

Wheatley Newsletter

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WHEATLEY NEWSLETTER

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Distributed by a team of volunteers to all addresses in Wheatley and Holton.

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Cover picture: The Railway in the early '80s - a staging post for the Great Pram Race which was held on the Spring Bank Holiday. Thank you to Mr E Morgan-Jones for kindly sharing this photo. If anyone has 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 August-September edition is **Saturday 14th July 2018**. Contributions (max. 250 words, please) 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.

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CHAIR'S COLUMN

Doug Lamont

Whilst we appreciate that there was not enough promotion surrounding the Wheatley Day of Action on Saturday May 12th, a good number of residents took part in clearing and tidying parts of the village that normally get little attention, so thanks to all those who took part. Cullum Rd play area, the corner of London Rd opposite Morland House and the corner of London Rd and Ambrose Rise as well as the footpaths between St Mary's Close and Church Rd and Old Rd and Keydale Rd are some of the sites that I am aware were given a spring clean by residents. We hope to make this an annual event but, of course, you don't have to wait to be a good neighbour - simply look after the area immediately around your location. Simple things like picking up the occasional piece of litter can make a huge difference to how our village looks.

For some time now, the village has been without disabled parking spaces and this has been a concern. Disabled parking rightly requires more space and a safe environment, something difficult to achieve in the centre of Wheatley. However, the Parish Council has decided to provide two disabled parking spaces on the "village square" area and these will be put in place, together with the required dropped kerbs, over the next month or so. There will still be space and opportunity to improve the remainder of this area and discussions are still ongoing as to the best way to achieve this, but it was felt that the issue of disabled parking was of primary concern.

Finally, thank you to all those organisations who took the opportunity to take part in the Annual Parish Meeting on May 3rd at the Merry Bells. It turned out to be a lively and interesting evening with many residents attending and participating in the question and answer session with parish councillors and both our SODC Councillor, Toby Newman, and our County Councillor, Dr Kirsten Johnson.

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CLERK'S COLUMN

Michelle Legg

The parish office is often a hive of activity with councillors and members of the community popping in to discuss issues, meetings and projects. One hot topic this month has been parking.

When driving into or through the village PLEASE consider your fellow villagers and park with consideration for pedestrians and other road users. Please do not block driveways, do not park on or close to junctions, do not park on footpaths or double yellow lines. Road markings are there to help keep us all safe, so please park considerately.

On a more positive note, thank you to everyone who came to and supported the Annual Parish Meeting, there was a hubbub of chatter during the community fair. The reports submitted in advance show the breadth of activities available and the positive impact you are all having on the wider community.

To support all charity, voluntary and community work that goes on in Wheatley, the parish council have adopted a new grants policy and have implemented a user-friendly application form. Both documents are now available from the parish office or the website. The finance committee will review small grant applications at their bi-monthly meetings from any organisation whose work supports residents of the parish. For an organisation considering a larger grant application these should be made before October. For more information or an informal chat please contact me or Annette.

We'd like to build up a photo archive for use on social media and in other publicity, so we'd be very grateful if you could share any photos you have of the village and events: clerk@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Dates for your Diary - Parish Council Meetings start at 7.30pm

Parish Council	Mon 4th June & 2nd July	Merry Bells Hall
Planning Committee	Wed 13th June & 11th July	Parish Office
Finance Committee	Mon 18th June	Parish Office
Open Spaces Committee	Mon 16th July	Parish Office

The Parish Council Office is open to the public on Wednesdays and Saturdays mornings 9.30 - 11.30am

**The County and District Councillors' surgery
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OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL Kirsten Johnson, County Councillor

Wheatley Division is part of the Thame, Wheatley and Watlington Locality Group and at our last Locality meeting, the Area Steward, Mr Keith Stenning, gave us a report on Highways.

There is a lot of local concern throughout the division about the state of our roads. My inbox is full of complaints about potholes, surfaces, drainage, kerbing, pavements, etc. I am doing my best to follow-up all that needs doing on our roads but please put items on www.fixmystreet.com first. I am only allowed to chase things up if they have first been put on Fix My Street, which is checked daily.

At the Locality Group, Mr Stenning agreed to send road repair statistics out weekly to the county councillors. This gives us some oversight into what is happening with repairs. The most recent figures I was sent before submitting this article was for the week 30 April.

During this week, OCC Highways scheduled 104 repairs for Wheatley Division and have opened investigation on 9 issues. The previous week, 113 repairs were scheduled. Very severe road defects are scheduled for a 2-hour repair window. The next level of repair priority is remedy within 24 hours. The other repairs are put down for 28-day repairs. Finally, some road concerns are not found to be 'bad enough' and they are monitored by the local highways officer.

Mr Stenning explained that they have a strict way of prioritising road concerns. Just in the last month I have had meetings in four villages with officers to show them what needs to be done. I have more meetings scheduled. I will continue to do my best to get our roads and pavements into better shape.



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WHEATLEY PLAYING FIELD TRUST

Paul Willmott, Chairman

After more than two years of negotiations, Wheatley Parish Council and the Trust recently agreed and signed a lease for 35 years for the Trust to manage, maintain and develop the Council's playing field at Holton.

At present, the main users of the playing field are Wheatley Park School, Wheatley Rugby Club and 5 junior and youth football teams. New bookings for the playing field are always welcomed and in future the Trust will be consulting the residents of Wheatley to find out whether there are any other recreational activities that can be accommodated on the field.

Last year, many thousands of pounds were spent on improving the grass pitches and the same is envisaged for this coming year. The pitches are overused at present and the improvements made will allow for more matches to be played.

The Trust has been invited, along with SODC and Sport England, to several meetings at Oxford Brookes University. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss the mitigation of any sports facilities that could be lost to future development of the campus. Facilities lost would either have to be replaced on-site, off-site or a combination of the two. As there is community use of the OBU facilities at present, notably cricket, tennis and youth football, the Trust is determined that any future investment remains within the local community.

Finally, did you know there are 9 tennis courts at Holton which, at present, can be used free of charge by Wheatley residents? There are certain restrictions to their use – players must be over 18 years of age and under 18s must be accompanied by an adult. Anyone using the courts does so at their own risk. Car parking is in the Wheatley Park School 6th Form car park and please note that there are no toilet or first aid facilities available. If you would like to play tennis, you may do so after 5pm, Monday to Friday, during the school term and anytime at weekends.

Please register your interest on: www.wheatleyplayingfieldtrust.co.uk or email: enquiries@wheatleyplayingfieldtrust.co.uk



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WHEATLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

John Fox, Chairman WNP Committee (12 May 2018)

WNP held a display and reported to the Parish at the Wheatley Annual Parish Meeting on 3rd May, the third such report since January 2016.

We are nearing completion and submission for examination by an independent examiner, which is due to take place early this summer. Currently much of the required documentation (appendices and topic papers) is ready in final draft form. The main (and simpler) text is also ready for final tweaking/amending once the Strategic Environmental Report required of us by law has been completed by our contracted specialists later in May. An 'executive summary', requested by many in the community last year, will also be issued with the full document when we make it public. The final draft and any changes ordered by the examiner will be made public.

We will hold two WNP open days in the process to make sure everyone is fully informed for voting in the WNP referendum. [As I write we are implementing the new Data Protection Act (25 May 2018) as it will apply to all WNP survey data lawfully gathered under the Locality Act 2011. The WNP Committee is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office as a Data Controller.]

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WHEATLEY ST GEORGE'S FUNDAY 2018 – A Touch of Spring? Gordon Ewbank, Fusion Youth & Community

My report last year was titled 'fun in the sun!' Sadly, this year we thought we'd be dodging the showers all afternoon, but no! the rain held off and the people came. This year was our 14th annual Community Festival and around 500 gathered once more to celebrate our community, meet old friends and hopefully make a few new ones too. Most had been many times before, but we also had plenty of first timers, including someone from north Oxford who'd seen us on facebook only that morning!

This year the theme of our Funday was 'What's your story?' Every one of us is unique and has their own story and understanding what led us to here and now helps us to understand what makes each of us tick and helps us all to live, work and play together in better ways. All our craft activities were designed to help draw out this theme and stimulate some interesting conversations. And it worked!

The face painting and bouncy slide were as popular as ever and the centre games team



served up some great activities, some – of course – very wet! There were tug of war competitions for children and adults once again and of course the ever-popular climbing wall. Many chose to just watch the fun and chat, relaxing

with a cup of tea and home-baked cake, or headed for the BBQ.



Our friendly Dragon (of St George fame) returned to tell us the tale of the rich man with his diamonds hidden in his shoes, who found walking and life painful until he learnt to share and use his riches for good. Thanks to all the children who joined in to bring the story to life!

As ever, sincere thanks must go to our many sponsors, including – once more – a significant grant from the Parish Council and generous contributions in so many ways from the local churches. A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make this event happen and, of course, to everyone who came along on the day and helped to create such a special occasion.





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THE HISTORY FILE - Ridge and Furrow

John Fox

Ridged furrow-lengths [*furlongs*] turn local fields into a patchwork of corduroys, from Castle Hill to Howse Meadow (Gt Milton), northeast of Wheatley Bridge. One-sided plough blades, pulled by draft bullocks ('oxen') or paired drafthorses, threw up soil to form curved ridges up to two feet high. This doubled the productive surface of the furlongs. Furrows aligned with the gradient drained naturally, channelling seasonal flood water back to the Thame more quickly. Its enriched soil made flood meadow more valuable than hillside arable. Beans, peas and pulse colonised the furrows; rye, wheat and barley (for bread and beer) covered the ridges. Howse Meadow beyond the Bridge shows only the tails of longer furlongs lost under rail and road embankments and Wheatley Bridge Farmhouse. Little Wheatley Bridge and a line of



'Tolkien trees' marks a winter channel to help drain the flood bend between Holton Mill and ASDA. Pasture grew in cycle between furlong crops and, in a good year, might produce two scythe 'mawths' (mowings), the second known as the 'aftermawth'. Hay shielded soil against parching and silt against freezing. Landlords decided who managed how many furlongs; furlong-tenants employed the poor; everyone shared the pasture and woodland in each open field. Wheatley's Middle, Upper, West and East Fields are intact. Soldier-farmers doing their bit in France or crusader Palestine fretted about losing furrow-lengths at home to thistles, weeds and perhaps to unreliable neighbours.

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WHEATLEY FILM CLUB – Still Better Than Ever!

Peter Bayliss

Wheatley Film Club brings together people who want to enjoy good films in comfortable local surroundings with friends, without the need to travel to town or pay multiplex prices! Thanks to our sponsors, Wheatley Estates and Richer Sounds, we now have top quality Blu-ray projection and a high spec sound system, which makes for a great evening's entertainment.



The summer season continues in June and July with two blockbusters: On June 14th it's **The Talented Mr Ripley**, (a toilet attendant blags his way into the lives of the wealthy) and on July 12th we are showing **Slumdog Millionaire** (in which a Mumbai orphan's life is played out against the backdrop of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire").

As usual the films start at 7:30pm at the Fire Station, drinks and nibbles are available.

The atmosphere is always friendly and sociable and we welcome new members. For more information and membership details please visit our website www.wheatleyfilmclub.org, or email info@wheatleyfilmclub.org

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WHEATLEY MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS 2018

Jack Turner

At last it really was the merry, merry month of May! After the 'beast from the east' and friends came the hottest early bank holiday Monday since they began forty years ago! Curiouser and curioser, suddenly ten Morris boys appeared from Wheatley Primary School when we thought they were extinct! Coached by Uncle Gareth they did a great job and brought back happy memories of when Wheatley boasted Morris men, boys and girls!

Jack Turner, recovering from a hip replacement and supporting leg swelling, then led the Wheatley May song with a good response from the goodly gathering of all ages. The crowning was undertaken by Wheatley's vicar, Nigel Hawkes. The Lady of the Garlands, selected by her peers, was Erin Cook and the Lord was Fred Matthews. After a shaky start, the girls impressed with their maypole dancing to the satisfaction of their coaches Mrs Pinkney and Uncle Gareth. The swiss roll and dancing for all finished the celebrations with a flourish.

A great day, a great success but it would not happen without a great deal of help for the aged and infirm Jack and Gareth so our great thanks go to the following:

Helen Moulford for her steriling work with all the Morris boys' ribbons, bells and shirts. Also, for her involvement in helping and recruiting for the maypole and base move from the primary school to the scout hut and then to the rec.

Grace Wilcox, Helen's daughter, for bringing herself and her gang to do the aforementioned moving. Her gang members were Ryan Allum, David Kelly, Alex Hyland and Leah Goldby - young people at their best! Nick Rees also helped and Chris Smith, a newcomer to the village, brought his own spade and did the dirty work for the rehearsal!

On the day, my son-in-laws Michael Bunch and Robin Hallin, came to do the carting, digging, post setting and maypole erecting and they were joined by a kindly Italian strongman, Amos Gottardi, who also gave me good advice about looking after my new hip - he being a nurse at the Nuffield.

The scouts, as always, helped us with storage and the rope and provided food and other stalls much appreciated by the young and old. The Wheatley Society provided refreshments and information about our great village and the Stay and Play centre pleased many a young heart! Thanks to Asda for providing some white shirts.

Mouse and Trousers and Friends provided our jolly music yet again - even they admit, like us, they are getting older! Finally, thanks to you all for providing the children who danced and watched and bought the spidermen and for turning out to support this heart-warming village event! I hope to see you all next year on two legs! All the best.



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NEWS FROM THE MAPLE TREE

Hayley Hayle, Centre Co-ordinator

The Maple Tree continues to offer universal services to families in Wheatley and surrounding villages. We are always open to feedback and suggestions of other sessions that you would like to see here.



We are pleased to welcome The Oxford Sling Library to The Maple Tree who will initially be providing a service once a month during the Well Baby Clinic and Expectant Mums group on the second Wednesday of each month. This service begins on Wednesday 9th May.

If you are the parent of a primary school child and are struggling to understand their maths homework, we are offering a **FREE 5-week Family Learning course "Keeping up with your child – Maths"** This will start on Thurs 14th June to Thurs 12th July from 12.30 – 2.30pm. Booking is essential as places are limited. A crèche will be provided.

We are delighted to be part of the SODC So Charitable Lottery which launched in April. If you wish to support The Maple Tree for £1 per week you can sign up on our page <https://www.socharitable.co.uk/support/maple-tree> You may even win the top prize of £25,000!

Diary dates:

Parent Feedback Meeting – Wednesday 26th September at 7.30pm

Stakeholders Meeting – Wednesday 14th November at 7.30pm

Please see the Day-by-Day at the back of this newsletter for our session details.

If you have spare time and would like to volunteer during sessions at The Maple Tree, or would like to hire the Centre, please email me at hayley@mapletree.org.uk



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WHEATLEY RUGBY CLUB

Gavin Belcher

It is a wrap for the 2017/18 season which has been excellent on and off the pitch. This season the club had many positive impacts away from the field that included:

- Garnering worldwide attention when our second team was noted for its inclusiveness when fielding a team with an age range of 18 – 63
- Giving back to the community by donating presents to sick children in the JR as part of Sleigh 2 Give
- Giving much needed blood to help bolster the NHS supplies.

On the pitch, the first team had a triumphant season finishing fourth in their return to Wadsworth 6X Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Premier and reaching the



Oxfordshire RFU Shield Final, whilst the seconds had some great results against the bigger clubs and also nurturing the younger players into senior rugby. The

Vets side managed to reach the semi-final of the Oxfordshire RFU Floodlit Cup only to be knocked out by Henley and finally, our Colts had a fantastic first season with a number of wins and strong performances against the well-established teams. More news, photos and videos can be found here: wheatleyrfc.com

The success of this community asset could not have happened without our volunteers, supporters, members, players and sponsors – THANK YOU. We now turn our focus to the summer where we will be playing touch rugby every Tuesday at 7pm (all welcome who are 16+). We will also start preparing for the upcoming season so we can build on this year's success and continue to grow and put the village on the map.



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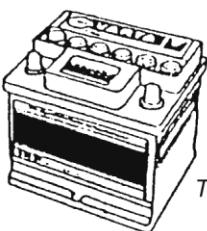
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WHEATLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH COGWHEEL PROJECT LAUNCHED

We are delighted to share the news that local friend and historian, John Fox, launched the new *Cogwheel Rebuilding Project* at the Church Fete in May. Planning permission has been approved for a new space, to be called THE MULBERRY ROOM, which will replace the out-dated annexe at the back of the church. We are also forging ahead with preparations for improvements to the existing buildings.

In tandem with the planned major improvements at the parish church of St Mary's, the URC new-build is intended as a community resource with comfortable space for gatherings of up to 20 people. Co-operation between the churches in Wheatley is now long-standing and facilities are readily shared. The new *Mulberry Room* will offer opportunities for activities such as social gatherings, workshops, focus groups and break-out areas and will complement the currently well-used church hall. Here also will be found a place of stillness and meditation.

Fundraising is progressing well, thanks to many generous donations and also to external grants. Individual and corporate offers of financial support are being sought in order to pave the way for this exciting village project. We are grateful for all the support the community has given the church over the years and we'll update everyone about the project from time to time through this Newsletter. The COGWHEEL Team.

MUSICA VIVA AT WATERPERRY HOUSE

Roger Simmonds

Musica Viva will be performing again in Waterperry House this Summer with a programme of choral works both old and new; sacred and secular. There will also be works for solo guitar given by Alison Bendy.

This year's concert will be dedicated to the life of Kit Arnold whose death last month has deprived us of a such a creative force in many areas of the arts.

The Concert will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday June 13th and tickets (£10; including a glass of wine) are available from Roger Simmonds 872009 and Edna Ackroyd 872198. Proceeds to Waterperry Church.



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HOLTON GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL REUNION Kevin Heritage, School Manager, Wheatley Park School

On Saturday 28th April 70 members of the former grammar school met at their Old Hall in Wheatley Park School to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the opening of the school back in 1948.

Holton Park had belonged to the Balfour family since 1925, but the requisitioning of the park and the building of the American hospital during the war, since taken over by the British army, meant that the family did not wish to return to the site and so they sold it to Oxfordshire County Council in 1948.

Many of the 'girls' who attended the reunion were at the school in the 50's, 60's and early 70's until the school was merged with the Shotover Secondary School in Wheatley in 1972, and from that time onwards was known as Wheatley Park School.



During lunch there were many happy reunions with some 'girls' not having seen each other for 55 years!!
School days

with happy and amusing memories and anecdotes were shared over a splendid lunch provided by the school caterers. In the afternoon there were talks and tours of the Old Grammar School.

We are very conscious of the fact that a similar **anniversary for the Shotover School will be upon us in 2020** and we would very much like to repeat the occasion for former members. We know that a lot of local residents in Wheatley and the surrounding villages would have attended during the 50' and 60's, so dig out your school records and memorabilia as there will be calls for it during the coming two years!! Keep an eye on the newsletter during the coming months or pop into the Wheatley Archive in the Merry Bells on a Thursday afternoon to deposit or share your photographs, reports etc.



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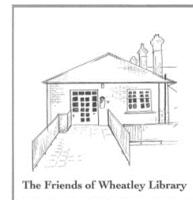
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WHEATLEY LIBRARY AND FRIENDS GROUP 01865 875267

Wendy Stanton, Library Manager

In May we had a very interesting and well received talk by Ruth Mancini. Ruth is a local crime author and she discussed how life events and circumstances inspire fiction. Thank you for coming Ruth! If there are other authors/poets/artists/musicians living in our area who would be interested in speaking at one of our regular events, please speak to staff at the library.



Dates to note:

Sat 30th June: Ex-library stock book sale. 40p for a book or 3 for £1. Children's books are 20p each.

Sat 14th July – Sat 15th Sept Summer Reading Challenge 2018: Mischief Makers

The Summer Reading Challenge theme for this year is based on the 80th anniversary of the Beano comic. Mischief Makers is all about adventure, friendship, reading and fun! We'll encourage children aged 4-11 years to read six books over the summer as usual and explore a map of Beanotown to find the mysterious buried treasure and become the ultimate mischief makers. Dennis and Gnasher with friends will be there to help them.

Sat 14th July: Jigsaw Swap event. Bring your old jigsaws to swap with some other puzzles.

Sat 28th July: Ex-library stock book sale. 40p for a book or 3 for £1. Children's books are 20p each.

Wed 1st Aug 10.30am: Edward Hess, owner of the Manor House in Wheatley will be speaking about the research and history of the building as per his book. Refreshments will be provided.

Regular FOWL events: on-going sale of donated books, morning craft sessions Mondays from 10am-12pm, evening craft sessions weekly from 7-9pm. There is a small charge for refreshments. Search for **Friends of Wheatley Library** on Facebook.

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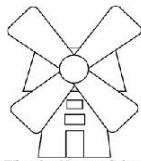
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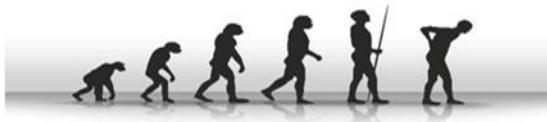
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LATE SPRING BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Kate Hart



Age UK Oxfordshire have recently set up a Late Spring bereavement support group in Wheatley. We meet on **the first and third Wednesday every month from 2-3pm in the Meeting Room at the United Reform Church** on High Street. Our Late Spring groups are an opportunity for people to meet with others in a warm, friendly, and supportive environment. Over coffee and cake, together we look to the future without forgetting. Within the groups, we provide an opportunity for you to talk about and remember openly your loved one. These sessions occur in relaxed and friendly settings with others who understand about how being bereaved can make you feel, simply because they are 'feeling it too'. For further details, please call Helen on 01235 849434.

Our Community Information Network team also hold an **Information Drop-in on the second Thursday every month from 10.30-11.30am in the Merry Bells Coffee Room**. Come along and discover a wealth of activities, services and information that can help make your life happier, healthier and easier! For further details please call Kate on 07827 235403.



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YOUR WHEATLEY VILLAGE ARCHIVES

Steph Cox

Congratulations to Tim, Anita and Claire who submitted correct answers for the mystery photo in the last newsletter. It is an ancient oak tree on the avenue of trees between the A40 and Shotover House. Tim (a local arborist) estimates the tree to be between 400 and 600 years old. What tales it could tell! It could be in the Archive! Have you any history of the village you would like to share through the Archive?

This month's mystery photo is taken in the centre of the village. Can you identify its position? Email your suggestions to wheatleyarchive@gmail.com or pop in and see us any Thursday afternoons (2-5pm) or Saturdays 30th June, or 28th July (10am-12pm).



The Archive volunteers have been very busy compiling a Wheatley Calendar 2019 which includes dates relevant to everyone in Wheatley and we would like to thank our sponsors throughout the village for their support. The calendar, priced at £10, will be available later in the year BUT proof copies are available now for viewing at the Archive room and orders are being taken. Have you ordered yours yet? Don't miss out! Do contact us via email or pop in to see us and order one.

Has anyone been a winner in the South Oxfordshire Charitable lottery since it went online on 27th March? 50p from each ticket will go to the Village Archive to continue to preserve the history of the village for the future, to pay our rent and to enable access to the Archive via the internet and you might win £25,000! Give it a go! Log onto www.socharitable.co.uk for details.

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In April we welcomed back Kevin Heritage who gave us a follow-up talk on Holton House and village. He spoke about the history of the house and brought along some of the more recent finds, including a Henry II penny and a silver coin minted during, or just after, the reign of Edward I. His most exciting item was a newly discovered painting showing the rear of the original Holton House just prior to its demolition in 1804. His talk was accompanied with photographs and, as well as the House, included some of the American Field Hospital which at one time had 3,000 patients, and the Girl's Grammar School with a photograph of Theresa May aged about 15.

Our May meeting was something completely different when Barbara Ponting came to give a talk and demonstration on making ribbon flowers. She had a beautiful display of her work and the range of flowers she makes. There were large ones suitable for a bouquet and smaller flowers and roses suitable for any occasion or for embellishing parcels.

We were then given the opportunity to make some for ourselves, with varying results. It proved to be much harder than it looked and caused a great deal of laughter but made for a very enjoyable evening.



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WHEATLEY WINDMILL NEWS

Geoff Stephens, Wheatley Windmill Preservation Society

Once again, we are back in business with an exciting programme of open days on the second Sunday of each month right through to October. As well as the open days, we are receiving an increasing number of requests for private visits from organised groups and for the mill to be used as a location for filming and wedding photos. These requests are always welcome as the associated donations are an important contribution to our finances.

One of our objectives this year is to add more storage space, perhaps in a dedicated shed, so that more room can be created on the ground floor to enable it to be used as a permanent presentation / classroom area, thus widening the appeal of the mill as an educational resource. Your visits and the subsequent consumption of teas and cakes help us meet important goals such as these.

Earlier this month we heard the news that the freehold of the site, on which the mill stands, is up for sale. This is sad news as it would sever another link with the Cripps family, the descendants of the last millers. However, we hope that we can establish an equally good relationship with the new owners should the sale proceed. Our current licence to operate the mill runs until 2025. The owner of Windmill Cottage has asked us to point out that her property is NOT included in this sale and that she should not be contacted in connection with it.



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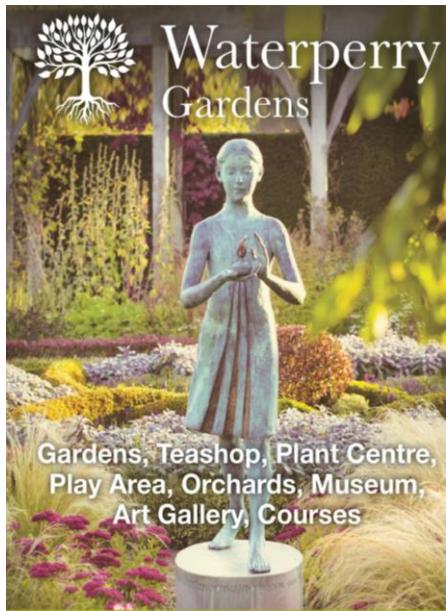
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June & July 2018

Gnometastic – until the 3rd June

Half term fun in the gardens. Help the gnomes in the gardens who have forgotten their names. Find all eight gnomes to claim your prize. £2 per child and children must be accompanied by an adult for whom the garden entrance fee applies.

Rare Plant Fair - Sunday 17th June

The chance to browse stalls manned by experts specialising in both rare and traditional plants, all in the beautiful setting of the ornamental gardens. Garden entrance fee applies.

A Midsummer Evening Picnic & Music Festival - Saturday 23rd June

A brand new 'mini music festival', to be held in the beautiful Amphitheatre at Waterperry Gardens – with all proceeds to be donated to Helen & Douglas House. Starting at 6.30pm the event will feature 4 hours of live music from some of the best bands based in and around Oxford. Entrance will be by ticket costing £10 bought in advance. The format is simple – bring along your own food and drink and sit in the beautiful Oxfordshire countryside enjoying the best music that Oxford can offer.

Opera Anywhere's Summer Season – be transported to the world of inspiring and accessible opera where you can experience everything from magic to mirth to melodrama during a selection of entertaining performances in the wonderful setting of the Amphitheatre at Waterperry Gardens.

The Magic Flute: Friday 6 July at 3pm & Saturday 7 July at 3pm
Puccini's Heroines: Friday 6 July at 7.30pm & Saturday 7 July at 7.30pm

The Pirates of Penzance: Saturday 14 July at 3pm

Patience: Friday 13 July at 3pm & Saturday 14 July at 7pm
H.M.S. Pinafore: Friday 13 July at 7pm & Sunday 15 July at 3pm

Summer Fun Trails – 14th July – 2nd September

Orienteering family fun during the summer holidays from 14th July through to the 2nd September. Enjoy exploring the ornamental gardens, using directions and clues, to find the characters!

Complete your adventure and collect your prize! £3 per child (compass supplied), tickets available from the Gift Barn and Garden Shop. Children must be accompanied by an adult for whom the standard garden entrance fee applies.

For more information on all our events please visit www.waterperrygardens.co.uk

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NEWS FROM WHEATLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Zena Knight

Our service at 10am on Sunday, 24 June will be special as we celebrate the church anniversary. We would welcome you to come and share with us.

Our afternoon tea on the first Sunday in the month is becoming very popular and we love to see so many friends from the village who support us. The dates for the next couple of months are 3 June and 1 July and the time 2.30-4.30pm.

The coffee mornings which we hold on the first Thursdays of the month are not so popular. Perhaps they clash with others in the village. However, do pop in on your way past anytime between 10am and 12 noon on the following dates – 7 June and 5 July. There might be a book or magazine to tempt your fancy, which can be borrowed or swapped!

THE FIREFIGHTERS CHARITY

Shaun Scott from Forest Hill ran the London Marathon carrying a bicycle on 22nd April 2018, to fundraise for the FireFighters Charity. The bicycle symbolises the burden that Firefighters, their leaders and families bear, as a result of trauma sustained on duty - physical or mental trauma, such as PTSD. Firefighters deserve support when they are in need - please support this excellent charity by donating at:

www.justgiving.com/giveitupforfirefighters or
search 'UPYR99'. Thankyou!"



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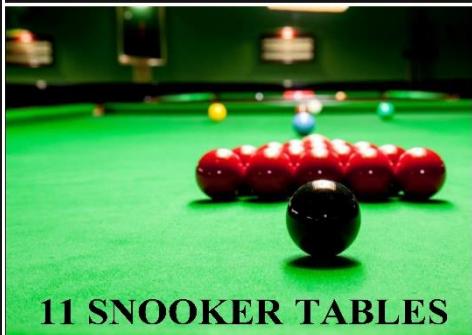
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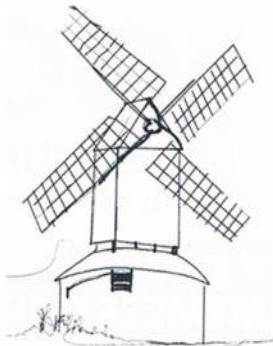
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April and May have been particularly busy socially for the Wheatley Society and we are delighted that membership is increasing. It started with Leigh Guyatt taking a walking tour of members around Oxford on the first sunny day of spring – a very successful combination.

To celebrate the centenary of the RAF we had a comprehensive presentation from Wheatley resident Lt Col Todd Shugart “A Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the RAF (From Bristol Fighter to Typhoon)”. Todd brought along a fascinating array of artefacts related to the RAF’s history which added to the event. In addition, his wife, Wg Cd Claire Sluggett, arranged for us to visit RAF Northolt. Those who went now know about the array of activities and responsibilities that occur daily behind the fencing on the A40.

Alex Mackay gave us a thoroughly entertaining and useful cookery demonstration based on recipes from his latest book 'The Magic Fridge'. During the evening, we heard both snippets of his extensive career from working at the Manoir through running a cookery school in Burgundy to his charity Kids Cookery School all whilst preparing three dishes enlivened, literally, with wonderful green pistou.

For those who went on the tour of Rycote Chapel and Gardens there was plenty to see and learn about our local history.

Events in June will include a Safari Supper on **Saturday June 2nd** – contact david.harverson@outlook.com for further details. A local walk at 10am on **Thursday June 21st** is being finalised and the details will be advertised throughout the village.

Finally, we are holding an Open Day along with Wheatley Archives on **Saturday 23rd June** 10am to 12.30pm at the Merry Bells to promote activities and resources for the whole community. Do come along.

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Please note that some patients with certain medical conditions and taking some types of medication that lowers the immune system are not able to have this vaccination, however the practice nurse would be able to advise you. To find out whether you are eligible and for more information, contact Morland House Surgery on **01865 872448**. You can also visit the NHS Choices website at www.nhs.uk/shingles



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WHEATLEY SINGERS - Spring Concert Review

Norbert Gajda

On Saturday 28th April, in St. Mary's Church, we were treated to the Wheatley Singers' 'Spring Concert'. The first half of the program consisted of solos, duets, quartets and readings of poetry. We were transported from Russia via Austria, Czechoslovakia, Germany, France, Ireland to England. The splendid ensemble singing included 'Recordare' from Mozart's Requiem and 'Mir ist so wunderbar' from Beethoven's opera Fidelio. They were both beautifully sung, perfectly balanced with a finely blended tone and accompanied with sensitivity and panache by Roger Simmonds.

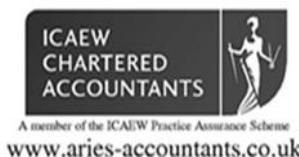
In the second half of the concert we were treated to Beethoven's Mass in C by the Wheatley Singers. The choir was accompanied by The Billimore Ensemble, led by Claire Pavitt. The ensemble supported the choir sympathetically to help produce a stunning performance. I was impressed by the light and shade in the singing as well as the control of dynamics that the choir brought to the work. This is a difficult sing yet the choir pulled it off. Of course, it helped that the soloists were of such high quality and managed to blend with the choir and orchestra so well. The musical director Kate Billimore must take great credit for bringing the choir to such a level and also for attaining the dramatic impact the work deserves. Such entertainment needs an audience and I'm pleased to say Wheatley was out in force. As the packed church gave a rousing ovation I was thinking to myself "can't wait for the next Wheatley Singers' concert!".

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Alun Regan



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The winter conditions at the end of April put paid to any hopes of playing our first fixture. The weather on the first weekend of May, of course, was the exact opposite and we eventually kicked off our season against Wolvercote. Posting a very respectable 149 for 6 on a very slow pitch, this proved to be too little and, with our bowlers still brushing off winter cobwebs, Wolvercote eased to victory by 6 wickets.

Our next game, at Letcombe, proved to be one of the most one-sided games we've seen for many a year. Our games against Letcombe usually prove to be very close affairs but, for some reason, this year Letcombe had acquired some batting talent well above the usual standard for Sunday village cricket and they amassed a staggering 303 for 2. This was never an achievable target for us but, despite this, Chris Potter managed an impressive 80 not out as we eventually reached a respectable 140 for 3.

We always welcome new members of any ability and age (our oldest player is 76!). Our membership is extremely broad and our aim is to be a friendly team who, win or lose, enjoy Sunday cricket, with a big focus on the social side - we have players who regularly travel from as far as Reading and Leamington just because they love playing for us. We're always looking for new players, so if you are interested in joining, please contact Hugh Kitchin on 873305. If you would like to watch, please come and support us! Our ground is at the Brookes Wheatley Campus and we play our home games on Sundays during June and July, usually starting at 2pm.

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At the moment we are trying to find people with the skills and would be interested to hear from anybody who can help with any of the following:

- repairs of household electrical items (incl. computers)
- advice with simple computer problems
- gluing broken items/toys
- mending clothes/up-cycling/fabric crafts
- clocks, watches and mechanical items
- sharpening knives, tools, etc.

If you want to see how these Repair Cafes work, there is one in Didcot Civic Hall on Sunday 10th June from 2pm to 5pm and another at Bollingdon Community Centre in Headington on Tuesdays throughout June from 10am to 12pm. For more details contact admin@wheatleycaf.org or look on our website www.sustainablewheatley.org or for more about repair cafes generally go to <https://repaircafe.org/en>

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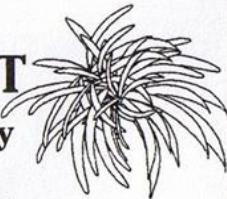
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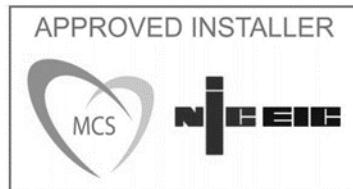
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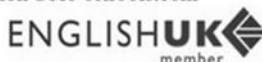


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WHEATLEY DAY BY DAY

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

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 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, 10am Sung Eucharist with King's Club for Children. 4th Sunday 10am service is Food Bank Sunday. Please bring a donation for the Food Bank. 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. 1st Sunday is Food Bank Sunday. Afternoon tea on 1st Sunday, 2.30-4.30pm.</p> <p>Wheatley Community Church: Every Sunday 10.30am, Merry Bells.</p> <p>Our Lady of Lourdes: Vigil Mass now on Saturday at 6pm.</p> <p>Little Kickers Football Classes (18 mths-7 yrs), Park Sports Centre. Call 07412 480 804 or ktownsend@littlekickers.co.uk</p> <p>Wheatley Rugby Club Minis & Juniors Training (6-16yrs) 10am - noon, Wheatley Playing Field. Contact: Peter_Ramsdale@btinternet.com</p>
MONDAY	<p>SODC Collections: (except Bank Holidays). Food refuse weekly; wheelie bins for general waste, recycling and garden waste on alternate Mondays, see p70 for more info.</p> <p>Sharecare Community Club, Holton Village Hall, 9.30am-2pm</p> <p>Wheatley Babies and Toddlers. Every Monday at The Maple Tree, Littleworth Road, 9.30-11.30am. Age 0-3 with adult. Contact: info@mapletree.org.uk</p> <p>Friends of Wheatley Library Craft Group. Every Monday in the Library, 10am - noon and Monday evenings, 7pm – 9pm (excluding bank holidays).</p> <p>Not-So-Young Club, URC Hall. 2-4pm. Every 2 wks - see diary.</p> <p>Beaver Scouts, boys and girls aged 6-8, during term time, 5.30-6.30pm, at the Scout Hut, Holloway Rd (Tel: 01865 874997)</p> <p>Brownies meet in the URC Hall 5.30 to 7pm in term time.</p> <p>Wheatley Bridge Club, Holton Village Hall, 7pm.</p> <p>Community Choir, URC Hall, 7.30 to 9 pm in term time.</p> <p>Badminton Club, Park Sports Centre 8-10pm. Contact Steve 07769 827335</p>

TUESDAY	<p>Merry Bells Coffee Room open 10am to noon Once Upon a Rhymetime, Maple Tree, Littleworth Rd, 10-11.30am, contact: info@mapletree.org.uk</p> <p>Get Online SOHA, St Marys Close, 3rd in mth, 10am to noon Call 01235 515900 or email digital@soha.co.uk to book.</p> <p>Twins Group, Maple Tree, 1st Tues of each month, 1 - 2.30pm</p> <p>Wheatley Library open 2-7pm</p> <p>St Mary's Guild meets every 4th Tuesday in the URC Hall, 2.15pm. New members always welcome.</p> <p>Wheatley Rugby Club Seniors Training, 7pm, Wheatley Playing Field. Contact: Peter_Ramsdale@btinternet.com</p> <p>Wheatley Women's Institute www.wheatleywi.com 3rd Tues in the month at the Merry Bells, 7.15pm (no meeting in Aug and the Dec meeting is held on 2nd Tues of the month). New members and visitors welcome at talks and outings. Contact Jan on 558167</p> <p>Wheatley Singers in the URC Hall 7.15 – 9pm, all welcome. Contact Celia Pagel 01865 872250</p> <p>St Mary's Church open for prayer and reflection 7.30 to 9pm</p>
WEDNESDAY	<p>Merry Bells Coffee Room open 10am to noon</p> <p>Well Baby Clinic, Maple Tree, Littleworth Rd, 9.30 - 11am, contact: info@mapletree.org.uk</p> <p>Wheatley Library open 9.30am-1pm & 2-5pm</p> <p>Parish Office Public Opening. 9.30-11.30am T.01865 875615</p> <p>Sharecare Community Club, Holton Village Hall, 9.30am-2pm</p> <p>St Mary the Virgin 12 noon, Holy Communion.</p> <p>Late Spring 60+ Bereavement Support Group 1st & 3rd Wed of month, URC Small Hall, 2-3.30pm</p> <p>Cub Scouts. Boys and girls aged 8-10½, 6.45 - 8.15 pm, at the Scout Hut, Holloway Road. Contact 01865 874284</p> <p>Guides meet in the URC Hall, 7 to 8.30pm, in term time. 10 yrs+</p> <p>Great Milton & District Local History Society. Meetings 4th Wed of month, Great Milton School 7.30pm. Non-members welcome. Details: 01844 279567</p> <p>Wheatley Walkers, Jalkers & Joggers. 7.30-8.30pm, Park Sports Centre, Contact Helen Coombes 01865 872551/07979 538557</p>
THURSDAY	<p>Merry Bells Coffee Room open 10am to noon</p> <p>Stay & Play, Maple Tree, Littleworth Rd, 9.15 - 11.30am, contact: info@mapletree.org.uk</p> <p>United Reformed Church Mindfulness Sitting Group every week 9am - 9.40am. Coffee morning first Thursday 10am - noon</p> <p>Wheatley Walks. 10-11am. Meet at the car park behind 6th Form Centre - call Anne on 872628 or Jean on 873430.</p> <p>Age UK Information Drop-in, free info & advice. 2nd in month, in the Merry Bells Coffee Room 10.30 - noon. Contact 07827 235460</p> <p>Wheatley Library open 2-5pm</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>Story Time for Children under 6 (with parent), Library, 3.30pm</p> <p>Wheatley Rugby Club Seniors & Juniors Training, 7pm, Wheatley Playing Field. Contact: Peter_Ramsdale@btinternet.com</p>

	Explorer Scouts. Boys and girls aged 14-18, 7-9pm at the Scout Hut, Holloway Road (07745 285938)
FRIDAY	Merry Bells Coffee Room open 10am to noon Wheatley Library open 9.30am-1pm & 2-6pm Horspath Hub Coffee Morning 10.30am to noon Scouts. Boys and girls aged 10 ½ to 14, 7 to 9pm, at the Scout Hut, Holloway Rd. Contact 07745 285938 St. Mary's Belltower Practice. Experienced ringers and beginners welcome. St Mary's Church 7.30-9pm. 01865 872250
SATURDAY	Parish Office Public Opening 9.30-11.30am OCC & SODC Cllrs' Surgery , 2nd in mth. Parish Office, 10.30am Wheatley Library open 9.30am-1pm Wheatley Archive Room , 4th in mth. Merry Bells, 10am to 12noon. 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. Scrabble Club 1st Sat in month, start 7.30pm. Details: T.872628

JUNE DIARY

Saturday	2	Wheatley Society Safari Supper
Sunday	3	Tea, Cake & Chat, URC Hall, 2.30-4.30pm
Monday	4	Not So Young Club, URC Hall, 2-4pm Parish Council Meeting, Merry Bells, 7.30pm
Thursday	7	Coffee morning, URC Hall, 10am-12pm Wine Circle, Merry Bells, 8pm
Saturday	9	County & District Councillors Surgery, Parish Office, 10.30am 21-hour Walkathon, Holton Playing Fields, starts 12 noon
Sunday	10	Wheatley Windmill Open Day, 11am-6pm
Wednesday	13	Musica Viva Concert, Waterperry House, 7.30pm Planning Committee, Parish Office, 7.30pm
Thursday	14	Age UK Information Drop-in, Merry Bells, 10.30-12pm Wheatley Film Club, Fire Station, 7.30pm
Saturday	16	St Marys Garden Party, Vicarage Garden, 2-5pm
Monday	18	Not So Young Club, URC Hall, 2-4pm Finance Committee, Parish Office, 7.30pm
Tuesday	19	Get Online, SOHA St Mary's Close, 10am WI, Merry Bells, 7.15pm
Thursday	21	Wheatley Society Local Walk, details tba
Saturday	23	Wheatley Society Open Day, Merry Bells, 10am-12.30pm
Saturday	30	Ex-library Book Sale, Wheatley Library

JULY DIARY

Sunday	1	Thame & Wheatley Ramblers, Church Rd Car Park, 10am Tea, Cake & Chat, URC Hall, 2.30-4.30pm
Monday	2	Not So Young Club, URC Hall, 2-4pm Parish Council, Merry Bells, 7.30pm
Thursday	5	Coffee morning, URC Hall, 10am-12pm Royal British Legion, New Club, 11.30am

		Wine Circle, Merry Bells, 8pm
Saturday	7	Car Boot Sale, Tiddington Village Hall, 9am-12pm
Sunday	8	Wheatley Windmill Open Day, 11am-6pm
Wednesday	11	Planning Committee, Parish Office, 7.30pm
Thursday	12	Age UK Information Drop-in, Merry Bells, 10.30-12pm Wheatley Film Club, Fire Station, 7.30pm
Friday	13	An Evening of Harold Pinter, Wheatley Manor, 6pm
Saturday	14	Jigsaw Swap Event, Wheatley Library WI Summer Fayre, Merry Bells, 10am-12pm County & District Councillors Surgery, Parish Office, 10.30am An Evening of Harold Pinter, Wheatley Manor, 6pm
Monday	16	Not So Young Club, URC Hall, 2-4pm Open Spaces Committee, Parish Office, 7.30pm
Tuesday	17	Get Online, SOHA St Mary's Close, 10am WI, Merry Bells, 7.15pm
Monday	23	Wheatley Society Open Day, Merry Bells, 10am-1230pm
Tuesday	24	St Mary's Guild, URC Hall, 2.15pm
Saturday	28	Ex-library Book Sale, Wheatley Library
Monday	30	Not So Young Club, URC Hall, 2-4pm

SODC WASTE COLLECTION DIARY JUNE/JULY

Collection day is Monday	Which bins?
4th, 18th June & 2nd, 16th, 30th July	Green, brown, food waste, textiles
11th, 25th June & 9th, 23rd July	Grey, food waste, small electrical items



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KEY CONTACTS

Local Governance:

To report potholes, fly-tipping, broken paving, vandalism, etc.	-	fixmystreet.com
Oxfordshire CC	01865 792422	oxfordshire.gov.uk
Report a Street Light Fault	0800 317802	oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/street-lighting-fault-reporting
OCC Family Information Service	08452 262636	fis.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
OCC Highways	0845 310 1111	highway.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
County Councillor Kirsten Johnson	07341 271344	kirsten.johnson@oxfordshire.gov.uk
South Oxfordshire DC	01235 422422	southoxon.gov.uk
Missed Bin Collection	03000 610610	admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk
Bulky Household Waste Collection	01235 422406	waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk
Housing	01235 422422	housing@southandvale.gov.uk
Planning Applications	01235 422600	planning@southoxon.gov.uk
District Councillor Toby Newman	01865 872239	toby.newman@southoxon.gov.uk
Wheatley Parish Council	01865 875615	clerk@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Local information:

AGE UK contact Janet Carr	01865 875126	janet.carr22@btinternet.com
Citizens Advice Oxfordshire	03444 111 444	caox.org.uk
The Maple Tree (Children's Centre)	01865 236700	hayley@mapletree.org.uk
The Merry Bells Village Hall	01865 872073	merrybells.org.uk
St Mary's Church	01865 872224	vicar.wheatley@gmail.com
United Reformed Church	01844 215513	secretary@wheatleyurc.org.uk
Wheatley Care Scheme (transport to hospital or GP surgery)	07505 543750	-
Wheatley Library	01865 875267	wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Wheatley Park Sports Centre	01865 872128	better.org.uk/venues/park
Wheatley Park School	01865 872441	wheatleypark.org
Wheatley Primary School	01865 872366	wheatley.oxon.sch.uk

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Emergency - Police, Fire, Ambulance	999	-
Police non-emergency	101	thamesvalley.police.uk
GP Surgery, Morland House	01865 872448	morland-house.co.uk
Out of hours service	111	111.nhs.uk/
Gas Emergency	0800 111 999	nationalgrid.com/uk/safety/
National Power Cut Helpline	105	ssen.co.uk
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Floodline	0345 988 1188	gov.uk/check-flood-risk

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Oxford Bus Co. (U1 & London)	01865 785400	brookesbus.oxfordbus.co.uk
Oxford Tube (Buses to London)	01865 772250	oxfordtube.com
Park & Ride	-	www2.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/park-and-ride
National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950	nationalrail.co.uk

To everyone who took part in the Wheatley Day of Action on Saturday 12th May

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- **SODC SO Charitable Lottery:** Buy a weekly lottery ticket online and you could win up to £25,000. If you nominate Maple Tree we will gain 50p from every £1 you spend: (<https://www.socharitable.co.uk/support/maple-tree>)

Please call the office and ask for a leaflet. Tel. 01865 236700 or email

Julie@mapletree.org.uk