

Wheathampstead Pump Community Matters



In this issue:

- help us celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday with two great community-led projects,
- gearing up for Village Weekend, and
- the Annual Parish Meeting on 11 May, 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall. Hear how we've spent your money over the last year and what we have planned for next year.

Come and help us plan
Wheathampstead's future at the
Annual Parish Meeting with the



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Welcome to the summer edition of The Pump

News in brief

Annual Parish Meeting, 7.30pm Wednesday 11 May, the Memorial Hall.

This is your opportunity to hear how the Parish Council has spent your money and what projects and plans it has for the coming year. Come and meet your councillors and have a chat over a glass of wine.

This year our main topic is our Neighbourhood Plan (see page 5). We will explain our progress to date and you will have the opportunity to speak to some of the people involved, see our work so far, and give us your feedback.

Please come along and help us shape Wheathampstead's future.

The Parish Council is sponsoring two community projects as part of the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations.

We have had many requests for a second bridge crossing the river on the Meads. These have mainly come from residents with walking difficulties who would like a circular route that is not too taxing. We have therefore planned to build a bridge as far downstream

as is practical giving a circular walk on a flat surface of about 400m (1/4 mile). The bridge will be constructed off site by a specialist firm and volunteers from the village will build the foundations and install the bridge. We have to get planning permission before we can place an order but we hope it will be open by the autumn.



As a second project we have given the Wheathampstead and District Preservation Society (WDPS) a grant of £1,000 towards organising the Teddy Bears' Picnic on 12 June (see page 17 for further details).

Our library will be moving...

Your Parish Council has been concerned for some time that we might lose our library as a result of cuts to the County Council's budget. The good news is that our library is safe and under new County Council plans will be moving to share facilities at the fire station. The new library will be approximately the same size as our current one and, as with many smaller libraries, will be manned by volunteers. The County Council will be submitting a planning application in relation to this project and we will keep you informed of progress.

This is also good news for the Fire Service as it raises their profile in the community and secures their future too.

Continued page 4....



News in brief continued...

There is car parking and the fire station is only a short walk from the Memorial Hall.

One outcome of this move will be that the Parish Council will gain the extra space currently occupied by the library. We want to hear from you as to what additional facilities you think we need. Several ideas have been put to us and these include a gym, dance/exercise studio, additional meeting rooms, business hub, meeting room for youth groups, cinema, room where couples can get married, etc. However we are sure there are other ideas. Let us know what you would like to see. Send us an email to info@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk, talk to one of your councillors (see page 22 for contact details), telephone the Clerk on 01582 832541 or come along to the Annual Parish Meeting on 11 May (see page 3). There is also a quick survey on the home page of our web site www.wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk.

Refurbishment work in our main hall in May

This will include a complete rewiring with new house lights, improved audio-visual equipment to allow theatre-style films and presentations, improved acoustics, new curtains and redecoration. Unfortunately we will have to close the hall while the work takes place (between Monday 23 May and Friday 17 June). Other Rooms will still be available for hire.

Saturday 9 April Wheathampstead Open Spaces Volunteers. Devil's Dyke 10am, see page 19 .

Saturday 9 April Litterblitz volunteers, 9.45 to 12 noon, contact Eddie on 629494 or Derek on 760626 for more information.

Thursday 5 May District and Police Crime Commissioner elections, Memorial Hall all day.

Saturday 14 May Wheathampstead Open Spaces Volunteers, Marshall's Heath 10am.

Saturday 21 May Litterblitz volunteers as above.

Saturday 11 June Wheathampstead Open Spaces Volunteers, Marshall's Heath 10am.

Sunday 12 June Teddy Bears' Picnic on The Meads 2pm to 5pm. See back page

Monday 23 May to Friday 17 June the main hall in the Memorial Hall will be closed for refurbishment (other rooms are still available to hire).

Saturday 2 July Amwell Fund Raisers, 12 noon to 4pm at the Elephant & Castle.

Thursday 23 June European referendum, the Memorial Hall all day.

Monday 27 June: U3A open meeting, the Memorial Hall 1pm to 4pm.

Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 July Village Weekend, see back page for more information.

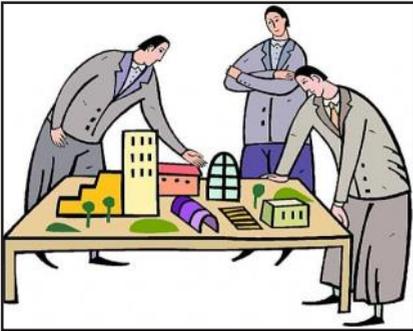
Saturday 10 July Litterblitz volunteer as above.

Saturday 11 July Wheathampstead Open Spaces Volunteers venue tbc 10am.

Thursday 28 July: U3A speaker Richard Selby 'The women I have married', as above.

Dates for your diary

Have your say in our Neighbourhood Plan



A Neighbourhood Plan gives our community direct power to develop a shared vision for our parish and shape the development and growth of our local area. It also allows us to choose where we want development to happen, have our say on what new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided. It gives us a

powerful set of tools to ensure we get the right types of development for our community. Our aims for the parish have of course to be aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area.

We must hold a referendum where you vote to approve the plan. We are seeking as much input and help from our residents as possible so we can gather everyone's views and opinions.

It is important we get it right on your behalf. You will have several opportunities through public open sessions to give us your ideas and, if you have a special interest or skill, you can join one of the groups looking at specific parts of the plan.

Your next opportunity to contribute will be at the Annual Parish Meeting on 11 May at the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. Come along and see what we've done so far and provide your feedback.

There are also two drop-in sessions planned at the Memorial Hall from 2pm to 5pm on Sunday 19 June and again on Wednesday 22 June.

To learn more about Neighbourhood Plans come along to our Annual Meeting on May 11 or visit our website at:



www.wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan

Willow regeneration on the Meads

You may have noticed the sickly goat willows (*Salix caprea*) on the north side of the Meads along the bridleway. They suffered from overcrowding and squirrel damage making them vulnerable to disease. Many have deteriorated and died.

Expert advice from Bartletts Trees and William Macalpine, a local resident who works with willows at Rothamsted Research, has been sought and followed. Dead trees have been removed and the remaining thinned and pollarded. In years to come we will be re-pollarding them, an age-old means of managing willows. The area is currently fairly bare as volunteers cleared the site; nettles and other invasive weeds have been sprayed with



'round up' (glyphosate) to enable new willow setts (cuttings) to take root and grow.

The photos show a partially cleared area and volunteers William and Patrick planting

setts of morphologically similar but genetically diverse willows. Plastic tree guards will protect the young bark from rabbits. We have introduced some species diversity into the plantation in the gaps created by removing dead or diseased older trees and hope to finish up with a plantation of healthy trees of a fairly uniform size. The new setts are hybrid willows bred at Rothamsted Research which we believe are less palatable to squirrels. One genotype introduced into the plantation is a hybrid between *Salix caprea* and *S. dasyclados*, the other is a complex hybrid containing *S. schwerinii*, *S. viminalis* and *S. aegyptiaca*. Next year we plan to revitalise the west end of the willow plantation in a similar manner.



Julia Warren,
Clerk to the Parish Council.

SAVE THE DATE!

Wheathampstead Village Weekend: 9 and 10 July

Another great weekend's entertainment has been planned for this year. The 'Wheathampstead's Got Talent' competition will be on Saturday afternoon on the Meads (see page 8 for entry form), followed by the hugely popular *'Picnic on The Meads'*. This will feature live music with **Harpenden Musical Theatre Group**, **Revellers Steel Pan Band**, and a return gig by the always-popular **Number 7 Band**. Bring your picnic



(no gas BBQs please), family and visitors and join the fun, with a firework display to end the evening.



Village Day on Sunday will start, as ever, with the High Street parade, with floats and costumes featuring this year's theme: "All the World's a Stage". The afternoon on Marford Field will include a medieval jester/magician, the Hitchin Brass Band, the

Dog and Duck Show, Top Hat Stage School, and lots of games in the arena, together with the funfair, stalls, and plenty of catering outlets.

This is Wheathampstead's most important weekend of the year!
Don't miss it!

For more information email info@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk
or call 01582 832541.

The Wheathampstead Community Group

We seek to support anyone in the Parish who is looking for help. You may, for example, need help because your washing machine or cooker has finally given up and you cannot afford a replacement. We have a long established Internet Café open in the Library on Tuesday mornings from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon plus a group of volunteer drivers available for medical appointments. For a volunteer driver please telephone 834028, or for other WCG matters call David on 833628 or Marion on 834238.



Wheathampstead's Got Talent

Saturday 9 July 2016 3pm to 5pm on the Meads.

This is your opportunity to share your musical, entertainment and dancing talent on the stage! Please complete the entry form below and return to the Parish Office at the Memorial Hall, Marford Road, Wheathampstead AL4 8AY or email to info@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk.

WGT Entry Form 2016

Name of person(s) entering WGT :

.....

Address:

Email: DoB:.....

Landline Number:..... Mobile Number:.....

Please circle category choice: Dance / Song / Entertainment

Details of song name/ dance / entertainment:.....

Entrants under 18 permission to use photographs (parent/guardian to complete): I authorise Wheathampstead Parish Council, its representatives and volunteers the right to take photographs of my child/children. I permit WPC its assigns and transferees to copyright, use and publish the same in print and/or electronically. I agree that WPC may use such photographs for any lawful purpose (including for example publicity, illustration, advertising, Web content).

I have read and understand the above.

Signature:..... Print name: Date:.....

Name & relationship to young person:

Wheathampstead's Got Talent Rules: **1.** Each competitor will sing one song/perform one dance /one piece of entertainment on stage, in front of three judges and the audience. All songs must be expletive free (radio version). **2.** Registration is first come, first served. All participants will be confirmed by phone or email. **3.** Come prepared with music on a CD/Ipod, cued up. **4.** Please arrive 30 minutes before the start of the show. We will confirm times/slots with participants on the day of performance. **5.** Judges decision will be final. Judging will be based on singing and dancing quality, performance and originality. Placing other than the winners for the Dancing/Singing/Entertainment categories and overall WGT winner will not be disclosed. Trophies will be awarded to the overall WGT winner and winners of the three categories, with certificates and ribbons for all.

Nostalgia ain't what it used to be!



On Saturday 12 March Wheathampstead business group (WEB) held a 1950s Beetle Drive, had a great deal of fun and raised over £200 for our local charity The Wheathampstead Community Group. This event took over the Mead Hall and dressed it in 1950's memorabilia; some people arrived in historical context. WEB Social Organiser

Sue Hemming was absolutely delighted to have attracted so many non-members, reflecting WEB's role not only as a business club but also as a real contributor to Wheathampstead life. Wheathampstead caterers Retromum Catering prepared food specially to carefully researched 1950's recipes, but without Spam Fritters!

WEB's contribution to the community has been recognised in recent months by both the WDPS as a Community Contributor and by Hertfordshire Business Awards 2015 as a finalist in the Social Enterprise category. We don't want to degenerate into a dormitory suburb, so we have to keep punching above our weight for a small village. That means keeping local businesses local – the objective of WEB's BILLY (Buy It Locally) campaign and Small Business Saturday last December.

Currently only a small number of WEB members are non-business members. WEB decided to give recognition to these contributors and to encourage more local support by launching Friends of WEB. If you're keen to support business in Wheathampstead, come along and join in one of the many business and social events (membership@wheathampstead.org.uk).

This is my last letter as WEB Chairman – you'll be getting a great, shiny new Chairman after the AGM on 19 April.

Dr Peter Partington,
Chairman, www.wheathampstead.org.uk.

Spring on the Meads



Spring has arrived and with it plenty of evidence that the minds of the ducks in the Meads are turning to thoughts of nests, eggs and ducklings.

Sadly, this will mean more cases of dogs chasing and killing both the parent ducks and their offspring. This happens all the year round but is a particularly popular doggy pastime at this time of year, presumably because the ducklings can't escape by flying away.

Please keep your dog under control, wherever you are. Train it that, while chasing and killing

ducks may be fun, it is not to be encouraged.

And, while we are on the subject of dogs, the problem of dog waste in all our open spaces is getting worse. Waste bins are provided; please use them.

It is often suggested that on-the-spot fines for both these offences would help to deter the offenders. That is easy to say but it would require on-the-spot enforcement for which we do not have the resources. A better solution would be for the great majority of responsible dog-owners to point out the error of their ways to the minority.

Patrick McNeill,
Meads Volunteer Ranger.



If you can't find a dog poo bin put it in an ordinary rubbish bin!





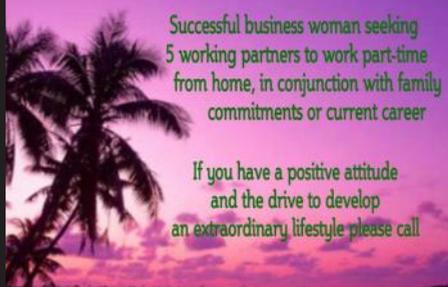

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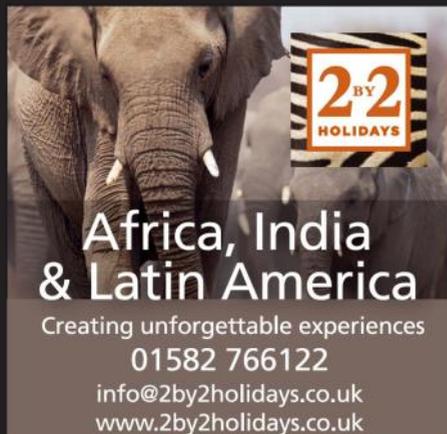
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The Great St Helen's CE Primary School Bake Off

On the 21 March, the children of St Helen's school were given a task to bake a cake that would be entered into the St Helen's School Bake Off. Every child in the school baked and decorated a fairy cake at home. There were some very inventive designs; from Easter chicks and nests, spring lambs and flowers to burger and chips!



After the winners had been decided the cakes were delivered, by our Year 6 pupils, to the neighbours of St Helen's School.

You may be thinking free cakes, why free cakes? We gave them out for free because one of our school values is loving our neighbour. So we, as a school, were carrying out our values!



There were some lovely responses from the neighbours. Some said it made their day: some quickly rushed to their computers and got in touch with the school to tell us how pleased they were to receive the cake! "A very kind gesture and much appreciated" – an Ash Grove resident. "As a mum of 3 children, one of whom is only 3 weeks old, cake is much needed!" - A neighbour.

All in all, it was an extremely successful event and we left lots of people startled by our kindness!

Jack Moore
Year 6, St Helen's CE Primary School.

Wheathampstead 10K and 2K Event & Family Fun Run

The ever popular Wheathampstead 10K run will be taking place at 11.00am on Sunday 22 May 2016, starting and finishing on the Marford Playing Fields. This annual event has become a favourite amongst local runners and even sees competitors from much further afield coming to the village, encouraged by reports of a run with a local feel that takes in some beautiful countryside.



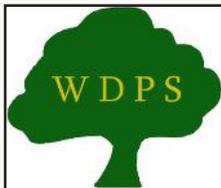
The 2K Family Fun Run starts at 10.00am from the Marford Playing Fields. This is an off road, circular run on footpaths and the playing field. It is ideal for families and for a pre 10K warm up, suitable for both runners and walkers of all ages.



For more information on both events please visit
www.wheathampstead10k.co.uk

Amwell Local Fundraisers (ALF) are calling all seniors in the Parish to come and join us for an evening of BINGO at Mead Hall, on the last Tuesday of the month. Eyes down 7.00pm prompt, doors open from 6.30pm. Interval for tea, coffee and a raffle. Transport can be arranged. Interested? Call Colin on 833386 or 07790639735, or Linda on 763604 or 07984356142.





Queen's 90th birthday celebrations



Wheathampstead and District Preservation Society (WDPS) are organising a celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday on Sunday 12 June along by the river at East Meads from 2pm to 5pm.

Please make a note of the date, pack a picnic and come and join us!

The theme will be:

- Teddy Bears' Picnic, so you're very welcome to bring along your special teddy or come suitably dressed up—prizes will be awarded!
- Children's treasure hunt
- Quiz for adults about the reign of Queen Elizabeth II and much more for you to enjoy.



Please bring your own picnic, and teas and coffees will be on sale.

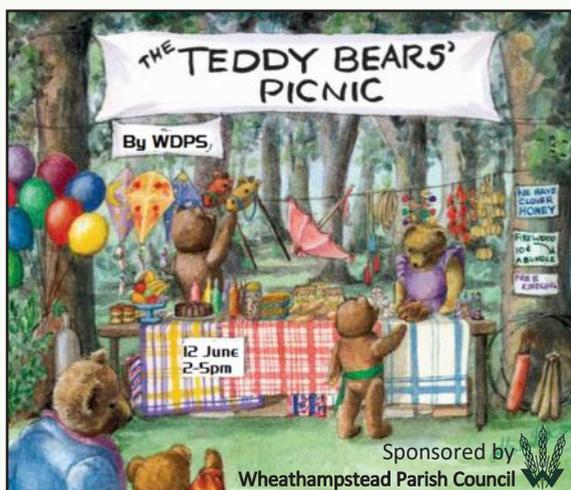
Wheathampstead Parish Council has kindly given us a grant towards the costs of the event – and we are aiming to make it a low cost event for

families...so please come along and join in the fun.

We know the Wheathampstead community loves to get together to celebrate important events like this.

If you are able to help with the organisation, or on the day, please contact

Julie.Bell@can-do.co.uk.



Wheathampsted Open Spaces Volunteers (WOSV)

WOSV have been busy at Gustard Wood where we have created open spaces by removing some holly from the understorey. There is a dominance of Holly throughout this broadleaf woodland. Holly is dioecious, that is male and female flowers occur on different trees, so a male has to be present for the female to produce its red berries. Its leaves start off spiky and scalloped but mature trees tend to have smooth, oval leaves (liked by deer). Holly is one of our more noticeable shrubs, providing evergreen foliage and winter berries. Holly provides winter food for thrushes, and cover for nesting birds. Its leaf litter may be used by small mammals for hibernation and its leaves are favoured by the caterpillar of the Holly Blue. However, a woodland that is full of Holly becomes dark and has reduced ecological value because Holly, unlike Oak and other trees and shrub, supports very few organisms. So our plan is to selectively remove areas of Holly to promote the bio-diversity of the woodland.

A healthy woodland typically has four layers:

1. A canopy or tree layer, typically made of oak, Ash, Beech and Birch. As mentioned Oak has a high number of dependant organisms, providing feasts for large numbers of caterpillars and the birds that feed upon them – a great tit can eat 300 caterpillars a day!
2. An understorey or shrub layer, typically made up of Field Maple, Hawthorn, Hazel and Holly. This area provides numerous nesting and food opportunities for smaller birds
3. A field layer consisting of ferns, grasses and herbs which supplies food and micro habitats for a wide range of butterflies, moths and other invertebrates
4. And finally a ground layer which largely consists of mosses, lichens and fungi.

Area in Gustard Wood before the recent WOSV visit



Continued on page 19.

WOSV continued...

As you walk through Gustard Wood, you'll see examples of layer 1 and layer 2 (albeit with Holly dominant) and fewer examples of layers 3 and 4. Clearing away Holly provides light so that layers 3 and 4 can thrive, including Bluebells and Wood Anemones in the spring, taking advantage of the increased light to replace reserves until the canopy regrows and cuts out the light. This demonstrates that the layers are seasonally dependent, indeed the field layer may more or less disappear over the summer with only plants that have varying degrees of shade tolerance being successful.



Area of Gustard Wood cleared after the recent WOSV visit.

As we make progress with these areas of increased light we will see a greater variety of species and habitats.

WOSV help to augment the Parish Council's management plans for our valuable open spaces. If you have some time to spare why not join us on the mornings of the second Saturday of the

month for some fresh air, light exercise, a cup of tea and some good company. Details are available from the Parish Council office.

Peter Ryan, WOSV Coordinator.



Summer concerts at St Helen's Church

St Helen's organ is in need of some tlc to the tune of £34,460. The congregation has already raised two thirds of the money from events, concerts and donations. Our next two concerts are both in the Church. "L'Estrange but (still) true" is at 2.30pm on Sunday 19 June. Join Wheathampstead's own composer, Alexander L'Estrange, with his wife professional soprano Joanna and their two musical sons, Toby and Harry for a mixture of familiar classical, jazz and popular numbers.

"Cellikatessen" is at 2.30pm on Sunday 14 August and features a fun programme from 14 young German cello players aged 15 to 24. You can donate by marking 'organ fund' on the Gift Aid envelopes at the back of the church. Tickets for both concerts in advance from Susan L'Estrange (susan@herbest.org.uk or 831934) or at the Wheathampstead Manor Pharmacy.

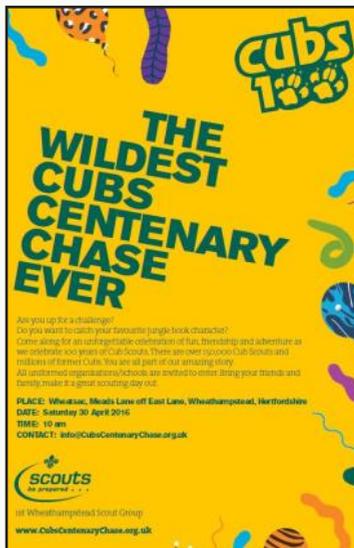




Mead Cubs say "Thank You!"

On Tuesday 22 March, Scouts welcomed their families, past and present Scout Leaders, and other special guests to a party to celebrate the Cub Scouts centenary anniversary. The Cubs prepared food and decorated the venue to gain their Skills

Challenge and Chef badge. Councillor Linda Halford presented an award on behalf of the Wheathampstead District Preservation Society to Jan Spragge, the 1st Wheathampstead Group Scout Leader, for her long service to the community. The evening was rounded off with the Grand Howl, an age-old tradition that was devised by Lord Baden-Powell and based on Rudyard Kipling's Mowgli stories in 'The Jungle Book'. Many more activities have been planned for the 100 year celebration including the Cubs Centenary Chase in April, County Camp in July, 'Kip in a Ship' in October and a Promise Party sleepover in December. Certainly, 2016 is a great year to be a Cub Scout!



Wheathampstead allotments

Ever thought of growing your own veg and fruit on an allotment? Growing your own food not only gets you outdoors and into the fresh air, it's a great way of spending quality time with the family, and gets you away from the computer and TV.

The popularity of allotments has increased enormously over the last few years. Many of us live hectic lifestyles and eat supermarket produce, and crave open spaces and home grown fruit and veg, not to mention a little exercise. Whether you are retired and want to grow enough to feed your family or just love feeling the earth between your fingers, allotment life can be truly fulfilling.

Meet new people and making new friends while you work. Plots attracts people from all walks of life and all age groups, with plot holders only too pleased to offer help and advice. If you are interested in renting an allotment please contact Louise at info@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk.

Saturday 7 May	Cancelled
Friday 13 May	10am to 12noon
Wednesday 18 May	2pm to 4pm
Saturday 21 May	3pm to 5pm
Thursday 26 May	10am to 12noon
Tuesday 7 June	3pm to 5pm
Wednesday 22 June	2pm to 4pm
Thursday 30 June	10am to 12noon
Monday 4 July	2pm to 4pm
Tuesday 12 July	3pm to 5pm
Saturday 16 July	10am to 12noon
Friday 22 July	10am to 12noon
Saturday 30 July	3pm to 5pm



Police Surgery dates at the Memorial Hall

All the dates and times are subject to operational requirements.



PCSO 6021
Che Ponton.

Message from Sgt Chris Thomas, Safer Neighbourhood Team.

“We continue to see low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in Wheathampstead. The majority of the anti-social behaviour last month was reports of young people playing loud music in their cars. Please continue to report this anti-social behaviour and we will speak to those causing a disturbance. With the warmer weather and the clocks going forward, we tend to see an increase in thefts from sheds and bicycles. It’s important to make sure you put tools and gardening equipment away in a secure shed or garage after use. It’s also a good idea to mark your bike with your postcode – with a UV pen if you don’t want to visibly mark the frame – and register it for free on www.immobilise.com. We would like to increase the number of residents in Neighbourhood Watch. Please log on to www.owl.co.uk or speak to PCSO Ponton. If you have any crime or anti-social behaviour issues, please contact PCSO Che Ponton on 101 or by email che.ponton@herts.pnn.police.uk or you can contact us directly if the matter is of a more serious nature on our Airwave radios when we are on duty on 01707 354192 (in an emergency always use 999). Thank you.

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

Annie Brewster	Fairways, Firs Drive, AL4 8LB	01438 832255
Gill Clark	16 Tudor Road, AL4 8NW	01582 832579
Adrian Dante	25 Wright Close, AL4 8TJ	07780 836624
David Davies	3 Cherry Tree Lane, AL4 8HP	01582 821350
Elias Habib	69 Necton Road, AL4 8LB	07925 915998
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
Tessa Reason	Croft Farm, Cherry Tree Lane, AL4 8HP	01582 832071
Judy Shardlow	28 Dale Avenue., 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
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Your MP

Rt Hon Peter Lilley	104 High Street, London Colney, AL2 1QL	01727 827201
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Police

Your local officers are PC 1848 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 999 for an emergency.

Council Services contacts

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

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

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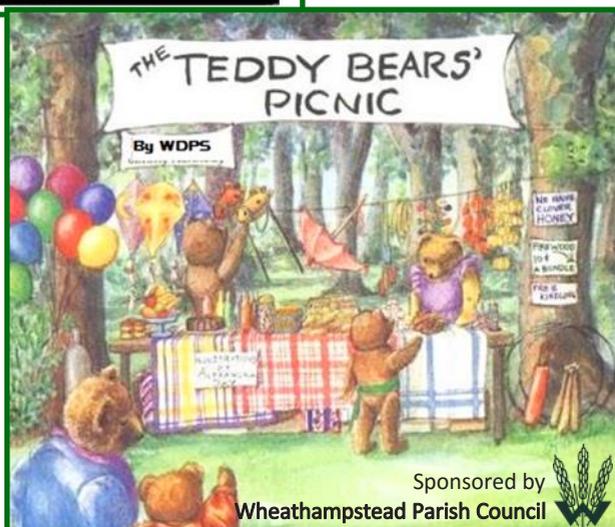
Fun and
celebration
this
summer.

Put the dates in
your diary now!

- **Teddy Bears' Picnic**
Sunday 12 June 2pm
to 5pm.
- **Wheathampstead's
Got Talent** Saturday 9
July from 3pm.
- **Picnic on the Meads** 9
July 6pm to 10pm.
- **Village Day** Sunday 10
July 2pm to 4pm.



Sunday 12 June
The Meads
2-5pm.
See inside for details.



Sponsored by
Wheathampstead Parish Council

Number 121 Wheathampstead Parish Council Summer 2016