

The Wheathampstead

Pump



“Community Matters”

Irene leaves after
19 years—page 6



Andrew collects his prize—Page 19



Success for our Scouts—Page 15



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News in Brief...

All-Weather Pitch—The Football Association has asked six companies to bid for installing our new all-weather pitch. Once a supplier has been selected a schedule of work will be drawn up.

New Play Equipment—The Parish Council is in negotiation with a supplier to install the new play equipment on Marford Field before work commences on the all-weather pitch.

New Deputy Clerk—The Parish Council is looking for a replacement for Irene Casper, the Deputy Clerk. See Page 7.

Replacement Youth Shelter—The Youth Shelter will shortly disappear as it was only on loan to us. We have budgeted for a permanent replacement as it has been very successful.

Replacement Meads Bridge—Work is now completed. We are looking to extend the path to the Forge and hide the underneath metalwork.

Meads Power Cables—These have now been buried and new paths installed. Shrubs have been planted around the new transformer box to help hide it.

Twin Town/Village—We don't have a twin but residents are welcome to join Harpenden or St Albans Town Twinning Friendship groups. In Harpenden there is Friends of Cosne (France) and Friends of Alzey (Germany). For details of social events contact Gill Clark on 832579.

Sandringham School Consultation—25 places for Wheathampstead. Have your say: www.sandringham.herts.sch.uk/dp/news

The Wheathampstead **Litterblitz** Group met on Saturday 11th Jan, an unusual sunny day, with no wind, which always helps as the collection bags don't blow around so much! Derek, Audrey, Mary, Patrick, Ellie, George and myself managed to collect 10 bags of rubbish, 7 bags of recyclables and one bag of glass bottles plus various other items from the Hill Dyke Estate.

Unusually there were plastic milk bottles and food cans, we think they were blown around from the green boxes in the high winds we have had recently, as we don't usually see these.

So please, every one can help by not dropping the litter in the first place.

Eddie Cornell

What's On—Dates for your Diary

February 21st (Friday) - Wheathampstead & District Preservation Society AGM, 7:30 pm Memorial Hall. Presentation by English Heritage

February 27th (Thursday), 2 pm, Memorial Hall—University of the Third Age. See Page 20

April 10th (Thursday) - Annual Parish Meeting, 7:30 pm Memorial Hall. Your chance to quiz your Councillors on what the Parish Council have done and are planning

May 18th (Sunday) - Wheathampstead 10K Race. Entries in advance only. See www.wheathampstead10K.co.uk and Page 18

From the New Headteacher at St Helen's



"It is my pleasure to be the Headteacher of St. Helen's Church of England VA Primary School. I've been made to feel very welcome by pupils, parents, staff, governors and members of St. Helen's Church.

I believe we all recognise the central importance of schools to our local community. They are the places where we nurture our future citizens and celebrate what is good about learning. That's why schools don't just belong to the teachers and pu-

pils, but everyone.

I arrive at St. Helen's at a particularly exciting time. Not only are schools throughout the country preparing for the new National Curriculum, St. Helen's is also preparing for major building works. We are having four classrooms built so that the school can move to two form entry from September 2014.

In the meantime, the school has literally become St. Helen's Church on Sundays: truly a school at the heart of the community!"

Jamie Brown, Headteacher

In case of a flooding emergency you should call the Floodline on 0845 988 1188 or, in an emergency, dial 999.

For advice for householders and businesses see:

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods

Flooding

The centre of Wheathampstead has a history of flooding from the River Lea, most recently in May 2007. The Environment Agency (EA) is proposing works to reduce the risk.

Latest news

The EA is working in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council; they are helping to fund the works. Unfortunately the work has been delayed and is now planned to start in July 2014. At that time of year river flows will be lower making it



safer to work in the culvert. A public consultation took place in the Memorial Hall finishing in early January. Once the final design is agreed the EA will apply for Listed Building Consent to modify the weir.

Background

The River Lea passes underneath the Mill (also known as the Corn Mill) on the High Street. The layout and size of the channels around the mill limit how quickly the River Lea can pass under it when the river level is high. This causes water to back up and flood the surrounding area. The proposal is to reduce the height of the weir under the mill. This will allow river water to move through the channel sooner when the level is high and safely pass Wheathampstead village centre. The buildings around Wheathampstead Mill currently have a 1 in 5 (20 per cent) chance of flooding from the River Lea in any year. The works proposals will reduce this risk to a 1 in 20 chance (5 per cent).

If you have any questions, please contact **Celina Rajanayagam** from the EA at wheathampsteadmill@environment-agency.gov.uk or telephone 07768 506466

Farewell Irene!

For 19 years Irene Casper has worked in the Parish Council and has done a splendid job for the village. In her role as Deputy Clerk she has worked tirelessly to help the Council keep Wheathampstead as a great place to live and work. For many years Irene has been responsible for organising Village Day and also preparing the Pump. In addition she also clerked the Allotment Committee, the Nomansland Joint Management Committee and the Planning Committee. Irene moves on to bigger things and has taken on a promotion as Clerk to the Council at London Colney. Although we are sad to lose Irene, we congratulate her and wish her every success in her new role.

David Johnston



Picture shows Cllr Linda Halford, Cllr Gill Clark, Irene, Clerk to the Council Julia Warren, Cllr Tessa Reason & Cllr Peter Woodhams.

See page 7 for advert for the new Deputy Clerk.



WHEATHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CLERK

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Wheathampstead Parish Council is looking for the right candidate interested in working at the first tier of local government to assist the Clerk with the Council's demanding workload. We deliver first class, local services in the community of Wheathampstead and the role is diverse and challenging.

You will assist the Clerk to ensure the smooth running of the Parish Council office and that all legal, statutory, financial and other governing provisions relating to the Council are observed. Also that all Council meetings are properly administered and decisions effectively implemented whilst developing healthy working partnerships with the community and other organisations.

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**Please call Julia Warren on 01582 832541 or email
julia.warren@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk
for a recruitment pack and an application form.**

Closing date for applications: Thursday 20th February 2014 (5pm)

Come and join us at WDPS

Do you want to help preserve all that is beautiful and unique in Wheathampstead? Could you be part of our vibrant, fun and active Committee?

Wheathampstead and District Preservation Society has many exciting plans for the future and we need more enthusiastic volunteers to help us achieve our goals. Following our recent successes, including the Red Telephone Box, the Diamond



Jubilee Garden and the Community Noticeboard, we are preparing to take on some new challenges for 2014 and we need your help!

Our Committee meets monthly for a sociable gathering at one of the Committee member's houses and we all play a part in moving projects forward. Tasks could be anything from planting daffodil bulbs, clearing the river, maintaining the Diamond Jubilee Garden, taking a survey of local traffic, cleaning road signs, fundraising, reviewing local planning applications and objecting to any we believe would be harmful to the village, writing articles for our magazine, staffing our stall at Village Day..... the list is endless and the tasks are very varied! We have lots of fun and gain a great sense of achievement when we complete a worthwhile project.

So if you have a little spare time, a lot of enthusiasm and are willing to roll your sleeves up and get involved... join our Committee!

Contact our Chair, Julie Bell for an informal chat about what's involved. Her email address is julie.bell@can-do.co.uk

'Like' our page on **Facebook** to keep up to date ...

www.facebook.com/wdps2014

Richard Brett

Our fish are flourishing!

The final report of the Environment Agency's survey of the river Lea at Wheathampstead last July confirms the good news: our river is in good health and there are plenty of fish.



The survey, which has been done every year since 2001, involves isolating a 100 metre stretch of the river in the Meads by putting nets across at two points, then using electric fishing to stun the fish in that stretch. They are caught by hand in nets, then each fish is counted and measured and some are weighed. Scale samples are taken to assess their age and

growth history. All the fish caught are returned alive to the river.

The report says that the biomass of fish (the total weight caught in the sample area) is one of the highest in this area and density (the number of fish caught) is correspondingly good.

The river is shallow at this point so there are relatively few large individuals but the most common species are chub and roach, followed by gudgeon and dace, which are particularly numerous and well-grown here. Barbel and perch were also found, together with six grayling, which were re-introduced to the river in 2012.

This stretch of the river is good spawning habitat for barbel, chub and dace.

The report emphasises that these excellent results are partly due to how the Parish Council manages the river banks in the Meads, by allowing the vegetation to flourish and provide habitat and shelter for young fish.

Patrick McNeill

The Meads Ranger, Patrick McNeill, is Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust's "champion" for the river from Leasey Bridge to Lemsford. He acts as HMWT's "eyes and ears" for the river including liaising with landown-

Sell-out Opera is a first for Wheathampstead



More than 500 people bought tickets and filled St Helen's Church four times over for a sell-out production of **'Amahl and the Night Visitors'** in early January. This one-act opera by Gian-Carlo Minotti is great entertainment but with a thoughtful theme.

Amahl is a challenging role brilliantly sung, and acted, on alternate performances by Karl Puranick and Oliver Wood, and the Mother, ENO member Deborah Davison, provided a feast of song and great entertainment – as did the Three

Kings themselves.

Mayor of St Albans City and District, Annie Brewster, said, "I was overwhelmed with the quality of this fabulous performance of Amahl and the Night Visitors. A magical atmosphere filled St Helen's Church the moment the candles were blown out and the orchestra began to play. We were treated to a visually and audibly spectacular performance that seemed to use every part of the church.

"It was a delight to spot so many talented Villagers within the cast and, indeed, others who live within our St Albans District. Congratulations to everyone involved but particularly to Ruth Coles, the driving force behind Wheathampstead's brilliant first community opera."

...and Ruth's comment: *"It was more than I could ever have hoped for."*



A production of this stature gives huge benefit to the village as a whole; the financial profits are channelled by the Friends of St Helen's into the preservation, repair and restoration of our beautiful Grade I listed parish church.

Gill Gwinn

pics: Mother, Debbie Davison and Amahl, here played by Karl Puranick

The Three Kings: Kaspar, Geoffrey Ward; Balthazar, Des Turner; and Melchior, Hugh L'Estrange

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Youth News...

Green Beret Scout Challenge, 15-17 November 2013

Green Beret is a weekend challenge for scouts from all over Hertfordshire, involving tests of physical and mental agility. More than 900 scouts took part in this year's event, divided into 146 teams. Each team consisted of between 4 and 10 boys. Wheathampstead sent two teams: an 'A' team of 6, and a 'B' team of 4, drawn from both Amwell and Lamer troops.

Physical challenges included an assault course, orienteering, climbing over a Transit van and building, disassembling and transporting a replica cannon! There were also mental challenges, such as a quiz on flags of the world and the Harry Potter films. Many of the tasks involved great dexterity: for example, balancing as many nails as possible on top of a single nail which had been hammered into a block of wood.

All scouts camped out under canvas both nights. Friday night was particularly cold, and we woke to a frost. The 'A' team was up at seven o'clock to attempt the assault course (in which we managed only 40th place). We thought carefully about which events would suit our team strengths and put in a lot of effort, so as to participate in as many events as possible.

Towards the end of the morning, we undertook the orienteering and were placed 9th. By the early evening we were getting tired, despite three substantial meals, but had to go straight into a series of night challenges, finishing at 9pm.



Although we were aware of a few strong performances from our team (such as Jay Dunbar's extraordinary knowledge of national flags), we had no real idea of our overall ranking until the presentation on Sunday morning. The 'A' team was surprised (but delighted) to be placed 6th out of 146. Notwithstanding the excitement, most of us were grateful for the chance to sleep in the car on the way home!

See picture on cover.

William Tudway

Youth News...

Wheathampstead Scout Group

The 1st Wheathampstead Scout Group is thriving with 120 boys and girls plus 35 in the older age group of Explorer Scouts, all enjoying the fun and adventure that scouting has to offer. Scouting is now so popular that we have children waiting for a place in all sections. For example, there are 60 children waiting to join the Beavers (6-8 year olds) and we would love to give those youngsters an opportunity to be part of the fun BUT we need more volunteers.

Not everyone needs to be at the meetings every week, Scouting is very flexible. Children taking part in Scouting are out and about even in the winter months, not sitting at home in front of the television or computer. As a Leader you can develop your own skills and have fun as well. Leaders are not paid; you get your reward by learning new skills and seeing the young people develop to become useful citizens. You don't need prior knowledge of Scouting as training is given. Wheathampstead has gained several Chief Scouts Awards in each of the Sections during the year. These are given to youngsters who have given commitment, enjoyed and taken part in many fun and exciting activities. Many congratulations go to them all. If you would like to know more **please contact the Group Scout Leader Jan Spragge 01582 833659.**

Not all our volunteers wear uniform. We are looking for someone to help the Scout Group as Honorary Treasurer. Our Honorary Treasurers of several Years are retiring so we need someone to replace them starting from September 2014. One person with book keeping knowledge would be useful, but you don't need to be a qualified accountant.

If either you, or someone you know would be prepared to help us in this way or you would like to know more, **please contact Sarah & Geraint Harris 01582 832350.**

The Scout Group is a registered charity so we will not be able to function if we do not fill this post- **please help.**

Jan Spragge

Youth News...

Top Hat Perform Pantomime “Robin Hood” - Oh yes they did!

Top Hat Stage School performed their Christmas pantomime “Robin Hood” at the Sandpit Theatre in St Albans on the 4th of



December 2013. Over 60 students aged 5-15 years performed in the show to an audience of over 200.

Mayor of St Albans Annie Brewster also attended the performance and was very impressed with the level of performance.

Principal Warren Bacci said: “I was thrilled with how well the students did. The Wheathampstead course has grown so much since we first started the course. It is amazing how much they have come on”!

The Wheathampstead course meets every Wednesday at Memorial Hall, 4.30-6.0pm. The children take part in 3 classes: drama, singing and dance and perform in 2 shows a year. This year some of the students will be taking part in Top Hat’s West End show! This will take place at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane on the 20th July 2014, so now is a great time for young people to join the club if they are interested in the performing arts.

**To arrange a FREE trial please call: 01727 812666 or visit:
www.tophatstageschool.co.uk**

Volunteering in the Parish

Wheathampstead has a small but growing group of volunteers who are contributing to and improving the parish we live in. If you are interested, no matter how much time you have or whatever your ability, please contact the Parish Council Office on 01582 832541

Join local 'Friends of' groups, for instance the local nature reserve at Marshalls Heath

Take part in Litter Blitz days, clearing our parks and paths

Contribute to the Village Day later this summer

Help our Rangers as they complete tasks at our many and varied open spaces

Help Wheathampstead and District Preservation Society (WDPS) clear the river, plant bulbs, clean signs, weed Diamond Jubilee Garden etc.

You may have thought about setting up your own volunteer group, if so, come to the Parish with your ideas and we'll be happy to help.

Volunteering is a worthwhile and rewarding pastime, it gets you out and about and makes a difference to our village and community – why not give it a go?

Peter Ryan

10K Race and 2K Family Fun Run 2014

The ever popular 10K event will be taking place on **Sunday May 18th** starting in Sheepcote Lane and ending on the Marford Playing Fields. This annual event has become a favourite amongst local runners and sees competitors from much further afield coming to the village encouraged by reports of a run with a local feel in some beautiful countryside.



Distance	2K	10K
Time	10:00	11:00
Start	Marford Field	Sheepcote Lane
Fee (By post in advance)	£4.00	£16.00
Fee (Online)	£5.50	£18.00
Fee (Paid on the day)	£5.00	N/A
Off-road surfaces	Buggy friendly	Multi-terrain

What was meant to be a one-off fund raiser for Beech Hyde School has grown in size and sells out long before the day.

10K entries are accepted in advance

only—no late entries on the day ...continued over

...continued

Early entry is highly recommended to avoid disappointment.

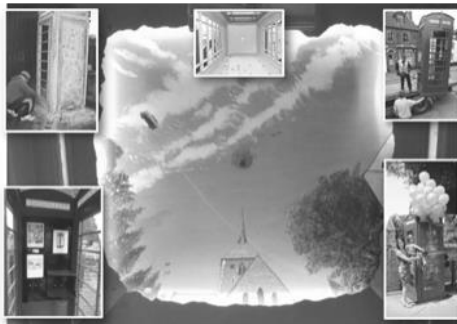
Teams of 3 or more can enter to win The Team Challenge Trophy—enter the team name on the application form for each runner.

Enter the Local Club Challenge to become the fastest finisher in your organisation. Email contact@wheathampstead10K.co.uk to see if your organisation/club/school is taking part..

Enter online at www.runnersworld.co.uk/Wheaty10K or by post. See www.wheathampstead10K.co.uk.

Presentation to Local Artist

Just before Christmas, Wheathampstead Parish Council was delighted to present local artist, Andrew Robley, with a cheque for £500, along with a picture to celebrate his artwork on the ceiling of the Red Telephone Box (see cover picture).



The presentation marked the end of a project that started approximately four years ago. WDPS (Wheathampstead and District Preservation Society) originally came up with the idea of putting a red telephone box on Wheathampstead High Street. They thought it would be appropriate to bring back a traditional red phone box to our heritage village. The challenge was to make it happen! Raising funds was a slow process, but thanks to contributions from WDPS and its members, local businesses and Parish and County Council, it started to become a reality. The ‘icing on the cake’ was the Public Art grant we obtained from St Albans District Council. The decision to put artwork in the ceiling of the box was ambitious and the competition that followed produced a number of imaginative entries. Finally, the committee chose Andrew’s entry and commissioned him to complete the project in time for the opening of the telephone box on Village Day. His innovative idea has certainly made him a worthy winner!

At the presentation Andrew said he was very proud to have made this contribution to the village. The prize reflects hours of planning, drafting and hard work leaving us with a finished result of which we can all be proud.

Linda Halford

Would you like a U3A in Wheathampstead?

The University of the Third Age is a unique self-help educational movement for people no longer in full-time work: it's an opportunity to pursue learning for sheer enjoyment, and to share experiences in a wide range of interest groups.



Whether it's languages, walking, history, painting, music etc., a local U3A can cover whatever interests you, as it reflects its members' wishes.

Are you interested? Do you have skills/talents which you could share with others? Would you like to be on a steering committee to feed in your views and help set up a Wheathampstead U3A? Would you like to gain an interest in something new to you, or continue and further your knowledge of your favourite past-time?

Please come along to a public meeting organised by Wheathampstead Community Group on **THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2014 at 2pm in the Memorial Hall** so we can hear your views. You can also learn more about the U3A and its potential here in Wheathampstead or **contact Marion Oxley on 01582 834238**.

When times are difficult Citizens Advice Bureau can provide just the support you need. Wheathampstead Parish Council is pleased to provide a grant to the St Albans Citizens Advice Bureau so it can offer outreach support at the Memorial Hall for our residents. The service is in total confidence with a professional counsellor and is completely free. Whatever your difficulty—personal relationships, financial, legal or other problems—seek advice from the professionals.

Advice sessions

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Please telephone (01727) 811118 to make an appointment or drop in on the day.

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Our New PCSO

As many of you already know, Joanna Heighs has moved away and we have a new PCSO. Paul Fletcher (PCSO 6222) grew up in Wheathampstead and lived in the village for most of his younger years and a few of his formative ones. He put himself forward for the village role when he knew that Jo was leaving partly because of his historic ties and partly because of the community spirit in the Parish. Paul says "There are relatively few crimes but I will be meeting with local residents and businesses to find out their issues."

Police Surgery Dates



Paul Fletcher

The Police hold regular surgeries at the Memorial Hall. If you wish to talk to an officer the dates for February and March are shown here:

DATE	TIME
Sat Feb 01 st 2014	15:00 – 17:00
Wed Feb 05 th 2014	12:00 – 14:00
Fri Feb 07 th 2014	12:00 – 14:00
Mon Feb 10 th 2014	13:00 – 15:00
Thur Feb 13 th 2014	13:00 – 15:00
Mon Feb 24 th 2014	12:00 – 14:00
Sun March 02 nd 2014	15:00 – 17:00
Wed March 05 th 2014	15:00 – 17:00
Fri March 08 th 2014	15:00 – 17:00
Wed March 12 th 2014	12:00 – 14:00
Fri March 14 th 2014	12:00 - 14:00
Mon March 17 th 2014	13:00 – 15:00
Fri March 21 st 2014	13:00 – 15:00
Mon March 24 th 2014	15:00 – 17;00
Sat March 29 th 2014	12:00 - 14:00

Your Parish Councillors

Iain Begg	7 Old Rectory Gardens, AL4 8AD	623355
Annie Brewster (Vice-Chairman)	Fairways, Firs Drive, Gustard Wood, AL4 8LB	01438 832255
Gill Clark	16 Tudor Road, AL4 8NW	832579
Niel Clements	65 Brewhouse Hill, AL4 8AN	833239
David Davies	3 Cherry Tree Lane, AL4 8HP	821350
Linda Halford	35 Marshalls Way, AL4 8HZ	760593
Steve Haynes	65 Necton Road, AL4 8AT	629327
David Johnston (Chairman)	9 Brewhouse Hill, AL4 8AN	629411
Tessa Reason	Croft Farm, Cherry Tree Lane, AL4 8HP	832071
Judy Shardlow	28 Dale Ave., Gustard Wood, AL4 8LS	01438 833858
Paul Wilby	35 Nurseries Road, AL4 8TP	834549
Peter Woodhams	54 Butterfield Road, AL4 8QH	832541

Clerk to the Parish Council: Julia Warren **Tel: 832541**

Parish Council Office: The Memorial Hall, Marford Road, AL4 8AY

e-mail: info@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk **web site:** www.wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk

e-mail councillors using name.surname@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk

e.g. david.johnston@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk

Other Councillors

Annie Brewster (District)	See Above	See Above
Gill Clark (District)	See Above	832579
Nigel Huddleston (District)	16 Waddling Lane, AL4 8FD	833378
Maxine Crawley (County)	14 Saberton Close, Redbourn, AL3 7DS	793760

Member of Parliament: Rt Hon Peter Lilley (1 Place Farm, AL4 8SB) **Tel: 834344**

Police – In an Emergency Only: 999

To report a crime or incident: **Tel: 101**

To discuss a local issue contact our village officers: **Tel: 101**

Ask for PC1848 **Arthur Wilkes** or PCSO 6222 **Paul Fletcher** (voicemail available)

For a rapid response traffic warden: **Tel: 01727 845283**

Service Numbers

To report highways matters e.g. salt bins, potholes, lights, road signs, abandoned roadwork signs, etc. **0300 1234 047** or on-line www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults

For recycling collections, fly tipping and other local services contact
St Albans District Council Main Number: **01727 866100**

For all of the above and more go to
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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fridge -
HELP

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hospital for Sam -
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my family in New
Zealand.
Can you **HELP?**

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or**

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please contact Marion Oxley:
01582 834 238 or visit:
www.wheathampsteadwcg.org

WHEATHAMPSTEAD PEOPLE HELPING EACH OTHER