

# Wheatley Newsletter

Published by the Parish Council

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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:** *Wheatley Parish Councillors elected in May 2015. 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 October - November edition is, **Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2015.** Contributions to the Parish Office, as hard copy, or preferably by email with WORD attachments to [newsletter@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:newsletter@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk) - with embedded pictures sent separately.

## 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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Wheatley Library	01865 875267
County Councillor Anne Purse	01865 351404
District Councillor Toby Newman	01865 872239

## CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

**Geoff Stephens**

The newly-elected Parish Council is now in place and has already started taking decisions on your behalf. Over the next four year term important decisions will be made affecting most residents of Wheatley either directly or indirectly. These will include regular issues such as parking, planning considerations, village infrastructure, traffic, etc., but looming large on the horizon is the question of the adoption of a Neighbourhood Plan. We have already decided to take the first steps in this direction and will shortly be consulting more widely in the village for your views and to identify individuals that might want to participate in the process.

A critical factor will be the channels through which residents and the Parish Council communicate with each other. In addition to the established channels (this newsletter, Parish website, noticeboards, open forums at meetings, etc.), we will shortly be adopting social media as an efficient and timely way of sending out notifications of meetings, agendas and minutes.

We know that whilst most residents are internet-savvy, we are well aware there is a significant minority who are not, or do not have the necessary equipment. However, the village library is an excellent resource through which this information can be accessed and there are is very capable team of friendly volunteers who are only too happy to help.

The coming months are likely to be very busy with major issues and it will be more important than ever for us all to stay fully informed.

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[info@siblingsnurseryofwheatley.co.uk](mailto:info@siblingsnurseryofwheatley.co.uk)



## CLERK'S COLUMN

### Gareth Morris

At its last meeting the Parish Council accepted, with regret, the resignation of Councillor Joyce Coveley. Councillor Coveley was first co-opted on to the Parish Council in 1999 and has served ever since. She became a stalwart of the Planning Committee and her expertise and knowledge will be greatly missed. The Parish Council wishes to place on record their gratitude to Councillor Coveley for her support and hard work for the council during her sixteen year tenure.

As a result, a vacancy on the council was declared and the Returning Officer at South Oxfordshire informed. Notices were posted saying that there was a vacancy on the Parish Council. If 10 electors, within 10 days of the notice (not including Saturdays and Sundays), wrote to the Returning Officer claiming an election then SODC would organise one (at the Parish's expense). If an election wasn't claimed then the Parish Council could co-opt at its meeting in September. At the time of writing it is not known if an election has been claimed. I will post details on the website and the notice boards as soon as I know.

Also at its last meeting the Parish Council recommended approval to SODC of the development of 51 dwellings, with access from London Road, together with associated landscaping and open space provision. This will be a 'rural exception site' made up of 38 affordable/joint ownership properties and 13 open market properties. If you wish to be considered for a property then you need to be registered with SODC Housing Department.

Hopefully, by now, you will have received your new Wheatley Information Booklet. If you have not received a copy please contact the Parish Office and arrange to pick a copy up. Many thanks to Doug Lamont and Tim Blightman for putting the booklet together and to the Parish Councillors and the Assistant Clerk for delivering them.

### Dates for your Diary - all meetings start at 7.30pm

Wednesday 12th August	Planning Committee	Parish Office
Monday 7th September	Parish Council	Merry Bells Hall
Wednesday 9th September	Planning Committee	Parish Office
Monday 21st September	F&GP Committee	Parish Office

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## **SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Toby Newman, District Councillor**

We've moved. South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) has now moved into their new, temporary, offices on Milton Park near Abingdon following the devastating fire earlier in the year. I do understand that if you're planning to visit it's a bit far away, but most services can be accessed via the website at [www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk) Further information can be found in the Outlook magazine you should have recently received.

Do you want to have a say over if or where new homes, shops or offices are built within our village or what new buildings should look like? Maybe you want to protect and enhance our high street or protect our local green spaces for generations to enjoy in years to come?

As part of my election campaign, I said that I supported the creation of a neighbourhood plan and I'm continuing to push this. A neighbourhood plan is a community-led framework for guiding the future development and growth of an area. Some of the benefits include providing local people and businesses influence over their future and gives communities a say over where development should happen and what it should look like. It also allows us to protect and enhance our historic and natural environment whilst also identifying and addressing local traffic and transport issues.

I'll be working with the local parish councils to help them decide if this is something we should undertake and I'd welcome you contacting me with your views or for further information.

Finally, school summer holidays are now underway so when you're driving, please look out for our children and young adults as I'm sure many will be outside taking advantage of our sports and recreation facilities and cycling or walking around the village. If you do want to speak with me, 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](mailto:toby.newman@southoxon.gov.uk)



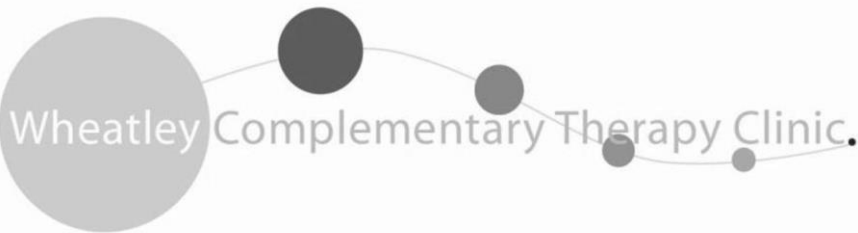
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## OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Anne Purse, County Councillor

The better weather has not brought us a respite from potholes. Although many have been filled, there is still need for further work as I write. If anyone sees a pothole the best thing to do is to report it straight away on **Fix My Street** on the County Council's website ([www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)). If, after reporting, it is still not getting fixed, please do get in touch with me and I can follow it up. If I am told about a pothole before it has been reported, unless it is far bigger or more dangerous than usual, the first thing I have to do is come out to look at it to see the exact place, so that I can then put it onto Fix My Street. Unfortunately there is not a Councillor's 'short cut' to get most unreported potholes done, but I am always happy to chase up once they have been reported.

You may have heard that there is to be a consultation on the County's refuse recycling centres, with a hint that some may close. The problem as I see it is that it must be made fairly easy for people to do the right thing with their waste to avoid our countryside being blighted by fly-tipping, Recycling centres have a vital role to play in this.

Less money coming to County Councils and subsequent cut backs caused by this are also putting Children's Centres such as the Maple Tree Children's Centre in Wheatley under heavy strain. If anyone has a child who goes there or has any other connection with the Centre and wants to discuss this, I would be very pleased to speak with them. I am pledging my support both to the Children's Centres and to rural buses (also being consulted on now) at this time of cuts to services. What is becoming clear is that the rural population is going to be particularly hard hit by some of the proposed changes in the future.

Please contact me as below, or come to a surgery on the morning of the second Saturday in the month (no Surgery in August) at the Parish Office, Merry Bells. Email [anne.purse@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:anne.purse@oxfordshire.gov.uk) Tel – 01864351404 Mob – text or ring 07787 885717.

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## NOT THE FUN RUN 2015 REPORT

### Jack Turner (not the organiser)

Cool, sunny and light winds. Perfect conditions for a run around our lovely countryside.

I arrived at 10 past 10, just in case, and there were already three eager beavers wanting to walk the course. They were Vivien Trafford, 58, Fiona O'Neill, 52 and proud and Andy O'Neill, 55. They recorded a time of 1 hour and 30 seconds. Meanwhile, Cath Hogan, needing a bigger challenge, had set off for Carfax in Oxford from her home in Windmill Lane and walked there and back in time for the runners' finish in 2 hours and 50 seconds!

29 assorted human beings started the run and they all returned, in the following order:

	Name	Time	Age		Name	Time	Age
1st	Tom Guy	26.36	26	15th	Scott Whittingham	39.30	46
2nd	Mark Roulston	26.46	41	16th	Izzy Read	39.41	14
3rd	Rob Hallin	27.37	35	17th	Jay Read	39.41	45
4th	Charlie Caldicott	28.26	14	18th	Linda Crichton	40.39	55
5th	Daniel Morrish	31.51	13	19th	Caroline Chavasse	40.40	46
6th	Harry Brown	32.51	15	20th	Oliver Morrish (Youngest runner)	41.43	10
7th	Sarah Bendor-Samuel (1st woman home)	33.43	47	21st	David Morrish	41.46	46
8th	John Creed (Oldest runner)	33.54	73	22nd	Howard Brown	43.01	55
9th	Graeme Freeman	34.09	48	23rd	Jack Turner	43.10	70
10th	Amy Wilkinson	36.00	33	24th	Brian Wickens Liz Wickens	44.36 44.36	47 47
11th	Colin Campion	36.02	61	26th	Celia Pagel	48.10	55
12th	Paul Phillips	36.25	51	27th	Vic Churchley	48.26	65
13th	Mike Hogan	37.38	51	28th	Hannah Phillips Roland Read	51.41 51.41	21 64
14th	Tasmin Ingle	38.11	39				

Congratulations to all the participants. I would like to thank all those who came to support their friends and family. My particular gratitude goes to my two timelords Michael Bunch and Gavin Belcher. Helen Webb supported this happy event which starts outside her pub, The Sun.

Please remember for next year, on the last bank holiday in May, the walkers can start at 10.30am but the runners depart at 11am along with anyone who wants to cycle the route. Whether you are 10 or 73 this could be something to prepare for next year and could thus be a spur to getting fit, losing weight and feeling so much better! Do it!

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## THE HISTORY FILE - French Connection Wheatley

John Fox

The Normans transformed England, Ireland and Wales, just like their 'Norsemen' ancestors made northern France 'Normandy'. France and England merged. Upper and Lower Chilworth hamlets (now lost) between Gt Milton-Tiddington – Wheatley, became Upper Chilworth *St Valery* for its abbey landowner on the Somme, and Lower Chilworth *Musard* for its new family lords on the Seine. The de Brays (of Pays de Bray) and de Cursons (of Courcon), held Waterperry; the bishop of Bayeux held Forest Hill, while the d'Oillys of Falaise (*Doyley Farm*, Stadhampton road) were the governors of Oxford and Wallingford. When the de Louches (of Calais) who owned Great Milton and Wheatley, married into an old Norfolk/Sussex family of de Camoys, Gt Milton manor house became 'Camoys Court' [today's *Le Manoir*] and Wheatley became 'Wheatley Camoys'. Thomas, Baron Camoys (lord of many English manors), was a general officer commanding at Agincourt (1415). The victory allowed Henry V to inherit the French throne, but he failed to occupy it.

A solitary other Wheatley link can be established from the 'Hundred Years War' with France: John Marshal went AWOL in 1384 with all his kit. Agincourt was a 'bubble', France revived and burst it, Joan of Arc inspired everyone and England's French Connection collapsed. Roger Camoys, younger son of Baron Camoys of Wheatley, surrendered Bordeaux in 1453. England kept Calais for another century and still holds most of Les *Isles Anglo-Normandes* [Channel Islands]. In 1801, late but realistic, Britain finally dropped the irises ('lilies') 'of France from its Royal Arms.



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## SUSTAINABLE WHEATLEY

### Tim Blightman

A significant part of our objective is to minimise waste and maximise use of our resources. To this end we have launched 3 new initiatives and would be very interested to hear from anyone who wants to get involved:

1. **Wheatley garden share project: for under-used gardens and under-worked gardeners:** are you a garden owner with not enough time to do your garden justice? Do you have space in your garden which is under used? Or, are you a hopeful grower, with no access to a garden? Do you want to grow your own but don't have a garden to do it in? If so, the idea of a Wheatley Garden Share scheme is for you! We want to match owners and growers.
2. **Wheatley fruit picking and sharing scheme – autumn 2015:** do you have a fruit tree whose fruit you are unable to pick? Or do you know of a fruit tree in the village whose fruit is unpicked? Would you be interested in a scheme to help pick fruit that will otherwise go to waste? Do you have ideas of how that fruit could be used? Or are you involved in a group or a project that could benefit from this fruit?
3. **Wheatley car share:** did you see Peter Kay's Car Share on TV? Can we do the same? If you do a regular journey each day and would like to either offer a lift to someone else who does a similar journey or you would like to be given a lift, then get in touch. We want to try to match people together to help reduce the number of car journeys to and from Wheatley.

If you are interested in any of these, please get in touch either by calling 873957 or via the contact page on our website <http://sustainablewheatley.org/>

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## AGE UK OXFORDSHIRE

Janet Carr

On Tuesday October 15th an Information Fair will be held in The Merry Bells Coffee Room from 10am to 12noon. Please put this date in your diary as there will be varied information available and will be attended by Ruth Thomson, a South Oxfordshire Community Networker.

If anyone is unable to be there but would like some information please let me know and I will endeavour to find out any details required.

The summer newsletter has recently been issued and if anyone would like to receive them quarterly either by post or e-mail please contact me and I will arrange for this to be done. My contact details are: Telephone 01865 875126, e-mail [janet.carr22@btinternet.com](mailto:janet.carr22@btinternet.com)

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## ART AT THE MERRY BELLS

### Michelle Gregory

At a recent meeting of The Merry Bells committee it was agreed that, following on from the successful display of artwork by local school children, they would consider the idea of support for local artists (including sculptors, potters, photographers etc.) to display their work in the newly refurbished **coffee room** at The Merry Bells.

Currently, in the room, there are three wall boards suitable to hang paintings, drawings or photographs on. If there is sufficient interest, a secure display cabinet could be obtained for small sculptures or pottery.

Artists could display their work that is for sale, say for one month at a time. Perhaps a small donation could be offered towards the running costs of The Merry Bells. Anyone who has interest should contact Tim Blightman in first instance via [gillandtim.blightman@virgin.net](mailto:gillandtim.blightman@virgin.net) who will pass on details to Michele Gregory, who is co-ordinating the project.



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## THE FRIENDS OF WHEATLEY LIBRARY

### Vivien Vernede

The friends of the library would like to say a big thank you again to all our volunteers who are helping to keep the library open. At the village fayre there were many visitors. The library looked beautiful and welcoming. Wheatley library now has a new manager and we welcome Wendy Stanton in her new post.

The **Craft group** meet in the library every Monday in term time. They are meeting twice in the summer holiday on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> August. Then starting again on 7<sup>th</sup> September. There will also be a monthly evening craft group starting on 14<sup>th</sup> September from 7pm to 9pm.

The next **coffee mornings** are on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August and 2<sup>nd</sup> September 10am -12 noon. The library's website is [www.wheatleylibrary.org](http://www.wheatleylibrary.org) and please like our owl page on Facebook. We always need more volunteers so please e-mail [rosamond.lake@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rosamond.lake@hotmail.co.uk) if you would like to help.



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## WHEATLEY VILLAGE ARCHIVE

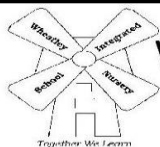
**Stephanie Cox**

The Wheatley Village Archives are stored on the first floor of the Merry Bells and the room is open on Thursday afternoons between 2pm and 5pm (other times by arrangement). The volunteers answer enquiries by email and help visitors to pursue their research.

The Archive room houses details of past Wheatley residents, houses, churches, roads, hostelrys, family trees, photos, artefacts, diaries, journals and old maps of Wheatley and the surrounding area.

Over the last few weeks we have helped a visitor research the involvement of women from Cuddesdon in WW1. Six visitors from Yorkshire and two from Somerset came to research their connections to local families. An email enquiry about the history of the hotel by the bridge over the Thame kept us busy and another visitor to the village, who has family connections to a previous licensee of the King and Queen, was looking for more information.

If you have anything that you can add to the archives or want to find out more about the village, then do come along to see the volunteers on **Thursdays** or email: [wheatleyarchives@gmail.com](mailto:wheatleyarchives@gmail.com)



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## WHEATLEY LIBRARY

Wendy Stanton

We have had a very busy few months at the library, with the help of our volunteers.

The library was open all day for the Wheatley Fayre on 4<sup>th</sup> July. On display were book club recommendations and reviews. We also had a craft table manned (womanned?) by the leader of our regular craft group with examples of different craft activities. Big thank you to Anne! Another volunteer was on hand for rolling Storytime and Rhymetime for children. Big thank you to Julie! We also gained some new members and new volunteers.

It was a great turn out and the library was exceptionally busy. If you missed out, please come along and find out what the library can offer.

This summer our **Reading Challenge** is called Record Breakers and is open to all children who wish to read books, write comments, get stickers and ultimately...a certificate and medal! There is still time to join up as it runs until school re-starts and any late-starters can still get their prizes up to the end of October. Adults can do their own reading challenge on topics titled Crossing Boundaries, Weird and Wonderful and Life Changes. Please speak to a member of staff who can then sign you up and get reading.

Don't forget that we also have **computer buddy sessions** which can be booked for Wednesday mornings and we have assistance for family history research. We are also able to help those who wish to access any parish council documents that are online. Friendly faces to help you those who are unfamiliar with the web.

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We have had a great year with many exciting events; including the installation of the 'stained glass' window the children created with the local artist Kate Watkins into St Mary's and the achievement of Artsmark, with a celebration service with Bishop Colin.

All our visitors, whether they are prospective parents or professionals from organisations we work with, such as the Diocese and Brookes University, are all very complimentary about the learning that is going on in our school. The pupil guides are especially complimented on their knowledge of the school and their confidence; so if you would like to come and see us for a school tour, just ring the school office, as we are proud of our school and all who work and volunteer in it.

We are looking to expand our governing body so if you have some spare time and you would like to work with the governing body and staff to continue to move our super school even further, please contact the school for more information.

[Head.3165@wheatley.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:Head.3165@wheatley.oxon.sch.uk)

## **FREE COMPUTER TRAINING**

**Liz Roberts**

Do you know someone who'd like **FREE** computer training? Soha Housing is running a session in Chalgrove at The Acreage on 26<sup>th</sup> August between 10am and noon.

Everyone is welcome - from beginners wanting to have their first ever go at using computers or accessing the internet to people who want to improve existing skills. Soha will bring some equipment but, if you prefer, do bring your own device, whether laptop, tablet or smartphone. Adela, Soha's computer trainer, can help you make the most of employment opportunities, hobbies or leisure time. To book a place call Adela or Liz at Soha on 01235 515 900/0800 014 15 45 free from a landline or email [digital@soha.co.uk](mailto:digital@soha.co.uk). **Anyone can join in**, but priority will be given to Soha residents if we start getting pushed for space!

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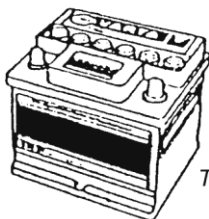
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The Pete Fryer Band - Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October 9pm

Children's Halloween Party - Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October 3pm

For more details contact Jo on 01865 873530 after 7pm or email [jo.darvill@btconnect.com](mailto:jo.darvill@btconnect.com)  
The New Club 3 Blenheim Lane Wheatley Oxford OX33 1NJ



## WHEATLEY VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

### John Allmond

Thirty-four members have recently returned from the VPA holiday in June to Cornwall where they enjoyed visiting a number of delightful gardens including Heligan, Trebah and Lanhydrock and no doubt have brought back many ideas to incorporate into their gardens.

Preparations are apace for the Annual Show on September 5<sup>th</sup> in the Merry Bells. This year, being the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Organisations' founding, it is hoped to have a display of photographs, newspaper cuttings and memorabilia covering this period. If members have anything that could be included, please contact a committee member so that we may make a copy and return the original to its owner.

A new trophy for the best carnation has been donated by the Oscar Wilde Society this year. Oscar was well known for wearing a carnation buttonhole. **All entry forms must be submitted to the Show Secretary at 4, Bell Lane by mid-day on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August.** Please note change of address from previous years. Late entries cannot unfortunately be accepted.

Meetings are held in the Merry Bells on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm; however there is no meeting in August. The next members' meeting will be on September 8<sup>th</sup> when Lucy Righton will be talking about seasonal flower arranging. This is quickly followed on September 19<sup>th</sup> by a coach outing to the Newbury Show. We are delighted to welcome new members at a cost of £5 per household for the year.



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## **WHEATLEY RUGBY CLUB**

### **Jake Durbin**

It's been a very busy summer at Wheatley Rugby club, with the Rugby World cup just around the corner.

Alongside our usual Tuesday touch rugby sessions which allows people of all ages, abilities and sexes to come and experience the game of rugby in a non-contact, welcoming atmosphere, we have also seen a complete renovation of our clubhouse. The renovation culminated in a "Rugby Force" weekend whereby over 40 club members descended on the club to assemble new furniture, re-gravel the carpark, install a new big screen and entertainment system as well as giving the clubhouse a spring clean, leaving the clubhouse unrecognisable from its 1980s roots.

With new furniture, state of the art entertainment system and a unique, custom made "Scrum" beer from XT brewery, Wheatley Rugby club is probably the best place in Wheatley for families to watch the upcoming World Cup. We will be open for all the England games, as well as the quarter finals, semi-finals and final with the aim to create a fun, family friendly atmosphere where the local community can come together and get behind England!

Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/WheatleyRUFC> for photos of the new clubhouse and info on all the upcoming events. We hope to see you soon!

## **HOLTON & WHEATLEY CRICKET CLUB**

### **Alun Regan**

We are now more than half way through the season and, despite consistently good bowling performances, unfortunately our Achilles heel of struggling to post winning totals continues, with only two wins and a draw to date. There have been some notable individual performances lately, particularly higher up the order, with Simon Switala registering two half-centuries and Alan Banyard, Peter Burrows and Binoy Master one apiece, but middle order collapses have been far too common. Notable performances with the ball include John Kelly, with a 5-wicket haul, and Graham Hawkins, with a hat-trick. However, even in defeat, the cricket has been exciting and team spirit has been high, with the highlight of the season to date being a thoroughly enjoyable tour to the Isle of Wight.

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 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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## **WHEATLEY PRODUCTIONS - Getting Ready For 2016**

Following on from the last edition, we are pleased to provide updates on our Pantomime, 'Sleeping Beauty' and the announcement of a world premiere for a new Opera to be performed a year from now at an exciting new venue for Wheatley Productions.

**"SLEEPING BEAUTY" Our Pantomime for January 2016** - Auditions and the casting are just about complete and we are pleased to say that it is a mixture of some very familiar 'old' faces and some new 'younger' ones, such as one of the teachers from Wheatley Primary, who will be our Good Fairy Queen, with her flock of Fairies up against our resident pantomime villain, Jack Turner. All helped and hindered by our famous Dame, Clive Hallet, who is again making his farewell appearance, just like Sinatra. But although Clive is hanging up his Dame's bra and corset, he will likely be appearing in our new Opera. For Pantomime information call Ian Germain: [germaini@aol.com](mailto:germaini@aol.com) 01865 875226 or 07768 506335.

**"LIZZIE STRATA'S SEX STRIKE" A New Opera by Roger Simmonds** - With a Libretto by David Willcock, this work is a contemporary setting of the play based on Lysistrata by Aristophanes, which deals with attempts by the Greek Women to stop the constant warfare of the time by refusing to have sex until the men agree to peace terms. Rude, Subversive and Utopian its subject matter is particularly relevant, in a global context, to our day and age.

Excitingly, the production will be in the Amphitheatre at Waterperry Gardens in the week following "Art in Action" in 2016 i.e. 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> July, with intensive rehearsals in the week leading up to the performances. Otherwise music and words will be learnt as and when necessary.

We are looking for a small but strong cast of singers able to both sing in the chorus and act out solo roles when required. There will be three workshop sessions led by the Director David Willcock and the Musical Director Roger Simmonds leading to Auditions, later this autumn.

These sessions will be in the **URC Hall**, Crown Square, Wheatley on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 10am – 12 noon; Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept. 7 – 9pm; and Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October 10am – 12 noon**. If you are interested in this production and are able to attend these workshops please let us know. If you are interested but unable to attend the workshops please do get in touch.

Further information from David Willcock: [david.willcock@spirefilms.co.uk](mailto:david.willcock@spirefilms.co.uk) 07941 708850 or Roger Simmonds: [roger.simmonds3@btinternet.com](mailto:roger.simmonds3@btinternet.com) 01865 872009. Wheatley Productions are looking for a generous benefactor to help provide low-cost, dry and secure storage for Costumes, Props and Scenery. If you can help, please contact Ian Germain.

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## WHEATLEY & DISTRICT WINE CIRCLE

### Stephanie Brooklyn

The Circle was formed as an offshoot of the Village Produce Association after several members had asked Esme and Alf Wright to start a wine and beer making group in the village. This they did in 1984 and "The Wheatley & District Wine and Beer Making Circle" came into being and proved to be very successful in attracting many members. Meetings were initially held in the "Merry Bells Stable Block" and when the Police moved into this building some years ago, the meetings relocated to the main hall.

Over a period of years, home winemaking became less attractive as supermarkets and other suppliers reduced the price and increased the availability of all types of wine and fewer people participated in this enjoyable hobby. Due to this and the Federation of Chiltern and Mid-Thames Wine Guild (which we belonged to) disbanding in 2010, we became The Wheatley & District Wine Circle and are now mainly a wine appreciation group.

Our monthly speakers cover a wide and varied range of subjects, but we do try to include some talks on wine and have tasting events arranged by members. There is still a homemade wine competition each year. We also have a summer barbeque, a garden tea party and an outing every year; plus a Christmas meal.

Our membership is small, around 25, but we all enjoy meeting on the first Thursday of the month in the Merry Bells at 8pm. In September, Cornfield Bakery will be telling us about the making of the television series "Britain's Best Bakery" in which they were competitors. Visitors are always welcome, so if you have an interest in wines, do come along to one of our meetings.



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## THE WHEATLEY PARK SCHOOL ARTS SHOW 2015

**Joanna Botha, Arts Manager**

The Wheatley Park School Arts Show 2015 was a big success with hundreds of visitors to the Old House over the weekend taking time out to look around our exhibition which showcases some of the fantastic work produced this year in Art, Photography and Textiles.

A Private View was held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> for the friends and families of those students and community artists who had contributed to the exhibition. For our Arts Festival the next day, the house was open once again for viewings of the exhibition, complemented by a music concert on the Terrace Stage at the rear of the house and with drama performances in the Studio.

Visitors to the exhibition commented on the high quality and incredible range of work on show and spent a long time looking round and leafing through sketchbooks. If you have never been to the annual end of year Art Exhibition before, it comes highly recommended and is inspiring for younger students, so do look out for it next year.

World Challenge students and Friends of Wheatley Park provided a lovely range of summer refreshments at the Saturday Festival and the sun shone on us, making it a highly enjoyable event. The students who performed, had worked very hard on their rehearsals and everybody was wowed by what they have achieved. The audience was entertained by drummers, saxophonists, trumpeters, cellists, singers, violinists and more,



rounded off by the school's very popular Soul Band. There was even an opportunity for audience participation this year with a Community Choir singing a joyous rendition of Nina Simone's *I Wish That I Knew How it Would Feel to be Free*, after just a short workshop in one of our music rooms.





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9 <sup>th</sup> July	In Loving Memory of George Surman – Loving Husband, Dad and Grampy
15 <sup>th</sup> July	In Loving Memory of Mark Franklin
6 <sup>th</sup> August	In Loving Memory of Josephine Dyer

## **REBECCA LEMON (née JOHN)**

David and Mary John and Rachel would like to thank all those who sent cards, letters of sympathy and flowers on the death of their dear daughter Rebecca. Your kindness was much appreciated.

## **BAZEL JOHN HARRIS – 1928 - 2015**

### **Yvonne Hamlet**

Suddenly on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015, our Dad, Bazel Harris passed away at home.

Dad was born on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 1928 in Long Wittenham, to Fred and Ellen Harris; he third child of four. He could have had a very different life to the one he chose; as he won a scholarship in the late 40's to study Maths at an Oxford university. He chose not to take the scholarship, as he knew his parents needed his support. He never regretted his decision, as he wouldn't have met Mum nor had his girls if he had gone.

Dad had several jobs over the years; he drove HGV Lorries for Jack Hanks and Tuckwells, worked at Morris Motors, King Harry Foods in Thame and as a caretaker at Oxford Brookes. He was also well known around the local villages as DJ Baz. He played the first song at many weddings and always felt it was a privilege to be part of such a special day in a family's life.



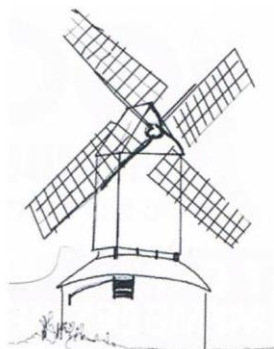
Our Dad was a kind, gentle, loving man and a perfect role model. His passing has hit us all very hard, but we take comfort in that he is now back reunited with Mum, who he loved and missed so dearly.

We would like to express our thanks to his neighbours and carers. We truly appreciate the support given. God Bless Dad, we all love and miss you so much.

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**FROM THE VICAR**  
**Revd Nigel Hawkes**

As I write this letter, the schools have just begun their summer holidays. For the young people who have just come to the end of their time at Primary School this is an exciting and, for some, a sad time. There were tears at the Leavers' Assembly, both from some of the youngsters and from their parents. But no matter how sad the ending of a chapter in a child's life might be, the overwhelming emotion is one of excitement, looking forward to the new challenges and the changes that a new school will bring.

Life is full of changes for all of us, no matter how much we might grumble about things changing at break-neck speed. When we look back over even a few years we will realize that so much changes from year to year. Some changes are definitely for the better and some, alas, are not. But whatever happens, we human beings are absolutely brilliant at accommodating change and at learning new ways. And within the maelstrom of change there are some things that remain constant, and upon which we can rely. The love of human relationships is an essential aspect of our lives, without which it is difficult to feel fully human, and in Wheatley we are lucky to have a friendly and caring community. The beauty of nature, too, is important – seasons come and go, and, even if we cannot know quite what to expect from the weather, there is a deep joy in seeing the ways in which nature's power surrounds us and feeds us.

In September, when the schools go back, all those young people who are starting at new schools will quickly put to the back of their minds their former existence and will embrace the new, just as parents will move on to new challenges as their children grow. And in nature we will begin to feel the nights grow chilly and the days get shorter.

The churches in Wheatley are not immune from change – ministers come and go, members leave and new people arrive. But we are constantly supported by the active power of God's love, always there to meet our deepest needs and to help us cope when all around us seems to be shifting sands.

May you know the constancy of God's love in your life.



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## **RESEARCH STUDY - calls for local people with early Parkinson's to help find a cure, Corrina Purdue**

Every hour, someone in the UK is told they have Parkinson's, a degenerative neurological condition, for which there is currently no cure. The main symptoms of the condition are tremor, slowness of movement and rigidity. Parkinson's affects 127,000 people in the UK - which is around one in 500 of the population.

Parkinson's UK is the leading national charity supporting people with the condition. To complete the first phase of its ground-breaking Monument Discovery Project, local people with early Parkinson's are needed to volunteer for a series of tests at their hospital. Diagnosing Parkinson's before the movement symptoms appear, combined with more effective treatments that can slow or stop the condition's progress, will be crucial steps towards a cure.

Researchers at the **Oxford Parkinson's Disease Centre (OPDC)** are inviting people diagnosed with Parkinson's in the last 3 years to help them understand the earliest signs of the condition.

Participants are invited to attend research clinics at their local hospital. Taking part would involve a simple blood test and a range of assessments of sense of smell, thinking, memory and mobility. Participants are followed up in clinic every 18 months until 2020.

If you would be interested in taking part, please call the team on 01865 234892 or email [Parkinsons.Discovery@nhs.net](mailto:Parkinsons.Discovery@nhs.net) To find out more, visit <http://www.opdc.ox.ac.uk/take-part> and for advice, information and support, visit [www.parkinsons.org.uk](http://www.parkinsons.org.uk) or call the free helpline on 0808 800 0303.

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## WHEATLEY W.I.

### Joyce Coveley

June was a very exciting month for the Women's Institute, both nationally & locally. The centenary celebrations started on June 2nd with the WI Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, to which each WI could send a representative.

Wheatley's lucky member was Sylvia Street, who described to us all her wonderful day. Two days later it was the turn of our President, Christine Jackson, and Treasurer, Julia Slade, who were privileged to attend the Centenary A.G.M. at the Albert Hall. They had an absorbing day with the added highlight of seeing H.M. The Queen, the Princess Royal and the Countess of Wessex. They also received a piece of the Centenary Cake, the cutting of which, was widely shown on TV news.

Here in Wheatley we marked the occasion with the Centenary Coffee Morning on 6th June, and a big thank you is due to all who supported the event and enabled us to raise a significant sum for this year's charity. Especial thanks are due to The King's Arms, Dallimore's Garden Centre, Cinnamons Restaurant and Cricks the Butcher who generously donated prizes.

On 16th June it was the annual garden meeting at Waterperry, the lovely weather allowed members to enjoy the grounds before indulging in a strawberry cream tea. The Val Targett Cake Competition was won by Dorrie Gethings who baked the champion coconut cake.

July started with a visit to Henley, with time to shop/explore, have lunch before embarking for a two hour river trip, while enjoying tea & cake. Again the weather was good and a most pleasant time was had by all. Our thanks to Ann Wild & Yvette Bowden for all their hard work in arranging the trip. On July 21st we had a musical evening with David Tonks, who sang Songs of the Sixties, a wonderful reminder of our youth! Christine reminded us that Wheatley WI Website is now live, to see it go to [www.wheatleywi.com](http://www.wheatleywi.com) and that there is no meeting in August. However there is a trip to Bournemouth on August 13th and, at the time of writing this, there were still a few seats available, which are open to all. If you are interested contact either Eve on 873277 or Ann on 873666.

Next meeting: Sept 15th "Bishops, Sex & Money"

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## A NEW CHURCH IN WHEATLEY

Gordon Ewbank

Anyone walking past the Merry Bells on a Sunday morning in recent months may have noticed a sign outside inviting people in to Wheatley Community Church and wondered who we were!



Our aim is to be inclusive, accessible and welcoming - a church for those who may not be familiar with going to church! (...and for those who are, of course) We cater for all ages and have many young families at the core of our community. Our gatherings are informal and contemporary in feel.

We also aim to be a nurturing church, shaped by God's word through the Bible - a community that explores questions of faith and learns and grows together.

Since mid-April around 60 of us have been gathering every fortnight and we've set up a rhythm of mid-week meetings. Through our social programme, which has included meals at each other houses, forest walks, breakfasts together and working on small community projects around Wheatley, our relationships are strengthening as we become a family together. Our members all live in or around Wheatley and we are now part of the Wheatley Area Churches group.

**September 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am** is our official launch service and we'll be meeting at the Merry Bells weekly from then on. In October we will be starting our first course for those interested in learning more about the Christian faith. To contact us, check meeting dates or just to find out more, please go to <http://wheatleycommunity.church> We'd love to meet you!

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Application forms are available from the Secretary, Janet Redfern (tel. 873389, email [janet.redfern@ntlworld.com](mailto:janet.redfern@ntlworld.com)), to whom they should be returned no later than **13th September 2015**.

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### **Sally Humphrey**

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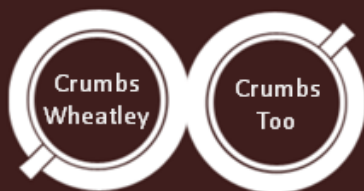
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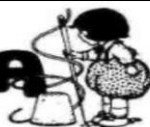
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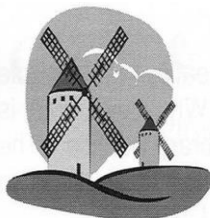


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<b>WEEKLY</b>	<p><b>Wheatley Nursery School</b> Every weekday from 8 am to 3 pm next to the Primary School in Littleworth Road Contact 01865 452725.</p> <p><b>Wheatley Pre-School.</b> Behind the Primary School Car park. Littleworth Road. Sessions Mon - 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><b>Coffee Room</b> open 10 am to noon, Tues to Fri, Merry Bells. All welcome.</p> <p><b>Sharecare Community Club</b> Age UK Oxfordshire 9.30am - 2pm Mondays, Wednesdays &amp; Fridays at Holton Village Hall. An opportunity for older people to meet with others. Contact Iris Ellis 07973 783938</p>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<p><b>St Mary the Virgin.</b> Every Sunday 8 am Holy Communion. 1st Sunday 10 am Parish Praise. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, 10 am Sung Eucharist with King's Club for Children. 4<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month alongside the 10am service.</p> <p><b>Our Lady of Lourdes</b>, Crown Road. Mass 10 am.</p> <p><b>URC.</b> Services at 10 am. Holy Communion on 1st &amp; 3rd Sundays</p> <p><b>Wheatley Community Church</b> Every Sunday 10.30 am, Merry Bells</p>
<b>MONDAY</b>	<p><b>Beaver Scouts</b>, boys and girls aged 6-8, during term time, 5.30-6.30 pm, at the Scout Hut, Holloway Road (Tel: 01865 874997)</p> <p><b>Brownies</b> meet in the URC Hall 5.30 to 7 pm in term time.</p> <p><b>SODC Collections:</b> (except Bank Holidays). Food refuse weekly; wheelie bins for general waste, recycling waste and garden waste on alternate Mondays. Details 01865 875615.</p> <p><b>Carers and Toddlers.</b> 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><b>Not-so-Young Club.</b> Merry Bells. 2-4 pm. Every 2 weeks.</p> <p><b>Wheatley Bridge Club.</b> Holton Village Hall. 7 pm.</p> <p><b>Citizens Advice Bureau</b> 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><b>Community Choir</b> URC Hall, 7.30 to 9 pm in term time.</p> <p><b>Friends of Wheatley Library Craft Group</b>, 10am - 12 noon</p> <p><b>Sharecare Community Club</b>, Holton Village Hall, 9.30am-2pm</p>

<b>TUESDAY</b>	<p><b>St Mary's Guild</b> meets every 4th Tuesday in the URC Hall 2 pm. New members always welcome See Wheatley Diary for details.</p> <p><b>Wheatley Women's Institute.</b> 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><b>St Mary's Church</b> open for prayer and reflection 7.30 to 9 pm</p>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<p><b>Parish Office Public Opening.</b> 9.30-11.30. Details: 875615</p> <p><b>Cub Scouts.</b> Boys and girls aged 8-10 ½, 6.45-8.15 pm, at the Scout Hut, Holloway Road. Contact 01865 874284</p> <p><b>Guides</b> meet in the URC Hall, 7 to 8.30 pm, in term time.</p> <p><b>Great Milton &amp; District Local History Society.</b> Winter meetings 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of month, Great Milton School 7.30 pm. Non-members welcome. Details: (01844) 279567</p> <p><b>Wheatley Walkers, Jalkers and Joggers.</b> 7.30 to 8.30 pm, the Park sports Centre, Contact Helen Coombes on 01865 872551 or 07979 538557.</p> <p><b>St Mary the Virgin</b> 12 noon, Holy Communion.</p> <p><b>Lively Library Club.</b> Second Wed, 2 to 3.30 pm, speakers, workshops, free to attend including tea and cake.</p> <p><b>Wheatley Library Coffee Morning</b> every 1st Wednesday of the month, 10am - 12 noon</p> <p><b>Sharecare Community Club,</b> Holton Village Hall, 9.30am-2pm</p>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<p><b>Explorer Scouts.</b> Boys and girls aged 14-18, 7 to 9 pm at the Scout Hut, Holloway Road (07745 285938)</p> <p><b>Wheatley Archive Room.</b> The Merry Bells 2-5 pm.</p> <p><b>Wheatley Walks.</b> 10 to 11 am. Meet at the Park Sports Centre - details from Anne on 872628 or Jean on 873430.</p> <p><b>United Reformed Church</b> coffee morning on the first and third Thursday, each month from 10 am to 11.30 am. All welcome.</p> <p><b>Xstream.</b> An after school club for primary children, 3.15 to 4.30 pm at the Primary School.</p>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<p><b>Scouts.</b> Boys and girls aged 10 ½ to 14, 7 to 9 pm, at the Scout Hut, Holloway Road. Contact 07745 285938</p> <p><b>St. Mary's Belltower Practice.</b> Experienced ringers and beginners welcome. St Mary's Church 7.30 - 9 pm. Details: (01865) 872250</p> <p><b>Sharecare Community Club,</b> Holton Village Hall, 9.30am-2pm</p> <p><b>Tea, Coffee &amp; Cakes,</b> Horspath Hub, 1030am-12noon</p>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<p><b>Parish Office Public Opening</b> 9.30 to 11.30 am.</p> <p><b>Scrabble Club.</b> 1st in month. Details of venue 872641.</p>

## AUGUST DIARY

Sunday	2	Tea, Cake & Chat, URC Hall, 2.30 to 4.30pm
Monday	3	Not so Young Club, 2pm Merry Bells
Wednesday	5	Coffee Morning, Wheatley Library, 10am- 12 noon
Thursday	6	Coffee morning, URC Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon
Sunday	9	Wheatley Windmill Open Day, Windmill Lane, 2-6pm Wheatley Society Garden Party, 6 Anson Close, 3.30pm
Wednesday	12	Planning Committee, 7.30pm Parish Office
Monday	17	Craft Group, Wheatley Library, 10am - 12 noon Not so Young Club, 2pm Merry Bells
Monday	24	Craft Group, Wheatley Library, 10am - 12 noon
Wednesday	26	Free Computer Training, The Acreage, Chalgrove, 10am - 12 Noon
Sunday	30	St Mary's Holiday Club Celebration 10am

## SEPTEMBER DIARY

Wednesday	2	Coffee Morning, Wheatley Library, 10am -12 noon
Thursday	3	Coffee morning, URC Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon Wine Circle, Merry Bells, 8pm
Sunday	6	Tea, Cake and Chat, URC Hall, 2.30-4.30pm
Monday	7	Craft Group, Wheatley Library, 10am - 12 noon Parish Council Meeting, Merry Bells, 7.30pm
Tuesday	8	Village Produce Association Seasonal Flower Arranging, Merry Bells, 7.30pm
Wednesday	9	Planning Committee, 7.30pm Parish Office
Friday	11	Wheatley Society 'Post War UK Civil Aviation', Merry Bells, 8pm
Saturday	12	Wheatley Productions Workshop for "Lizzie Strata's Sex Strike", URC Hall, 10am -12noon
Sunday	13	Wheatley Windmill Open Day, Windmill Lane, 2-6pm
Monday	14	Craft Group, Wheatley Library, 10am - 12 noon Not so Young Club, 2pm Merry Bells Evening Craft Group, Wheatley Library, 7pm-9pm
Tuesday	15	Women's Institute, 'Bishops, Sex and Money', Merry Bells, 7.15pm
Saturday	19	John Watson School 50th Anniversary. Celebration Picnic, John Watson Nursery School Garden, 2.30 - 5pm
Monday	21	Craft Group, Wheatley Library, 10am - 12 noon F & GP Committee, 7.30pm Parish Office
Wednesday	23	Wheatley Productions Workshop for "Lizzie Strata's Sex Strike", URC Hall, 7 - 9pm
Sunday	27	Harvest Thanksgiving, URC Chapel, 10.00am
Monday	28	Craft Group, Wheatley Library, 10am - 12 noon Not so Young Club, 2pm Merry Bells



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