

# The Pump

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## Dates for your diary

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**Every last Tuesday in the month is** the Amwell Fundraisers Bingo at the 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.

**May 16 (Wednesday)** Annual Parish Meeting, Memorial Hall, 7.30pm. Guest speaker Simon West, District Archaeologist, crime prevention advice from PCSO Joshua Walton and refreshments. Everyone welcome.

**May 16 (Wednesday)** History Society talk with guest speaker Jane Kelsall 'Christina of Markyate, c.1096-1155/60', Mead Hall, 7.30pm.

**May 20 (Sunday)** Wheathampstead 10K at 11am and Family 2K Fun Run at 10am at Marford Playing Fields. See page 8 for more information.

**May 24, 25 and 26 (Thursday, Friday and Saturday)** WDS performance of 'Dangerous Corner' by J.B. Priestley. Tickets can be purchased from the Manor Pharmacy.

**May 24 (Thursday)** U3A guest speaker Peter Christian: Tracing your family tree using the Internet. Memorial Hall 1.45pm for 2pm start.

**May 30 (Wednesday)** 'Walk on the Wild Side', Nomansland Common, 10am-12.30pm, suitable for families. See page 15 for more information.

**June 20 (Wednesday)** History Society talk with guest speaker Andy Gibbs, 'The Poor Child's Friend: Joseph Lancaster's Educational Revolution'. Mead Hall, 7.30pm.

**June 28 (Thursday)** U3A guest speaker Martin Lloyd: Passports, Assassins, Traitors and Spies. Memorial Hall, 1.45pm for 2pm start.

**July 7 and 8 (Saturday and Sunday)** Village Weekend. See back cover for dates and times and page 3 for more information.

**July 26 (Thursday)** U3A guest speaker to be confirmed. Memorial Hall, 1.45pm for 2pm start.

**September 22 (Saturday)** John Bunyan Charity Family Fun Day at the John Bunyan pub, 12pm-5pm.

**September 23 (Sunday)** Wheathampstead Station Fun Day on Station Road.

## News in brief

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### Village Weekend: Saturday 7 July and Sunday 8 July

The village's favourite weekend will kick off with the ever-popular Wheathampstead's Got Talent, so be sure to keep an eye out for applications via your school's Parentmail. This will be followed by Picnic on the Meads, where you can hear music from the Fleetville Swing Band, accompanied by dance performances and workshops from Jive Swing. And as always, the night will conclude with the No.7 Band and a firework display.

Village Day 'Carnival' concludes the weekend with fun for all the family including a circus performer, storytelling corner, martial arts demonstration, Bollywood dancers, archery and so much more.

### New Parish Councillor

We are pleased to welcome Ruby O'Brien to the Parish Council. Our new councillor replaces Judy Shardlow who stepped down in 2017.

### Opening of the new St Albans Museum + Gallery

The eagerly-awaited St Albans Museum + Gallery will open its doors to the public on Friday 8 June following a two-year restoration and redevelopment project. Visitors will be invited to enjoy a dynamic programme of events to celebrate the opening of this arts, heritage and cultural attraction in the newly-transformed building.

### Free buses for Wheathampstead children

Local children who attend schools in Harpenden are being given free bus transport from the start of the 2018 summer term. This decision was made as a result of Lower Luton Road being classified as an 'unsafe' route for children to walk to school.

### Congestion on the High Street

This continues to be an issue, often as a result of drivers misusing the loading bay outside Tesco which was designed for only two vehicles. Our County Councillor is negotiating with Herts County Council to alter the shape of the bay by reducing the width of the pavement and placing a bell bollard at the narrow end of the lay-by to prevent the parking of a third vehicle.



# WPC Volunteer Awards

Organising Village Weekend and Lights Up, maintaining our open spaces, restoring the station platform, creating the Jubilee Garden, Litterblitz – the list goes on. It is activities like these that help to make our village such a pleasant and vibrant place to live.

And they all depend on volunteers who give their time and skills without payment.

With this in mind, the Parish Council is setting up an award scheme to recognise individual volunteers. Those who volunteer

regularly will be presented with a green pin-badge with the village logo. Those who show outstanding dedication to the village through volunteering will receive a gold badge. The first gold badges will be awarded at the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 16 May 2018.

We have some catching-up to do, so quite a number of awards will be made on that evening; we will catch up on the backlog in 2019.

Look out for residents wearing a badge!



If you would like to nominate someone to receive a badge, you can email us or pop by the office with their name and a brief description of the outstanding work they have done for the village!



## Local sports

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# Tennis Club: Come and try the new tennis courts!

*by Paul Dyson*



Have you seen the wonderful new tennis courts on the Marford Playing Fields? The new all-weather surface is recommended by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and is so much easier on those weary limbs.

The courts are there to play on, so why not give it a go? We welcome all ages and standards of tennis player from the absolute beginner through to the next Andy Murray.

We are a small and friendly club run by volunteers. We offer social tennis, social events, match-play and a full coaching programme, which is popular with children in the village.

### **To use the courts:**

- Contact us on [wheatltc@gmail.com](mailto:wheatltc@gmail.com)
- Visit our website [www.wltc.org.uk](http://www.wltc.org.uk)
- Pop down to a social session on Wednesday evening or Sunday morning
- Non-members can book a court at the Parish Council office on weekday mornings

### **Memberships**

Membership is available for families, single adults and children. You can find details on our website.



## Local history

### Abbot John of Wheathampstead

by Patrick McNeill

It is not unusual for archaeologists to find ancient skeletons but it is very unusual, if not unique, for them to find the remains of a 'lost' abbot. But that is what happened in December last year when the grave of Abbot John of Wheathampstead was uncovered in a dig at St Albans Abbey. They knew it was Abbot John because also in the grave were three papal seals, known as 'papal bulls'. These were issued by Pope Martin V (1417-1431) when he granted special privileges to the monastery of St Albans following a visit by Abbot John.



*Mackerye End*

Abbot John (after whom a pub behind the station was renamed) was born in about 1390 and brought up by his parents, Hugh and Margaret Bostock, at Mackerye End. He was elected

abbot at St Albans in 1420, resigned in 1440, was re-elected in 1451, and died in 1465.



According to the seventeenth century historian Sir Henry Chauncy, he was “... *very famous for his great learning, his Godly life and conversation, and his great affection to the beauty of the House of God; and he was so espoused and betrothed to it that he raised great sums of money to adorn and enrich the same*”.

Abbot John will be reburied in the Abbey.



**Pilates classes** on Thursday at 8 p.m.  
 Friday at 9:05a.m, 12:30pm & 1:30pm  
 Mead Hall, East Lane, Wheathampstead  
 Wednesday at 9:30a.m. & 10.30a.m.  
 Southdown Methodist Church Hall,  
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 or email [pushmefit.herts@gmail.com](mailto:pushmefit.herts@gmail.com)

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## Local events

### Wheathampstead 10K and 2K Event and Family Fun Run

The Wheathampstead 10K run will take place at 11am on Sunday 20 May 2018, starting and finishing on the Marford Playing Fields.

This annual event, organised by Beech Hyde School, is a firm favourite among local runners and competitors from further afield who hear about a run with a local feel that takes in some beautiful countryside. The 10K is chip-timed and entries must be received in advance.



The 2K Family Fun Run starts at 10am from the Marford Playing Fields. This is a circular run on footpaths and the playing field. It is suitable for families, runners and walkers of all ages and ideal as a warm-up for the 10K.

This event makes a great family morning out with BBQ, café and children's entertainment.

**Book in advance to avoid disappointment!**



[www.wheathampstead10k.co.uk](http://www.wheathampstead10k.co.uk)



### Completion of river works



We are delighted to report that the work to improve the river banks in The Meads, as described in the Spring edition of The Pump, has been completed.

From 23 January to 13 March, 24 volunteers from Wheathampstead Open Spaces Volunteers, the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, the Verulam Angling Club and the Environment Agency put in 268 hours' work to get the work done. We

pollarded the willows on the north side of The Meads, drove 160 chestnut stakes into the river bed along about 80 metres of river bank, and wove the willow poles between the stakes to reinforce the eroded bank – a traditional technique called 'spling'. We collected more willow poles from Lemsford Springs (courtesy of the Wildlife Trust) and from the Verulam Angling Club's fishery at Leasey Bridge (thanks to them for all their help).

Our contractors, Maydencroft, built five entry points into the river where the existing informal entry points were causing even more erosion.

The entire project was paid for with a grant from the Wild Trout Trust to whom we are very grateful.



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## Find out what goes on at WEB

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## Meet your councillors

Your Parish Council consists of twelve volunteer councillors, who collectively represent the interests of the community. Our councillors were asked “what has been your favourite part of being a councillor?”



**David Johnston (Chairman): served since 2011**

“In 2011 my late wife and I had been living in this extraordinary village for 25 years. Being a councillor (not affiliated to any party political group) means I can give something back by contributing as a volunteer and working for the benefit of all our residents.”



**Peter Woodhams (Vice Chairman): served since 2011**

“Since joining , I have most enjoyed the feeling of community. It is rewarding to be part of a friendly group doing their very best to maintain and improve our lovely village. There can be many meetings, but it is great that we nearly always reach a consensus.”



**Gill Clark: served since 1987**

“I have found the experience so interesting that I have continued to do what I can to work for our village. I especially enjoy the planning process and want to maintain the quality of the Memorial Hall.”



**Tessa Reason: served since 2009**

“I feel privileged to live here; it's got all the advantages of being near London, but small enough to retain a strong village identity. I love Village Weekend, and our amazing open spaces, maintained by the council and volunteers.”



**David Davies: served since 2011**

“I ought to say it is looking at old leases and conveyances to see what land the Council owns. But really it was standing at the top of a ladder putting up bunting and throwing myself in front of a car to stop them entering the car park on Village Day.”





**Elias Habib: served since 2015**

“I enjoy protecting the greenbelt and maintaining the uniqueness of this friendly village I have called home for 34 years.”



**Steve Haynes: served since 2012**

“I have particularly enjoyed being involved with Lights Up and Village Weekend because it is lovely to see the positive reaction of the villagers.”



**Linda Halford: served since 2012**

“My favourite part has been to work alongside so many organisations and societies. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to meet so many delightful and dedicated people.”

**Our newest members were asked “what are you most looking forward to as a councillor?”**



**Owain Mckenzie: served since 2017**

“As a new councillor, I’m really looking forward to help grow and enhance our community events and festivals throughout the year. I feel we are the envy of the surrounding areas. ”



**Tommy Ryan: served since 2017**

“I want to be part of the team that maintains and improves our village, environment and facilities.”



**Ruby O'Brien: served since 2018**

"I'm very excited to have the opportunity of being part of the community I grew up in. Contributing to the preservation of historical roots and nurturing modern developments within the village is an absolute privilege."



**Jonathan Booth: served since 2018**

“I am keen to do what I can to maintain the balance between this being a peaceful village and keeping pace with the demands of an ever-changing world.”

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### The future of your village

You may be aware that your parish council is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan which will give more control over the development of the village, particularly with regard to new development. Once approved in a referendum of residents, the plan will become part of the St Albans planning process and must be considered when planning permission is sought by individuals and companies.

At May's Annual Parish Meeting, we will be presenting an early draft of the plan for your comments. The main areas covered include:

- ◆ **Housing:** Size and location of development, housing mix.
- ◆ **Transport and Movement:** Public transport, walking and cycling, parking.
- ◆ **Character and Conservation:** High quality building design, sustainable design, attractive street scene.
- ◆ **Community Facilities:** Community hub, education and medical provision, allotments, sports, heritage.

- ◆ **Environment:** Minimising the impact of development, protecting habitats and green spaces, protecting local views.
- ◆ **Town Centre and Economy:** Protecting the High Street, employment, rural economy development.

We also want Wheathampstead to be a SAFE village: **Sustainable, Accessible, Fairtrade, Ecological.**

This theme will be emphasised throughout the plan.

Come along and talk to the steering group driving the plan and give us your early feedback.



## Neighbourhood Watch

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### Beware of fake celebrity endorsements for investment

According to Neighbourhood Watch, fraudsters are dishonestly using the image of Martin Lewis, the founder of MoneySavingExpert.com to endorse their business.

If you are considering an investment, get impartial advice from an independent financial adviser. Visit [www.fca.org.uk](http://www.fca.org.uk) to search the Financial Conduct Authority's



Financial Services Register for a list of authorised providers. Never use an adviser from a company that contacted you, as this may be part of a scam.

## May half-term event

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### Walk on the Wild Side



Join the Countryside Management Service and John O'Conner's Ranger on a 1.5 mile (2.4km) circular walk at Nomansland Common at **10am to 12.30pm on Wednesday 30 May**. We

will be exploring the Common in search of some of its more elusive residents—reptiles and amphibians. On the way we will have the opportunity to see a range of other wildlife. *Please be aware that there is no guarantee that we will find any reptiles and amphibians.*

This event is suitable for families. **Booking is required** as we can only take a maximum of 20 people.

Visit the Walks and More website for details of how to book.

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/walksandmore](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/walksandmore)



### Well done to our local 'dog poo fairies'

A handful of residents have been putting social media to good use to discuss the issue of dog poo in and around the village.

The 'Wheathampstead Network' page on Facebook has seen its fair share of angry posts regarding dog poo being left on pavements, footpaths, and even on some front gardens and driveways.

One resident wrote "Thank you to the delightful dog owner who allowed their dog to go to the toilet at the bottom of my drive and not pick it up for the second time this week!".

Another wrote "Someone left dog poo on the path on Brewhouse Hill... my daughter has walked in it this morning on the way to school, along with a few other kids too".

One post that caught the attention of many Facebook users showed a hilarious notice attached to a fence post that describes how dog owners could try the 'downward dog position' to pick up their dog's poo.

In light of this issue, Sarah-Fay Miller, who found herself picking up



more than just her own dog's poo while out for a walk, decided to organise a regular 'poo collection'.

Joined by other residents, Sarah-Fay has collected and disposed of lots of dog poo, as well as other rubbish, and plans to arrange more collections in the future. On behalf of the community, a huge thank you to Sarah-Fay and her team.

If you are a dog owner, **you** are responsible for clearing up after your dog. Lets keep our village clean!



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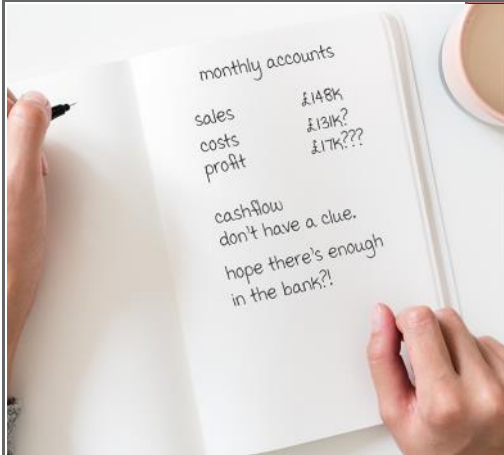
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### Can you help the Beavers?

Wheathampstead Scouts are in need of adult leaders to run the Beaver Section from September. The Beaver age range is 6 to 8 years old. We have a maximum of 20 children in our Colony, which is very popular and has a long waiting list.

At the moment Beavers meet on a Wednesday at 5.15pm for an hour, but this can be changed to fit in with the new leaders if work commitments make this time difficult.

If you would like to help us, you will have to become a warranted leader due to the safety and safeguarding requirements of the Scouting Association. You must be over 18 years of age and will require a DBS check, done by the Scouting Association; we cannot accept DBS checks from any other organisation.

Sadly, if no new leaders come forward, the Beaver Colony will have to close at the end of the Summer term.

**If you are able to help, please contact Karen Oxley  
on [gsl1stwheathampstead@outlook.com](mailto:gsl1stwheathampstead@outlook.com)**

# BEAVERS

### Gustard Wood Common

*by Peter Ryan*

In March we returned to Gustard Wood Common, where the Parish Council owns 18.5 acres of woodland to the east of Lamer Lane. Gustard Wood Common is an area of mixed secondary woodland, heath and neutral/acid grassland.

The Parish Council's management plan for Gustard Wood identifies removing invading scrub to preserve the locally rare acid grassland near the road and around the picnic bench. This grassland is relatively species-rich and contains plants such as Yellow Archangel, Dog's Mercury and Wood Speedwell that are indicators of it having resembled ancient woodland. The eastern boundary includes some old hornbeams that mark the boundary

with the Lamer Estate.

The name Gustard derives from the Anglo-Saxon word for Juniper, a locally rare plant. The dense spread of holly in the woods prevents light from reaching the woodland floor so we are clearing some of it to create glades and open spaces.

In May and June we will go back to Marshalls Heath where we have been working to preserve and enhance the habitat that is a key Hertfordshire site for butterflies and moths. The Heath is designated as a Local Nature Reserve.

WOSV meets on the second Saturday of each month. If you would like to join us, please contact the Parish Council office for details.







HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

## Police surgeries at the Memorial Hall

Monday 30 April	6pm to 8pm
Tuesday 8 May	10am to 12pm
Wednesday 16 May	6pm to 8pm
Wednesday 23 May	2pm to 4pm
Friday 1 June	4pm to 6pm
Sunday 10 June	11am to 1pm
Saturday 16 June	12pm to 2pm
Thursday 21 June	5pm to 7pm
Friday 29 June	1pm to 3pm

Your local officers are PC1848 Arthur Wilkes and PCSO 6434 Joshua Walton.  
Call 101 for non-emergency and information, or 999 for an emergency.



**Joshua Walton**  
PCSO 6434

All dates and times are subject to operational requirements.



**Clerk to the Council:** Julia Warren

**Address:** Wheathampstead Parish Council, The Memorial Hall, Marford Road, Herts AL4 8AY.

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**Websites:** [www.wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk](http://www.wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk) [www.wheathampsteadheritage.org.uk](http://www.wheathampsteadheritage.org.uk)

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### Your Parish councillors

Jonathan Booth	3 Marshalls Way	07949 719211
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
Ruby O'Brien	10 The Hill, AL4 8PR	07403 737399
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	As above	01438 832255
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### Your MP

Bim Afolami	65 High Street, Harpenden, AL5 2SL	01582 761796
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### 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](http://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](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk)

Osteopathy • Cranial • Acupuncture

## Aldwickbury Clinic

Adults Babies Children

**Claire Mckenna**  
Bsc (Hons) Ost Med DPO  
Registered Osteopath  
Paediatric Specialist

**07725 555 105**

7 Long Butlers, Harpenden, AL5 1JF  
& Breathing Space, Harpenden

[www.aldwickburyclinic.co.uk](http://www.aldwickburyclinic.co.uk)



## Will Writing

Will Writing  
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*Affiliate member of the Society of Will Writers*

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**01582 833778**  
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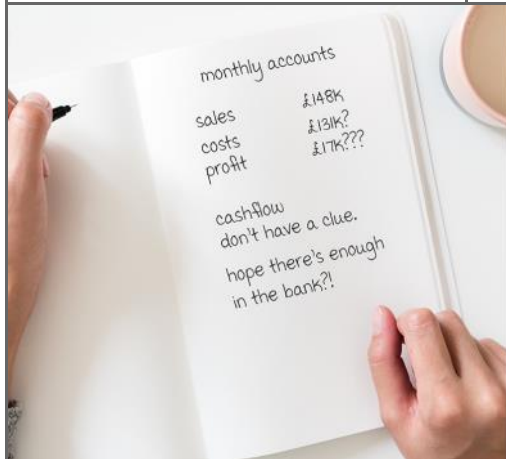
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[www.visionaryaccountants.co.uk](http://www.visionaryaccountants.co.uk)  
2 Adelaide Street, St Albans, Herts AL3 5BH

**V**  
**Visionary**  
ACCOUNTANTS

WHEATHAMPSTEAD VILLAGE WEEKEND 2018

**Saturday 7th July**

**WHEATHAMPSTEAD'S GOT**

**T☆LENT**

**3pm-5pm on the Meads**

**Picnic on the Meads**

**5pm-10.30pm on the Meads**

**Sunday 8th July**

**Carnival**

**Village Day**

**1pm-5pm on Marford Playing Fields**



**Wheathampstead Parish Council**  
[www.wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk](http://www.wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk) Tel: 01582 832541