



Annual Parish Meeting

March 18th, 7:30 pm in the Memorial Hall

Guest speaker: Linda Smith
Come and hear how nature has blossomed at
Heartwood Forest in the first few years





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Welcome to the 2015 Spring Edition of The Pump News in brief

Criminal damage and litter in the Parish. Over the last few months the Parish Council has seen an increase in the number of incidents of damage to Parish property which have been reported to the police. Steps are being taken to enhance security measures in the parish. If anyone has any information about this issue please contact

the Parish Council Office or PCSO Che Ponton (see page 21 for details). Litter in the Parish has also increased in the last few months, especially along Marford Road in the bus shelters, and in the slip road on The Hill. It is your responsibility to clear up your rubbish after your visit to the local convenience stores so please leave your village as you found it, clean and litter free for others to enjoy!



Remember the cost for resolving these issues is put upon the Parish residents in the form of your council taxes.

New Parish Council Website. Work has nearly finished and we hope to have this up and running soon.



Puddingstone moved. On 1 December 2014 the Puddingstone which marks the Parish boundary between Sandridge and Wheathampstead was moved to a new location on Nomansland where it no longer presents an obstacle to cricketers playing at Wheathampstead Cricket Club. Councillors John Newton-Davies and David Johnston were in attendance and oversaw the repositioning of the Puddingstone in the presence of the District's chief archaeologist.

Food Bank in Wheathampstead is open every Thursday 12:30 to 14:30 in the Green Room at the Memorial Hall.

The Wheathampstead Community Group would like to thank the residents of Wheathampstead for helping us raise an amazing £4,711.00 during our recent Christmas Appeal.



If you know of residents who 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 to you.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 14 February Wheathampstead Open Spaces Volunteers (WOSV) 10am Butterfield Road, see page 6 for further details.

Monday 16 February, 2 March and 23 March Singing for the Brain, Hewitt Room Memorial Hall 1030am.

Tuesday 24 February Bingo night with the Mayor and Amwell Local Fundraisers, Mead Hall 6.30pm (see page 18 for more details).

Wednesday 11 March launch of Wheathamsptead Dementia Friends, 7.30pm the Memorial Hall **Saturday 14 March** WOSV, 10am Gustard Wood, as above.

Wednesday 18 March Wheathampstead Annual Parish Meeting, The Memorial Hall, 7.30pm, an opportunity to meet your councillors.

Saturday 27 March and Saturday 30 May Litterblitz volunteers, contact Eddie on 629494 or Derek on 760626 for more information.

Thursday 7 May Parliamentary, District and Parish Elections (see pages 17 and 24)

We regret any inconvenience caused by the publishing of the date of the Scouts firework event in the last issue. This was included in error.

Don't forget 11 and 12 July is Village Weekend!



Join our Wheathampstead's Got Talent Show which this year takes place on the Meads followed by the family Picnic on the Meads main event. Or why not take part in the Parade and our activities and entertainment in the main arena? The theme this year is "Best of British". Can you offer an hour of your time? We need more volunteers and

stewards. Please contact Louise for more information at info@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk .

Open Gardens Day—Gustard Wood and Blackmore End

Come and stroll around our 12 beautiful gardens on **Sunday 28 June** 10.30am to 5pm and help us raise money for Cancer Research and the Alzheimer's Society. Take part in treasure trails, wildlife groups, crafts and live music and come and see our plants and gifts for sale. Tickets £5 (under 18 free) and are available in June from John Curtis Estate Agents or on the day . No dogs please. Location: B651 between

Wheathampstead and Kimpton, look out for yellow direction signs from Wheathampstead. Contact gill@peopleandchange.co.uk for information.



WHEATHAMPSTEAD U3A

We are looking forward to our monthly speaker meetings which this year will be held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 2pm in the Memorial Hall.

- 26 February Rescuing the Leaning Tower of Pisa, John Burland.
- 26 March Dogs Trust, Sian Fairlie.
- 23 April Samuel Ryder Foundation, David Holwell.

In addition we have many interest groups running throughout the year and more new ones due to start including Scrabble, genealogy, history, and cooking for one. Full details of all these are available on our website www.wheathampsteadu3a.co.uk. Copies of our group lists are also available at our monthly meetings, where you can sign up. For details of how to join our U3A please fill in the membership form on our website and enclose your cheque for £20.

The ethos of the U3A is a self-learning, self-funding, self-help organisation of the retired and semi-retired, and we look forward to input into the running of our U3A and in the interest groups from our 240-plus members.U3A is an opportunity to share your knowledge and experience among new friends and have fun.

Jan Woodhams, U3A Chair.



Unlock your potential!

Are you aged under 25? Do you need financial help towards the cost of school, college, university, apprenticeship or work opportunities?

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Call us on 760735 or email jmfoundation@btconnect.com

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Wheathampstead Open Spaces Volunteers

As mentioned in the previous edition of The Pump, two consecutive visits by our small but growing band of volunteers have made a significant difference to the entrance way and invading holly at the northern end of Devil's Dyke.



In addition, we have repaired and extended the boardwalk (our thanks to Eddie Cornell and Paul Edmonds plus a donation of timber from Countryside Management Service),

Hertfordshire County Council have replaced the steps at the southern end and the Probation Service in association with HCC rights of way are due to clear and widen the path running along the western edge.

Our next sessions are at Butterfield Local Nature Reserve on 14 February and Gustard Wood on 14 March. Butterfield Road is an important piece of chalk bank, secondary woodland and grazed unimproved neutral grassland. Flowers



include Bee and Spotted Orchids, Ox-eye Daisies, Black Knapweed, Heath Bedstraw, Cowslips and Ragged Robin. Gustardwood Common has a fragment of unimproved acid grassland, very rare nowadays, plus an ancient hedgerow with Hornbeam and an area of secondary woodland. Please, if you are able, join us to continue to preserve these important parts of our parish. Contact the Parish Council offices for more details.

Peter Ryan, WOSV Co-ordinator

Volunteering in our open spaces

Do you have a few hours to spare once a month? Why not join our volunteers and help make a difference to your village?



Members of WOSV meet once a month to clear our open spaces of invasive vegetation. As well as Devil's Dyke, WOSV also cleared an area on the Meads and you can now see fine old trees, including oak and field maple, standing out from their surroundings with more light over the whole area.

WOSV meets on the second Saturday in

every month to work in one of the open spaces that are owned by the Parish Council. If you would like to join please contact Peter 07767 226600 or Patrick on 07718 068575.

Litterblitz meet once a month and spend one to two hours collecting rubbish and recyclables from a selected area. If you would like to join **Litterblitz** please contact Eddie on 629494 or Derek on 760626.

Ash Dieback

Ash dieback is a fungus which attacks ash trees. It has killed a large proportion of ash trees in Europe. Unfortunately, the UK purchased trees from the Netherlands which means we have the problem here. There is no known cure for this infection. Branches become bare of foliage and none grow in the



spring. It is not possible to just cut a branch off and burn it because some bare branches mean that the whole tree is affected. However, unless a tree is likely to drop a diseased branch it is not necessary to cut the whole tree down.

There is a duty for landowners to make sure that the trees are not likely to cause harm to people or property. The Parish Council owns land throughout the parish and we welcome your help to identify trees that might need attention. Please contact info@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk.

"Lining the Route"

A reminiscence from John Burgess on Sir Winston Churchill's funeral

"I was 19 years of age at the time, just two months short of my 20th birthday and stationed at RAF Odiham in Hampshire.

Orders informed that me and my pal Barry Donovan were to attend training for Lining the Route at some London



Army Barracks. We, that is Barry and I, had not long completed our three year apprenticeship at RAF Halton (Graduation was 25th March 1964) and were thus still reasonably familiar with the drill.



The command "Rest on your Arms Reverse" instructs the guy standing to attention at the position known as "Present Arms", to shove the rifle out with arms fully extended and slowly rotate the weapon (a 0.303 in this case) so that the barrel was pointing vertically down. Rotating the weapon was to a controlled count, one had to do the counting in one's head. As the count continued, the rifle was slowly lowered such that the muzzle rested on one's left boot. Still counting, the head was bowed to complete the drill.

I can still vividly recall the small gun carriage passing, with RAF apprentices of the 100 Entry marching at Winston's side, as I rolled up my eyes upward to observe. I will never forget that parade.

One remained with head bowed until such time as the procession and gun carriage had passed. I've forgotten exactly what the next sequence of orders were but one ended up standing to attention once again. We stood to attention for about 2 hours in bitterly cold conditions.

The London Barracks were ghastly - 30 men per room, in double bunks and only a couple of Loos shared between 100 men!"

John Burgess is a resident and ex-parish councillor, and can often be seen doing voluntary work around the village.

Money and the winter blues



After Christmas there are the added worries about paying back debts and everything seems more expensive: fuel bills are higher and, unlike plants, children don't stop growing in the colder weather! What can you do when the only way out seems to be the 'payday' and other short-term loans that are so heavily advertised? You might have glimpsed the small print and know that the interest rates are astronomical. Couldn't there be a fairer way to get a helping hand?

Why not come along to our own village branch of the St Albans Credit Union at St Helen's Church every Tuesday 10am till midday (07415 939516). It offers to its members very low borrowers' interest rates just when you need them most. Wander in, perhaps treat yourself to a (sensibly priced!) barista coffee, pick up some leaflets or chat to those manning the discreet Credit Union desk. You can pay in savings, or get information and help on loans. Or you might prefer to follow up with a visit to the main branch in Hatfield Road, St Albans.

Credit Unions are local cooperative financial services institutions offering savings and loans within the community. Anyone who lives within the St Albans District can join for a registration fee of £2 and an initial minimum £1 saving deposit. Interest rates for adult savers are nominal, to enable low borrowing rates, but your money is guaranteed safe as, unlike many Christmas clubs, the Credit Union is regulated like any bank, and covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. As well as savings and loans, our village branch also participates in the food bank vouchers scheme. You might even have heard about us from your children, as we are working with one of our local schools to establish a school savings scheme where junior savers are encouraged, and enjoy a 2 per cent interest rate.

PS. If you find yourself in a real pickle over money or other matters, remember you can always talk to CAB at Adviceline (03444 111 444, 9-5pm Monday-Friday) and self-help website (http://www.adviceguide.org.uk).

Volunteer with Wheathampstead's "On Call" firefighters and join Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue emergency services.

Are you prepared to give up some of your time to provide emergency service across our county and are able to respond to a pager when required? Do you live or work within four minutes of the fire station situated on Marford Road?

We currently have several vacancies for personnel who can give cover between 8am and 5pm. No formal academic qualifications are required and full training will be provided. As well as responding to a variety of emergency calls this varied role includes engaging with local groups to provide safety advice to vulnerable people.

If you think you have what it takes and would like to find out more come along to our recruitment evening on Tuesday 3 March at 7.30pm at Wheathampstead Fire Station on Marford Road.

If you are unable to make this date please visit our website www.hertsdirect.org/fire for more details

We look forward to seeing you there.

Tracey Folds, Watch Manager, Wheathampstead Fire Station.



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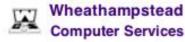


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Neighbourhood Watch

Join the 70,000 NHW members already involved in Hertfordshire and aim to do everything you can to help residents stay safe.



Help reduce crime, create a sense of well being and support our community to feel safe and secure in partnership with the police and NHW representatives to deter burglars, fraudsters and antisocial activity.

New members to NHW are always welcome and joining is extremely easy:

Visit www.hertswatch.com, contact your local policing team via www.herts.police.uk (Safer Neighbourhoods), contact your local Watch Coordinator (WLO) by e mail on www.herts.police.uk (Safer Neighbourhoods), contact your local Watch Liaison Officer.

Wheathampstead streets in transition

Concerned about reducing your carbon emissions? Interested to know how you can save money? If the answer is yes, please read on.....

Transition Streets started in Totnes in 2009 and now has over 550 households each cutting an average £570 from their annual household bills. In addition, their carbon footprint has shrunk by 1.2 tonnes! How is this possible? Well, groups of friends and neighbours meet and discuss ways to make easy, manageable changes to how they use energy, water, food, packaging and transport.



We plan to bring this project to Wheathampstead and are looking to set up two groups, one in Brewhouse Hill and Butterfield Road area and a second at East Lane. If that is ideal for you, great, if not please get in touch and we can give you all in information and free folders you need to set up a group near you.

For further information visit www.transitionstreets.org.uk, Jane Deller on 834130 or j_deller@btinternet.com, Susan L'Estrange on 831934 or at susan@herbest.org.uk, or catherine.ross@transitionstalbans.org.



The UK parliamentary, district and parish elections take place on Thursday 7 May 2015 and residents are reminded to make sure that they are registered to vote.

You must be on the electoral register to vote so if you have recently moved to the area or moved house it is important that you register again at your new address. Registering to vote is straightforward and can be done on-line at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. The deadline date for receiving applications to register for the forthcoming elections is Monday 20 April 2015.

If you cannot visit a polling station on the day of the election, you can still have your say by applying to vote by post or proxy. The deadline for receipt of new postal vote applications is 5.00 pm on Tuesday 21 April 2015 and for new proxy vote applications 5.00 pm on Tuesday 28 April. You must be registered to vote under the new system of Individual Electoral Registration to be able to vote by post or proxy.

- In **1215** King John signed Magna Carta signalling the end of the monarch's supreme power
- 1264 saw the first Parliament in English history
- In 1780 only 3% (4,500) men over the age of 21 had the right to vote
- The Reform Act of 1832 gave the vote to men with £10 property (only 1 in 7 of the population)
- A series of additional reforms led to 8 million voters by 1885
- 1918 saw votes for women over the age of 30
- In **1928** women were given equal voting rights to men
- The voting age was reduced to 18 in 1969

It has taken over 750 years of struggle to give everyone over 18 a vote.

Democracy may not be a perfect form of government, but it's the best we have for now.

Voter registration forms and postal vote application forms are available from www.aboutmyvote.co.uk or by calling 01727 819294. For further information on registration and voting please visit www.stalbans.gov.uk/ elections.



Village Weekend offers the best opportunity to promote your products and services. This year WEB is arranging a "buy local" marquee in the main arena, so members can promote their businesses,

advertising opportunities for banners and sponsored marshal tabards. If you are interested in any of these opportunities or want to come along to our monthly networking breakfasts at Charlie's (8am on last Friday of the month, £5) please contact Claire at chair@wheathampstead.org.uk.

If you are interested in catering for Village Weekend or bid for the bar facilities on Village Day please contact Louise at info@wheathamsptead-pc.gov.uk.

Amwell Local Fundraisers Bingo

Are you over 60? Then join us at the Mead Hall from 6.30pm on:

- 24 February with the Mayor of St Albans!
- 31 March
- 28 April
- 26 May
- 30 June
- 28 July
- 29 September
- 27 October
- 24 November



Free transport, tea and coffee available.

For more information please contact Colin Bower on 833386/07790 639735 or Avril Roberts on 460906.



Youth News

BEAVER COLONY UNDER THREAT— WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Although our Wheathampstead Beaver Colony for six to eight year olds is thriving with 20 Beavers in the colony and 26 potential recruits on the waiting list, unfortunately we are very short of volunteers in the Beaver Leadership Team. If no one comes forward to be an Assistant Leader, the colony will close!

By volunteering you can make a difference to the lives of our young

people. As well as having fun, you will learn new skills and have the opportunity to try new things. Above all you can help to put a smile on the faces of our 20 young Beavers.



Although this may

sound daunting, be reassured: you don't need any prior knowledge of Scouting. We will give you training, support and loads of encouragement! Everyone has something to give; you may like gardening, be a good cook, like going for walks, have a hobby or interest that you could share. Also, if more than one person volunteers, a rota can be set up, meaning you wouldn't need to be at every meeting. In addition, after you have done your training and agreed to be a leader, as soon as your child is six they can join Beavers straight away and they won't need to join any waiting lists!

Please help to give youngsters in our village the opportunity to have fun while learning new skills, help them to discover their potential, grow in confidence and make a meaningful contribution to their community. Beavers meet every Wednesday from 5pm to 6pm.

Interested? Please contact Jan Spragge on 833659 for more information.

Rainbows in Wheathampstead meet on a Monday and 3rd Wheathampstead **Brownies** on a Thursday in the Scout Hut, East Lane.

1st Wheathampstead Brownies meet on a Tuesday at St Peter's Church, Gustard Wood and Guides meet on a Friday in the Mead Hall, East Lane.

For further information please visit http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/ parentscarers.aspx.

Top Hat Stage School



More than 60 students from Top Hat Stage School performed their Christmas pantomime "Rapunzel and The Beanstalk" at the Sandpit Theatre in St. Albans in December 2014. Principal Warren Bacci said: "I was so thrilled with all the kids. They have worked so hard all term and the

show went without a hitch." New students are always welcome at Top Hat which takes place every Wednesday at the Memorial Hall 4.30 to 6.30 for 5 to 17 year olds. Please contact 01727 812666 for more information or visit www.tophatstageschool.co.uk

WWFC and St Albans City Youth FC continue to provide disability football for young people between 1-3pm on the third Sunday of every month and dedicated training sessions for 7-14 year old girls between 5-6pm on a Monday night on the artificial turf pitch at Marford Playing fields free of charge . Please contact andrewwwfc@gmail.com for more information.

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!

Youth Club meets at the Memorial Hall every Tuesday evening from 7 to 9:30pm for 13-19 year olds (free of charge). Please contact Robert.Brown@hertfordshire.gov.uk for more information.

Police Surgery Dates at the Memorial Hall

3pm to 5pm
10am to 12 noon
10am to 12 noon
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10am to 12 pm
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10am to 12pm



PCSO 6021 Che Ponton

NHS services – no appointment needed!

Accident and Emergency departments are here to treat people who have serious, life-threatening or dangerous conditions. Ambulances should only be called in genuine emergencies.

Pharmacists can supply expert advice and low-cost medicines and a number are open late into the evening and most have consulting rooms where you can ask for advice in private. Go to www.nhs.uk/service-search to find your nearest open pharmacist.

There are walk-in NHS services you should use if you need urgent medical help, but it's not life-threatening visit Urgent Care Centre (UCC), QEII Hospital, Howlands, Welwyn Garden City AL7 4HQ (24 hours a day) or Spring House Medical Centre, Ascots Lane, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 4HL (8am to 8pm every day).

If you have seriously hurt yourself, but your injury is not life-threatening you can go to: UCC (as above) or Minor Injuries Unit, St Albans City Hospital, Waverley Road, St Albans AL3 5PN (9am to 8pm every day).

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

Many councillors have email using name.surname@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk, eg. david.johnston@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk

eg. davialjonnistone wheathampstead polgoviak			
lain Begg	7 Old Rectory Gardens, AL4 8AD	01582 623355	
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, AL48HP	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	As above	
Sandra Wood	12 Mount Road, AL4 8BX	07919 497818	
Your County councillor			
Maxine Crawley	14 Saberton Close, Redbourn, AL3 7DS	01582 793760	
Your MP			
Rt Hon Peter Lilley	1 Place Farm AL4 8SB	01582 834344	

Police

Your local officers are PC1848 Arthur Wilkes and 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, 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.

Cassidy & Tate

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

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Are you:

- Over 18 years of age?
- A Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of the European Community?
- An elector?
- Live in Wheathampstead or within 3 miles or an owner or tenant of property or work here?

If all the above apply to you and you care about Wheathampstead and the issues facing our residents then you can stand for election in the local Parish Council elections on May 7.

Parish councils are the backbone of our democracy and at the heart of our community. We provide residents with a democratic voice and a structure for taking action — real people power at grassroots level. Whatever needs improving in Wheathampstead, you could be just the person to do it as a councillor. No other role gives you a chance to make such a huge difference to quality of life for our residents.

If you would like to find out more details please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council Clerk Julia Warren on 832541 or at info@wheathamsptead-pc.gov.uk or visit www.beacouncillor.org.uk.

Number 116 Wheathampstead Parish Council Spring 2015