonderful PTA, whose members have organised a school disco and a Christmas craft workshop this term; you will no doubt see them enthusiastically manning the jam jar tombola at the Christmas Fair, where you can also watch our lovely choir performing carols.

We are delighted to welcome two new governors to our ranks and are hopeful that there are a couple more in the pipeline. If you would like to give a few hours of your time every month to support our fantastic community either as a governor or reading volunteer, please email us at the address below for more details.

Wheatley Primary School Governors
office.3165@wheatley.oxon.sch.uk

Decorare
LANDSCAPERS TO TRUST
Landscaping



OUR SERVICES

- Brickwork
- Decking
- Fencing
- Lawn
- Pathways
- Patios
- Pergolas
- Sleepers
- Structures
- Water Features
- Driveways

Buckinghamshire
and South Oxfordshire

For more information...
01844 299040
info@decorareltd.co.uk
www.decorareltd.co.uk

A.J. LANDSCAPES

Your Local Landscaper
Fully Qualified
25 Years Experience

Garden Clearance and Restoration
Trees & Hedging
Patios & Paving
Fencing& Gates
Ponds
Planting
Turf Care
Drives & Paths

Tony Young Tel: 01865 875883 Mobile: 07721043316

R Taylor Landscapes

Church Road, Wheatley.
Telephone : 01865 426001 Mobile : 07952634498
www.rtaylorlandscapes.com
e-mail : rtlandscapes@AOL.com

ALL ASPECTS OF LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION, DESIGN AND MAINTENANCE UNDERTAKEN.

Patios, decking, fencing, brickwork, turfing, block paving and general garden maintenance.
Fully Licensed and Insured.

TC LANDSCAPES

garden maintenance
decking
artificial grass laying
fencing
patios/paths
turfing

Tom Cross Wheatley Oxford
mob: 07719159549 tel: 01865 873750

GARDENER

Over 25 Years Experience (Local)

Weeding, Feeding, Mowing, Growing, Edging, Hedging and More

ALL YEAR ROUND

MARK | 07707 253491



Over 40 Years Experience
Living in Ickford with a workshop in Oakley

Lawnmower Service from £49.00
Includes: Oil Change, New Spark Plug,
New Air Filter and Removal of Belt Cover to clean

Other Machinery Repaired
Rotavators, Strimmers, Hedge Cutters, Chainsaws, Cement Mixers, Generators, Welding and Many Different Kinds of Fabrications and Repairs.

Collection and Delivery Service Available

Feel free to call with any questions.

Alan 07775 315788

ARBOCARE TREE SURGERY LTD

Qualified and Experienced Arborists

- Established over 25 years
- Contractors to the National Trust
- Crown reductions
- Thinning
- Felling
- Hedge Trimming
- Stump Grinding
- Decay Detection & Tree Reports

Free phone: 0808 1555815

Mobile: 07778811136

www.arbocare.co.uk

ARBOR
TREE SPECIALISTS

Contact Tim O'Connor for a free no obligation quote

07702 189233
arbortim@yahoo.co.uk
arbortrees.co.uk

A comprehensive service for all aspects of Tree surgery

From small garden trees to large commercial sites,
we offer a complete high quality service, including:

- Crown reduction
- Tree removals
- Stump grinding
- Hedge cutting
- Tree surveys

FAMILY RUN CLEANING BUSINESS

Private CLEANING OXFORDSHIRE

- Domestic Cleaning
- Carpet & Hard floor Cleaning
- End of Tenancy Cleaning
- Deep Cleaning & One-off Cleaning
- Office & Commercial Cleaning
- Patio & Driveway Cleaning
- Window Cleaning
- Hoarder & Bio Hazard Cleaning
- Laundry & Ironing Services

Fully-trained in Health & Safety and COSHH

Award-winning business

Locals' First-Choice Cleaning Service

Contact us now:

01865 58 08 79; 07411 606 609

www.privatecleaningoxfordshire.co.uk

CLOSED 25 DEC – 1 JAN inclusive

Get into the festive spirit this December

Waterperry Gardens

CHRISTMAS MARKET SAT 5 & SUN 6 DEC – 10AM-4PM

TEASHOP CHRISTMAS GOODIES:

Let the Teashop take the strain out of cooking, pre-order your festive treats.

• Christmas Cakes • Christmas Puddings • Mince Pies
• Luxury Preserves and more

Visit **waterperrygardens.co.uk** for more info.



CHRISTMAS TREES

The spectacular British grown Christmas trees will be on sale from the beginning of December along with hand-finished Christmas wreaths.



FIND SANTA'S REINDEER TRAIL! Daily until 24 DEC – 10am till 5pm

Help Santa find his friends lost all around the gardens and win a prize!

£4.75 per child*

*Children must be accompanied by an adult paying garden entrance fee.

A DIFFERENT PRESENT THIS CHRISTMAS



Did you know we offer **gardening courses** from January onwards? Pruning, Growing, Willow Workshops, Herbaceous Borders and more. Visit **waterperrygardens.co.uk/courses**.

Or how about a **Season Ticket** for someone special? Visit our online shop for more info.

Wheatley Morris Dancing Side

Following the success of the side's first outing on August Bank Holiday the members were keen to follow up with further dates. We danced at the final Sunday opening of the Wheatley Windmill and will be dancing at the Village's Christmas Fayre (not the traditional time for Morris Dancing admittedly).

The way in which the side has been greeted by those villagers who have seen us dance has been nothing short of amazing and has proved a great incentive for us to carry on practising through the winter in order to perfect our technique and to venture further afield next summer.

We have now got all the Wheatley dances in our repertoire and may be devising another new one!!

We practice on Wednesday evenings at 20:30–21:30 in the Merry Bells.

We are always on the look out for new dancers, young /old; male /female; experienced or no. Come along and give us a go.

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

Wheatley Windmill Preservation Society

Wheatley Windmill Preservation Society has had another successful year of showing visitors the mill and the other attractions in the paddock, which now include a mobile mill and some restored pieces of farm machinery. Local musical groups and dancers have come once again to add interest to the open afternoons, which happen every second Sunday in the month from May until October. We are working towards becoming less dependent on the inhabitants of Windmill Cottage for serving teas and cake, which is the top earner of our activities, since we don't charge for entering the mill. To this end, we have agreed with a local firm to put up a small prefabricated kitchenette on an existing concrete plinth. We will be able to serve refreshments from it next year.

The society is looking for a new treasurer. Anyone interested should email carolinedalton@gmail.com. Our present treasurer has written an explanation of what you would need to be able to do to undertake this interesting role.

Caroline Dalton | Secretary | carolinedalton@gmail.com

Wheatley WI

Follow us on Facebook: Wheatley Women's Institute

For our September meeting members had been asked to wear something purple if possible. This was to celebrate National W.I. Day, the WI's 111th anniversary.

The meeting was a Show & Tell evening. This was the first time we had held this type of meeting and it proved very enjoyable. Six members brought along things that were important to them. The items were very varied and as well as a 1920's leather book carrying case there were collections of Cinderella memorabilia, Teddy bears, thimbles, L.P. records and ornamental shoes, including what must be the world's smallest. We learnt the history behind these items and also the reason why they meant so much to their owner and the memories they evoked.

To celebrate our 107th birthday we began our October meeting by singing Jerusalem which became the official anthem of the Women's Institute in 1924, largely due to its ties to the women's suffrage movement and its celebration of rural England.

Unfortunately our speaker for October had to cancel due to ill health but our hard working committee came to the rescue with an enjoyable fun filled evening. They organised a quiz on cheese and wine, needless to say the most correct answers were on the wine questions. The cheese questions proved a bit more challenging. While members pondered their answers they were sustained with fizz and nibbles. It was a really fun filled evening that was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Our Seated Zumba evening will be re-scheduled into next year's programme.

Our next meetings are:

8th December. Christmas Entertainment. Members only

19th January. The Howe Trust. Speaker: Maggie Fyffe

Our meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.15 pm. Visitors are welcome at most of our meetings. A suggested donation of £5 which includes refreshments and a raffle ticket.

History Snippets: Dec. 1926/Jan. 1927

January 4th 1927 was the annual tea party for elderly village residents. Unfortunately owing to illness only 18 were able to attend but nevertheless over 70 members and friends sat down for tea at 4.00 pm. after which there was entertainment. At 7.00 pm they adjourned to the lower room and danced until 10.00 pm., music provided by institute members and friends. The public were admitted to the dance for a charge of 6d each which raised a total of £1-14-6d.

The lectures in January were on Ireland, Old English Customs and the origins of the barber's pole, and pawn broker's three balls.

Stephanie Brooklyn
wheatleywi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

St Mary's Church

01865 872224 | vicar@stmaryswheatley.org

A Christmas Message

Dear Friends,

As winter arrives, our thoughts turn towards Christmas. For many, it is a joyful time of family gatherings, carols, decorations, and celebrations. For others, it can be a more difficult season with extra pressures- memories of those no longer with us, feelings of loneliness, challenging family dynamics to navigate or financial worries. Life really is a mixed bag isn't it?!

Yet the wonderful message of Christmas speaks to us all, just as we are, however we find ourselves. In the birth of Jesus, God comes among us, sharing our human life and bringing light into our darkness. The angels' message of "good news of great joy" is as relevant today as it was on that first Christmas night.

In the busyness of the coming weeks, I hope we can each find a little time to pause and find those glimpses of light. A friendly conversation, a knowing smile, a shared moment, a thoughtful gesture, a moment in nature, noticing the things we usually miss...

You are SO VERY welcome to join our Christmas services, whether you come to church regularly, have not visited for some time or have never been before... St Mary's Church is your parish church and there is a place for everyone here as we gather together.

Service details can be found at stmaryswheatley.org.

May peace, hope, and joy be with you and your loved ones as we journey through December and into the coming year.

With every blessing,

The Reverend Clare Joyce

REVIVAL at St Mary's

A Busy Autumn at St Mary's

A crowded calendar of October events began with a very successful Ancestors' Day, with talks on Wheatley history, local genealogy and the planting of a memorial tree in the Churchyard.

This was followed by a thrilling production of Doctor Faustus, with a strong cast, starring Marcus Davis Orrom as Faustus and Peter Broad as Mephistopheles. The production featured music, dancing, and some spectacular lighting courtesy of Mike Hogan.

The following week, Angela Knapp's Angelorum Choir performed a series of Songs on Nature, Sea and Sky, ranging from Lithuanian and Norwegian lyrics to better-known composers such as Elgar and Coleridge Taylor - a challenging and rewarding afternoon before a large audience.

November events included the popular Wheatley Singers, followed by a performance by the Thame Training Band.

December features a Christmas Concert by Rachel Cave's Community Choir on **Saturday 19th** and the annual Christmas Carol Service on **Sunday 20th**.

Other activities include the Wheatley Larder and a forthcoming showing of The People's Emergency Briefing on 30 November.

The Revival Team

Wheatley United Reformed Church

01865 803859 | secretary@wheatleyurc.org.uk

URC News

Amid all the excitement of welcoming a new minister after quite a lengthy hiatus, Wheatley URC has not taken its collective eye off the world at large and the difficult times being experienced in so many countries. I hope it is typical of our congregation that both the contemplative and the active elements of our faith come together to support the first three clauses of the Lord's Prayer.

Every first Thursday of the month, an ecumenical Prayers for the World group meets at 10:00 in the Mulberry Room for half an hour, with coffee available in the hall afterwards, if required, offering prayers for the wider community in this country and many situations beyond these shores. As the hours of light diminish and the leaves drop, it is tempting to think that our prayers are fruitless too. Yet this quotation from German poet Rilke, used in a recent meeting, presents a different view:

The leaves fall, fall as from afar. At night the heavy earth falls

We all fall. This hand falls.

Yet there is One who holds this falling, with endless gentleness in His hands.

Our growing congregation is also involved in supporting the everyday needs of those in difficulty, particularly through our sponsorship of the Falcon Junior School, near Harare, capital of the desperately impoverished country of Zimbabwe, which alongside Bangladesh and Israel/Palestine forms the main focus of our Commitment for Life programme. In a steady move towards financial independence, a new borehole, solar panels and an increase in the number of chickens reared in the school grounds have all played a part, but anyone in Wheatley wishing to contribute to the school's funds should ask a member of the congregation or the elder on duty on a Sunday morning.

Finally, as the year moves round, please save the date of the 2027 World Day of Prayer, a worldwide ecumenical event, which will be celebrated on Friday 5 March. Our service will take place at 14:00, with refreshments served in the hall afterwards. This is a special year, the centenary of the movement, 'United in Prayer for Justice and Peace' being its motto. The movement has been led by women from the start, and there will doubtless be opportunities to learn how, over a turbulent century, with a number of false dawns for secular solutions, with respect, trust, and understanding of one another, you can build long lasting bonds, combining the virtues of faith, charity and not least, hope. Watch this space for more details.

Mike Matejtschuk

Wheatley Community Church

office@wheatleycommunitychurch.org | wheatleycommunitychurch.org

Wheatley Carols at the Rec

Revival of an ancient tradition: A Wheatley Wassail

Christmas carols are a true seasonal highlight of advent. There'll be plenty to sing carols in each of our village churches, but until the 19th Century carol singing was very much for the outdoors.

With origins in pagan midwinter songs and circle dances, by medieval times peasant bands went 'wassailing': singing, dancing and drinking mulled cider from a wassail cup. True Christmas Carols emerged in the 14th Century, sung and danced by travelling Franciscan friars. Carols like 'Angelus ad virginem' are now 700 years old and still popular. Though 'carol' means a dancing song, the dances have been lost, but the singing and drinking became hugely popular, despite Cromwell's ban of 1645-1660.

Though carols moved into churches in the 18th/19th century, outdoor carolling continues. My family join others singing house-to-house round Forest Hill, but there is also a resurgence in Wheatley. Whilst this year saw the welcome revival of the Wheatley Morris Men, it was 5 years ago that the lockdown restrictions drove Wheatley carols outside again in December 2021. Each advent, as daylight fades and Christmas nears, Wheatley Community Church hosts a short dusk service of community carol singing at the Wheatley Rec, supported by a brass ensemble. This draws on local roots: the 18th century open-air preaching of Oxford's John Wesley; the location at Wheatley Rec, traditionally the site of many Wheatley traditions including bullfighting, badger baiting, Maypole dancing, and even fist fights with the Headington Morris Dancers; whilst the COSB ensemble stems from a Headington Band in 1847.

Carols at the Rec is less rumbustious, and we're not expecting any fights, but why not come and join this growing revived tradition? Just turn up for 4pm at the Rec on Sunday 6th December (weather-dependent) to sing, supported by brass ensemble, a traditional address, and fortified by free mulled wine and mince pies.

Children and young people's groups run during part of the regular Sunday service most weeks.

Join us for an all-age family nativity service (feel free to dress up) at 10:30 on Sunday 20 December, and a short family Christmas service at 10:30 on Christmas Day.

Tim Hinks | Pastor

Our Lady of Lourdes

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

Remembering John Guy

John Guy has been writing the OLL column for a number of years. As his health deteriorated, he wanted to make sure that the church continued to have a presence, both in Wheatley Area Churches and in the village newsletter. He made the necessary arrangements. On 21st October he emailed me to check that I was aware of the relevant newsletter deadline, typically ensuring that things would get done as planned. Only five days later, he died peacefully at home. I mention this, because, this email, written at a point when John was fully aware that he had not long to live, is, in so many ways, typical of John. He was a 'doer'.

It says in this week's church bulletin that 'John will be remembered for his selfless service to …OLL' This only tells part of the tale. It was only as John's illness progressed that the extent of that service became fully apparent. The list of things he did for OLL is long – some were public knowledge, many were not. It will not be easy to fill the gaps left and it will take several people. His service to others also reflected his belief in, and commitment to, Christ's call to action. He was a Trustee at the residential home where his mother had lived, he was a Merry Bells' Trustee and he was a Trustee for CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development). He drew attention to these things only when it served the purpose of the organisation he served. He simply got on with it. It was, and is, a case of 'You will know them by their fruits' (Matthew 7 v20) - John's life was very fruitful, we will miss him and be grateful for his legacy.

John was a wonderful man with a wonderful family. He was good fun and good company. He will be long remembered by all at OLL and by many in Wheatley village.

Shuna McGregor

Looking for a meaningful way to spend time together as a family?

Volunteer with us!

Apply today to register your family's interest



Register your interest today

Email us:
volunteer@osjct.co.uk
Scan the QR code:

A.W.MOBBS OXON BUILDING SUPPLIES



For Oxfordshire building supplies, A.W. Mobbs is a family run business serving Oxford and the home counties with building supplies. We are situated just outside Oxford next to the major route-ways out of Oxfordshire, so we can deliver to our customers quickly and efficiently. Originally a traditional coal merchants, we have diversified and expanded into a modern competitive builders' merchants.

BUILDING MATERIALS
LANDSCAPING
FUEL & HEATING
WATER TREATMENTS

Contact our dedicated sales team

SERVING TRADE & PUBLIC

01865 872691 | sales@awmobbs.com
www.oxfordbuildingsupplies.com
Aw Mobbs, The Coal Depot, London Road, Wheatley, OX33 1JG

SERVICE, PRODUCTS, KNOWLEDGE, LOCAL, & INDEPENDENT



- ✓ Competitive prices
- ✓ Comprehensive range
- ✓ Experienced team

[GRANTANDSTONE.CO.UK]

Grant & Stone

FOR ALL YOUR TRADE SUPPLIES:
BUILDING | PLUMBING | ELECTRICAL







Your local plant & tool hire

We stock everything from cordless drills to excavators for projects from DIY to large construction sites. Let our friendly team know how we can help you get the job done.




greenplant.ltd.uk 01865 876000
mail@greenplant.ltd.uk
Unit 1, London Road, Wheatley OX33 1JH

Greenplant.
Plant, Tool & Event Hire



Supplying turf & fencing to the trade and public.
All types of fencing, gates, decking, sleepers & more.

Lewis Developments (Ilmer) Ltd The Brown Barn, Thame Road
Longwick, Buckinghamshire HP27 9QU
lewisfencingsales@gmail.com > 01844 344435

Lewis
Turf & Fencing

CENTAUR
TREE SERVICES LTD

TOUGH TERRAIN NO PROBLEM

Specialist remote-controlled vegetation management for conservation, forestry and rural land owners across the region.



LOW GROUND IMPACT
IDEAL FOR SENSITIVE HABITATS, WETLANDS, ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE SITES.

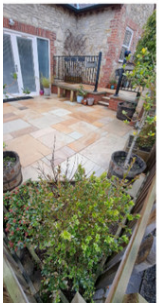
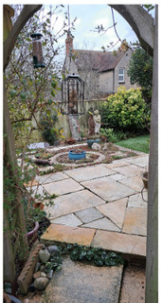
OPERATES ON SLOPES UP TO 55 DEGREES
SAFELY TACKLES STEEP BANKS, EMBANKMENTS AND DIFFICULT TERRAIN.

POWERFUL MULCHING CAPABILITY
EFFICIENTLY CLEARS HEAVY GRASS, SCRUB, BRASH AND SMALL TREES.

07345 303572 | CENTAURTREES@OUTLOOK.COM

OXFORD EXTERIOR RESTORATION

- ✓ Driveway Restoration.
- ✓ Driveway Drainage Specialist.
- ✓ Patio Repointing Specailist.
- ✓ Decking Restoration.
- ✓ Graffiti Removal.
- ✓ DBS Checked and fully insured.
- ✓ Free Quotations.
- ✓ Wheatley Based Company.
- ✓ City & Guilds Assured Trained In Exterior Restoration.


Residential & Commercial Work Undertaken.

contact@oxfordexteriorrestoration.co.uk

07703 686892

01865 362797 | info@mossinator.co.uk



Moss Removal - Roof Cleaning & Repairs
Brickwork & Render Cleaning
Solar Panel Bird Protection - Chimney Repairs & Cowl Installation

www.mossinator.co.uk





HUB DEC

PROFESSIONAL LOCAL PAINTING AND DECORATING SERVICES AND GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Individual specifications and quotations provided free of charge with no obligation.

INTERIOR & EXTERIOR WORKS

Fully Insured and Workmanship guarantees provided

Contact Andy : 07956844298

E-MAIL: hubdecorating@gmail.com



ABSOLUTE

Bathroom installations

Plumbing, Tiling, Electrical,
Plastering &
Related building works
Full design & Guaranteed installations
Free Estimates

Paul Bowden Tel: 01865 873277, 07904 246542

ABSOLUTE CARPETS

Contact David Pullen on

07887 875824

or email

david@absolute-carpets.co.uk

- Complete measuring, supplying and fitting service
- Carpet and vinyl samples brought to your home
- Furniture moving and disposal of old flooring
- Written quotations with no obligation to buy

Visit our Facebook page: https://fb.me/Absolute.Carpets.David.Pullen

David Pullen t/a Absolute Carpets, Greenways, Station Road, Marsh Gibbon, Oxfordshire OX27 0HN

Notices | Clubs | Events

WHEATLEY CHRISTMAS FAIR

Friday 27 November, 14:00–20:00

Festive stalls and entertainment along Wheatley High Street and inside the Merry Bells.

COUNCILLOR VACANCY

One seat is vacant on Wheatley Parish Council.

Interested in helping shape village decisions?

Contact the Parish Office:

01865 875615

CHRISTMAS AT THE MAPLE TREE

Christmas Grand Draw: Friday 18 December, 12:00.

Christmas Disco with DJ Darren: Friday 18 December, 16:30–18:00. Please book your place in advance.

Christmas schedule: www.mapletree.org.uk

THAME & WHEATLEY RAMBLERS

Sunday 20 December, 10:00.

Moderate 7½-mile circular walk via Shotover, Sandhills, Forest Hill, and Holton.

Meet at Wheatley New Club, off Littleworth Road. Bring a picnic.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER DELIVERIES

Volunteer delivery drivers needed on Wednesday 23 December, from 12:00.

Meet at Wheatley Primary School.

Sign up in advance: maggieefyffe@gmail.com

WHEATLEY LIBRARY

Holiday Closure

24th Dec 2026 to

1st Jan 2027 inclusive

Reopens Saturday

2nd January

More details: oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-libraries

TOCCATA! TEA CONCERT

Saturday 9 January, 16:00, St Mary's Church.

Alexandra Hewitt on organ.

Free entry; retiring collection for the New Organ Fund. Tea and cake.

SUSTAINABLE WHEATLEY SWAP SHOP

Saturday 23 January, Merry Bells.

09:00–10:15: Bring unwanted, reusable household items.

10:30–12:00: Take away anything useful, even if you brought nothing!

Free to take; donations welcome.

OCO WINTER SOIRÉE: LUTE & FLUTE

Saturday 23 January, 19:30, Wheatley House, Station Road.

Matthew Faulk and Joshua Getzler, music for lute, theorbo, and flute.

Tickets £15: tickets@oxcontemporaryopera.org or 01865 874542.

Notices | Clubs | Events

Wheatley Productions at Wheatley Park School

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

Thu 18 & Fri 19 Feb 19:30

Sat 20 Feb 14:30 & 19:30

Tickets from 3 Jan: wheatleyprods@gmail.com or Country Collections, High Street (cash only)

EMMA WILSON MEMORIAL FUND

Know a young person aged up to 21 who volunteers locally? Nominations welcome.

Visit tinyurl.com/EWMFform or email emmawilsontrust@gmail.com

WHEATLEY COMMUNITY LARDER

Every Thursday, 14:30–15:30, at St Mary's Church.

Help prevent food waste and support local good causes. Everyone welcome.

WHEATLEY CARE SCHEME

Transport to medical appointments for residents of Wheatley, Littleworth, and Holton.

Book as soon as you receive your appointment: 07505 543750 (answerphone)

THE WHEATLEY SOCIETY

WHEATLEY SOCIETY

Mapping London in the Past and Mapping London's Past

Friday 4 December, 19:30, Merry Bells.

A talk by Elizabeth Hess and Giles Darkes.

www.wheatleysociety.org

WHEATLEY GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

Friendly local help with befriending, transport to events, and more.

Supporting our community.

Telephone 07983 119925.

WHEATLEY URC SUNDAY TEA

First Sunday of the month, 14:30–16:00 at the URC Hall.

Come along for tea, cake, conversation, and company.

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

HAVE YOUR SAY

Saturday 19 December 17:00–19:00

Outside the Merry Bells, Wheatley

Meet PCSO Anna Fritsch to discuss local concerns and get crime-prevention advice.

WHEATLEY SCOUTS

Skills for Life. Girls and boys welcome, aged 6–18.

Find out how to join at wheatleyscouts.org.uk

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 Meeting 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?

Drivers wanted, petrol cost reimbursed,
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+ | wheatleyguides@oxfordshiregirlguiding.org.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 Meeting 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 | 14:00-16:00 | 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 | 10:30-11:00 | 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 Meeting Room | 10:00-12:00 | 01865 873996 | All welcome

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

SATURDAY

Wheatley Library | Open 09:30-13:00

Storytime | Wheatley Library | 10:30-11:00 | 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 programme of talks and events continued in October and November. The Merry Bells was the setting for demonstrations of a variety of crafts, when those who came were able to have a go at a range of activities; thanks to Caroline Sherriff and other crafters for hosting the event. We had a fascinating talk by Mike Palmer on his work for the British Antarctic Survey in the Falklands and South Georgia, the annual Clever Clogs quiz, and a very popular visit to the Bodleian Library to see a variety of historic maps of Wheatley and the surrounding area.

On 4th December there will be a talk from Elizabeth Hess and Giles Darkes entitled *Mapping London in the Past and Mapping London's Past*. Elizabeth will be introducing some of the major maps of London made in the past, while Giles will be talking about a current project to produce a map of London on the eve of the Great Fire of 1666. No detailed map exists at the moment and the project to produce a plan of London, Westminster and Southwark involves a lot of research and reconstruction. 7.30pm in the Merry Bells.

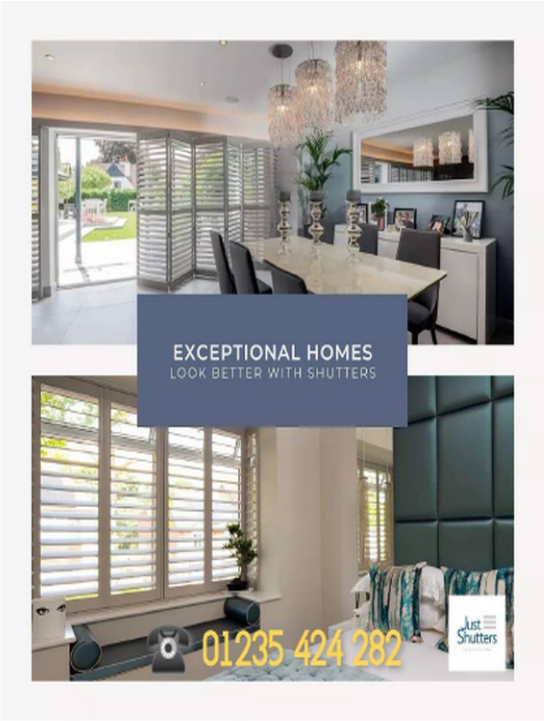
On Friday 15th January 2027, Wheatley resident Joanna Payne will be presenting *An Introduction to Beekeeping - the joy of beekeeping and life within a honey bee colony* (7.30 pm in the Merry Bells). Looking further ahead, on Friday 12th February Gareth Morris will be talking about Wheatley's war memorial, and the AGM and talk will be on Thursday 18th March

Wheatley Society Secretary Nigel Banks has set up a website for the society (wheatleysociety.org) where details of all our forthcoming events are posted, along with further information about the society, its publications and its history. We have plans to add more material over time. It also contains details of how to join us including our bank account details.

Do come along to our events; all are welcome. We have already worked out a plan of talks and visits for 2027 into 2028, and the WS is very active. If you would like to join the Society (subscription only £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).

Giles Darkes | Chair
giles.darkes@talktalk.net



Exceptional tailor-made plantation shutters from a local family business based in Holton.

- Bespoke to fit almost any window (including shaped)
- Cool in summer
- Warm in winter
- Noise reduction
- Easy to clean
- Premium appearance

Call **01235 424 282** to book a free no obligation design visit.

WWW.JUSTSHUTTERS.CO.UK

justshutters_oxfordshire on instagram

The Window Doctor

CARE & REPAIR FOR ALL YOUR UPVC & ALUMINIUM WINDOW & DOOR PROBLEMS

- Replacement of broken down sealed units - misting up inside glass
- Adjust front & back doors that do not shut
- New handles, hinges and door locks
- Replacement of patio door wheels
- New security handles with keys
- New door panels and cat flaps
- New Georgian style or leaded style sealed units
- All insurance work • Burglary damage • Servicing



PLUS INSTALLATIONS OF NEW UPVC WINDOWS & DOORS

FENSA Registered Company

Call us for a FREE Survey and Quotation,
No call out charge

Guarantee Protection through GGF

Friendly Family Established Business
Cowling & Co.

Tel: 01865 891776
Mob: 07860 435742

www.windowdoctor.co.uk
email: cowlingandcothewindowdoctor@gmail.com

WINDOW
WIZARD
DOUBLE GLAZING REPAIRS

- **Blown - Replacement Sealed Units**
- **Faulty – Broken Window Hinges**
- **Replacement Window Locks**
- **Fire Hinges – Child Restrictor Hinges**
- **Cat Flaps fitted into Door Panels or Glass**
- **Replacement Door Barrels**
- **No Callout Fee – Free Quotations**

Covering Oxford , Aylesbury
& Surrounding Area

M 07534 296950
E info@windowwizardrepairs.com
www.windowwizardrepairs.com

WHEATLEY'S LOCAL WINDOW CLEANING SERVICE

Reliable • Residential & Commercial • Insured



Traditional ladder and squeegee window cleaning - delivered by local, insured professionals.

- Residential and commercial window cleaning
- All frames and sills included
- Gutter clearance
- Conservatory roofs
- Fascia and soffit
- Builders' clean
- Solar panel cleaning

BOOK TODAY CALL LEE
07713 286894
smithyswindowcleaning1@gmail.com

Serving Wheatley & surrounding areas | Free quotes | Fully insured

gorman Civil Engineering & Groundworks Ltd

1994 25 YEARS ANNIVERSARY 2019

CIVIL ENGINEERING
GROUNDWORKS
DRAINAGE
SEWER CONNECTIONS
CONCRETE BASES
UNDERPINNING
DUCTING AND REINSTATEMENT



www.gormangroundworks.co.uk
michael@gormangroundworks.co.uk
The Laurels, Holton, Oxford, OX33 1PS
01865 875530
07885 703943

Max Wilkinson

Decorating &
Property Maintenance
+44 7930 654287
MW DECORATING & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
MWDECORATING_MAINTENANCE

PAINTING & DECORATING (INTERIOR & EXTERIOR)

PLASTERING

FENCING

RE-POINTING (BRICK & STONE)

PLUS MUCH MORE

Clive Parker

Painting and Decorating

40 years experience, fully qualified and insured

T: 07715 627072 – 01865 400945

E: clivegrahamparker@hotmail.com

A D OUSLEY
Domestic & Commercial
ELECTRICIAN

All types of electrical installation work including test and inspection and certification
Tel: Adam on 01844 339793 Worminghall
Mobile 07976352293 (9.00am 5.30pm)
Email: adousley01865@gmail.com
Registered member NIC EIC

MSM Electrical

- Full Rewires
- Extensions
- Extra Sockets & Lights
- Garden Lighting & Power
- Electrical Vehicle Charging Points
- Small Jobs Welcome

NICEIC Part P

Contact Martin Shaw: 07860 795 605 / 01865 872681 msmelectrical61@gmail.com

K. J. WINDOWS & DOORS

- UPVC WINDOWS & DOORS
- CONSERVATORIES
- FASCIA & SOFFITS
- BI-FOLDING DOORS
- MISTED & BROKEN UNITS
- REPAIRS

ALL WORK GUARANTEED | CALL KEITH: 07539 367200

1st Choice Domestics Ltd
Domestic Appliance Engineers

Domestic Appliance Specialists

All brands covered

Repairs to: Washing Machines | Cookers | Ovens | Dishwashers | Vacuums | Tumble Dryers | Fridge/Freezers | Microwaves

smeg Smeg Specialist Appointed Agents, Spare Parts and Accessories, New and Recon Appliance Sales

01844 201867 | service@1stchoicedomestics.co.uk

PROtect Windows & Doors

Your local specialist, providing a full survey and fitting service for windows and doors.
Repairs and double glazed unit replacements.
10 years insurance backed guarantee on domestic uPVC and aluminium installations.

CERTASS Reg No: 14-4563 CERTIFIED INSTALLER

Unit 2, Littleworth Industrial Estate, OX33 1TZ

TRUST MARK Government Endorsed Standards

01865 875554 sales@protecttradeframes.com

TAYLORS SERVICES

Extensions . Refurbishments

Kitchens . Bathrooms

Carpentry . Plumbing & Heating

Electrical . Solar PV

General Repairs & Maintenance

Landscaping . Fencing . Tiling

Roofing

01865 876004

www.taylors-services.co.uk

OXFORDSHIRE FENCING GROUP

All types of fencing and gate work undertaken

Free no obligation quotes

Jack Sherwood, Wheatley, Oxford

Call: 07595 910559

jacksherwood2008@hotmail.co.uk

oxfordshirefencinggroup.uk

ABC Gas & Plumbing Ltd

Local gas safe registered engineers

Boiler installations
Power flushing
Boiler Servicing
Domestic plumbing
Gas safety checks
Dripping taps
Radiators
Leaks

24 hour emergency call out

07849116805 or 07894466025
ABCGasandPM@gmail.com
www.ABCGasandPlumbing.co.uk
Based in Wheatley, Oxford

A New Organ at St Mary's

Our digital organ is 26 years old but is now becoming unreliable so it needs to be replaced. We aim to raise £18,000 within the next 2 years to buy an instrument of similar specification. The technology has improved enormously since 2000 so this organ will be of much better quality and would be expected to last well over 30 years. It will be suitable for recitals, for accompanying choral concerts and, of course, for use in our church services.

To help raise funds for this purchase, we are launching a series of Tea Concerts on the second Saturday of every month from January, and there will be an opportunity to sponsor a key or a pedal on the new instrument. We do hope you will be able to engage with this exciting project to help us provide this resource for village music.

Alexandra Hewitt

How to Spot, Help, and Record Insects over Winter

Wild Oxfordshire

Wild Oxfordshire is a charity seeking to create a more natural, resilient, and biodiverse Oxfordshire for the benefit of all.

Winter Wildlife

When the weather turns cold, it might seem as though most wildlife has disappeared until spring. But if you take a closer look, you'll find that plenty of insects and other creepy crawlies are still around.



7-spot ladybird in black knapweed seed head | Imogen Parker

Ladybirds often spend the winter sheltering together in places such as conifers, old seedheads, and hollow plant stems, clustering together to stay warm. Various species can also be found on ivy, such as the 7-spot, 22-spot, and harlequin ladybird.

Bees have different ways of getting through the colder season. On milder days, you might spot buff-tailed bumblebees out and about, as this species is being seen flying more often during the winter months, and bumblebee queens may emerge from hibernation during these mild spells, while solitary bees leave their nests when they are ready to mate. For any bee active in winter, finding nectar is vital, as there is a real risk of starvation if food is scarce.

One of the simplest ways to help winter pollinators and other insects is by growing plants that flower during the colder months. Single-flowered hellebores are particularly useful because their open blooms make pollen and nectar easy to reach. Crocuses are another good choice, especially when planted in a sunny position where the flowers can fully open. Snowdrops and aconites also provide valuable food, while ivy offers both shelter and a late nectar source.

You don't need to be a keen gardener to make a difference. Leaving fallen leaves where they land or creating small piles of twigs and leaves can provide important habitats for insects. And if you come across a queen bee that appears to be struggling, you can gently move her to nearby flowers or offer a 1:1 sugar and water solution.

To find out more, visit Wild Oxfordshire's website at www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/guidance/helping-nature-on-your-patch for guidance on helping pollinators on your patch.

Go a step further and record what you see!

Everyone can play a part in submitting wildlife observations to local Environmental Records Centres. They then appear on the "official record" that is consulted by planning authorities and used by other parties to track changes in distribution and abundance. Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) are always looking for people to submit the wildlife they see to add to their database.

Sharing single sightings

To submit details about a single or one-off sighting: use TVERC's reporting form found on their website, or their recording app, iRecord.

You can also report one-off sightings via email: tverc@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Multiple sightings

For multiple sightings, either use iRecord, another recording app and then email TVERC your results, or fill in their Excel template, found on their website.

Jessica Bouwer | Community Ecology Projects Officer

Christmas 2026: How The Garden Wildlife Are Marking This Festive Season

As Christmas 2026 arrives, Britain's garden wildlife is preparing for the big day in much the same way as the nation's politicians: with plenty of activity, little consensus, and a great deal of scrambling for resources.

The garden robin, naturally, has appointed itself Christmas Secretary. Perched atop the bird feeder, it spends most of December giving confident daily briefings, despite having no authority whatsoever. The sparrows continue demanding greater representation, but every meeting descends into shouting before anyone can agree on who gets the best branch.

Meanwhile, the squirrels have cornered the nut market. Having spent the autumn accumulating vast reserves, they now resemble hedge fund managers in furry coats. A Parliamentary Inquiry by local pigeons into alleged acorn hoarding was abandoned after investigators discovered they had eaten all the evidence.

The hedgehogs, sensibly, have opted out altogether. Having examined the state of national affairs, they entered hibernation sometime in October and won't be available for comment until spring. Polling suggests they remain the garden's most popular residents.

Over by the compost heap, a coalition of worms is quietly doing all the essential work while receiving none of the credit. They have become accustomed to this arrangement and are reportedly seeking peerages.

The local fox, meanwhile, is staging a "Cost of Living Christmas". Having inspected six recycling bins and two garden sheds, it has concluded that humans bought far too much festive food again this year. Negotiations with neighbourhood cats over leftover turkey access remain ongoing.

Speaking of cats, they continue pursuing a policy of strategic ambiguity. Officially they support peace and goodwill to all creatures. Unofficially they are hiding behind the holly waiting to ambush anything smaller than themselves.

As Christmas Day dawns, the blackbirds deliver carols from the fence, the bees remain tucked away awaiting warmer times, and a lone magpie arrives to claim credit for everybody else's achievements. Garden analysts expect this trend to continue throughout 2027.

By Boxing Day, the wildlife's Christmas settlement looks remarkably similar to British politics itself: squirrels are richer than ever, robins dominate the headlines, foxes exploit every opportunity, and the hardest workers remain largely unnoticed.

Some traditions are simply too important to change.

Merry Christmas 2026, and happy gardening!

Stuart Mabbutt
www.wildmaninspires.co.uk



Wheatley Library

Happy Holidays! Joining the library is FREE, and you can borrow up to 20 items at a time! We're part of the Oxfordshire County Council library service, so you can borrow and return books from any of the 44 county libraries. Your library card also provides free access to BorrowBox, Libby, Naxos Music Library, Ancestry Online, Find My Past, and more. For Wheatley Library news, please follow the 'Friends of Wheatley Library' Facebook page.

Regular events: FREE!

Rhymetime: Every Friday, 10:30–11:00. For children aged 0–5.

Storytime: Every Saturday, 10:30–11:00. For children aged 3–7.

Digital Helper Sessions: Every Thursday, 14:30–15:30. One-to-one support with technology, including smartphones, laptops, tablets, emails, WhatsApp, and more.

Jigsaw Puzzle Swap: Once a month on 5 December, 9 January, 6 February, and 6 March, 09:30–12:00. Bring a puzzle, take a puzzle (or two or three…).

We are a WARM WELCOME SPACE this winter, so please come in to warm up and relax. For other ideas to keep warm this winter, visit bit.ly/KeepingWarmOCC or warmwelcome.uk.

Do you know someone who can't get to a library? We offer a Home Library Service for people who are not physically able to visit a library but would still like to borrow books and audio-visual items. The service is free and suited to customers who are elderly or housebound, or on a short-term basis following illness or hospitalisation. Call 01865 810259 or email homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk to apply. Find more information on the Oxfordshire County Council website.

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE:

Thursday 24 December 2026 to Friday 1 January 2027, inclusive. We reopen on Saturday 2 January 2027.

Regular opening hours

Monday: Closed • Tuesday: 14:00–19:00 • Wednesday: 09:30–13:00 and 14:00–17:00

Thursday: 14:00–17:00 • Friday: 09:30–13:00 and 14:00–18:00

Saturday: 09:30–13:00 • Sunday: Closed

Contact us on 01865 815204 or email wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk. Search the library catalogue at oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-libraries.

Village Harvest 2026

As many of you will know, the apple crop was badly affected by the dry weather over the summer, and a lot of our usual tree owners reported that there was nothing for us to pick this year.

There were a couple of exceptions, and we managed to gather a total of 136 kg of apples plus a bonus 7 kg of grapes, all of which was distributed through the baskets outside the shops.

The apple pressing event had to be cancelled as we had nothing left to press, which was a shame as this is usually a popular event.

Our thanks to the tree owners who shared their fruit, to all who helped to pick, and to the shop owners who look after our baskets. We hope that many of you have enjoyed the apples and grapes, and we hope for a better harvest next year.

Litter Picking: We are delighted that Duke of Edinburgh students have joined our litter-picking teams, committing to helping around the village on Wednesday afternoons for a period of twelve months.

Swap Shop: The next swap shop will be held in the Merry Bells on 23 January 2027. We had a huge amount left over after the last swap shop, so do please try to use the Wheatley Freebies Facebook page or to donate items to charity shops if you are able to.

People's Emergency Briefing: We hope that the discussion after the showing of The People's Emergency Briefing film on 30 November will lead to some new initiatives in the village.

Details of all our current projects are on our website:

sustainablewheatley.org

sustainablewheatley@gmail.com

facebook.com/sustainablewheatley

Trusted Local Pet Care

Animals At Home
Pet Care Services

Because their happiness matters

At work all day or going away?
Professional pet care you can trust.



Dog Walking
Cat & Small Animal Care
Pet Taxi & Pet Ambulance Service

- Fully insured, trusted local service
- Tailored care to suit your pet's needs
- Experienced and compassionate
- Keeping pets happy in their familiar surroundings.

07341 859468
info@oxford.animalsathome.co.uk
www.animalsathome.co.uk/oxford

Happy Pets, Happier You

Horspath Nursery

Nursery Hours 7:30am-5:30pm for 9 months–4-year-olds

HORSPATH ALL STARS

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."

Wheatley Nursery School

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

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.





Come and visit us
Littleworth Road, Wheatley, Oxford OX33 1NN
01865 598044
admin@wheatleynurseryschool.com

SCAN FOR MORE INFO
Nursery website

At Wellford Gardens
enjoy three weeks
respite, pay for two.

Looking for compassionate care for you or a loved one? Wellford Gardens offers person-centred care including residential, dementia, respite and day care support.

We provide:

- 24-hour care
- Specialist dementia care
- Comfortable en-suite rooms
- Nutritious meals and daily support
- Gym and curated wellbeing classes

The process couldn't be easier — we'll visit you, understand your needs, and you could be settling into life at Wellford Gardens the same day.



Call **01865 633 024** Visit **osjct.co.uk/wellfordgardens**
Wellford Gardens, Park Hill, Wheatley OX33 1ND

The Orders of St John Care Trust

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

Gold Care Homes
It's what's inside that counts

The Triangle Care Home

Exceptional care, every day



Old London Road, Wheatley, OX33 1YW

Residential Care
Dementia Care
Nursing Care
Palliative Care

01865 875596

Scan the barcode or call today to arrange a personalised tour

SANDRA

HOMEWOOD

FUNERALS

We are a privately owned and managed family business with over 65 years experience. Our values are based on providing excellent service to our clients, transparency, fairness, good value and honesty.

Sandra, together with her principal funeral directors Darren Jeffs and Clare Hunter, offer bereaved families a unique, clear pricing structure with a refreshingly modern approach.


Sandra Homewood


Darren Jeffs


Clare Hunter

Headington: 01865 570 700 Marston: 01865 570 000

www.homewoodfunerals.co.uk

Supported by OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Golden Charter

Right at Home | Care for a life you love

@rahoxford rightathomeoxford rightathomeoxford



We provide Hourly and Live-in Care Service:

- Elderly and Young Adult Care
- Alzheimer's & Dementia Specialists
- Personal Care
- Parkinson's Disease
- Medication
- Palliative Care
- Moving and Handling
- Companionship and Support
- Complex and Clinical Care
- Respite Care
- Hospital to Home
- Stroke Recovery

What makes us different:

We're rated "OUTSTANDING" by the Care Quality Commission (CQC)
We are the best value premium quality care provider.
Our services are person centred & outcome based.
We provide industry leading & continuous training to our carers.
Carers are carefully matched and always introduced before starting.

Proud to provide care across Oxford and our local communities
Cumnor • Wheatley • Kennington • Kidlington • Headington • Cowley • Abingdon • Botley • Eynsham • Cotswolds & more

Helping you or someone you love stay independent, connected and confident at home

Any questions? We are happy to help
01865 988 899
infooxford@rightathome.co.uk

Inspected and rated Outstanding Care Quality Commission

5 STAR EMPLOYER WorkBuzz 2026

Professional Care & Support in your home

Moira & Linda are Sisters who have more than 40 years consecutive experience individually, within the Care Sector

They have vast experience & knowledge within the care sector, and are reliable, DBS checked & this is ongoing, professional, insured & self-employed, supply their own PPE, liaise with family members and any other professionals involved.

Services provided:

- All aspects of personal care that may be required, to include bathing, showering, hair wash, dressing, etc.
- 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 moiramaccer@outlook.com



Wheatley Refugee Support Group

On 10th September in the Merry Bells, our intention was to show a Film 'Peace by Chocolate,' describing the experience of a Syrian refugee family recreating their chocolate business from nothing into worldwide success. Unfortunately, the Film had a copyright restriction. Instead, Ahmad who had come with his Ukrainian wife Ludmila expecting to see a film, agreed to sit down in front of our audience and talk about his experiences of imprisonment and torture in Syria, his escape to Ukraine, where he set up an online university. He then became a refugee again when Russia invaded Ukraine. He is now settled with his family in the UK. We also heard from his friend Justin about his journeys to Ukraine, of his feelings of distress and anxiety beforehand then reflecting that Ukrainians experience this the whole time. Those present greatly appreciated the evening and from their donations we were able to send £90 to Asylum Welcome.

We have since found this DVD will work on home players and it is available to borrow.

No such hiccups with the GAIN collection of clothes and bedding on 19th September which as always was hugely supported. We will hold another collection in Feb/March and hope to include food for food banks in Oxford.

On Tuesday 26th January we will have a talk in the Merry Bells at 19:30 from Refugee Resource, describing the work they do, the groups and individuals they are able to support, and the part played by volunteers. They will explain how people can get involved with volunteering.

Nick Vernede | wheatleyrefugeegroup@gmail.com

Wheatley Playing Field Trust

During the half term week, the tanks in the top pavilion (which was built by Wheatley Parish Council in 1973) were replaced. One of the old tanks had rotted through and was leaking. Also, in the top pavilion the original galvanised pipework has been found to be badly corroded inside. This may need replacing next summer.

The new boiler in the lower pavilion is now connected to internet for remote monitoring.

The Trust is still suffering ongoing damage to the gutters and broken windows from footballs being kicked against the pavilion walls despite many requests not to do so.

The grass on the pitches is still in poor condition with numerous bare patches remaining from the drought this summer.

There is continuing good community use of the playing field by football and rugby training.

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:

wheatleyplayingfieldtrust.co.uk, or email us on the address below.

Paul Wilmott | Chairman
enquiries@wheatleyplayingfieldtrust.co.uk

Wheatley Singers' Spring Concert

directed by Kate Billimore with the Bagatelle Orchestra

The applause from their delighted audience has barely faded, and it's time to look ahead to the Wheatley Singers' next performance.

In April, the Singers will join forces with Ben Goodall's Cumnor Choral Society, a welcome fixture in our calendars. Following the exuberance of Rossini's music, the two choirs will perform two favourites of the classical choral repertoire: the beautiful Requiems of Fauré and Mozart.

Accompanied by the Bagatelle Orchestra and showcasing the glorious voices of our talented soloists, the Singers' performance will again support a local charity. It's win-win: wonderful music, support for a worthy local cause, and something delicious to drink.

So look out (here) for the exact date and time. Then come along and lose yourself in some of the most beautiful music ever written.

Tickets: £15 from choir members, on the door, or contact matthew.maier@mmaier.co.uk, 07885 059633.

If, rather than joining as audience, you'd rather join in the singing, the Singers are always open to new members. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays in the Wheatley URC. Contact Secretary Matthew Maier for information - details above.

Celia Pagel

Maggie Fyffe, Chair - The Howe Trust
Email: maggieefyffe@gmail.com
Call, text, or WhatsApp: 07889 639986
howetrust.org.uk

Christmas 2026 Hamper Campaign



Financial Donations and Delivery Drivers Needed!

Now in its 7th year, we help some of the most vulnerable families in our community, by providing the ingredients for a Christmas Day meal. But it's only made possible with help from the generous financial donations from individuals and organisations (such as Wheatley Parish Council) from across our local community.

TO DONATE

If you'd like to help, you can donate via personal cheque, by cash, or by bank transfer. Please contact us for more details.

Or you can also donate online (and boost your donation via Gift Aid) using your credit or debit card via our Just Giving page:
justgiving.com/campaign/howetrustchristmashamper26.

TO VOLUNTEER TO DELIVER

Our wonderful team of volunteer drivers make the hamper deliveries on Wednesday December 23rd from 12 noon.

Most of the families we deliver to live in Wheatley and the other local villages, but we also have some delivery routes for families who live further afield e.g. Oxford suburbs, Thame or Didcot etc.

You'll need a car with an empty boot – and most people deliver as a team of 2 to make it easier. We provide full addresses, but you'll also need SatNav or Google Maps. Routes are designed to take a maximum of 2 hours of your time. Email us ASAP to learn more or to sign up.

Thank you in advance for your support, and a very Merry Christmas from us all at The Howe Trust.

Maggie Fyffe | Chair, The Howe Trust

FixMyStreet.com

another project from the lovely people at mySociety

Need help with your PC?

Fully qualified, locally based business is here to help with all your home and small business PC requirements, however trivial or complex they may be.

Why spend hours or even days trying to fix a problem when a fast and reliable expert service is literally around the corner?

A personal, professional service with a smile and at very reasonable rates.
(Qualifications and ID provided on request)

Remote help option so no visit required

- **Free Callout & Diagnosis**
- Laptops, Desktops & Tablets
- Home & Office Visits
- Secure Remote Help
- Monthly Cover Option
- Mac & PC Support
- Supply of New Machines
- Hardware Repairs/Upgrades
- Software Repairs/Upgrades
- Wireless Setups/Networking

Satisfaction or your money back

plus

- New Installations
- Backup Solutions
- Antivirus & Security
- Web Design & Hosting

Call: 01865 349057
Email: support@pc-help-4u.co.uk
Website: www.pc-help-4u.co.uk

computer problems ?

Est. for over 15 years

call
THE WINDOWS CLEANERS
HOME AND SMALL BUSINESS COMPUTER SUPPORT

system upgrades
virus removals
performance improvements
wireless networks
internet solutions
and more

for a speedy, jargon-free appointment:

07947 700746



The Property Ombudsman

WHEATLEY estates

Serving your home needs since 1973

Whether you are looking to SELL, BUY, LET or are just after advice, WHEATLEY ESTATES are on hand to offer any support you may need.

01865 872073

mail@wheatleyestates.co.uk

wheatleyestates.co.uk

@WheatleyEstates

A member of OnTheMarket.com

rightmove.co.uk



Morland House Surgery

Morland Close, Wheatley OX33 1DP

The usual surgery opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm

Saturday mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekends) 8am to 10.30am, for pre-booked consultations only

Enhanced access hours are offered outside these times, please speak to one of the care navigators on 01865 872448 for more information.

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

Visit the **Morland House Surgery** website for a wealth of information and guidance on managing a vast number of health conditions, symptoms, and treatments: www.morland-house.co.uk.

For example:

- **A Guide to Keeping Well in Winter.**
- The **NHS App**, which is free and secure, and has recently been updated making it simpler and easier to manage your healthcare.
- **Meningitis and septicaemia** – symptoms and protection; eligibility of young people and students for a free Meningitis B vaccine
- **Are you a Carer?** – find help and support
- **Your Medical Records and Test Results** - guidance on how to access this information.
- **Pharmacy First Service (PFS),** whereby pharmacies can treat directly seven common health conditions.
- **The Direct Route** – services you can access without seeing a GP
- **Faster Access to Help for Joint and Back Pain**
- **Group Consultation Clinics** – successful group clinics for menopause and hypertension

The Chair of the Patient Participation Group (PPG) has contacted local parish councils regarding **raising funds to improve the state of the MHS car park.**

Ordering Repeat Prescriptions: Please use the NHS App or log into your account on the NHS website. For more information on ordering, visit the 'prescriptions' page on our website.

Medicine waste costs the NHS around £300 million/year. Only order the medicines you need. Once medicine leaves a pharmacy it can no longer be re-used even if unopened.

- Business Stationery
- Leaflets
- Newsletters
- Books
- Reports & Manuals
- Cards & Calendars
- Photocopying
- Digital Printing
- Exhibition Stands
- Posters
- Pop Up Banners
- Outdoor Banners
- Fabric Printing
- Vehicle Graphics
- Vehicle Magnetic Signs
- Vehicle Full / Half Wrap
- and much more...

PARCHMENTS PRINT of OXFORD

H4/H5 Kingston Business Park, Kingston Bagpuize, Oxon. OX13 5FB

01865 747547

print@parchmentuk.com

www.parchmentuk.com



Art for Life

Let Your Creativity Come Alive!



FOR COMPLETE BEGINNERS TO CONFIDENT ARTISTS

Fancy learning something new or developing your artistic skills? Then why not join our lovely group in Horspath for one of our all abilities art classes! You'll be made very welcome, no matter how much or how little prior experience you've had. Take a look at our website for more information or get in touch!

Book via our website : www.oxford.artforlife.uk

email : artforlifeoxford@gmail.com

Call Heather : 01865 408149

Computer Tuition for Older People

Are you confident with your computer or do you just about get by?

I offer one-to-one tuition in basic computer skills (email, internet, scanning, Word, Excel etc.). I can also help with tablets (e.g. iPad), Family Research (e.g. Ancestry) and more advanced Office skills.

I am a sympathetic teacher with endless patience and wide experience in working with older people (DBS checked).

No minimum commitment.
FREE ½ hour consultation offered with no obligation

Phone Peter on 01865 876848
email: computer.help.oxford@gmail.com

CHARLES WOOD & SONS

International Removals & Storage

- House Removals
- Container Storage
- Self Storage
- Archive Storage
- Office Relocations
- Professional Packing Service
- Packing Materials

Call us today for a free, no obligation quotation

01865 747555

www.charles-wood.co.uk

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF REMOVERS BAR

tsi APPROVED CODE TRADINGSTANDARDS.GOV.UK

QUALITY ASSURED SERVICE STANDARDS HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE REMOVALS BS EN 12522

Eagles Development Ltd is a full-service property refurbishment company delivering high-quality transformations from concept to completion.

We specialise in:

- Replacement kitchens and bathrooms
- Heating systems
- Re-plastering
- Decorating
- Flooring
- Complete soft furnishings
- Full property refurbishments

We provide a seamless service from start to finish, tailored to each client's vision.

With a proven track record and previous experience successfully running a development company, our team combines practical expertise with a strong eye for design and detail.

Why Choose Us:

- Reliable and professional service
- High-quality workmanship
- End-to-end project management
- Tailored solutions to suit your budget and vision

At Eagles Development Ltd, we pride ourselves on craftsmanship, reliability, and delivering results that exceed expectations.

EAGLES DEVELOPMENT

The Property Refurbishment Specialists

01865 590784 07813 966648

lee@eaglesdevelopment.co.uk

32 Wheatley Business Centre, Oxford, OX33 1XW

Jordell's 5 Star servicing comes without 5 star dealer pricing

Located in Wheatley
Factory Trained Technicians
Local Collection & Delivery
Courtesy Cars

4.9★★★★★ Google Rating

MOT's
Servicing
4w Alignment
Diagnostics
Brakes

JORDELL LTD
PRESTIGE & SPORTS CAR SPECIALISTS

CALL 01865 872999

jordellltd@googlemail.com

53 London Road Wheatley, Oxford, OX3 1YJ



ASHURST ARCHIVES

STORAGE

- Archive and Documents
- General Household
- Car
- Boat
- Caravan
- Business
- Short or long term

HOLLANDS FARM
GREAT MILTON

jonnie@hollandsfarm.com

07768 408389

JLDA building design

- ✅ Feasibility & Costings
- ✅ Planning Applications
- ✅ Building Regulations
- ✅ Construction Drawings
- ✅ New Builds & Extensions
- ✅ Loft & Garage Conversions
- ✅ Internal Alterations

"JLDA has done 3 designs for us. The first one has transformed our lives. The work was of the highest quality and the level of service excellent." ★★★★★

Call now for a
Free Consultation: 01869 349825

Email: design@jlda.co.uk
Visit: www.jlda.co.uk

Helping You Create a Better Home

ENZA Architects



info@enzaarchitects.co.uk
01865 872 537
www.enzaarchitects.co.uk

Book A Free Consultation

Protect your loved ones future ...

Made your Will or Lasting Power of Attorney yet?

Don't delay, we can visit you in the privacy and comfort of your own home to make your Will and Lasting Power of Attorney at your convenience.

Our Services

Wills | Probate & Trustee Service | Estate Planning | Deeds of Variation | Lasting Power | of Attorney | Trusts | Tenancy Severance

01844 213470 0345 057 3499 info@allguardservices.co.uk

ALLGUARD SERVICES

Don't waste anymore time.

Get in touch with us today!

A complete accountancy & taxation service



Extensive experience in handling the accounting and taxation affairs of:

- Limited companies
- Partnerships
- Sole traders
- Landlords

A full bespoke service is guaranteed to all our clients.

Services include:

- Annual accounts
- Xero - set-up & assistance
- Taxation
- Payroll services
- VAT returns
- Making tax digital Implementation
- Home visits available
- Free Initial consultations



To find out more please contact us, Laura Netherton or Valerie Carroll, for more information

Carter & Carroll Limited
Rectory Mews, Crown Road
Wheatley, Oxfordshire OX33 1UL
Tel: 01865 876443

Email: enquiries@carterandcarroll.co.uk
www.carterandcarroll.co.uk

carter&carroll
Chartered Certified Accountants



Family Law
Talking to Nick is your perfect first step towards a swift, empathetic and decisive resolution.

Wills
Leave your money and assets to the people you choose, simply and effectively.

LPA
Allow someone to make decisions on your behalf if you become physically or mentally unable.

Probate
Nick will help you protect your loved one's estate when they die and give peace of mind.

07432 767426 | nick@twfamilylaw.co.uk | www.twfamilylaw.co.uk

WILSONS solicitors

52 High St, Wheatley, Oxford, OX33 1XT
Tel:01865 874497 Fax: 01865 873793
Email: wilsonsolicitor@btconnect.com

MATRIMONIAL
CONVEYANCING
COMMERCIAL PROPERTY, EDUCATION, DRIVING OFFENCES
LANDLORD AND TENANT
GENERAL CIVIL LITIGATION,
EMPLOYMENT (compromise agreement)
WILLS AND PROBATE, LASTING POWERS OF ATTORNEY

A franchised firm for public funding in:
FAMILY LAW, CHIDLREN'S LAW AND CRIME

THE LAW SOCIETY ACCREDITED Children Law
THE LAW SOCIETY ACCREDITED Family Law
THE LAW SOCIETY ACCREDITED Family Law Advanced
THE LAW SOCIETY ACCREDITED Conveyancing Quality
THE LAW SOCIETY ACCREDITED Criminal Litigation

A Great Place to Grow

Happy Christmas and New Year from The Maple Tree!

It is hard to believe that Christmas is almost upon us, and what a great year we have had at The Maple Tree, full of fun, learning, and making new friends!

A big thank you to all our wonderful staff, trustees, and volunteers this Christmas, and to all the children, parents, grandparents, and carers who join us each week and make The Maple Tree such a special place to be!

Mondays: Messy Monday, 10:00–11:30, and Twins' Club, 14:00–16:00.

Tuesdays: Smart Start, 09:30–11:30.

Wednesdays: Maple Babies, 09:30–12:00.

Thursdays: Time to Rhyme, 09:30–11:30.

The Maple Tree at Forest Hill Village Hall, 10:30–12:00.

The Learning Leaf at The Maple Tree, 14:00–16:00.

Fridays: Little Learners, 10:00–11:30.

Every 3rd Saturday: Family Fun, 10:00–11:30.

Please refer to our website or social media for our Christmas schedule, and be sure to book your place at our annual Christmas Disco with DJ Darren; an event not to be missed!

Dates for the diary:

Grand Draw: Friday 18 December at 12:00.

Christmas Disco: Friday 18 December, 16:30–18:00.

New Year: Please contact us if you would like to join our lovely group of trustees, if you would like to help us deliver sessions to local families, or if you are interested in raising valuable funds for The Maple Tree. We would love your help!

We are here to help if you need advice or support: **01865 236700.**

Website: mapletree.org.uk

Email: info@mapletree.org.uk

Facebook: facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley

Instagram: @themapletreecentre

Laura Spencer | Manager

Wheatley Gardening Club



Winter jasmine (Jasminum nudiflorum)

December: Bare-root trees and shrubs can be planted or transplanted when weather permits, and it is also a good time to take hardwood cuttings of shrubs such as Buddleia, Deutzia, Forsythia, and Cornus.
Dig over empty borders and prepare the soil ready for next year's planting, and do not forget to insulate outside taps against severe frosts (if we get any).

January: On a frost-free day, start pruning apple and pear trees to promote strong new shoots and a great harvest.
Seed sowing can commence now with show onions, begonias, lobelia, and salvia, either in a greenhouse propagator or on a warm windowsill.
I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year on behalf of the officers and committee of the Wheatley Gardening Club.
This newsletter's flowering shrub is winter jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*), which is very frost-hardy, can be trained on a fence or wall, and flowers from December to March.
Queries: wheatleygardeningclub@gmail.com

Adrian Shepherd | Secretary

GARSINGTON SENIOR CITIZENS – MATTERS

We are a small group of local senior citizens who meet socially on **first and third Tuesdays of the month at 14:00** in the Sports and Social Club, Garsington for tea, coffee and biscuits, with bingo, a 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. By the time you read this we will have completed our trip to Christchurch and I trust that those who went took full advantage of the summer sun and enjoyed the sea air on this seaside venture.

There being **NO October or November trip planned this year**, our next trip will be early December to the **Bath Christmas Fair**. Please contact **Barbara** on **07961 232090** for further information.

We welcome members from Garsington and surrounding villages and are keen to recruit new members. Meetings are held in Garsington Sports and Social club with ample free parking available so do please tell your friends.

You are cordially invited to come along with your friends for a free introductory meeting or two where you can join in the fun and find out more details.

Gerald Styles | geraldstyles51@btinternet.com

WALKS PROGRAMME | DECEMBER 2026

- **Thursday 3 December:** Pleasant 6½ mile walk starting from the Old Kiln, Nettlebed, towards Warburg Nature reserve, following the Oxfordshire Way past Maidensgrove and other villages before returning via Magpies.
- **Tuesday 8 December:** Gentle, flat social 3 mile walk starting from Waterperry Garden Centre. Optional gathering at the café in Waterperry at the end of the walk.
- **Thursday 10 December:** Leisurely 5½ mile walk from Tetsworth village green towards Moreton, crossing the bridge over the lake on the Oxfordshire Golf club before returning across the fields to Tetsworth.
- **Saturday 12 December:** Moderate 5¼ mile walk from Stadhampton, Village Hall at St. John's, preceding the T&W Christmas lunch (advanced booking required).
- **Sunday 20 December:** Moderate 7½ mile walk from Wheatley up to Shotover, then down to Sandhills on a steepish footpath. Next, on to Forest Hill and Holton, then back. Potential of lovely views during the walk. Bring a picnic. Park in front of New Club (off Littleworth Road).

All walks are circular and start at 10:00 unless otherwise stated.

The programme of walks for 2027 is currently in the planning stages so please check the website below nearer the time.

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

ramblers-oxon.org.uk/thame-wheatley/walking.html

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

SODC Waste Collections | No brown bin collections 25th Dec - 10th Jan

Collection day Monday unless *changed	Which bins and other items?
Dec 7th & 21st | Jan *6th & 18th	Green, brown, food, oil, textiles, batteries
Dec 14th & *30th | Jan *12th & 25th	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 | 01865 875737 | 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 | www.wheatley.oxon.sch.uk
Wheatley Good Neighbour Scheme | 07983 119925 | 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 | 01865 323332 | fis.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
OCC Highways | 0845 310 1111 | highway.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Missed Bin Collection | 01235 422123 | admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk
Bulky Household Waste Collection | 01235 422406 | waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk
Housing | 01235 422422 | housing@southandvale.gov.uk
GP Surgery, Morland House | 01865 872448 | morland-house.co.uk
NHS Out of Hours Service | 111 | 111.nhs.uk
Gas Emergency | 0800 111 999 | nationalgrid.com/group/safety-and-emergencies
National Power Cut Helpline | 105 | ssen.co.uk
Burst pipe or leak | 0800 714 614 | thameswater.co.uk
Floodline | 0345 988 1188 | gov.uk/check-flood-risk

Transport:
Oxfordshire Comet | 01865 323201 | oxfordshire.gov.uk/comet
Wheatley Care Scheme (transport to hospital or GP surgery) | 07505 543750
Oxford Bus Co. (400 P&R, NU1, 46) | 01865 785400 | oxfordbus.co.uk
National Rail Enquiries | 03457 484950 | nationalrail.co.uk





Wheatley Carols at the Rec

Sunday 6th December 4pm

Church Road Recreation Ground

Come and join us to sing carols, accompanied by a brass band. Song words will be provided.

Enjoy complimentary mince pies and mulled wine afterwards

No booking required, no singing experience required, just turn up and enjoy the festivities!



Join us also for:
Nativity Service 20th December
Christmas Day Service
both 10.30am at the Primary School

www.wheatleycommunitychurch.org

Wheatley Community Church