

# WHEATLEY NEWS

Published by Wheatley Parish Council



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## Editor's Note

Hello and welcome to the August-September edition of the Wheatley Newsletter.

As we start to see some light at the end of the lockdown tunnel, it's still great to see and appreciate some of the many great efforts and changes that have come from this situation.

Whether it be the incredible work of the Wheatley Support Group (p6), blooming mask trees on the High Street (p7), remote classrooms in schools (p18), the WI on Zoom (p61), or virtual Guide camps (p69), there's so many examples of how we have come together to support one another, and adapt to our new situation, in this issue.

As always, feedback, comments, and suggestions are welcome.

Pete Collinson | [newsletter@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:newsletter@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Contributions

The Wheatley Newsletter welcomes contributions and adverts 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.

Submissions should be made by **10th September** for the next issue.

The Editor reserves the right not to print items and to edit items submitted for publication.

Head to [bit.ly/wnl-info](https://bit.ly/wnl-info) for further details and to download a booking form.

## Parish Notice

Although we are spending a large amount of time at home, there has still be a recent spate of break-ins around the village. Please remain vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour.

If you do leave your house, please make sure you secure all doors and windows. There is useful information at:

[www.thamesvalley.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/residential-burglary](https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/residential-burglary)

## WHEATLEY NEWS

### Publisher

Wheatley Parish Council  
The Parish Office  
The Merry Bells  
89 High Street  
Wheatley  
OX33 1XP  
01865 875615  
[clerk@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
[www.wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### Distributor

This newsletter is kindly distributed to all addresses in Wheatley and Holton by a team of volunteers, organised by Christine Vernede (01865) 873335.

### Disclaimer

The views expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Parish Council or the Editor, and no liability can be accepted for any errors or omissions, although we will publish corrections where necessary.

# Chairman's Column

As we hopefully begin to emerge from the awful effects of the Covid 19 pandemic we all want to know what "The New Normal" is going to look like. It is great to see local businesses and hostelrys opening up again and those that have been able to remain open have provided a brilliant service to the village.

It is clear, however, that things will probably never return to how they were in 2019 and local authorities and public alike are having to readjust. In an area that, thankfully has so far, not been hit particularly hard, this is sometimes hard to accept but if we want to stay safe we have to follow all the guidelines.

A case in point are the three play areas in Wheatley; whilst the government says that these can be opened if it is SAFE to do so, it is generally less understood what is actually involved in achieving this. Regular deep sanitisation of equipment is mandatory and users should be following social distancing rules as well as washing hands before and after using play equipment

and even using anti-bacterial wipes to clean specific pieces of equipment after use. Every council in the country is trying to implement these conditions so it will take a little while to organise. Sadly, it is not simply a case of opening the gates and Wheatley parish council urges everyone to be patient and continue to apply common sense when allowing children to use the play areas. Incidentally, the basket swing in Church Road play area has recently been replaced at a cost to the village approaching £5000, so this provides an indication of the importance we attach to these areas and how much they cost the village to maintain.

On an entirely different note, I wanted to give a public vote of thanks to one of our outside workers, Steve Wensley. Steve has decided to retire after working for the Parish and helping look after the village for the last 25 years or so. Thank you Steve and I am sure all will want to offer their best wishes for the future.

**Doug Lamont**

## Meetings & Dates

### **Parish Council**

Via Teams, 19:30

7th September

### **Planning Cmte.**

Via Teams, 19:30

12th August

9th September

### **Finance Cmte.**

No Meetings

### **Open Spaces Cmte.**

Via Teams, 19:30

21st September

### **District Councillor Surgery**

Postponed

Alexandrine is always available via email (p71), Facebook, post, or phone.

# Clerk's Column

As lockdown continues the parish council have embraced changes in legislation and technology and have continued to hold their meetings online. The full council calendar of meetings has resumed, and members of the public are welcome to join these meetings. The agendas published on the council website

([www.wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)) include a hyperlink or phone number that you can use to attend. This will continue for the foreseeable future.

At the council's meeting in July it debated whether to re-open the play areas. This was agreed, once the council was satisfied that it could meet the range of guidelines set out by the government and could do its best to keep the community safe. Work included putting together a cleaning regime for all three play areas, additional site-specific risk assessments, new signage and equipment checks. The council is grateful for a £600 grant from SODC Cllr Kantor that will go towards the costs of additional cleaning,

with any remaining costs being born by the council. I would like to thank everyone for their patience and co-operation during this time.

I do ask that visitors to the play areas follow the information on the signs at each location, clean and sanitise your hands, refrain from taking food and drink into the park and to keep the sites clean. This may mean you have to take your litter home with you, including any masks or gloves that you have used.

We have finally secured over £20,000 of funding towards delivering improvements to Farm Close Road Rec. COVID-19 has delayed the start date, which will now be sometime in September/October.

I would also like to welcome Daniel Lawrence to the council, having been co-opted at the June meeting of the parish council. The council now has councillors filling all 15 seats.

**Michelle Legg**

## Farewell to Steve Wensley

After over 25 years of employment with Wheatley Parish Council, Steve has decided to hang up his tools. Many of you may not have seen Steve in the village – he's a bit of an early bird - but he has spent many mornings cleaning and checking on the play areas, keeping our footpaths clear, emptying the bins and generally keeping the village clean and tidy. Steve has been a reliable member of staff, coming to work most days and has been on hand to help out where he can. The parish team will miss him greatly and wish to say thank you for all his hard work and wish him well for the future.

## Staff Vacancy

Wheatley Parish Council will soon be looking for the right person to join their team as an Outdoor Worker/Maintenance person. Please check the parish council website [www.wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk) for the job description, personal specification and details of the recruitment process.

# PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS

In the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak the Parish Council are aware that many small charities have not been able to undertake their usual programme of fundraising and may be struggling for funds. The Parish Council do have a modest budget for grants to support small organisations in Wheatley for specific projects that meet certain criteria.

If you are part of a small organisation in Wheatley that has a stalled project which aimed to benefit our community please contact your local parish councillor to discuss where we can help.

## GRANTS FOR APPRENTICES, STUDENTS, TRAINEES

The Trustees of Wheatley Charities offer training/education grants to residents of the Parish of Wheatley (including Littleworth) and are prepared to award funds in support of some of the costs of on-the-job training or academic study. Applicants must be under the age of 25, and will normally be awarded up to three small annual grants but additional funds may be made at the discretion of the Trustees. If you are a school leaver having passed your GCSEs or A-Levels and are about to start an apprenticeship you will be given priority, but university applicants should also apply.

Application forms are available from the Secretary, Ralf Eller ([ralfeller@hotmail.com](mailto:ralfeller@hotmail.com)), to whom they should be returned no later than **Friday, 28th August, 2020.**

# Wheatley Support Group



In partnership with Wheatley Parish Council and Wheatley Area Churches

I would like to describe to you how immensely proud I am of my wife, Hilary Churchley, and son Adam who have supported a scheme which they set up by formulating a website, [www.wheatleysupportgroup.co.uk](http://www.wheatleysupportgroup.co.uk), informing people of Wheatley how they can reach out for help and support, during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Hours of hard work, patience, and sheer determination went into compiling this, and their effort, I feel, is very rewarding, not only to them, but for Wheatley now and for future development.

On a cold early February morning, whilst delivering library books to an elderly customer she expressed to me "should the village require support we could devise a support

system". As the weeks wore on how apparent this became.

Of course, they were not alone and, with the Churches helpines of support, Hilary and my son formulated a structure to have 3 captains and many volunteers covering Wheatley. I was volunteered and trips to the pharmacy and basic food deliveries was greeted with a great deal of appreciation.

We are indebted to the Captains and volunteers who wrestled with the enormous task of not only protecting themselves, but delivering much needed supplies to others as well.

Wheatley should be grateful for not only this example but for everyone that has worked together in these troubled times.

**Vic Churchley**

## Wheatley Support Group:



**Hilary Churchley**  
Area Director



**Deborah Bale**  
Area Director



**Val Edson**  
Area Director



**Adam Churchley**  
Logistics

# Community Mask Tree Blooms in Wheatley!

A band of volunteers have come together to provide cloth face coverings to the Wheatley community. Helen Flight and Michelle Qume set up the 'Community Mask Tree' outside The Merry Bells/Parish Council office to help ensure that everyone who needs a face covering can access one. We have since been joined by several other volunteers who have generously given their time to help protect our community.



Everyone is welcome to take a face covering if they need one. Different sizes, styles and colours are available. They are available free of charge, although we welcome donations to our collection for Oxford Hospitals Charity. At the time of writing we have so far given out 450 face coverings and raised approximately £600 for our local NHS hospitals.

Our mask tree is part of a national effort, with over 200 community mask trees popping up across the country: [www.communitymasktrees.org](http://www.communitymasktrees.org). Face coverings should be used as per the latest government guidance.



**Can you help?** If you have spare time to cut, sew, iron and/or pack masks Helen & Michelle would love to hear from you. We also appreciate donations of good quality clean cotton or polycotton fabric, elastic, sewing thread etc (e.g. clean used bedding, leftovers from other sewing projects). You can email us on [wheatleymasktree@gmail.com](mailto:wheatleymasktree@gmail.com) or message us via our Facebook page (Wheatley Mask Trees). THANK YOU to everyone who has helped us so far and to Asda and The Merry Bells committee for their support!

**Helen Flight**

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and Friday 3.15-5.00pm**

The aim of the club is to provide a wide and varied programme of After School entertainment for children, extracurricular activities as well as offering childcare. Everyday we aim to provide a choice of two activities between 3.15pm and 5.00pm in an attempt to cater for the differing wants and needs of children at the Nursery and neighbouring primary School.

Please contact us on 01865 876750 or email us at [staff@horspathnursery.org.uk](mailto:staff@horspathnursery.org.uk)

Visit our website for more information [www.horspathnursery.org.uk](http://www.horspathnursery.org.uk)

### Ofsted June 2017 Rating: Good

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





## WHEATLEY NURSERY SCHOOL



Littleworth Road Wheatley Oxford OX33 1NN Tel: (01865) 452725

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VOLUNTEER TEAM MEMBER**

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Please call

**Kath Lamont—01865 876609**

# Wheatley Christmas Fair 2020

Due to COVID-19 and the uncertainty of the months ahead the decision has been made to cancel this year's event which was due to take place on Friday 27th November 2020.

But don't worry, we are already looking ahead to 2021 so please save the date **Friday 26th November 2021**.

We will also be showcasing local businesses via the Facebook page so you can still buy your Christmas presents, food and drink, and support local businesses in these challenging times.

Wheatley Christmas Fair Committee



Oxfordshire  
South & Vale

## NEW TRUSTEES NEEDED

**Role:** Trustees (Data Protection, GDPR, IT and Fund Raising)

**Organisation:** Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice

**Location:** Head Office, Abbey House, Abingdon, OX14 3JD

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Please apply via [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/oxfordshire-south-vale](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/oxfordshire-south-vale)

# The History File

That late winter 'monsoon' and semi-tropical Lockdown re-emphasised our trees. In the 1970s *Church Way* (Cuddesdon Rd.) was planted with poplars.

They mark when Wheatley couples, new-borns and coffins took the *Way* from Wheatley medieval chapel (Bell Lane) to Cuddesdon church to marry, be baptised or be buried. In tricky religious times (the Reformation), sharing new love, new life and bereavement with neighbours on that journey, whatever your 'label', helped heal communities.



*Church Way, Cuddesdon Road, from the east*

## Tree small-talk

Triangle Care Home front has three sycamores in formation: they say everything.



*Three sycamores 'saying' "Triangle", Triangle Care Home*

A botanist looks at a beech-leaf imprint on a fragment of Roman roof-tile and says 'Beechmast! Wheatley Roman villa-farm bred pigs!'

## Along London Rd.

'Council cottages' (1927), almost b&w postcards from Stratford, have a front lime each. The narrower Avenue has pavement limes, marking every home up to the old Pump Shelter site.



# Say it with Trees

## Cherokee-named Sequoias

A California police chief visited in 2004. I showed her Giant and Coastal Sequoias from her State. Rival US and UK botanists (1850s) called the Giants *Washingtonia* or *Wellingtonia*. Ninety years later they agreed on 'Big' (*Gigantea*)! Britain failed to take California in 1846, which increased *S. Gigantea* prices to two gold guineas a seed. One grows in Old Holton Park, 135 feet high, 15 foot girth. A Coastal *S.* 65 feet, grows on WPA site; a dangerous *Gigantea* in Templar Close, 1-200 years old, was felled, 2014.



*Sequoia Gigantea*—Great Milton Priory



*Sequoia Gigantea*, Old Holton Park (OBU), 135 feet

## Christmas Trees

Family 'memory sticks' appear everywhere. Two replace one garden lime. One planted 1945 is twice the planter's own house height. Others camouflage themselves between larger trees.

John Fox



The coronavirus pandemic has presented challenges to schools like none before, but Wheatley Park School has continued to operate throughout, with learning and pastoral care taking on a very different flavour.

A small but growing minority of students have been in school, but the majority of our wonderful young people have had to get used to their new 'classroom at home'.

We have benefited immensely from our forward-thinking approach to technology, and the fact that all students already had use of a Chromebook - a lightweight laptop - gave us a real head start when it came to remote learning.

We adhered to the school timetable, so when French came round during Period 2, students would just log in to a learning platform called Google Classroom and access the work, or even a live-streamed lesson on some occasions, instead of walking down to the Modern Foreign Languages building.

As part of trying to maintain the best possible sense of

connectedness throughout the school community, we have tried to maintain many of our usual events in an adapted format with virtual assemblies, lots of pastoral support via phone calls, and even a virtual campfire to replace our end of Year 7 camp. We have also introduced new initiatives such as an extensive foodbank to support the families hardest hit by the pandemic.

Students, with great support from their parents/carers, have responded magnificently, and we are very proud that the vast majority have continued to engage well with their learning ever since went into lockdown.

That said, everyone is looking forward to returning to school in September and, in line with government guidance, we have plans to do this while minimising the risk of transmission.

On behalf of the school community, we would like to thank everyone who has supported us in some way, shape or form this year, and wish everyone a safe and healthy summer.

**Tim Martin | Headteacher**

We have been welcoming pupils back into school since 3rd June as part of a phased reopening, adhering closely to government guidelines with regard to social distancing and group sizes. By the end of this term, we will have had Reception, Y1 and Y6 back in school full time, and most recently Y5 for mornings. Outdoor activities offered to the remaining year groups have included class picnics on the field, forest school sessions and a week of Sports Day activities for all year groups, both virtual and in person. Our Y6 leavers will celebrate the end of primary school with an outdoor assembly followed by a water fight – possibly the first time ever that water pistols have been allowed in school!

Music has helped us to keep a sense of community and belonging despite the many weeks of separation caused by Covid-19. Our recent Ofsted inspection noted that “the teaching of music is a strength in the school” and we have reaped the benefit of that in so many ways during lockdown. Early on, the school staff recorded individual videos of themselves singing a song called ‘Smile’ and Mrs Cave, our music teacher, combined them into a single heartfelt message sent out to children and families to remind them of the power of the smile and that they were missed and loved.

More recently she taught pupils to sing ‘Looking To The Rainbow’, a song with the lyrics “though we are in Lockdown, we won’t be knocked down”! Children learned the song together in virtual singing assemblies and then sent in their videos which, when combined, created



something really special to convey the truth that we have hope in each other. We were even featured on Radio Oxford and BBC South Today as a result! See our video at: [wheatley-ce-primary-school.primarysite.media/media/looking-to-the-rainbow](https://wheatley-ce-primary-school.primarysite.media/media/looking-to-the-rainbow).

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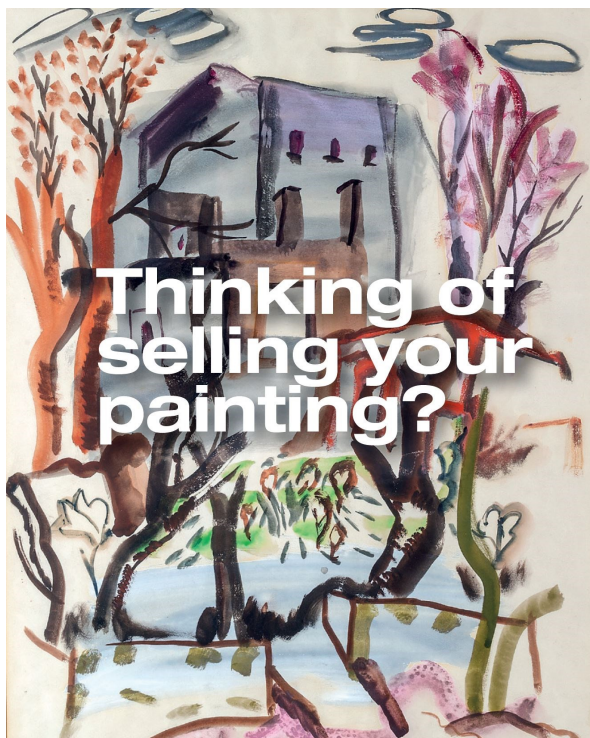
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*'Ibiza', 1934*  
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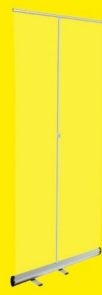
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# Day by Day

## MONDAY

**Baby & Toddler Group** | Maple Tree Centre | 09:30-11:30 | [hayley@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:hayley@mapletree.org.uk)

**Dementia Active** | Holton Village Hall | 11:30-15:30 | 01869 713913 | Text 07711 891028

**Friends of Wheatley Library Craft Group** | 10:00-12:00 & 19:00-21:00 | Exc. bank holidays

**Beaver Scouts** | Scout Hut Holloway Rd. | Term time 17:30-18:30 | 01865 874997

**Brownies** | URC Hall | Term time 17:30-19:00

**Wheatley Bridge Club** | Holton Village Hall | 19:00

**Community Choir** | URC Hall | Term time 19:30-21:00

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

**Move It or Lose It** | Merry Bells | 10:00-11:00 | [L.kenworthy@sky.com](mailto:L.kenworthy@sky.com)

**Studio25 Dance Academy** | Merry Bells | [megan\\_ah@hotmail.com](mailto:megan_ah@hotmail.com) | 07808 209243

- Mini Movers | 16:30-17:00 | Age 3½-6
- Junior Beginners | 17:00-18:00 | Age 7-10
- Senior Beginners | 18:00-19:00 | Age 11+

## TUESDAY

**Once Upon a Rhymetime** | Maple Tree Centre | 10:00-11:30

**Maple Chefs** | Maple Tree Centre | 13:30-14:30 | Age 5 and under

**Wheatley Library** | Open 14:00-19:00

**St Mary's Guild** | URC Hall | 4th in month | 14:15 | New members always welcome

**Rugby Club Seniors Training** | Wheatley Playing Field | 19:00 | [peter\\_ramsdale@btinternet.com](mailto:peter_ramsdale@btinternet.com)

**Wheatley Women's Institute** | Merry Bells | 3rd in month | 19:15 | 01865 558167

**Wheatley Singers** | URC Hall | 19:15-21:00 | 01865 872250 | All welcome

**St Mary's Church** | Open for prayer and reflection 19:30-21:00

**Wheatley Village Produce Association** | Merry Bells | 2nd in month | 19:30

**Fitness Flow Pilates** | Merry Bells | 10:00-11:00 | [destinysshore@ntlworld.com](mailto:destinysshore@ntlworld.com)

**Baby Ballerinas** (pre-schoolers) | Merry Bells | 14:00-14:30 | Danni Evenhuis 07757 323553

**Jumping Jellybeans** (pre-schoolers) | Merry Bells | 14:30-15:00 | Danni Evenhuis 07757 323553

**Dance4Fun** (kids) | Merry Bells | 16:00-18:00 | Danni Evenhuis 07757 323553

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

**Age UK Pop Up Cinema** | Merry Bells | 1st in month | 14:00-16:00 | 07827 235460 | Over 50's

## WEDNESDAY

- Health Visitor Well Baby Clinic** | Maple Tree Centre | 09:30-10:30 | Stay for tea to 11:30
- Dementia Active** | Holton Village Hall | 11:30-15:30 | 01869 713913 | Text 07711 891028
- Bumps, Babies and Beyond** | Maple Tree Centre | 09:30-12:00 | [hayley@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:hayley@mapletree.org.uk)
- Buggy Walk** | Maple Tree Centre | 12:00-13:00 | [hayley@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:hayley@mapletree.org.uk)
- Oxford Sling Library** | Maple Tree Centre | 2nd & 4th in month | 09:30-11:00
- Wheatley Library** | Open 09:30-13:00 & 14:00-17:00
- Late Spring 60+ Bereavement Support Group** | URC | 1st & 3rd in month | 14:00-15:30 | 01235 849434
- Yoga** | Merry Bells | 10:00-11:00 | [jonjackielouise@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jonjackielouise@hotmail.co.uk)
- Pop-up Pilates** | Merry Bells | 18:30-20:30 | [info@pop-up-pilates.com](mailto:info@pop-up-pilates.com) | 07731 321991
- Beginners' Meditation** | Maple Tree Centre | 2nd in month | 18:30-19:30 | **RSVP** 07962 545160
- Cub Scouts** | Scout Hut Holloway Rd. | 18:45-20:15 | 01865 874284 | Age 8-10½
- Guides & Rangers** | URC Hall | Term time 19:00-20:30 | Age 10+ | [wheatley.guides@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wheatley.guides@yahoo.co.uk)
- Gt. Milton Local History Society** | Gt. Milton School | 4th in month | 19:30 | 01844 279567
- Wheatley Walkers, Jalkers & Joggers** | Park Sports Centre | 19:30-20:30 | 07979 538557
- Merry Bells Coffee Room** | 10:00-12:00 | All welcome
- Baby Music Group** | URC Hall | 09:30 & 10:35 | Term time only | £2 family | 07505 131123

## THURSDAY

- Mindfulness Sitting Group** | URC | 08:50-09:40
- Stay & Play** | Maple Tree Centre | 09:15-11:30 | [hayley@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:hayley@mapletree.org.uk)
- Memory Café** | URC | 1st in month | 10:00-12:00 | 01865 874003 / 01844 698267
- Wheatley Walks** | Car park behind 6th Form Centre | 10:00-11:00 | 01865 872628 / 873430
- Wheatley Library** | Open 14:00-17:00
- Wheatley Village Archive** | Merry Bells | 14:00-17:00
- Xstream After-School Club** | Wheatley Primary School | 15:15-16:30
- Rugby Club Seniors & Jrs** | Wheatley Playing Field | 19:00 | [peter\\_ramsdale@btinternet.com](mailto:peter_ramsdale@btinternet.com)
- Explorer Scouts** | Scout Hut Holloway Rd. | 19:00-21:00 | 07745 285938 | Age 14-18
- Army Cadets** | Army Cadet Hut Littleworth Rd. | 19:10-21:10 | Age 12-17
- Pilates** | Merry Bells | 09:45-10:45 | [wrenjenny3@googlemail.com](mailto:wrenjenny3@googlemail.com)
- Merry Bells Coffee Room** | 10:00-12:00 | All welcome

# Day by Day

## FRIDAY

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

**Inside Outside Stay & Play** | Maple Tree Centre | 10:00-12:00

**Horspath Hub Coffee Morning** | 10:30-12:00

**Scouts** | Scout Hut Holloway Rd. | 19:00-21:00 | 07745 285938 | Age 10½-14

**St. Mary's Bell Tower Practice** | St. Mary's Church | 19:30-21:00 | 01865 872250

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

**Martial Arts** | Primary School Hall | 07395 442732 | [cjh\\_mfschools@outlook.com](mailto:cjh_mfschools@outlook.com)

- Mighty Matts | 17:00-17:45 | Age 3-4
- Mighty Matts | 18:00-18:45 | Age 5-6
- Junior/Family | 19:00-20:00 | Age 7+

## SATURDAY

**Saturdads** | Maple Tree Centre | 3rd in month | 10:00-12:00 | £2 per family

**Wheatley Library** | Open 09:30-13:00

**Wheatley Village Archive** | Merry Bells | Last in month | 10:00-12:00

**Scrabble Club** | 1st in month | 19:30 | 01865 872628

**Wheatley Minis Football** | Holton Rugby Club | 09:00-10:00 | Ages 4-7 | [clcole03@gmail.com](mailto:clcole03@gmail.com)

## SUNDAY

**Church services** | See page 59

**Sunday Afternoon Tea and Cake** | URC Crown Square | 1st in month | 14:30-16:30

**Wheatley Windmill Open** | 2nd in month | May to October

**Rugby Club Minis & Jrs** | Wheatley Playing Field | 10:00-12:00 | [peter\\_ramsdale@btinternet.com](mailto:peter_ramsdale@btinternet.com)



# YOUR Wheatley Village Archive

*"I had no idea there was so much information on the website and shall now spend hours browsing, when I'm not in the garden!"*

What a fantastic quote about the website from a long time Wheatley resident to start our article in this summer issue. Have you looked at the website yet?

Many new records have been recently added, from research and kind donation, during the lockdown weeks, including the early history of the Merry Bells, built as a Temperance Hotel, which has recently come to light. We now know that it ceased to be an hotel in 1932, 44 years after its opening and, of course, in 2020 it's 50 years since it was acquired for the village. A volunteer at the archive has been busy looking at the Kelly's Directory and has added where nearly all those listed in 1911, 1920 and 1939 lived in the village to the website. An account of living in Wheatley during the COVID-19 shut-down has also been created and added for future generations to know what life was like here in 2020.

'Bygone Wheatley' a new history of Wheatley written by Michael Heaton on behalf of the Archive is on sale on Friday and Saturday mornings from 10-12 outside the Merry Bells, weather permitting. It is a 160-page full-colour book which covers almost every aspect of Wheatley's history for the last 2000 years, and sets itself apart from the specialist publications, which have previously been published, as the only complete history of our village. The first two

chapters are dedicated to an overall history and to the age and evolution of Wheatley's buildings and enterprises including its shops. The other chapters describe our industrial businesses, stone, brick, and the milling of wheat and ochre, which created the wealth in the village, and on farming and the railway. There is much new history never before revealed! The book ends with a nostalgic chapter on our traditions, entertainments and sports. The book is very fully indexed for ease of reference. It sells for £12 and credit card payment is preferred, but cash is fine too.

The website has had a thorough review over the last few weeks during the lockdown and the website [www.wheatleyarchive.org.uk](http://www.wheatleyarchive.org.uk) is even easier to use. The search process has been much enhanced and is now better than Google! It is no longer necessary to put a search such as Hughes Bakery in double inverted commas as the search engine will find any document which has Hughes and Bakery in it. Try it out!

The History Group talk in September has been cancelled, but the one on 22nd November by Liz Woolley will be streamed at no cost to members.

Finally, the Wheatley Village Archive wishes to pay tribute to the late Martin Tims who devised the original database for all the artefacts in the Village Archive nearly 20 years ago and upon which the new website is based. Thank you, Martin, for all your work.

**Steph Cox**



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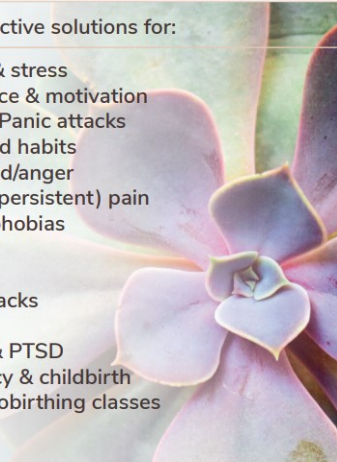
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# Wheatley Village Produce Association

## Words from The VPA

The weather in June and July was very changeable, more like April showers than summer – even the weather is full of uncertainty! Let's hope that August and September bring more settled, warm days.

We can rely on our gardens and allotments to keep our minds occupied and surround us with all the pleasure that the natural world brings. I have now added to my collection of pots with three different varieties of blueberry bushes, a small cherry tree (Stella) and a mulberry (Charlotte Russe)! With seeds for cucamelon, wasabi-flavoured mustard and green radish, I think I am doing my bit to support nurseries and growers! I am continuing to sow vegetable seeds to extend the harvest period, particularly carrots as they are a staple for me. Broad beans and sugar snap peas continued to produce small amounts with regular feed and water. My Gardener's Delight tomatoes in the kitchen window produced several trusses but with not many fruits in each so I am wondering if pollination was reduced by being indoors? I kept them in to reduce the risk of blight, but all of my first early potatoes remained wonderfully healthy, probably because of the hot spell earlier in the year, so I could



*Swiss Chard and Sacrificial Marigolds*

probably have put them outside. Having said that, the high winds knocked over my potatoes so perhaps the tomatoes were better off indoors! If you have larger fruit trees than my pot-dwelling ones, now is a good time to prune them if not done in July. Wisteria, too, will need cutting back asap if not done already. I like the 2 and 7 rule which is easier to remember – cut back to two buds in February and back to 7 buds in July. Hedges trimmed now will keep them looking crisp through winter.

Now is all about 'continuing'. Continue to water, to top up ponds, to deadhead flowers and keep picking vegetables. Ponds may also need blanket weed removed to keep them looking good. Whilst continuing to water, where necessary, it's good to be waterwise and only water pots and recently planted perennials and trees. Lawns really don't need watering and will soon recover from dry spells when rain returns. Continue sowing salad vegetables such as lettuce, rocket and radish. I keep sowing lettuce but they disappear overnight! Any tips much appreciated.

Now is also a good time to be looking forward, too. Broad beans can be sown in September for next year with a view to avoiding black fly on their tender tops in spring. Views vary on this! Spring cabbage and pak choi can be started too. Bulbs such as Paperwhite narcissus can be planted up for Christmas indoor display or as presents. Collect seed from hardy annuals and perennials for sowing later. I am very fond of Welsh poppies and tend to just shake the seeds around when ripping out the old plants. You can see the result in the picture (top right).

Unfortunately, I can offer no news on when meetings will restart at present. The current restrictions/guidelines



*Welsh Poppies and Alliums*

around social distancing in place mean that we are still unable to make plans. We are all desperate to get back to 'normal' and it will happen!

All talks are held at 7.30pm at the Merry Bells, open to anyone, free to members, £2.50 for non-members. £7 will buy membership for the whole year for all your immediate family.

Contact [wheatleyVPA@gmail.com](mailto:wheatleyVPA@gmail.com).

**Geraldine Surman**



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# The Merry Bells Village Hall

We are planning to re-open The Merry Bells for hiring at the beginning of September, assuming there is no change to Government guidance before that time.

Within the current guidelines, while the building can be open to activities, we have to observe the distancing guidelines which means that the capacity will be reduced to a maximum of 30 people in the Main Hall and 10 in the Coffee Room

There will be various other requirements which will be made clear to hirers when the hall is booked.

One of the first events to take place will be the re-scheduled AGM of The Merry Bells Management Committee which will take place on Thursday 3rd September at 7.00pm in the Main Hall.

At the AGM, 5 local residents are elected on to the Committee. We will have vacancies and would very much welcome anybody new who would like to help us preserve and run this fine building (which was originally a Temperance Hotel, considered necessary to counter the drunks of Wheatley!). If anyone is interested in joining us, then please either email

[info@merrybells.org.uk](mailto:info@merrybells.org.uk) or get in touch with any of the Committee members (whose names are displayed on the notice board outside the building) before the AGM or come along on the day, but remember numbers will be limited.

As well as the elected members, the Committee also has representatives of various user groups and can additionally co-opt a further 2 members.

All residents of Wheatley are entitled to attend and vote at the AGM and we look forward to seeing you there.

Finally, we were very disappointed not to be able to go ahead with the celebrations we had planned for the 50th anniversary of The Merry Bells belonging to the people of Wheatley. (The building was sold to the village by the Shotover Estate in 1970).

However, there will be a small ceremony to mark the 50 years on Saturday 1st August at the front of The Merry Bells building. A special edition beer has been bottled for us by Shotover Brewery to mark the occasion – look out for flyers around the village on how to obtain one or contact us via the email above.

**Tim Blightman**

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# Farewell John Whetter

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John Whetter, who practised as a solicitor on the High Street for over quarter of a century, first as a partner in the firm Alfred Truman and then as a partner in the firm Whetter, Duckworth Fowler, passed away on 16th May. He was a popular and respected figure around the village, one of a diminishing breed of solicitors who, in these days of specialisation in centralised firms, enjoyed practising at the heart of his local community, where he was as much able to chat with a client about his beloved cricket while out buying his sandwich lunch as he was able to put on his lawyer hat in the office.



Before coming to Wheatley in 1986 he worked in Cornwall, the Seychelles and Hong Kong. He retired in 2013 when his firm was taken over by Royds Withy King of Oxford. He leaves his wife Carol and children Patrick, Jeremy and Louise and seven grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by his devoted family and by his many friends and all who knew him.

**Peter Duckworth**

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# Howe Trust & Allotment Association

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Although many of Wheatley's Clubs and Societies have been unable to meet during the shutdown, the Howe and the associated allotments have been busier than ever. The footpaths have been well used by joggers, dog walkers, family outings etc.. In addition to the exercise and fresh air the site affords splendid views across Otmoor towards Brill. In the spring, the lambs were an added attraction and the wildlife, not all of it welcomed by the allotment holders, includes deer, badgers, foxes and rabbits. For the more eagle eyed there are slowworms, grass snakes, toads, and field mice together with at least 25 bird species.

The allotments have proved increasingly popular with over 100 allotments most of which have been well tended and productive. There is now a waiting list, for further information contact the allotment secretary, Taff Morgan Jones.

Gradual progress is being made on the communal plot which has a series of raised beds for those folk with disabilities which make it difficult to manage a normal plot. Horticulture has been shown to be very therapeutic for those with physical and mental

problems. Just before the lockdown the association received an award of £2,000 from the National Gardens Scheme to create 6 more raised beds in addition to the existing 8. The work is undertaken by volunteers and we hope to resume work in the autumn. Unfortunately the pupils from the Mabel Prichard school, which caters for children with special needs, have been unable to visit this year but produce is still being grown and then distributed at the school.

As usual we would like to thank all who have helped in the day to day management of the site. Additional help with maintaining fences, clearing footpaths, tree planting and maintenance on an occasional and ad hoc basis is always welcome. For further information regarding the Howe Trust or the allotment association please contact one of the following.

**Chair, Howe Trust:**

Malcolm Benson | 01865 873843

**Chair, Allotment Association:**

Allan Hicks | 07530 070702

**Secretary, Allotment Association:**

Taff Morgan Jones | 01865 874413

**Malcolm Benson**

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# Wheatley Playing Field Trust

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## News from The Trust

Wheatley Playing Field Trust is still asking everyone to stay away from the playing field at Holton, other than those groups registered to use the field. At present these include Wheatley Park School, Wheatley FC and Wheatley Rugby Club only. Discussions have taken place with both clubs and a limited return to training has already begun following strict observance of FA and RFU guidelines. The clubhouse is remaining shut for the time being as are the changing rooms.

The Trust will be putting up three tennis court nets towards the end of July. These will be available, free of charge as in previous years, to residents of Wheatley and Holton. Please be aware of others users though, keep observing social distancing and be patient if there are no courts available. At the start of the new school term in September, two of these courts will be taken down. The remaining court will only be available at weekends and outside of school hours - after 5pm Monday to Friday - until October half term..

Please be aware that car parking at the school might not be available.

New floodlights have now been installed covering the netball court on the tarmac area. This will extend the season for netball but also allow others to use this area when it becomes safe to do so. One of the intended activities is Walking Football and discussions have taken place with SODC to promote and develop this. More information will be sent out when it becomes safe to participate.

The Trust would also welcome views on other activities that anyone or any group might like to see taking place under these new floodlights. Do get in touch.

For contact and further information on all fixtures, including bookings:

[enquiries@wheatleyplayingfieldtrust.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@wheatleyplayingfieldtrust.co.uk)  
[www.wheatleyplayingfieldtrust.co.uk](http://www.wheatleyplayingfieldtrust.co.uk)

**Paul Willmott | Chairman**



Although The Maple Tree remains closed at this moment in time, we are following Government guidance very closely to see when and how we may be able to re-open. At this current time, we are aiming to provide a reduced face-to-face programme in September.

In the meantime we continue to run a remote programme. Our Facebook page and website are very active and there are lots of fabulous ideas to do at home with your children as well as useful links to other trusted agencies. You will find cooking videos, gardening videos and much more.

We run interactive Facebook Live sessions on a Tuesday and Thursday morning at 11am for storytelling and singing (suitable for babies and children). Do join us and request a favourite song or two.

If you or anybody else that you know has given birth during the pandemic, you are welcome to join one of our new virtual baby groups on a Wednesday morning for babies born in Oxfordshire since the 1st March 2020. These groups are very popular and we try to group parents with other parents from the same area - we already have over 80 new parents subscribed. If you would like to join us for the 10am session, email [hayley@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:hayley@mapletree.org.uk) and we will send you a zoom invite. We are also running one off courses such as Baby Sleep, Introducing Solids as well as taster

sessions from Baby Sensory, Baby Sing & Sign and also postnatal fitness.

### **APPEAL FOR NEW TRUSTEES**

We are looking for more members from our local area to join our committed and friendly group of charity trustees. We are keen to recruit volunteers with a background/expertise in finance and accountancy, premises management and ICT/data collection. However, we also very much welcome trustees from other backgrounds who are able to help us. If you would like more information about the Maple Tree, or a chat about what is involved in becoming a trustee, please contact Jane Lightfoot at [jane@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:jane@mapletree.org.uk), or have a look at our website for more information.

Please spread the word if you know anyone who might be interested in finding out more.

If you need any kind of support, do contact us either through our Facebook page, by emailing Hayley, or through our new website [www.mapletree.org.uk](http://www.mapletree.org.uk).

Stay safe!

Our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley](https://www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley) provides more information about our timetable. Alternatively, email [hayley@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:hayley@mapletree.org.uk) [www.mapletree.org.uk](http://www.mapletree.org.uk)

**Hayley Hayle | Maple Tree Co-ordinator**



# THE WHEATLEY SOCIETY

Parish Newsletter  
August/September 2020

It is with some degree of uncertainty that this contribution is written. Most of us have now become accustomed to the everyday changes the coronavirus has made to our lives. Many of us have welcomed the lifting of lockdown and the ability to meet family and friends again albeit whilst abiding to social distancing and other precautions. The smell of the bar-b-que, the chat in pub gardens and the sight of children going to school shows life is showing signs of returning to “normal”.

When we look back on 2020 for many it will be the year when long outstanding odd jobs were done, walls painted, unread books finally started and gardens bloomed, often with vegetables as well as flowers. The range of programmes available on TV and radio has been almost overwhelming. New walks have been found and formerly wobbly cyclists are much more proficient. Almost all the commercial businesses in the village have evolved and we have a wider range of services than before lockdown, in particular a wider range of take-away food.

Nevertheless, despite all these positive developments the programme of Wheatley Society events remains on hold for the foreseeable future. This is mainly due to the fact that we still cannot, and probably

would not wish to attend indoor meetings, and, indeed, the Merry Bells remains closed. However as soon as we can meet in slightly larger groups we will organise a couple of local guided walks. Most people now feel happiest if they can socialise outdoors so that would be a good start to the programme.

In addition, let us also remind readers that for 46 years the Wheatley Society has provided a social, civic and cultural resource available to everyone in the village. Now that Brookes University has been given permission to build 500 houses on the Wheatley Campus, disappointing many members, there will be consequences for Wheatley’s environment and community, particularly the schools, medical services and road infrastructure. The Wheatley Society will keep members informed of developments and ways to contribute to the wider debate which will also include the opportunities the development presents and the identification of appropriate ways for it to be integrated into the village.

When we are up and running again do consider coming along and joining us. In the meanwhile, please continue to take care.

**Mary Hall | Chair**



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## Wheatley Area Churches

### Bless 'em all

*The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;  
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.*

We often say 'Bless you' when someone sneezes (into their elbow of course) or 'Bless him' to a child who's being particularly cute (it happens!). Perhaps we might even abbreviate it to just 'Bless' these days. But what does it mean to bless someone? The Oxford English dictionary says that when we bless someone we are "asking God to protect them". It's a simple form of prayer.

So, when friends from Wheatley Area Churches were looking for a way to tangibly express our concern and love for our village community in the midst of the pandemic lockdown, it was natural to turn to words of blessing. 'The Wheatley Blessing' is an on-line musical collaboration by local singers, inspired by the UK version which went viral in the early weeks of lockdown.

The song starts with the words in italics above, taken from the Bible (Numbers 6:24-26) and each vocal part was recorded individually in people's homes and then

spliced together through the technical wizardry of Rachel Cave and Al McNicoll. It's intended as a gift and an encouragement to our community and as a celebration of our village life. At the time of writing the song has been viewed nearly 900 times. You can find it easily by Googling YouTube and then searching for The Wheatley Blessing, or by visiting:

[youtu.be/-PiQTheERHE](https://youtu.be/-PiQTheERHE)

At all of the local churches, we have been pleasantly surprised how well we have adapted to meeting and worshipping God together on-line but tentative discussions have begun about how best to manage the transition back to meeting up in person again. No doubt this will take longer than we would all like, so I'll close with some words from Paul's letter to the church in Rome – "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer".

Keep safe and God bless.

**Gordon Ewbank | Chair**

## Wheatley Community C

### News from WCC

The last few months have seen lots of online innovation! Our Sunday meetings have moved online, and we've also start an online Alpha course for adults, and partnered with other churches on the Wheatley Blessing video and a Youth Alpha course. I have been so impressed by the speed with which everyone has picked up video-conferencing skills!

In the month of July, I attended three weddings over Zoom. There was little music, only a small number of people physically present, and familiar sights such as wedding photos looked very different – and yet in each case the reality remained unchanged: two people with an uncertain future put their trust in God to help them as they committed their lives to each other until death.

There are moments in our life when we take stock and ask ourselves what really matters, and what we can truly rely on. Sometimes they can be uncomfortable, but they offer an opportunity to make clear-minded decisions that direct our lives.

Everything we know is being shaken and many things are being uprooted – our social lives and friendships, our

## Church

health, our livelihoods. When the very places that many of us look to for security and reassurance are in turmoil, might it be time to investigate a foundation that has held firm for two millennia, through wars, revolutions, famines and pandemics?

Wheatley Community Church is a gathering of people who have found that the claims of Christ, and the lives of centuries of Christians after Him, hold true, and that God is a source of peace and joy through uncertain times. As we continue to meet online, it's easier than ever to explore this for yourself, and I'd like to personally invite you to join us on a Sunday morning over Zoom – especially if you've never been to Church, or if your only experience in adult life has been weddings and funerals. Our website [wheatleycommunitychurch.org](http://wheatleycommunitychurch.org) has details of how to connect on a Sunday, as well as some tasters of what the church community is like and what the Christian faith means to us.

Whether or not you have an idea of what the coming months hold for you, we invite you to walk with us through them.

**Al McNicoll | Pastor**

## Services and Contact

### St. Mary the Virgin Church

**01865 872224** | [vicar.wheatley@gmail.com](mailto:vicar.wheatley@gmail.com)

Holy Communion | Sun | 08:00

Holy Communion | Wed | 12:00

Parish Praise | 1st Sun in month | 10:00

Sung Eucharist | 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sun in month | 10:00

Food Bank Sunday | 4th Sun in month | 10:00 | Please bring a donation for the Food Bank

### Wheatley United Reformed Church

**01844 215513** | [secretary@wheatleyurc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wheatleyurc.org.uk)

Holy Communion | 1st & 3rd Sun in month | 10:00

Food Bank Sunday | 1st Sun in month | 10:00

Afternoon tea | 1st Sun in month | 14:30-16:30

### Our Lady of Lourdes RC Church

**01865 672433** | [catholicheadington@gmail.com](mailto:catholicheadington@gmail.com)

Vigil Mass | OLL, Crown Rd. | Sat | 18:00

### Wheatley Community Church

[office@wheatleycommunitychurch.org](mailto:office@wheatleycommunitychurch.org)

Wheatley Primary School | Sun | 10:30

Due to lockdown regulations, our local churches may have restrictions on the number of people that can attend any given service.

Please contact the church in advance to get the latest advice on how to commune safely.

## Wheatley United Reformed Church

### News From URC

It will come as no surprise to anyone that we are not yet able to say when we might start to use our hall and Mulberry Room for community activities and events. We are sorry that we are unable to host our community friends – we do miss you!

I am sure you will be re-assured though that we are monitoring and following guidance as we all feel our way towards our New Normal.

The church is beginning by opening for private prayer twice a week from the beginning of August. Numbers who may be admitted at any one time are limited so do check our website, Facebook page, or contact our Church Secretary, Phyllis.

Throughout this crisis we have held virtual worship each Sunday morning and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. We've discovered the joy of sharing this time with new and old friends near and far. Our URC churches in Marston and Summerton join with us each week and we have welcomed friends from different parts of this country, as well as from Marston's linked church in Africa.

We are always ready to welcome anyone who would like to join us either online or dialling in by telephone if you don't "do" computers.

As well as Sunday worship there have been some other activities that have been able to take place online under these restrictions: a weekly Wednesday

Gathering alternately in the morning and early evening for a short devotion followed by a time of sharing our joys and concerns, a fortnightly "Dance Chapel", where a group explore spiritual themes through music and movement and the Mindfulness group has continued to meet to meditate together online.

For those able to walk past you may have noticed that every two weeks or so one of our members, Christine, has offered some inspirational thoughts through words and art on the Noticeboard outside the church, and for anyone with access to emails, Malcolm has shared a short "thought for the day", with quotes from a variety of sources, making for thought-provoking reading.

Finally a big "thank you" to everyone who donated to the project to make and buy cloth masks organised by Laurence Devlin. Donations for the masks raised £1363.00 which has been divided equally between Thames Valley Air Ambulance and the Filipino Community of Oxfordshire. who have suffered so much in the pandemic.

We are very mindful of the difficult situation we are all in and wish everyone to stay safe and well.

**Website:** [www.wheatleyurc.org.uk](http://www.wheatleyurc.org.uk)

**Facebook page:** @wheatleyurc

**Church Secretary:**

01865 876288

[secretary@wheatleyurc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wheatleyurc.org.uk)

**Zena Knight**

In June we held our very first Zoom Room meeting. Following a successful committee meeting the previous week we decided to give as many members as possible the opportunity to attend what would be our normal monthly meeting. In the absence of our president Lucy Collinson hosted the meeting and, as she has more technical know-how than most of us, was able to offer support to those who were new to Zoom.

This was a trial run and proved very successful with 25 members joining the meeting. Following the business each member was asked to tell us how they had been filling their time during the lockdown. This proved to be both interesting and amusing and it was lovely to be able to see and talk to people

who we hadn't seen for three months or more.

After a very successful time making laundry bags for the N.H.S. our team of sewers are now making much needed face masks. Once again the W.I. rallies to the cause.

Denman College, the W.I. college in Marcham, is also offering a varied programme of courses using the Zoom platform. There are cookery and craft courses as well as history, travel and literature to name but a few. These courses are open to everyone and bookable through their website:

[www.denman.org.uk](http://www.denman.org.uk).

**Stephanie Brooklyn**



# Sustainable Wheatley

## **Cancellation of autumn activities:**

### **apple-picking and Swapshop**

Normally at this time of year we would be announcing our fruit harvesting project to pick and distribute surplus home-grown fruit during the autumn.

Unfortunately we have decided that this year the project will be yet another activity cancelled because of COVID-19 – even if we could safely pick fruit from gardens, we are concerned that we would not be able to distribute it in a safe and hygienic way.

We are sorry we have had to come to this conclusion, particularly for those of you whose trees we have picked in previous years; it is doubly annoying because early signs are that the harvest may be quite plentiful again this year.

We have also decided to cancel the Swapshop scheduled for Sat 10th October because it seems very likely social distancing will still be necessary making it almost impossible for the Swapshop to function safely.

If you have been making use of the time in the last few months to have a good clear-out and want to find a new home for some of your unwanted items, some charity shops are now accepting donations again. It's best to check with them first (contact numbers can be found in the Wheatley Recycling Guide which can be found at [sustainablewheatley.org](http://sustainablewheatley.org) along with other ways of disposing of various items). Please do not just leave bags outside charity shops especially when closed, because that is tantamount to fly-tipping and is illegal. It also incurs costs to the charity who cannot use donations that have been vandalised whilst outside

Let's hope life will be back to normal in 2021 and we can have a Swapshop in January.

## **Contact us:**

**email** [admin@wheatleycag.org](mailto:admin@wheatleycag.org)

**website** [www.sustainablewheatley.org](http://www.sustainablewheatley.org)

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

**Twitter feed** [@suswheatley](https://twitter.com/suswheatley)

**Tim Blightman**

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# Absolutely Not the Fun Run 2020

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Never mind the Olympics – the Fun Run had to be cancelled because of the virus!

But are we downhearted? Running, cycling, and walking with less motor traffic on the roads has never been so healthy and pleasurable.

Jack Turner, not the organiser, decided something must be done to mark the occasion. He set off at 9:05am in bright sunshine on Monday 25th May to walk the route. The views remain magnificent and many others were out enjoying the avenue at Shotover etc. The course

was completed in a world-record (or a 75-year-old with a hip replacement) time of 1 hour, 4 minutes and 50 seconds. Go on! See if you can beat that!

Okay, so Peter Baylis, aged 64, did beat that, running the course at 4:00pm in the afternoon in 43 minutes. Well done Peter!

Anyway, I hope we can ‘meet again’ this time next year to tread the legendary path.

Be alert! Keep up the outdoor exercise, stay well!

**Jack Turner | Not the Organiser**

---

## **New Womens Football Team in Wheatley – Wheatley Oaks FC**

My name is Emma O’Connor. I have recently moved to Wheatley in March (before Lockdown). I am a qualified football coach and I have been coaching for over 10+ years. I would like to set up a Women’s (Aged 30+) Team for women who have never played or used to play. I have previously set up a Women’s (Aged 30+) football with AFC Wimbledon. I would like to do the same in Wheatley. Women don’t need football kits or footballs, all they need is trainers.

I am conducting a research survey to found out what is suitable for women within the local area of Wheatley. Here is the survey link (5 questions):

[bit.ly/wnl-oaksfc](https://bit.ly/wnl-oaksfc)

Please complete this if you are interested in getting involved, and/or share with your friends, family, local groups and your network.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact [hello@coachemma.co.uk](mailto:hello@coachemma.co.uk)



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Socially-distanced outdoor events at Waterperry Gardens:

### Sat, 8 August 2020 at 5pm:

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, a comedy for all the family.

### Sat, 15 & Sun, 16 August 2020:

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For more information please visit [www.waterperrygardens.co.uk](http://www.waterperrygardens.co.uk)

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# 1st Wheatley Guides & Rangers

Wheatley Guides and Rangers are now on our 17th week of meeting during lockdown where we've been relying on online platforms to keep the Guiding Light burning. We start every meeting reflecting on what we feel grateful for - whether it's our NHS or baking at home, we all agree that staying connected is awesome.

One of our highlights was a virtual camp where we set up dens or tents at home and dialled in for a "campfire" sing along with our hot chocolate. Guides have successfully worked towards a huge number of badges from home - upcycling, campaigning, and baking are the most popular - which will be awarded at an online "Oscar's" ceremony. We have also been fundraising for the NHS through our "Together at heart though far apart" badge. We were excited when Anneliese Dodds MP joined us online to talk about Equal Pay and treatment of keyworkers organised by our Rangers and Young

Leaders as part of their Women's Rights badge.

We're looking forward to getting back together when it's safe, to taste all those bakes we've seen only in photos (leaders demand a repeat taste test!) and camp together in tents supported by Wheatley Parish Council (Thank you!). In the meantime, we're proud of what we've achieved together as we live through a moment in history we plan to mark with a time capsule. If you know any girls aged 11-14 don't hesitate to reach out and join us!

We are now 1st Wheatley Guides (for girls ages 10-14) and Rangers (ages 14-18), so please get in touch ([wheatley.guides@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wheatley.guides@yahoo.co.uk)) if you want to join us at URC on Wednesday nights.

Rachel | 1st Wheatley Guides

# ASDA Wheatley Community Update

It's been a few months since my last update, as my community role went temporarily on hold for the first few weeks of lockdown and my time reassigned to helping in store to 'help feed the nation'. You may have seen me in recent months, hosting on the front door to help keep our customers and colleagues safe to maintain social distancing and to help control our numbers in store. Community activity is currently still restricted to supporting store activities, but pleased to report we have resumed some normality, so please get in touch if you think we might be able to help.

Our food bank has been present in the store throughout the pandemic and we would like to thank everyone who has continued to support this during difficult times. I would especially like to thank Wheatley residents Jane and Dick who have been collecting the food to take for the Community Emergency Food bank throughout the lockdown period. There has also been a local gentleman called John that has been donating every week since March to the food bank who I wanted to give a public recognition.

During this time, we have also supported a couple of local food banks; including a special one set up during the pandemic by

Wheatley Park School helping families in need of some extra support.

Our monthly donation budget has been increased every month since the pandemic to help support more local groups, and remit has been widened to help our local community such as providing donations to the NHS wards and departments. Every ASDA store with a community champion has been part of a bigger initiative to donate 250,000 masks to care homes, of which we divided our store allocation to 3 different local care homes including Triangle in Wheatley along with some toiletry and sanitary items to assist residents in their home, whilst they were not able to have visitors.

In June, we have donated to a number of local schools, including Wheatley Primary School and John Watson School to provide some healthy snacks to enjoy during their break times, as children have not been able to take in their own.

As always, thank you to all our customers for supporting our store, and for being patient and supportive to all the measures we have put in place for the safety of all our customers and staff. Please continue to stay safe.

**Linda Blackmore**

## SODC Waste Collections — August & September 2020

Collection day is Monday unless * (B. Hol)	Which bins and other items?
Aug 10th & 24th   Sep 7th & 21st	Green, brown, food & oil waste, textiles
Aug 3rd, 17th & 31st*   Sep 14th & 28th	Grey, food & oil waste, small electricals

# Key Contacts

## Local Governance:

Oxfordshire County Council | 01865 792422 | [oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk)

County Councillor Tim Bearder | 07789 754727 | [tim.bearder@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:tim.bearder@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

District Councillor Alexandrine Kantor | 07581 745221 | [alexandrine.kantor@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:alexandrine.kantor@southoxon.gov.uk)

South Oxfordshire DC | 01235 422422 | [southoxon.gov.uk](http://southoxon.gov.uk)

Planning Applications | 01235 422600 | [planning@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:planning@southoxon.gov.uk)

Wheatley Parish Council | 01865 875615 | [clerk@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Local information:

Citizens Advice Oxfordshire | 03444 111 444 | [caox.org.uk](http://caox.org.uk)

Wheatley Post Office | 0845 722 3344 | Open Mon-Fri 09:00-17:30, Sat 09:00-13:00

The Maple Tree (Children's Centre) | 01865 236700 | [hayley@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:hayley@mapletree.org.uk)

The Merry Bells Village Hall | 01865 872073 | [merrybells.org.uk](http://merrybells.org.uk)

Wheatley Library | 01865 875267 | [wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Wheatley Park Sports Centre | 01865 872128 | [better.org.uk/venues/park](http://better.org.uk/venues/park)

Wheatley Park School | 01865 872441 | [wheatleypark.org](http://wheatleypark.org)

Wheatley Primary School | 01865 872366 | [wheatley.oxon.sch.uk](http://wheatley.oxon.sch.uk)

## Services:

Police non-emergency | 101 | [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

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OCC Highways | 0845 310 1111 | [highway.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:highway.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Missed Bin Collection | 03000 610610 | [admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk](mailto:admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk)

Bulky Household Waste Collection | 01235 422406 | [waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk)

Housing | 01235 422422 | [housing@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:housing@southandvale.gov.uk)

GP Surgery, Morland House | 01865 872448 | [morland-house.co.uk](http://morland-house.co.uk)

NHS Out of Hours Service | 111 | [111.nhs.uk](http://111.nhs.uk)

Gas Emergency | 0800 111 999 | [nationalgrid.com/group/safety-and-emergencies](http://nationalgrid.com/group/safety-and-emergencies)

National Power Cut Helpline | 105 | [ssen.co.uk](http://ssen.co.uk)

Burst pipe or leak | 0800 714 614 | [thameswater.co.uk](http://thameswater.co.uk)

Floodline | 0345 988 1188 | [gov.uk/check-flood-risk](http://gov.uk/check-flood-risk)

## Transport:

Oxfordshire Comet | 01865 323201 | [oxfordshire.gov.uk/comet](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk/comet)

Wheatley Care Scheme (transport to hospital or GP surgery) | 07505 543750

Arriva (280) Bus | 0344 800 4411 | [arrivabus.co.uk](http://arrivabus.co.uk)

Oxford Bus Co. (U1 & London) | 01865 785400 | [brookesbus.oxfordbus.co.uk](http://brookesbus.oxfordbus.co.uk)

National Rail Enquiries | 03457 484950 | [nationalrail.co.uk](http://nationalrail.co.uk)



## 50th Anniversary Commemorative Beer

To celebrate 50 years of The Merry Bells building being owned by the village we commissioned Shotover Brewery to bottle a commemorative beer for us.

There will be a short ceremony to mark the occasion outside The Merry Bells on **Saturday 1st August at 12.00 midday** and bottles of the beer will be available to buy (while stocks last)

