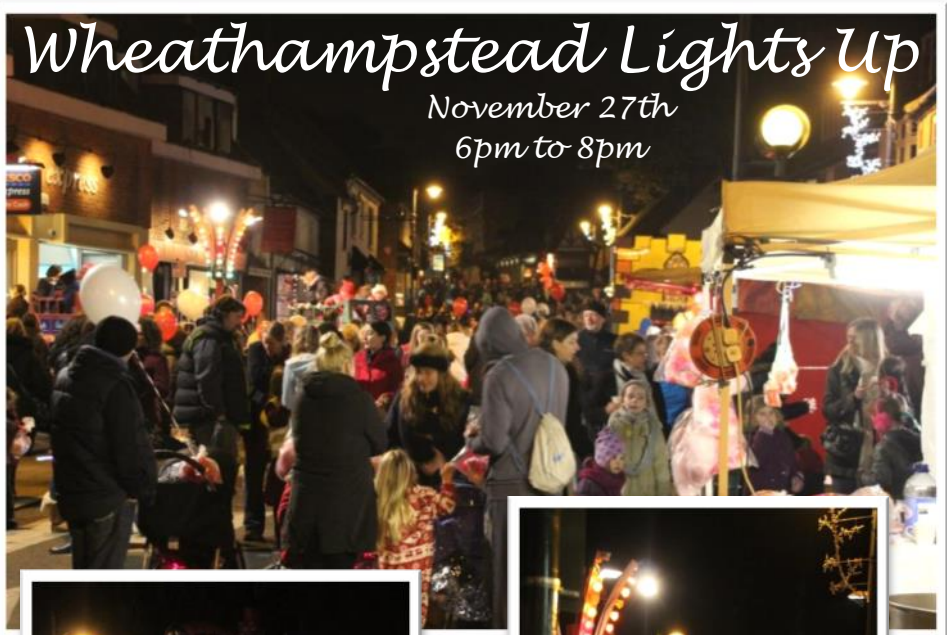


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News in Brief:

Food Bank in Wheathampstead—the food bank is open every **Tuesday 12:30 to 14:30 in the Green Room** at the Memorial Hall.

Citizens Advice Bureau—due to recruitment difficulties CAB have been unable to fill the post of outreach worker at the Memorial Hall. The Parish Council are working with CAB to put an alternative local service in place. In the meantime please **contact CAB at St Albans on 01727 811118 or visit www.adviceguide.org.uk**.

Devil's Dyke—board walk repairs and extension work are due at our next Open Spaces Volunteers days (see page 5). The steps at the southern end of the Dyke have been replaced and further work is due to take place to widen the right of way footpath.

Bower Heath— scrub clearance work has taken place (see page 5) and funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund is being sought for improving the woodland in partnership with Countryside Management Service.

Butterfield — the Parish Council has been coordinating a number of agencies to progress completion work on the playground area.

Benches in remembrance —two benches have been installed in the Parish, one on the Meads in memory of Oster Joseph Armstrong Bayne, and the other on the footpath from Marshall's Heath Lane that leads down to Folly Fields in memory of Vanessa Neaves .

All Weather Pitch (ATP)— this facility is now open on the Marford playing fields (see page 20 for further details). For booking enquiries please contact the Parish Office at info@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk. Please be aware that priority is given to Parish community groups and local children.

Noise nuisance—we would like to hear from local residents about aircraft noise. Do you feel that there has been an increase in aircraft noise nuisance? Please let us know your views at info@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk.

Mid Herts Golf Club - the Macmillan's tea morning on 26th October raised £957.60 plus gift aid .The Golf Club would like to thank all that supported the morning.

The Parish Council spends £6,000 a year of your money to empty dog and litter bins so **please use them!**



If you know of residents that do not get a copy of the Pump please contact the **Parish office at info@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk** and we will make sure that copies are posted out.

Dates for your Diary:



- Saturday 8 November** Wheathampstead Open Spaces Volunteers 10am , please see page 5 for further details.
- Sunday 9 November** Remembrance Day Parade with service at 11am at the War Memorial and St Helen's Church.
- Tuesday 11 November** Remembrance Day two minutes silence, 11am at the War Memorial.
- Saturday 22 November** Litterblitz,volunteers please contact Eddie on 629494 or Derek on 760626 for more info.
- Thursday 27 November** Lights Up in the High Street from 5.30pm
- Saturday 29 November** St Helens Church Fair at the Memorial Hall.
- Saturday 13 December** Wheathampstead Open Space Volunteers 10am, please see page 5 for further details.
- Thursday 18 December** Wheathampstead Community Group Christmas Carol Singalong, the Memorial Hall from 7pm.
- Saturday 17 January** Litterblitz,volunteers please contact Eddie on 629494 or Derek on 760626 for more info.



WHEATHAMPSTEAD COMMUNITY GROUP



Christmas Singalong



Come and join the annual Wheathampstead Christmas Carol Singalong with the Abbey Gateway Orchestra on **Thursday 18th December 2014 at 7:45pm** at Wheathampstead Memorial Hall with our Master of Ceremonies Annie Brewster.

Refreshments: tea, coffee, hot punch and mince pies.

Entrance is free but there will be a retiring collection in aid of Wheathampstead Community Group.

Wheathampstead Open Spaces Volunteers



WOSV has made a difference to the verge running alongside Marshall's Heath nature reserve and Bower Heath by removing small saplings and other invasive shrubs.

We are scheduled to return next year to continue to help maintain the grassland.

The next two volunteer days (8th November and 13th December) are both scheduled at Devil's Dyke. The Dyke is the remains of a defensive ditch around an ancient settlement of the Catuvellauni tribe of Ancient Britain and dates from before the Roman invasion. We will be helping to maintain the diverse woodland by removing garden escapees, clearing some invasive scrub, removing non-native seedlings and opening up the footpath.

If you are able to attend we will be there from 10:00 until 14:00 on both occasions. Please bring suitable footwear and clothing including gloves and secateurs, loppers and bow saws if you have them!



We look forward to seeing you there.
Peter Ryan (Coordinator WOSV)

Our Open Spaces – Gustard Wood

Gustard Wood Common lies a mile north of the village. Until the 1960s it formed holes 12 and 16 of Mid Herts Golf Club, which still occupies 32.6 hectares on the west side of the road. The Parish Council acquired the land north of Ballslough Hill in 1987 and the remainder in 1994. It covers 7.5 hectares (18.5 acres) of secondary oak woodland with two small areas of acid grassland. The remains of an ancient holloway and a hornbeam hedge can be found on the south east boundary. The whole of the Common is designated a County Wildlife Site.



It takes its name from the Old English for gorse or juniper. Both grew on the Common and the fact that medieval commoners had the right of pannage (feeding animals in a wood) also indicates its early wooded nature. Where the land was cleared the underlying acid soils resulted in the development of heath vegetation, notably heather.

At the end of the 19th century the land was owned by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and grazed by sheep which kept open areas in grass. The owners agreed to the establishment of a golf course and nine holes were ready for play in 1893.

An 18 hole course opened in 1923 with play crossing The Slype, the Kimpton Road and Ballslough Hill and the land was finally conveyed to Mid Herts Golf Club in 1936. Increased traffic on the roads made it too dangerous for play to continue and three holes were relocated to land acquired to the south of the main course. The oak woodland in the ownership of the Parish has therefore developed since that time, but efforts are being made to maintain the two areas of grassland and even enlarge one of them (the old 16th green).

Katherine Aylett (Gustard Wood Volunteer Ranger)

SCOUT CHRISTMAS POST

The Christmas card delivery service will be operating again this year. We hope that as many people as possible will take advantage of this service. Last year 2250 cards were delivered and this raised almost £500 for the local scouts.

We deliver to homes with Wheathampstead addresses including Gustard Wood, Blackmore End, Folly Fields and the Manor Road areas.

Delivery will be on **Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st December** and all cards must be posted by 12 noon on Friday 19th December.

The cost is **20p per card**. Scout post boxes can be found at:



Manor Pharmacy from 3rd to 19th December,
St Helen's Church from 7th to 14th December and at
Coffee in the Chancel from 8th to 17th December.

For further information contact **Madeleine Bigmore 831853**

.....

Allotments for Hire

Fed up with spending shedloads of money on gym memberships? Why not rent an allotment from the Parish Council?

For less than £1 a week you can get fit, have fun, get some fresh air, eat chemical-free food and make new friends. You can learn and teach your children about plants, grow beautiful flowers and massive pumpkins! Sweetcorn, fruit, veg—it's up to you!

For more information contact info@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk.



Proposed Redevelopment of Pay & Play Golf Course

Developers are drawing up plans to remodel the Wheathampstead Pay & Play Golf Course situated on the Harpenden Road between the village and Southdown. Although the Parish Council welcomes enterprise projects we have reservations about this plan.



There are plans for 17,500 lorry movements to the site during the 18 months development period and the course will, in effect, become a landfill site. As a result, a large number of 16 ton,

8 wheeled lorries will be using the upper road. That is six deliveries an hour (12 lorry movements to and fro per hour) for five days per week. At the peak there will be 140 lorry movements per day.

Although the proposal includes a designated route that would take all vehicles through Southdown, we believe that this will be difficult to enforce and that lorries will inevitably pass through our village and possibly some narrow country lanes. Other concerns include noise, dust and mud from the site road, safety close to Aldwickbury and St Helen's schools, and road damage by heavy vehicles.

On completion of the work the developers have promised:

- a modernised facility for the benefit of the local community;
- economic certainty for the owners of the facility and their staff;
- free junior provision to a number of local schools and young people;
- ecological and heritage enhancements;
- enhanced landscape;
- improved conditions and safety for users of the footpath located to the south of the site and
- improved drainage.

Continued...

It also raises other issues:

- At a time when golf courses are struggling and closing, what will happen to the land should this facility fail in the future, or even before work is completed? Will the land be suitable for any other purpose?
- If this is to improve the golf course, why does the developer have no plans to improve the clubhouse?
- Similar golf courses have been landscaped using the existing materials on site, so dumping shouldn't be required.

Residents are asked for views on this proposal. Will it provide sufficient additional benefits over what is in place already, given the environmental impact during construction or is it simply an excuse to dump waste material?

The development comes under Waste Management Control and will be handled by Herts County Council rather than St Albans District (SADC) which deals with the majority of planning applications. We will be consulted by HCC as will SADC, however we urge you to make your views known by contacting HCC (www.hertsdirect.org/services/envplan/plan). Please copy us (info@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk) and SADC at planning@stalbans.gov.uk).

Cllr David Johnston



Healthwise is coming to Wheathampstead

Age UK Hertfordshire's popular Healthwise sessions are coming to the village on 4th December between 10:30-11:30am in the Green Room at the Memorial Hall. These 10 weekly meetings for people aged 50 and over are free and feature healthy eating including food tasting, gentle fun exercises, social interaction (quizzes and games) and digital inclusion (the opportunity to explore websites online).

The sessions are very popular; many groups continue to run after the 10 weekly sessions have elapsed.

To book your place or for more information contact: **Anne Hodge on 07969 755148 or at Healthwise.7@ageukherts.org**.

German Town-Twinning Visitors Explore Wheathampstead

The Friends of Alzey, Harpenden's German town-twinning association, hosted a visit by 32 of their German counterparts at the end of August and visited the Parish as part of a busy programme of activities.

Hosts and visitors walked the village Heritage Trail before sitting down for lunch at The Bull. A tour of the state rooms of Buckingham

Palace two days earlier could have been a hard act to follow, yet the German visitors were clearly very impressed by the village; they particularly admired St Helen's Church and the riverside by the Diamond Jubilee Garden. The restored railway station was the focus of much interest as was the Crinkle Crankle Wall, although providing a suitable German translation was beyond the abilities of even the best linguists in the group!



The Friends organise exchange visits every year, alternating between Harpenden and Alzey, and some very strong personal friendships have been established. We hold monthly conversation evenings to which anyone with an interest in speaking German is welcome, whatever their ability. We

also hold social events during the year and further details are available at ww.friendsofalzey.com. Knowledge of German is not required for membership of the Friends of Alzey.

Joanne Davies (Secretary, Friends of Alzey)

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Improvements to the Marford Playing Field now Completed

This autumn we were delighted to have opened the new children's play area and artificial turf pitch (ATP). The new state-of-the-art play equipment is designed to challenge children and encourage them to be adventurous. The range is from toddlers to teenagers and the



equipment was chosen after extensive public consultation. Since installation we have received requests for additional equipment for younger children and as a result a further springer has been ordered.

The floodlit ATP will allow junior and adult games and practice to be played all year round and at certain times it will be left open for casual use. We are also encouraging groups other than footballers to hire the pitch. For more

information and booking enquiries please contact info@weathampstead-pc.gov.uk.



Amwell Day funds 'ALF' Christmas Party and Bingo

Funds raised by the Amwell Local Fundraisers (ALF) at their ever-popular Amwell Day summer fete at the Elephant & Castle are again being used to organise fun social events for our senior citizens. They include a **Christmas party on 13th December** at



the Memorial Hall, monthly bingo sessions on the last Tuesday of the month in the Mead Hall, and a grand day out in the summer.

If you are, or know of, a senior citizen who would like to attend ALF's Christmas party, or the monthly bingo sessions, ALF would be delighted to hear from you. Volunteers to help would also be most welcome. Please **contact Colin Bower on 07790 639735**

The Swan Re-Opens



The long-awaited refurbishment of The Swan is now complete and Sally, Glenn and Emily Shambrook (the new leaseholders) re-opened the doors to customers on Saturday 4th October . It is great to see this historic building restored to its former glory. The exterior of the building remains the same with the new roof carefully blending in with the rest of the building. The return of the

beautiful hanging baskets and the freshly-painted frontage enables the building to stand proud again in the centre of the village. The interior with the new ceilings and restored panels retains the historic feeling of the main bar. A meeting room replaces the pool room and office, and will add to the facilities for the community to use in the village.

The Swan had been badly damaged by a fire on 16th July 2013. After final planning agreement was reached refurbishment took place in accordance with the regulations governing Grade II listed buildings. During months of closure the surrounding hoardings were brightened up with eleven panels designed by local illustrator Nick Schon and painted by the community . These have been put into storage and it is hoped that they will become part of our village Heritage Trail.



Jan Woodhams

(100 Years of the High Street project)

.....

Wheathampstead Parish Council would also like to welcome the new leaseholders to **The Elephant and Castle**, Michael Lines and Leona Pollock and their children Stephanie and Jack.

Winter Safety Message

Like all fire and rescue services, Hertfordshire is always busy in the winter as the cold weather brings with it a new set of dangers. So here are some statistics for you to think about

- 70% of house fires include electrical appliances or wiring problems as a contributory factor. Make sure your portable heaters are standing upright and kept well away from clothes, curtains or furniture and as a general rule “give a metre to a heater”.
- There are approximately 6,000 chimney fires a year in England. A blocked or defective chimney can cause both chimney fires and carbon monoxide poisonings so it's very important to employ a professional qualified chimney sweep. Ensure a fireguard is in front of the fire at all times and always remember to extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Kitchen fires account for more than half of fires in the home; nationally 50 people a year die as a result of kitchen fires.
- Electric blankets are responsible for more than 1000 fires a year in the UK. Remember to have your blanket checked by a qualified electrician.



Finally, have you got smoke alarms fitted on every level of your home? If you have, test them weekly, and start by doing it now. If you haven't, give us a call and we will come and fit one for you. Have you got an elderly relative or neighbour? Go and test their alarm for them. For a Free Home Fire Safety Visit with the fitting of a free smoke alarm where needed, contact us at: www.hertsdirect.org/fire or phone 0300 123 4046.

Lastly, firefighters at Wheathampstead hope you all have a safe and happy Christmas.

Tracey Folds (Watch Commander, Wheathampstead Fire Station)

Wheathampstead's Business Group (WEB)

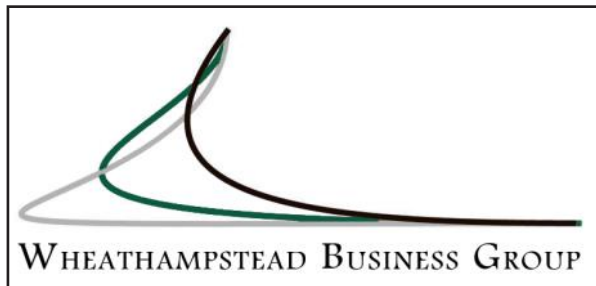
Buy Local Initiative

Latest news from the Wheathampstead Business Group is that in October we held our first Social Media Workshop for local businesses. This was to teach us how to use LinkedIn effectively to drive sales, as most of us have many LinkedIn contacts, but simply don't understand how to use this particular marketing tool properly. Further workshops will follow according to demand. We have also set up our own LinkedIn group (WHEATHAMPSTEAD BUSINESS) so that we can build our local recommendations. So do "Link-In" to this initiative in the village!

Our next WEB training session, An Introduction to Facebook & Twitter for Business, is on Thursday 27th November , 9.30-12.00 in the Memorial Hall (£5 for WEB members. £10 for non-members).

We are also planning a "BUY LOCAL" marquee at Village Day (12th July), in a prime location on the main field, to allow local WEB businesses to showcase their products and services. Tables will be limited, so be sure to sign up early. Creative suggestions for our Buy Local initiative are always welcome, so do come along to our monthly networking breakfasts and share your ideas (Charlie's in the High Street - (Jack's) - on last Friday of every month. 8-9am).

Claire Farley, WEB Chairman, chair@wheathampstead.org.uk



Youth News

ArtsKool

ArtsKool Academy offer Art and Craft activities on the first Saturday of every month (except August) from 9:30 to 11am at the Memorial Hall , from ages 4 - 12. Activities include learning about famous artists ,creating, drawing, painting, clay , collage and more! £5 per child including refreshments.



Youth Club

Based at the Memorial Hall every Tuesday evening from 7 to 9:30pm for 13-19 year olds (free of charge). For further information please contact Phil at Phil.Francis@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Wheathampstead Wanderers FC

WWFC is dedicated to making football available to local children and young people at affordable prices. Our philosophy is that enjoyment comes first. By creating a positive environment through positive encouragement we will help our children to develop.

With the opening of the ATP we are looking to extend the football opportunities available. WWFC alumni include Anna Patten who was recently selected for England U17s. From November, dedicated training sessions will be available for **7-14 year old girls on the ATP between 5-6pm on Monday nights** led by St Albans City Youth Football Club coaches "StACy" Girls section initially free of charge. WWFC has also teamed up with StACy to help provide **disability football on the 3rd Sunday of every month between 1-3pm** on the ATP free of charge. These sessions will cater for any disability and are aimed at 12 to 25 year olds. Everyone is welcome, including relatives and friends.

Finally, we are short of local referees for Sunday matches, so if anyone is interested in qualifying as a referee, or require further information on any of the above please contact **Andy Ellis on 07530 612366 or via andrewwwfc@gmail.com**.

Top Hat Stage School

This December over 60 children aged 5-16 years will be performing their Christmas Pantomime "Rapunzel & the Beanstalk" from Wednesday 3rd December 2014 at the SandPit Theatre, St. Albans. Our regular class takes place every Wednesday 4:30-6:30pm for 5-16 year olds at the Memorial Hall. Term starts Wednesday 21st January 2015. New students wishing to join can **email to reserve a place and a free trial at admin@tophatstageschool.co.uk**



Watford FC Village Coaching

Professional football coaching on a Tuesday evening continues on **the ATP on Marford Playing Fields from 4-5pm** for 8-11 year olds (50p) and from 5-6pm for 12-16 year olds (free) ,so just turn up!



1st Wheathampstead Scout Group

We would like to offer more youngsters the opportunity of being part of scouting, helping them grow in confidence and explore their potential, as well as offering a range of adult volunteering opportunities. We have a waiting list of children wishing to join and need more adult volunteers so please **contact Rose**

Geraghty on 01582 832474 for more information.

Girlguiding groups

Girlguiding is the leading charity for girls and young women in the UK with 100,000 amazing volunteers giving girls a space where they can be themselves, have fun, build brilliant friendships, gain valuable life skills and make a positive difference to their lives and their communities. To go on the waiting list please go to www.girlguiding.org.uk/parents/carers.aspx and then: "register your daughter."

Police Surgery Dates



PCSO 6021 Che Ponton
Telephone: 101

The police hold regular surgeries at the Memorial Hall. If you wish to talk to an officer the dates for the next surgery dates are shown below.

Thursday 13th November	10am to 12 noon
Monday 17th November	2pm to 4pm
Tuesday 25th November	3pm to 5pm
Saturday 29th November	10am to 12 noon
Friday 5th December	10am to 12 noon
Wednesday 10th December	2pm to 4pm
Saturday 13th December	3pm to 5pm
Thursday 18th December	10am to 12 noon
2015	
Saturday 3rd January	10am to 12 noon
Friday 9th January	10am to 12 noon
Wednesday 13th January	2pm to 4pm
Saturday 17th January	3pm to 5pm
Thursday 22nd January	10am to 12 noon
Monday 26th January	2pm to 4pm

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
 web site: www.wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk

Your Parish Councillors

Email councillors using name.surname@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk, eg.
david.johnston@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk

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Annie Brewster	Fairways, Firs Drive, Gustard Wood, AL4 8LB	01438 832255
Gill Clark	16 Tudor Road, AL4 8NW	01582 832579
Niel Clements	65 Brewhouse Hill, AL4 8AN	01582 833239
David Davies	3 Cherry Tree Lane, AL4 8HP	01582 821350
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	01582 629411
Tessa Reason	Croft Farm, Cherry Tree Lane, AL4 8HP	01582 832071
Judy Shardlow	28 Dale Ave., Gustard Wood, AL4 8LS	01438 833858
Paul Wilby	35 Nurseries Road, AL4 8TP	01582 834549
Peter Woodhams	54 Butterfield Road, AL4 8QH	01582 832541

Your District Councillors

Annie Brewster	As above	As above
Gill Clark	As above	01582 832579
Sandra Wood	12 Mount Road, AL4 8BX	07919 497818

Your County Councillor

Maxine Crawley	14 Saberton Close, Redbourn, AL3 7DS	01582 793760
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Your MP

Rt Hon Peter Lilley	1 Place Farm AL4 8SB	01582 834344
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Police

Your local officers are PC1848 Arthur Wilkes or PCSO 6021 Che Ponton.
 Please see page 21 for Police Surgery dates at the Memorial Hall.
 Call 101 for non-emergency and information, or for an emergency call 999.

Council Services Contacts:

To report highways matters eg. salt bins, potholes, lights, road signs, abandoned roadwork signs, etc call 0300 1234 047 or report on-line 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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Your Local Experts

If you are looking to sell or let your property please call Nick Masters on 01582 831200 for realistic advice.

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New Heritage Trail Map Available

When we launched Phase 2 of the Heritage Trail we had a draft version of the folding map available – this was meant to be a “field test” version and we collated feedback and made some changes. The final version of the map is now ready and available from the Parish offices or selected shops in the High Street. It is often available in the red telephone box too.

There are now three free maps for you to collect: Countryside Walks (Phase 2 of the Heritage Trail), Village Centre (Phase 1 of the Heritage Trail) and a general footpaths map.

