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Dates for your diary

Every last Tuesday in the month is the Amwell Fundraisers Bingo-Mead Hall, 7.30pm. Contact Colin on 07790 639735.

Every Thursday Citizens Advice Outreach Service, Memorial Hall, 10am-12pm. Drop in or make an appointment on 01727 811118. The Adviceline is 03444 111444.

February 22, 23 and 24 (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) WDS performance of 'My Old Lady' by Israel Horovitz. Tickets can be purchased from the Manor Pharmacy.

February 22 (Thursday) Wheathampstead U3A guest speaker Anthony Oliver, Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust: Where the wild things are. Memorial Hall 1.45pm for 2pm start.

March 4 (Sunday) Falcon Motor Club's March Hare Classic Trial. Start at 8.30am and finish at 4pm, at the Chequers Inn, Redbourn.

March 9 (Friday) Help for Heroes Quiz Night, Memorial Hall, 7.00pm. Tickets £15 each, includes food. Contact Heather on 831261 or email h.w@terfield.com.

March 15 (Thursday) Wheathampstead U3A Annual General Meeting. 1.45pm for 2pm start.

April 26 (Thursday) Wheathampstead U3A guest speaker Charlie Haylock: The History of Surnames. 1.45pm for 2pm start.

May 16 (Wednesday) Annual Parish Meeting, Memorial Hall, 7.30pm. Guest speaker Simon West, District Archaeologist. Everyone is welcome.

May 20 (Sunday) Wheathampstead 10K at 11am and Family 2K Fun Run at 10am at Marford Playing Fields. Find 'Wheaty10K' on Facebook or Twitter for details of how to enter.

July 7 & 8 (Saturday and Sunday) Village Weekend. Details to follow in the Summer edition of the Pump.

News in brief

WW1 commemorative bench

As part of Wheathampstead's plans to celebrate the anniversary of the end of the Great War, a commemorative bench is being made for Rectory Meadow. The bench will be made from a fallen oak tree, which is approximately 100 years old. The bench will be carved by Gary Ashley of Twisted Ash.

Village Weekend: Save the date, it's Carnival time!

This year Wheathampstead's Got Talent and Picnic on the Meads is on Saturday 7 July and Village Day is on Sunday 8 July.

The theme of this year's Village Day is 'Carnival' so be sure to join the parade in your most colourful, fun and exciting costumes. Keep an eye out for further details regarding all three events in the summer edition of The Pump.

Wheathampstead Community Group

Well done to everyone who collected for and donated to the Christmas Campaign 2017. The total raised was £9,467.22.

New Parish Councillors

We are pleased to welcome both Owain McKenzie and Tommy Ryan to the Parish Council. Our new councillors replace Adrian Dante and Paul Wilby who both stepped down in 2017.

Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, applications must be submitted by Tuesday 20 March 2018. For an application pack, please visit the vacancies section of the Parish Council website at www.wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk

Community grants

Applications for a community grant must be submitted by Tuesday 3 April 2018 and will be considered at a meeting on Monday 9 April 2018. Further details can be found on the Parish Council website (as above).

A pink sign with white text that reads "VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!". The word "VOLUNTEERS" is in a simple, hand-drawn font, while "NEEDED!" is in a larger, bold, hand-drawn font with a hatched texture. The sign is set against a background of teal and yellow paper.

Can you spare one hour of your time?

Every year, Wheathampstead plays host to a jam-packed July weekend of live music, great food, memorable entertainment and fun for all the family. This weekend of events is currently run by a very small team of volunteers who devote vast amounts of time to make the weekend a success.

But what would happen if these volunteers were no longer able to get involved?

Wheathampstead Parish Council needs people like you to give your time so that events such as those within Village Weekend can continue. All we are asking is for you to pledge **ONE HOUR** of your time (or more if you would like).

So, what could you do in one hour? You could:

- * Help with the parade on Village Day
- * Put up posters around the village.
- * Be a car park marshal on Village Day
- * Serve tea and coffee at Picnic on the Meads
- * Help to erect the Parish Council gazebo

Please help us to demonstrate the true meaning of community spirit. Get in touch and make your pledge as soon as possible.

You can email us at info@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk, call us on 01582 832541 or pop into the office in the Memorial Hall.

Managing the river in The Meads

One of the many pleasures of living in Wheathampstead is to walk in The Meads and, if you are a child or a dog, to paddle and play in the river. We welcome this but it creates a problem: children and dogs being able to get into the river wherever they like is causing excessive erosion of the river bank, such as upstream from the footbridge where the bank

has gone back by up to a metre in the last five years. This widens the river which makes it become shallower and flow more slowly; this in turn results in silt covering the original gravel bed, as well as making the river less attractive to larger fish. The eroded material produces even more mud and silt. The popular access points are particularly badly affected.



Erosion on the river bank



A popular access point



An example of willow spiling

We have taken advice from the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and the Environment Agency and have planned a programme of works to deal with this. In the next two months, we will install willow spiling along several sections of the river bank, using willow from the pollarding described opposite. We will also create a number of specific access points. While this will cause some disturbance in the short term, it will prevent more serious problems in the future.

Managing the willows on The Meads

As many readers will remember from two years ago, we had to make some hard decisions about the two plantations of goat willows (sallows) on North Meads. Because of overcrowding and lack of light, they had become vulnerable to disease and to predation by squirrels. They needed to be properly managed.

Pollarding is an ancient technique that involves removing the branches of a tree at regular intervals to encourage new growth. In the past, it was used on many species of tree

including oak, hornbeam, ash and elm in order to produce wood for a wide range of uses such as fencing, fuel, and foliage to use as winter fodder for livestock. There are several woods in this area, especially hornbeam, that were still being pollarded in the late nineteenth century. The interval between each pollarding depended on the species of tree and the size of poles that were wanted. Today, pollarding is used mainly to control the growth of a tree and to develop a pleasing shape.

We pollarded the willows in the eastern plantation on North Meads two years ago. Willow regrows very quickly after it has been pollarded, as shown in the pictures.

The plan is to pollard these trees at two-yearly intervals and it is now time to pollard them again. This work will be done by the end of February and the results of the pollarding will be used for willow spiling on the south bank of the river, as described on the opposite page.



Two years ago



September 2017




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Gustard Wood and Devil's Dyke

by Peter Ryan

Since the last Pump we have visited Gustard Wood and Devil's Dyke. The acid grassland at Gustard Wood is now much clearer of invasive scrub and the Parish Council's mowing contractor can mow and rake this important habitat. We will continue to create glades among the holly to increase the light reaching the ground; this will improve the biodiversity of the understorey of the woodland.

Devil's Dyke has a history going back to prehistoric times and is probably part of the defensive system of an Iron Age settlement, with links to the Roman invasion of Britain. It is a crucial element in village history.

During this visit we cleared litter from the roadside area and through and around the Dyke (thanks to a local runner who carried a large handful of burger wrappings to our litter bags!). We swept the boardwalk of leaves and reported some damage to the steps that continue the footpath back into Dyke Lane. Please remember that the footpath (right of way) along the Dyke does not extend beyond these steps into the fields ahead. We cleared more holly from the bank, which helps to reveal the shape of the ditch and increases the light reaching the floor of the Dyke. We also cleared around the entrance by the gateway.



The WOSV group meet on the second Saturday of each month for a few hours to maintain and improve the Parish Council's open spaces.

To find out more, please contact the Parish Office on 01582 832541.

St Albans and District Local Plan

by Mary Maynard (District Councillor)

St Albans District is 81% Green Belt. For the last 30 years, St Albans District Council has not built enough homes; prices have shot up. Young people cannot afford to buy or rent and are living with parents or moving away. Families are overcrowded with children living in unhealthy conditions. The waiting list for social housing is long.

Our new Local Plan predicts how much the District will grow by 2036, where development (homes and jobs) will be, and the infrastructure (roads,

schools etc) we will need. The government has said we must build 14,500 new homes, that is about 25% more than we have now.

Everyone’s view on development is important and will shape the future of the District. A leaflet about the Local Plan has been sent to every home. Please fill in the questionnaire or go online to:

www.stalbans.gov.uk/localplan2018

for more information and to complete the online version.

**St Albans City & District
Local Plan 2020-2036**

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Wheathampstead: A dementia-friendly community



Herts Musical Memories class

‘Dementia’ describes a set of symptoms that may include memory loss, difficulties with thinking, problem-solving or language, and changes in mood or behaviour. The changes are often small to start with, but for someone with dementia they are severe enough to affect daily life.

There are over 14,000 people living with dementia in Hertfordshire, according to the county-wide organisation, Hertswise. With the Alzheimer's Society suggesting that one person will develop dementia every three minutes in the UK in 2018, it is becoming increasingly important for communities and organisations to come together to create a supportive network for those affected.



Wheathampstead is a dementia-friendly community, with support groups and activities including:

- The Wheathampstead Dementia Wellbeing Group (WDWG) runs a coffee club at the Mead Hall from 10.30am to 12pm on the first and third Wednesday of each month.
- Herts Musical Memories, which meets on three Mondays a month at the Memorial Hall from 10.30am to 12pm, uses music to connect people with their memories. Sessions incorporate gentle seated exercise to music, voice and breathing exercises, singing, and time to socialise over a cup of tea.
- Hertswise aims to help those with dementia to live independently. They work closely with local groups such as Home Instead and the WDWG, as well as large charities such as Age UK and Herts Mind Network, to provide activities and community support.

Further activities for older people are available in the village, including:

- The Thursday Club at the Mead Hall.
- Recreation for the Retired, a social group with board games for active minds, table tennis and darts for hand-eye coordination, plus a cup of tea and time to chat, from 2pm

to 4pm on Fridays in the Memorial Hall.

- Exercise groups including yoga for health, Pilates, health walks, sports facilities (tennis, football, cricket) and the new outdoor gym equipment on Marford Playing Fields.

The support for dementia doesn't stop there. The Women's Institute provide 'twiddle muffs' (multi-textural hand muffs designed to stimulate restless hands) which have been given to individuals and residential homes. In addition, Wheathampstead Parish Council has awarded a number of grants to support these organisations.

Helpful links and contact information

- Dementia Wellbeing Group
www.wheathampsteadfriends.org
- Herts Musical Memories—Wendy Hyams (session leader) 07984 588532 or Kerry Brabant 0208 9505757
- Alzheimer's Society—0300 222 1122
- Hertswise—0300 123 4044
- Find out more in the 'What's On' section at www.wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk or call the Parish Council on 01582 832541.



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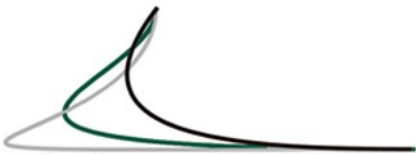
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In Memoriam: 2017

Some well-known residents of the village were lost to us last year.

In particular, two former Parish Councillors died. Firstly, Derek Hills, who served for 18 years until June 2012. He was also a long-standing District and County Councillor. With support from others, he created the football facility behind the old Education Centre in Butterfield Road. He helped many families struggling with the Secondary School transfer process and also founded Village Day, which has gone from strength to strength. He rarely sought publicity for these activities. He was very fond of the village and made a significant donation to the Parish Council in his will.

Secondly, long-serving councillor Niel Clements passed away just before Christmas. He also did a stint on the old Rural District Council before it merged with St. Albans Council to become the St. Albans City and District Council. He chaired the Parish Council on several occasions and represented Wheathampstead on many inter-

council groups. He also chaired the Highways and Public Transport Committee. He was very proud of his part in the formation of the Horticultural Society and was a trustee of the James Marshall charity until his death.

Other notable residents who died last year include Dennis Toyer, stalwart of the Horticultural Society, Chris Smith our local plumber, and Alan Rose. We are sure to have missed someone well known to you, and we offer our condolences to all families in the village who lost a loved one in 2017.



Wheathampstead Warriors

The story of the club

The Wheathampstead Warriors running club was set up in 2016 by a couple of enthusiastic local runners and is now run by a committee of 12 elected villagers with very mixed running abilities and ambitions. Now, 18 months later, the club has more than 100 local members who range from marathon runners to those proud to make it round a 5km route without walking too much.

From Day One, the club’s aim has been to cater for all abilities, with a real focus on supporting those new to running or looking to run further.



What are the benefits of running?

According to the NHS, regular running can reduce your risk of chronic illness, such as heart disease and type 2 diabetes. It can also boost your mood and keep your weight under control.

Not only is it great for your body, it is also relatively cheap and easy—all you need to get started is a pair of trainers and comfortable clothing.





So, what has being in a running club done for its existing members?

“My running has improved so much since joining the Warriors. I now run more often and further than I would if I ran alone.” *Natasha*

“It has given me a new-found passion and a whole new friendship base.” *Thomas*

“The Warriors has given me the motivation and support I needed. It's helped me to get myself fitter and made me more determined.” *Angela*

“Being new to the area it gave me a both social benefit and a great way of keeping fit. I found everyone so supportive and was soon on my way to my first half marathon.” *Catherine*



“It is for everybody, even those just able to run a couple of kilometres. It is about motivation and encouragement—we’re like a family”

Zoe, Chairperson



Membership is open to runners aged 18 or over and the club meets twice a week for training sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and most Sunday mornings. You can find information on the website www.wheathampsteadwarriors.co.uk

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Local restoration

The Crinkle-Crankle Garden

We continue to discuss plans to restore and develop the Crinkle-Crankle Garden (situated between King Edward Place and St Helen's Church) as a beautiful community asset but, in the meantime, we are very pleased to have installed a new information board about the site; it is next to the Tithe Barn Yard entrance by the Old Rectory. The new board tells the story of this historic site since it was part of the Wheathampsteadbury Manor estate and was made possible by a match-funded grant from Herts University Heritage Hub.

The Garden with its Grade II-listed crinkle-crankle walls, the only publicly accessible ones in Hertfordshire, was built by the wealthy rector Canon George Pretyman some time between 1840 (as evidenced from a contemporary

painting of the area) and his death in 1857. Income from his many livings and appointments also enabled him to build a grand new rectory (subsequently demolished) on the other side of the church, using the original one (by then clad in brick) as a summer house where he could entertain his guests in extravagant style.

More recently, the site housed the factory of Helmets Ltd, which was a major local employer until the works closed in 2002. So why not take a stroll down King Edward Place to investigate the Garden and enjoy its tranquil view of St Helen's Church?

More information about the Old Rectory can be found by visiting www.wheathampsteadheritage.org.uk/history-society-timeline.asp and scrolling down to 'Late 13th century'.



Children and families

Wheathampstead Playgroup

By Samantha Sinclair - Playgroup Manager

Wheathampstead Playgroup is delighted to have received an ‘Outstanding’ judgement from Ofsted; only a few childcare providers achieve this level. We are over the moon with this outcome; everyone works so hard and we couldn’t ask for anything better. As an early years provider we strive to achieve the best and our excellent team makes this possible.

We have been here in Wheathampstead for nearly 40 years, looking after and supporting the development of children from two to five years old. We hope to continue serving the community as a pre-school for many years to come.



From the Ofsted report:

“The children are exceptionally well prepared with the skills they need for the next stage of learning and for school.”

“They expertly tailor learning to children’s individual needs. This contributes to the excellent progress children make.”





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Friday 9 March	2pm to 4pm
Thursday 15 March	10am to 12pm
Wednesday 21 March	2pm to 4pm
Tuesday 27 March	11am to 1pm
Monday 9 April	10am to 12pm
Thursday 26 April	10am to 12pm

Police surgery dates at the Memorial Hall



All dates and times are subject to operational requirements.

Chloe Dagless
PCSO 6409



Clerk to the Parish Council

Julia Warren, Parish Council Office, The Memorial Hall, Marford Road, AL4 8AY.
Contact on 01582 832541 or info@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk
Website: www.wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk

Your Parish councillors

Jonathan Booth	3 Marshalls Way	07949719211
Gill Clark	16 Tudor Road, AL4 8NW	01582 832579
David Davies	3 Cherry Tree Lane, AL4 8HP	01582 821350
Elias Habib	69 Necton Road, AL4 8LB	07522 435367
Linda Halford	35 Marshalls Way, AL4 8HZ	01582 760593
Steve Haynes	65 Necton Road, AL4 8AT	01582 629327
David Johnston	9 Brewhouse Hill, AL4 8AN	07774 211933
Owain Mckenzie	Pippins, 83a The Hill, AL4 8PR	01582 832541
Tessa Reason	Croft Farm, Cherry Tree Lane, AL4 8HP	01582 832071
Tommy Ryan	28 East Lane, AL4 8BL	07926 069967
Peter Woodhams	54 Butterfield Road, AL4 8QH	01582 832541

Your District councillors

Annie Brewster	Fairways, Firs Drive, AL4 8LB	01438 832255
Gill Clark	As above	As above
Sandra Wood	12 Mount Road, AL4 8BX	07919 497818

Your County councillor

Annie Brewster	Fairways, Firs Drive, AL4 8LB	01438 832255
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Your MP

Bim Afolami	65 High Street, Harpenden, AL5 2SL	01582 761796
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Police

Your local officers are PC1848 Arthur Wilkes and PCSO 4609 Chloe Dagless. Please see page 21 for Police Surgery dates at the Memorial Hall.
Call 101 for non-emergency and information, or 999 for an emergency.

Council Services contacts

To report highways matters eg salt bins, potholes, lights, road signs, abandoned roadwork signs, call 0300 1234 047 or report online at www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults.

For recycling collections, fly-tipping and other local services contact St Albans District Council on 01727 866100 or visit www.stalbans.gov.uk and select Local Information Service.

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visit or call the station Tuesday evenings between 7-10pm 01582 832 123
or call 01438 715 119 during office hours Mon-Fri



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