

Wheatley Newsletter

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The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Parish Council.

WHEATLEY NEWSLETTER

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Ask for details.

Cover picture: May Pole Dancing, 2006. If you have any photos of the village or events (past or present) we would love to put them on the front cover!

The Wheatley Newsletter welcomes contributions and advertisements from everyone in the two parishes and from businesses and organisations serving

Wheatley and District. News and reports from village organisations are particularly welcome but contentious issues or articles promoting personal causes should be avoided – the Editor reserves the right not to print items, and to edit items submitted for publication. The views expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Parish Council or Editor, and no liability can be accepted for any errors or omissions, although we will publish corrections.

The deadline for the June - July edition is **Saturday 14 May 2016**. Contributions (max. 250 words) to the Parish Office, preferably by email with a Word attachment to newsletter@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

ADVERTISING

New adverts can only be included when existing adverts drop out. Adverts cost £25 & £35 inc. of VAT per edition, respectively for quarter and half pages. Quarter page max. size: 9 cm high by 6 cm wide or 5 cm high by 12.5 cm wide. Half page max. size: 9 cm high by 12.5 cm wide. Preferably in jpeg format. Full page adverts no longer accepted.

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<i>http://merrybells.wix.com/the-merry-bells</i> for on line booking	
Surgery, Morland House	01865 872448
Wheatley Archives, www.wheatleyarchive.org.uk	01865 873343
Wheatley Library	01865 875267
County Councillor Anne Purse	01865 351404
District Councillor Toby Newman	01865 872239

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

Geoff Stephens

It is my pleasure to welcome new councillor Richard Harding who was co-opted at our latest full council meeting on 7th March. Richard is a retired patent attorney and moved back to the area in 1997. In addition to his interests in nature and local history, he shares my personal enthusiasm for a green 'corridor' running through our village. My own view is that Wheatley is well overdue for a traffic-free route running roughly in parallel to the High Street which would give pedestrians, mobility scooter users, parents with buggies and maybe cyclists an attractive, healthy and practical alternative to the automatic reflex of reaching for the car keys! This will become even more relevant as our community expands and we look for creative ways to preserve and enhance the vitality of our village centre.

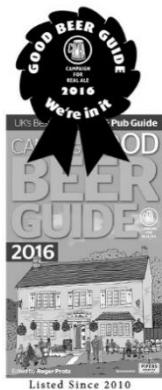
It's good to see that the Neighbourhood Plan process is now well under way with lots of energy going into the formation of committees and setting up the structures for evidence-gathering. I make no apology for encouraging, once again, any residents with interests in housing, land use, traffic, etc. to engage with this process. Look out for the information which will soon be passing through your letterbox.

Finally, preparations are now well underway for celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday in June. Whatever one's views about the institution of the monarchy, we can all join in and use the occasion to celebrate someone who has given magnificent commitment and exemplary service to our country.

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Easter Bunny Hunt

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Fritillary Weekend

16th & 17th April (NGS day 17th)
See the county flower of Oxfordshire in all its native splendour as it flowers throughout April in our wildflower meadow and riverside walk. The gardens are open in aid of the National Garden Scheme on Sunday 17th.

Cancer Research Walk

Sunday 15th May
Make the most of a spring day out and raise money for Cancer Research UK at the same time with our sponsored walk. For more information or a sponsorship form call Jenny Braithwaite on 01844 208073.

Gnometastic

May Half Term (28th May – 5th June)
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CLERK'S COLUMN

Gareth Morris

As an election to replace Cllr Birks was not demanded the Parish Council was able to co-opt a replacement councillor at its last meeting. Three individuals put themselves forward and as a result of the vote of Parish Councillors present we welcome Mr Richard Harding of Old Road on to the Parish Council. Cllr Harding will serve on the Planning Committee and the Traffic and Roads Advisory Committee.

Back to the favourite topic for this column – dog mess. The Parish Council has installed two new dog waste bins along Windmill Lane, one to be paid for by The Howe Trust.

We will be instigating a '**Dog Mess Street of the Week**' and for this issue that award goes to **Howe Close**.

If you would like to nominate your street/road for the award, please contact the editor.

The Parish Council will be setting up a pilot scheme to test the DNA of dog poo to try and catch owners who fail to clear up after their pet. From the first Friday in April samples of dog mess will be collected by council employees and the DNA will then be compared to a database of registered owners.

This scheme follows the one which has been introduced in the London Borough of Barking.

Dates for your Diary - all meetings start at 7.30pm

Wednesday 13th April	Planning Committee	Parish Office
Monday 18th April	F&GP Committee	Parish Office
Monday 9th May	Parish Council	Merry Bells Hall
Wednesday 11th May	Planning Committee	Parish Office
Monday 16th May	F&GP Committee	Parish Office

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Wednesday 20th April 2016 7.30pm

Merry Bells Main Hall

Speaker: Mr John Fox, Chairman of the Wheatley and Holton Neighbourhood Plan Committee

Followed by reports from Village organisations



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SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Toby Newman, District Councillor

The last couple of months has seen a number of important events, all of which affect you in one way or another.

Oxfordshire Vision

I hope you will have seen the recent announcement that the five district councils in Oxfordshire - including Oxford City Council - have announced their bid for devolution by the formation of three unitary authorities. This would mean the abolition of Oxfordshire County Council. If agreed, for us this will mean that SODC will merge with the Vale of the White Horse, taking on many responsibilities presently with the County Council and gaining new powers from Westminster. At the same time, we will manage others such as transport planning and waste disposal, through a combined authority formed by the new unitary councils. Crucially, and possibly uniquely in the country, the plan proposes the transfer of adult social care to the NHS. The needs of rural and city communities are very different and the Oxfordshire Vision proposal will ensure that the new councils replacing the existing two tiers with one, are the best match for those needs.

Council Tax

Things are not getting any easier economically as a result of the continuing global economic climate, but at SODC we have been working to get the maximum value for money and we are now in a position to honour our election pledge not to raise our element of the Council Tax. So, for 2016/17, this will remain at the same level as the current year.

London Road Development

We are still working away on this one, both with the Section 106 agreement, mainly around the clauses necessary to secure the affordable housing for local people. We have agreed a time extension but the officers view is that outstanding works would be completed by the end of the month. However, the more we agree now, the quicker Taylor Wimpey can be on site in the spring.

If you do want to speak with me any matter, I hold a surgery, along with our County Councillor Anne Purse, on the second Saturday of the month at 10:30am in the Parish Office at The Merry Bells. You can also call me on 01865 872239, tweet @tobynewman or preferably email me at toby.newman@southoxon.gov.uk

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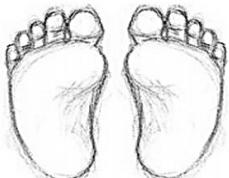
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OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Anne Purse, County Councillor

When I promised that the first two humps at the east end of the High Street would be replaced I never imagined it would take years to achieve this! For one reason and another work was postponed or cancelled, and it has not been easy to keep the money for this safeguarded. At last the work has now been done. My only regret is the number of people who have been inconvenienced or worse by those old cobbled humps during this time. However, it is so good to get something done to them at last. Another long running saga is the state of London Road. I hope that there may be positive news on that soon.

It is very good news that Heyfordian have listened to and acted on the views of local people who made it clear that they need a bus service to replace the 103/104 services which were set to cease after July this year due to cuts in subsidies from the County Council. I urge everyone who values this service to use it as now it has to run commercially.

Following an amended budget passed in February, there is now to be some help given by the County to local groups trying to find alternative funds to save their local Children's Centres. My thanks to those who have offered to join in what will be quite a task to retain as much as we can of services at the Maple Tree centre here in Wheatley but other offers of help are also welcome.

The challenge is to find local funding to replace the County Council cuts caused by the reduction in Government grants. I hope that local businesses and organisations will consider whether they can give any financial help the Maple Tree Children's Centre which is currently making such a positive impact to the lives of the youngest residents in Wheatley and their parents. These young families are Wheatley's future and need the support of the community.

Anne Purse, County Councillor, Wheatley Division Tel 01865 351404,
07787885717, email: anne.purse @oxfordshire.gov.uk

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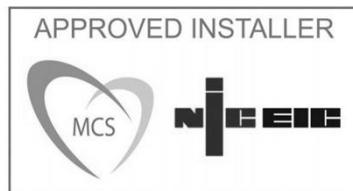
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NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROGRESS

Rebecca Graham & Doug Lamont, on behalf of The Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan committee

Many people will be aware that over the next couple of years Wheatley will be developing a Neighbourhood Plan. The idea being that local people will drive, and then help to shape how our local community will grow and develop over the next decade. We will have our say on where we want any new developments to be located, what they could look like and how best to integrate them with the existing community.

The Neighbourhood Plan covers Wheatley parish and the developed area of the Brookes campus. The area has been agreed with South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) and Holton Parish Council.

An adopted Neighbourhood Plan has a legal standing and must be taken into account by planning authorities when considering any potential housing developments.

Following on from the public meetings held in December, a steering group has been established consisting of twenty-one local volunteers, chaired by John Fox. The main committee has subdivided into five working groups to ensure that all the detailed and rigorous requirements of the plan process are complied with.

We will soon be starting the consultation process where you will be able to have your say. There will be a public launch at the end of March which will provide information about the next key stages. You can also contact us via our website www.wheatleyneighbourhoodplan.co.uk, Facebook www.facebook.com/WheatleyNP/ and Twitter @wheatleyplan or through the Parish Office for further information. If you think you have some expertise to provide or just time to give, please come forward we are always looking for volunteers. We are also creating a team of Street Representatives who are willing to deliver leaflets and circulate questionnaires locally.



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QUEEN'S 90th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION - Sunday 12th June 2016

Tim Davies

The Parish Council have agreed to form a Village Committee made up from the many organisations to plan a Village Celebration to mark the Queen's 90th Birthday and her outstanding service and contribution to the UK. This will be a wonderful opportunity for the whole community from children to adults of all ages to relax and enjoy this very special occasion.

To date we have had two meetings and while a large number of items need to fall into place the outline plan is:

- Street Closures – High Street between Station Road and Friday Lane
- 2pm Musical Service of Celebration – Orchestras and Choirs
- 3:15pm Parade (Possible theme reflecting on the Queen's 90 years, changes in Wheatley) all organisations, schools are to be encouraged to take part. Route – Church Road, Holloway Road, High St to Crown Sq.
- 3:00pm High Street Festival – Family orientated with stalls, activities (village fete type), Quiz/Hunt. Food stalls, pig roast etc which will remain open into the evening.
- 5pm – Village Wheelbarrow race round the pubs
- 6:30pm – Street Party with Ceilidh/Barn Dance in High Street

We have received some commitments but now need your support to make this happen. Please Volunteer by emailing WheatleyTraffic@hotmail.co.uk or call Tim Davies on 07503-995830.

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2016 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – Wednesday 20th April at 7.30pm in the Merry Bells Hall

Every Parish in England, by law, has to hold an Annual Parish Meeting. This meeting is quite separate from a Parish Council meeting, even though it is called and chaired by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

The Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity for all residents to attend and raise matters of concern etc. Village organisations are invited to attend and report on their activities for the year

Mr John Fox, Chairman of the Wheatley Neighbourhood Planning Committee will open with a presentation on the work that has been undertaken to develop a 'Neighbourhood Plan' for the village.

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MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS: Monday 2nd May 2016

Gareth Morris – May Day Committee

May 2nd this year sees **forty-first** holding of this village tradition.

So please join us. at 10.00 am in Crown Square to sing the Wheatley May Song (ably led by Jack Turner) and to witness the crowning of the Lord and Lady of the Garland, chosen by year 6 of the Primary School. As usual the crowning will be performed a local celebrity whose identity is kept top secret until the day.

Then comes the Garland Procession to Church Road Recreation Ground. As in previous years we have to close the roads whilst all this takes place so please be patient if you have to wait a few minutes to continue your journey. The procession will go via the High Street and up through the SODC carpark to Church Road and on to the recreation ground.

At the recreation ground there will be Maypole Dancing by the girls from the primary school culminating in the Wheatley Swiss Role Dance and dancing for all to the music of Mouse and Trousers and Friends. See you there.

OXFORDSHIRE ARTWEEKS: 7 – 30 May 2016

Christine Bainbridge

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THE FRIENDS OF WHEATLEY LIBRARY

Thank you to all who came to the brilliant talk on The Weston Library. We are hoping to hold more events like this in the library.

The library is running really well and is in constant use. We still need volunteers on Wednesdays and Saturdays, either fortnightly or once a month. Contact volunteer@wheatleylibrary.org

The craft group is very popular and runs on Mondays from 10am - 12 noon and on the second Monday in the month from 7-9pm during term time. The next dates are April 11th & 9 May. This is run by a volunteer Anne Rawlings.

The coffee mornings take place on the first Wednesday in the month from 10am-12 noon. Come and have a coffee while browsing at books. The next ones are on April 6th and May 4th

If you want to find out about your own family history, please contact Linda Price through the library. All the above events are free and run by volunteers. Thank you to all our volunteers who are helping to keep our library open.

There is information on our website at www.wheatleylibrary.org. Please like our Friends of Wheatley Library Facebook page.

MACMILLAN MAMMOTH QUIZ

Dorothy Bell

The eighth Macmillan Mammoth Quiz was held in the Merry Bells on Friday 26th February. 97 people took part, a good time was had by all and a cheque for £1030 has been sent to Macmillan Cancer Support.

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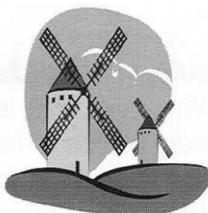
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WHEATLEY SINGERS: Long-Awaited Spring

Kate Billimore

It's been a long, wet winter. Gloomy days and damp nights, when you just want to shut the front door and snuggle down by the fire. But now, at last - although rather earlier than usual - the daffodils are beginning to nod their pretty heads, the snowdrops are peeping through and the sky is beginning to show a gorgeous shade of blue, turning pink towards the evening - a real "shepherds' delight"! And a genuine cause for celebration....

...which is exactly what the Wheatley Singers are planning for their concert in St Mary's, Wheatley, on Saturday April 30th at 7.30pm: "**Nature Rejoicing**" - a celebration of Spring in musical form, through two glorious works to uplift, rejuvenate and, like a sunflower, turn your face towards the light.

Vivaldi's sparkling "Gloria" and Purcell's delightful "Come Ye Sons of Art" were both written around three hundred years ago, but still sound as fresh as a daisy. And how about this for a coincidence? "Come Ye Sons of Art" was first performed on April 30th (1694). It was just too good an opportunity to miss!

Following their recent triumph in St Mary's, with their performance of Handel's "Messiah" last November, the Singers have been working hard to ensure their next appearance will be equally unmissable. Once again, the evening will be made even more splendid by first class soloists and instrumentalists, whose only desire is to delight you. And, as if that weren't enough, the whole event will be raising money for two very worthy causes: "Helen and Douglas House", which cares for terminally ill children, young adults and their families; and "Riding for the disabled", a UK-wide charity which, through teaming up with horses and ponies, provides therapy, achievement and enjoyment to people with a wide range of disabilities.

It was almost "standing room only" at the concert in November, so make sure you put the date in your diaries now (how quaint and archaic - OK, in your electronic calendar, then) and get yourself a ticket in good time. A thoroughly lovely evening and a cheering glass of wine await you. Tickets are available from choir members or from Wheatley Library (£8 in advance) or on the door (£10). We look forward to seeing you there.



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THE HISTORY FILE:

Wheatley Village Archive, the Other Potter and That Hedgehog

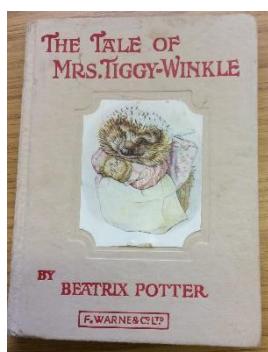
John Fox

Heritage Lottery Fund in 2014 highlighted our Archive and its volunteer staff as a village asset. Recently a publisher asked them about a 1916 postcard, addressed to *Miss K. Carr, Waterstock Rectory, Wheatley*, from *Mother* at Cartmel. WVA traced Kathleen Carr (b.1902) and sister Lucie (b. 1900) to the Lake District. Their father was Rector at Newlands, Keswick, their mother from nearby Cartmel. Beatrix Potter holidayed near Newlands and befriended the family. Lucie and then Kathleen played with 'Mrs Tiggy', Miss Potter's transportable pet hedgehog. In 1905, after a year's writing, *The Tale of Mrs Tiggy-Winkle* appeared – a girl called Lucie discovers a hedgehog-run laundry for animals. It was dedicated '*to the real Lucie of Newlands*'. (The real 'Mrs Tiggy' died in London in 1906).

Beatrix corresponded for years, sending the girls mini-newsletters about her storybook animals in tiny red mailbags, but in 1913 Rector Carr moved to Waterstock and Miss Potter married to become

Mrs Heelis. The Rector died in 1922 and his widow and daughters left Waterstock for north

Oxford. Kathleen lived another 57 years there and Lucie another 79, dying aged 102. Dr Flury, our retired village GP, chuckled at the find. 'We used to stay with my grandmother at Coniston and Beatrix would come to tea. She told my mother off for reading her stories to me – 'he's too young for them at five!' (With thanks to Stephanie Cox, Marion Darkin, Anne Ledwith, Pam Reay, Beatrix Potter, Dr Flury and Mrs Tiggy.)



The postcard sent to Miss K. Carr



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Time flies I arrived in January 2006 and now am retiring this Easter just over 10 years later and it only feels like yesterday. I have been teaching since September 1974 so it will feel very odd with my life no longer ruled by school years.

The school is in a good place with a super staff team who are all very capable and confident and with a new headteacher Ms Karen Mackenzie [who has been visiting us to ensure a smooth handover] will go from strength to strength. I am sure you will welcome and support her as you have done with me.

I am proud of the quality of education we provide with our creative curriculum, which means subjects are linked and the learning is interesting and engaging. The children are super and a credit not only to this school but to their families; visitors always speak highly of our children.

We work with both The Wheatley Partnership of Schools and Oxford Diocese Schools Trust schools which provide huge opportunities for our children and staff to participate and share practice. The building is sound, though old as it was built in 1951. I have managed to acquire huge grants for the replacement windows, heating system and new roofs over the years.

The school is at the heart of our community as we are involved in so many ways including the British Legion during Remembrance Day events; the library with visits and the summer challenge; Xtreme with the Fusion weekly club; the use of the windmill; the Historical Society via homework activities; the May Day celebrations with our children dancing; singing at the Triangle and of course the partnership with Rev Nigel and St Mary's, we are all so glad the 'stained glass' window has been so well received,

I wish all the children, staff and the community happiness for the future.

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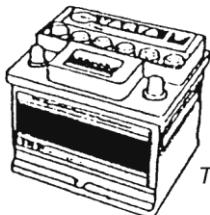
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WHEATLEY VPA

John Allmond

The year's events commenced with a quiz evening in January followed in February with Jim Watson enthraling us with an excellent talk on tropical fruits he knew from his years working abroad. Samples sourced from Covent Garden were available for viewing and discussion. Surprisingly some are available at local supermarkets. I hope you were able to find examples and try them at home.

In March, a talk on designing sloping gardens was pertinent to many Wheatley residents who have such gardens to work with and enjoy.

Future events are as detailed in the diary pages of this newsletter and in the VPA programme card. The outing to RHS Wisley Garden has been arranged for May 14th; please make a note in your diary.

It is hoped that the planting of a flowering tree to celebrate our 75th Anniversary last year will take place soon to give pleasure for many years to all users of the Church Road recreation ground.

Looking further ahead to the Annual Show in September, the 2016 show schedule is in preparation with only minor changes to the exhibits this year, with the exception of the cake recipes. Copies will be circulated to all members in due course. If you are a member and have children or grandchildren, please encourage them to enter as many of the junior classes as they can.

We welcome new members, of all ages, to our meetings held on the second Tuesday in the month at the Merry Bells.



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There are regular sessions of **Bumps to Babies**, **Now I Am Two Peep Group**, **Stay and Play** and **Saturdads** (see Day by Day at the end of this newsletter for days and times). **Please contact the centre for a copy of the current timetable.** We often add extra sessions and events throughout the programme, so do keep in touch so you're always up to date. The best way to do this is to like us: Facebook: mapletree_cc

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WHEATLEY WI Joyce Coveley

At the February meeting members heard a talk, from Graham Harrison, on Poisons for Medicines. Graham explained that all ingredients in medicines are potentially harmful if used incorrectly and in the past there was nothing to ensure correct usage. Even adverts could say anything; a 19th Century Diet Ad. said "Eat, eat, eat - no exercise, no diet - take Sanitised Tapeworm". Substances we would never think of taking were marketed for general use: from processed cocoa came cocaine used in anaesthetics, but also as Sore Throat Capsules, Baby's Teething Drops and Sigmund Freud recommended it for the treatment of mental illness. Opium was used for pain relief, cough mixture, diarrhoea and malaria! (Did you know that 19th century Norfolk had a huge problem with malaria & opium poppies were grown in every cottage garden?). Dr Collis Browns Mix contained morphine, there were Dr C B Festivals until the 1960's, where empty bottles of the medicine made most of the rubbish left. Arsenic was sold at 1/2 oz for 1d, enough to kill 50 adults; the list goes on, so maybe our rules & regulations are not such a bad thing after all!

In March there was the AGM & a quiz, then on April 19th we hear from Ian Jones on Bomb Disposal; as always, visitors & potential members welcome, Merry Bells 7.15pm

Early Notice: Royal Coffee Morning on Saturday 4th June with a Mini Bake

Off. This will be a simpler version of the very successful competition held two years ago. There will be two classes only: Adults; A Decorated Victoria Sponge Cake, Children (At Primary School) 6 Decorated Cup Cakes. Entry on the day Adults £1 Children 50p. Please support us again.



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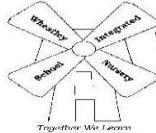
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SUSTAINABLE WHEATLEY FRUIT PICKING

Tim Blightman

Following the success of our initiative last autumn to help gather and distribute surplus fruit around the village, we are planning to do it again this autumn.

As well as finding suitable places to distribute the surplus fruit (last year we gave a lot to schools and playgroups, a nursing home and groups like the WI in addition to putting it out in the High Street for people to help themselves), we plan to make juice again or even cider.

We have been able to acquire on long-term loan equipment to press the fruit and pasteurise the juice; so, as well as being able to make more juice ourselves this year, we plan to have a "Juiceday" for any residents to bring their own fruit for juicing.

But we need your help! Autumn may seem a long way off but we need to plan for it and we'd love to hear from you now if you can help in any of the following ways:

1. Trees for picking – do you have any fruit trees that you would like help to pick the fruit from?
2. Hands for picking – come and help us pick the fruit
3. Bottles for juicing – let us have your screw-top wine bottles (either empty or full!)
4. Help with pressing – have an entertaining few hours making juice
5. Help with cider-making – are you a secret Eddie Grundy fan?
6. Help with distributing – do you belong to a group which could use the fruit?
7. Help with planning – give us new ideas/energy/organisation to make the project even more successful

If you can help in any way please do get in touch either by email admin@wheatleyca.org via our website sustainablewheatley.org.uk Facebook page sustainablewheatley or our twitter feed @suswheatley



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A SPRING IN THE STEP OUT INTO WILDLIFE GARDENING

Stuart Mabbott

If like me, the onset of Spring brings you new vigour and you want to know what new things you can add to your garden this year to bring in more wildlife. Look no further than the contents of your wheelbarrow. Arrange log and twig piles comprised of old prunings from around your garden. Dead wood, as I've said before, doesn't have to be as thick as my thigh. These provide valuable hideaway places for wildlife and by planting up with ferns, primroses, or other suitable plants, it can become an interesting feature in itself.

Slabs or stones will act as a suitable wildlife habitat; you'd be amazed what lurks under there. Newts often frequent these dark places. It's always a good time to build a compost heap or a leaf mould bin, if you do not have these already. Children can be engaged for hours digging away in a compost heap. There's an entire world in miniature in there.

Bee homes are now widely available so why not invest in one or take inspiration and build your own with materials hanging around in your garden. Solitary bees use these more successfully than bumble bees but that's just my observation. It would be interesting to hear about your findings.

Bees often colonise these homes in spring after hibernating over winter. The boxes can be left out over winter or taken down and stored in a safe place to avoid bees being eaten by predators. Isn't that part of the joy of wildlife gardening though? Helping build the food chains.

Insects are gardeners' friends as often they are natural pest controllers, helping you keep natural balance in your garden during the coming season. Try going with the flow this season and working with Mother Nature and not pulling against her, as we all have a tendency to do at times. Happy gardening. Stuart Mabbott, Wildlife Gardening Specialist 01865 747243.

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NEVER SUCH INNOCENCE AGAIN

Mick Jones

Never Such Innocence Again, to be performed in the Merry Bells on the centenary of the opening day of the Battle of the Somme, Friday 1 July, is a chronicle of the Great War. It is presented by Black Fox using mainly music and songs performed in community plays written by Mick Jones, for Wheatley.

The first play, *The Soldiers Have Taken Our Horses Away*, was performed in 1984. Mick interviewed five villagers who were at Wheatley School in 1914: - Rosie Jeffs (née Holness); Ruby Bunce (née Tombs); Bill Tombs; Cassie White (née Mitchell) and Ruben (Rugger) Crick. Short excerpts of taped conversations with all of them, except Ruben, will be used in the presentation, giving an insight into village life during the war, as seen by children. Much to his regret, Mick never taped Ruben, who lost two brothers Maurice and Walter in the conflict. Fortunately, some of Ruben's recollection are reported in the book, *They Were A Wall*, published by the Wheatley Branch of the Royal British Legion and the Wheatley Society, the few remaining copies of which will be on sale on the night.

Another sound- recorded part of the production will be taken from *Morris On The Somme*, a radio 4 play written by Mick and starring Ian Targett, one of Wheatley's famous actors.

Village life, life at the front, both military and nursing, the stance of conscientious objectors and musical settings of well-known poetry, will help tell the story aided by passages of narration linking the various musical items. Most of the music will be from the plays but there will be other original material and sing-a-long songs, such as *Keep the Home Fires Burning*, to get the audience to join in.

This production is for one night only so it would be advisable to get tickets early as the Merry Bells has a modest audience capacity. Tickets are priced at £5.00 and can be obtained from Andy and Liz Walkey 07900 041070 walkey.cake@ntworld.com

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Alun Regan

The new season is now nearly upon us, with our indoor net practices about to commence, our first game scheduled for April 24th and a tour to the Isle of Wight already booked for the late May Bank Holiday.

We always welcome new members of any ability and age. Our membership is extremely broad, ranging from people who have not long taken up the game to some who, in past incarnations, have played at quite a high standard and also from teenage years to well beyond retirement age. Our aim is to be a friendly team who, win or lose, enjoy local Sunday cricket, with a big focus on the social side as well as the sporting side. If you are interested in joining in, please contact Hugh Kitchin on 873305.

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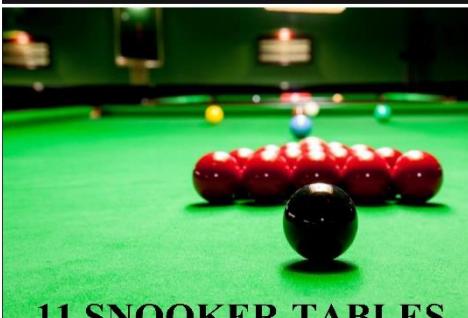
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WHEATLEY SOCIETY 2016

Mary Hall

Although the Wheatley Society has been active for 40 years and for many is a source of friendship and community involvement, some of you may not have thought of joining. Others like me may have found it a really friendly and welcoming way for a newcomer to feel part of the Wheatley community. In January I stepped into David Harverson's role as Chairman and I am sure he will be a hard act to follow.

There are no plans to stray too far from the types of activities that current members enjoy – a mix of social and cultural events plus supporting village wide activities such as the Neighbourhood Plan and the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations. But we are definitely open to new types of events and new members. We will take the May Day events on May 2nd as an opportunity to canvas ideas as to which initiatives we should develop to serve existing and new members.

Before then there is an opportunity to have an insight into the workings of the BBC's World Service when Roger Hardy, a former Middle East expert and presenter, gives us a taste of his "From our own Correspondent" experience on April 1st at 7.30 for 8.00 at the Merry Bells. This is open to all - do come along.

For further information on membership please contact Leigh Darnton
darnton@talktalk.net

THE TRIANGLE CARE HOME

Tracey Owen

It's an exciting time at The Triangle Care Home. We have more residents and staff from Wheatley and the surrounding villages than previously, so we are becoming a bigger part of the community. Because of this, we have regular local visitors too, who we hope feel as welcome and part of our home as the residents themselves.

As part of my job, I provide entertainment and company to everyone here, and the residents have enjoyed visits by 'Golden Toes' dancers and a fabulous Opera singer called Katy. We also have had visits by local groups and have felt privileged to have had performances by Wheatley Primary School and Wheatley Birds of Prey. We have enjoyed trips out for a meal at the Kings Arms pub and more further afield to Cowley Centre and Notcutts Garden Centre for shopping.

Future events include an **Open Day on Friday 17th June** starting at 11.30am which everyone is invited to, there will be a raffle and (weather permitting) a barbecue lunch for a small fee! This would be an ideal opportunity, if you have a loved one who may need help in the future, to come and meet our lovely caring, friendly staff and have a look around.

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THE MERRY BELLS COFFEE ROOM

Anne Ledwith

David Youd had a surprise birthday party in the Coffee Room in February. Everything was organised by his children Zoe and Huw and besides the regular users of the Coffee Room quite a few of his friends from further away came to join in the celebrations.

We hold a meet draw on a Friday morning with prizes supplied by our local butcher – Jason. Come and join us and see how lucky you are.

THE MERRY BELLS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1. The Merry Bells AGM

This will take place on Thursday 21st April 2016 at 7.00pm in the Main Hall of the Merry Bells. All Wheatley residents are eligible to attend and vote.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. To agree minutes from the AGM on 28th April 2015
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. To receive the Chairman's report
5. To receive examined accounts
6. To receive the Treasurer's report
7. Election of 5 members to the Management Committee (as per Trust deed)
8. Any other relevant business.

2. Closure of the Merry Bells Car Park. Notice is hereby given that the annual closure of The Merry Bells Car Park will take place from 1.00pm on Saturday 11th June 2016 to 10.00am on Monday 13th June 2016

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WHEATLEY LIBRARY

Wendy Stanton

Our friends group conducted a small survey recently and what came to light is that people are simply not aware of the range of services we offer so I thought I would list some of them here:

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NEWS FROM WHEATLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Zena Knight

Our Sunday afternoon tea in the hall from 2.30-4.30pm will be held on 3 April and again on 1 May. Tea or coffee will be served in vintage china and do come and sample the delicious cakes and enjoy the good company.

Our regular coffee morning from 10.00am-12.00noon in the hall on the first Thursday of the month will be on 7 April and 5 May. We look forward to seeing you to again enjoy good company. A few books of light reading and magazines will be available to choose.

Looking quite a long way ahead but still just in May is our annual Church Fête, as usual held by kind permission in the grounds of the doctor's garden, 116 Church Road. It is on Spring Bank Holiday Monday, 30 May at 2.00pm. There will be refreshments, stalls and games to enjoy and everyone is welcome.

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COMMUNITY COACH TRIPS

Leigh Guyatt

The trips are still going strong! It would be lovely to meet more of the community, if you are interested in joining us, email oxfordtoursandmore@gmail.com or phone **01865 872765**.

NEXT COMMUNITY COACH TRIP – 12 April 2016 to two NT venues - Sandham Memorial Chapel (to see Stanley Spencer's paintings) and The Vyne (Tudor House). **BUCKINGHAM PALACE IS COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER.** The Palace has limited access and the trips have to be organized well in advance so it's not until 7 September and is filling up fast. We will be visiting the staterooms and gardens. If you would like to come, please get in touch.

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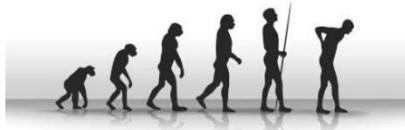
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FAMILY SESSION

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ADVANCED SESSION

12.00pm – 1.00pm

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WHEATLEY DAY BY DAY

WEEKLY	<p>Merry Bells Coffee Room open 10 am to noon, Tues to Fri. All welcome.</p> <p>Wheatley Nursery School Every weekday from 8 am to 3 pm next to the Primary School in Littleworth Road Contact 01865 452725.</p> <p>Wheatley Pre-School. Behind the Primary School Car park. Littleworth Road. Sessions Mon - Fri 9.00 to 11.45 am and 1.00 to 3.30 pm Call 01865 873687 to visit, to register, or for information.</p> <p>Sharecare Community Club Age UK Oxfordshire 9.30am - 2pm Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays at Holton Village Hall. An opportunity for older people to meet with others. Contact Jackie Capper, Holton@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk or 07827 235 425.</p>
SUNDAY	<p>St Mary the Virgin: Every Sunday 8 am Holy Communion. 1st Sunday 10 am Parish Praise. 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays, 10 am Sung Eucharist with King's Club for Children. 4th Sunday 10 am service is Food Bank Sunday. Please bring a donation for the Food Bank.</p> <p>Kings Club for children runs every week apart from the 1st Sunday of the month alongside the 10am service.</p> <p>URC: Services at 10am. Holy Communion on 1st & 3rd Sundays.</p> <p>Wheatley Community Church: Every Sunday 10.30 am, Merry Bells.</p> <p>Our Lady of Lourdes: Vigil Mass now on Saturday at 6pm.</p>
MONDAY	<p>SODC Collections: (except Bank Holidays). Food refuse weekly; wheelie bins for general waste, recycling waste and garden waste on alternate Mondays. Details 01865 875615.</p> <p>Sharecare Community Club, Holton Village Hall, 9.30am-2pm</p> <p>Carers and Toddlers. Every Monday in school term at URC Hall, Crown Square 9.30 to 11.30 am. Everyone welcome. Age 0 - 3 with adult. Details: Enid (08165) 872403.</p> <p>Friends of Wheatley Library Craft Group. Every Monday in the Library, 10am - 12noon in school term time.</p> <p>Citizens Advice Bureau 10 am - 1 pm United Reformed Church. Free confidential advice on money, legal, family and other matters. To make an appointment call 01844 217186 (Mon, Tue, Fri 10-4).</p> <p>Bumps to Babies Maple Tree Children's Centre, Littleworth Rd 1.30 - 3.30pm. T 01865 873916.</p> <p>Not-so-Young Club. Merry Bells. 2-4 pm. Every 2 weeks - see diary.</p>

	<p>Beaver Scouts, boys and girls aged 6-8, during term time, 5.30-6.30 pm, at the Scout Hut, Holloway Rd (Tel: 01865 874997)</p> <p>Brownies meet in the URC Hall 5.30 to 7 pm in term time.</p> <p>Wheatley Bridge Club. Holton Village Hall. 7 pm.</p> <p>Community Choir URC Hall, 7.30 to 9 pm in term time.</p>
TUESDAY	<p>Merry Bells Coffee Room open 10 am to noon</p> <p>Now I am Two Peep Group, Maple Tree Children's Centre 10 - 11am. Contact 01865 873916</p> <p>St Mary's Guild meets every 4th Tuesday in the URC Hall, 2.15 pm. New members always welcome See Diary for details.</p> <p>Wheatley Women's Institute. Meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Merry Bells at 7.15 pm (except no meeting in August and the December meeting is held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month). New members always welcome to join and visitors are welcome at our talks and outings. Contact Christine 873246.</p> <p>Wheatley Singers in the URC Hall 7.15 – 9.00pm, all welcome. Contact Celia Pagel 01865 872250</p> <p>St Mary's Church open for prayer and reflection 7.30 to 9 pm</p>
WEDNESDAY	<p>Merry Bells Coffee Room open 10 am to noon</p> <p>Stay and Play, Maple Tree Children's Centre 9.30 - 11.30am. Contact 01865 873916</p> <p>Parish Office Public Opening. 9.30-11.30am Details: 875615</p> <p>Sharecare Community Club, Holton Village Hall, 9.30am-2pm</p> <p>Wheatley Library Coffee Morning every 1st Wednesday of the month, 10am - 12 noon</p> <p>St Mary the Virgin 12 noon, Holy Communion.</p> <p>Cub Scouts. Boys and girls aged 8-10 ½, 6.45-8.15 pm, at the Scout Hut, Holloway Road. Contact 01865 874284</p> <p>Guides meet in the URC Hall, 7 to 8.30 pm, in term time.</p> <p>Great Milton & District Local History Society. Meetings 4th Wednesday of month, Great Milton School 7.30 pm. Non-members welcome. Details: (01844) 279567</p> <p>Wheatley Walkers, Jalkers and Joggers. 7.30-8.30pm, the Park sports Centre, Contact Helen Coombes on 01865 872551 or 07979 538557</p>
THURSDAY	<p>Merry Bells Coffee Room open 10 am to noon</p> <p>United Reformed Church coffee morning on the first Thursday, each month from 10 am - noon. All welcome.</p> <p>Wheatley Walks. 10-11am. Meet at the Park Sports Centre - details from Anne on 872628 or Jean on 873430.</p> <p>Wheatley Archive Room. The Merry Bells 2-5 pm.</p> <p>Xstream. An after school club for primary children, 3.15 to 4.30 pm at the Primary School.</p> <p>Explorer Scouts. Boys and girls aged 14-18, 7-9pm at the Scout Hut, Holloway Road (07745 285938)</p>

FRIDAY	<p>Sharecare Community Club, Holton Village Hall, 9.30am-2pm</p> <p>Stay and Play, Maple Tree Children's Centre, 9.30 - 11.30am Contact 01865 873916</p> <p>Merry Bells Coffee Room open 10 am to noon</p> <p>Horspath Hub Coffee Morning 10.30am to noon</p> <p>Scouts. Boys and girls aged 10 ½ to 14, 7 to 9 pm, at the Scout Hut, Holloway Rd. Contact 07745 285938</p> <p>St. Mary's Belltower Practice. Experienced ringers and beginners welcome. St Mary's Church 7.30-9 pm. 01865 872250</p>
SATURDAY	<p>Parish Office Public Opening 9.30-11.30am</p> <p>Our Lady of Lourdes, Crown Rd. Vigil Mass 6pm. Parish Priest; The Rev. Canon Mervyn Tower. The Presbytery, Wharton Road, Headington OX3 8AJ. Tel: 01865 672433.</p> <p>Saturdads 2nd in month, Maple Tree Children's Centre, Littleworth Rd 10am - 12pm. Contact 01865 873916</p> <p>County & District Councillors' Surgery, 2nd in month. Parish Office, 10.30am</p> <p>Scrabble Club. 1st in month. Details of venue: T.872628</p>

APRIL DIARY

Friday	1	Wheatley Society, Merry Bells, 7.30pm
Sunday	3	Tea, Cake & Chat, URC Hall, 2.30-4.30pm
Wednesday	6	Coffee Morning, Wheatley Library, 10am-12pm
Thursday	7	Coffee morning, URC Hall, 10am-12pm Wine Circle, Merry Bells, 8pm
Saturday	9	County & District Councillors' Surgery, Parish Office, 10.30am
Monday	11	School Term 5 starts Craft Group, Wheatley Library 10am-12pm Not so Young Club, Merry Bells, 2-4pm Craft Group, Wheatley Library 7-9pm
Tuesday	12	Wheatley VPA, Merry Bells, 7.30pm
Wednesday	13	Planning Committee, Parish Office, 7.30pm
Saturday	16	Swap Shop, Merry Bells 9.30 - 11.30am
Monday	18	Craft Group, Wheatley Library 10am-12pm F & GP Committee, Parish Office, 7.30pm
Tuesday	19	Women's Institute, Merry Bells, 7.15pm
Wednesday	20	Annual Parish Meeting, Merry Bells Hall, 7.30pm
Thursday	21	Royal British Legion open meeting, New Club, 11.30 Merry Bells AGM, 7.30pm
Saturday	23	St George's Funday, Church Rd Recreation Grd 2-5pm Come & Sing, St Bartholomew's Church Holton, see p24

Monday	25	Not so Young Club, Merry Bells, 2-4pm Craft Group, Wheatley Library 10am-12pm
Tuesday	26	St Mary's Guild, 2.15pm, URC Hall
Thursday	28	Wine Circle, Merry Bells, 8pm
Saturday	30	Wheatley Singers, St Mary's Church, 7.30pm

MAY DIARY

Sunday	1	Tea, Cake and Chat, URC Hall, 2.30-4.30pm
Monday	2	May Day Procession, Crown Square, 10am Craft Group, Wheatley Library 10am-12pm
Wednesday	4	Coffee Morning, Wheatley Library, 10am-12pm
Thursday	5	Coffee morning, URC Hall, 10am-12pm
Saturday	7	Oxfordshire Artweeks (until 30 May)
Sunday	8	Wheatley Windmill, Windmill Lane, open 2-6pm
Monday	9	Craft Group, Wheatley Library 10am-12pm Not so Young Club, Merry Bells, 2-4pm Craft Group, Wheatley Library 7-9pm Parish Council, Merry Bells, 7.30pm
Tuesday	10	Wheatley VPA, Merry Bells, 7.30pm
Wednesday	11	Planning Committee, Parish Office, 7.30pm
Saturday	14	County & District Councillors' Surgery, Parish Office, 10.30am
Monday	16	Craft Group, Wheatley Library 10am-12pm F & GP Committee, Parish Office, 7.30pm
Sunday	15	Wheatley Windmill, Windmill Lane, open 2-5pm
Monday	23	Craft Group, Wheatley Library 10am-12pm Not so Young Club, Merry Bells, 2-4pm
Friday	27	School Term 5 Ends (Term 6 starts 6 June)
Monday	30	URC Church Fête, 116 Church Road, 2pm

Full contact details of local organisations can be found in the Wheatley Information Booklet. Copies available from the Parish Council office or www.wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

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