



Mops and buckets to the rescue

Have a look at all the signs in and around the village.

On a couple of afternoons recently some of our Committee met by the Bull, armed with buckets, water, mops and scrubbing brushes. We had noticed that many signs were grubby (a green verdigris was hiding most of the information) and hey presto! after a few hours work, most of the signs were restored to their original state, with a gleaming white background.



There are no funds at present from the Parish Council's budget for this cleaning and it was a satisfying improvement in many instances.

If you discover a dirty sign near you, would you be able to clean it! If not, let us know and we'll keep it in mind for the next session. Either email

info@wheathampsteadpreservation.org.uk or phone Sue Johnston on 01582 833679.

Heritage Trail for Wheathampstead

You may have heard about the proposal to create a Heritage Trail in Wheathampstead. This is a joint initiative by WDPs, WEB – the local traders' association – and the Parish Council. Three of the WDPs Committee, Julie Bell, Sue Johnston and Richard Brett, are members of the core project team.

Central Conservation Area

The first phase of the Heritage Trail covers the centre of the village. A route is being devised to take the walker past as many sites of interest as possible. Plaques will be erected on around 20 buildings and structures, each with a short description of what makes the site interesting. Leaflets will be available showing the route and providing extra background information. An interpretation board will be erected displaying the route and other useful information. And a new website has been created which when it is complete will contain more detailed information about the Trail.



A demonstration plaque about the River lea at Mill Quay

Longer-term plans

In the second phase longer walks in the countryside surrounding Wheathampstead will be added to the Trail. Further interpretation boards will be erected, and the website will be extended to include such features as:

- Maps you can download
- Downloadable project sheets for schools
- Further historical information, including audio clips and videos
- A "virtual museum" with
 - ◇ video interviews with older residents
 - ◇ links to artefacts in remote locations
 - ◇ links to additional sources of material
 - ◇ a central repository of archive material relating to Wheathampstead.

Continues on p.4

WDPS Award Nominees and Winners 2010-11

Team Award Nominees

Mark Carter, Nigel Oxley
and River Clearance Project
Team

David Johnston and the
Station Project Team

Cllrs Gill Clark, Jacqueline
Turner and Annie Brewster
for the Village Sign

WINNER:

David Johnston and the
Station Project Team

Individual Award Nominees

Rachel Jeffrey for her shop-
front in Mill Walk

Norman Whitwood for his
work on Christmas Lights
Up event

Kirsty O'Neil for the Fuch-
sia Pink shopfront

John Burgess for all the
good work he has done in
the village

Annie Brewster for her
work on the village entry
signs and play equipment

Wojciech Zalewski for the
Voytek shopfront

WINNER:

John Burgess

*We are grateful to all the
nominees for the work they
have done in making
Wheathampstead a richer
community.*

Lively AGM hears of Heritage Trail and WDPS Awards

We are pleased to report that the AGM in February was a great success. It was really good to see so many members gathered together in the Memorial Hall.

After reflecting on what had been achieved during 2010-11, we outlined our plans for the coming twelve months.

Plans for 2011-12

- Undertake a survey of the lorries using Lower Luton Road and see how many are contravening the Lorry Ban Zone
- Provide a Community Notice Board for Wheathampstead
- Replace the phone box outside St Helen's Church with a traditional red telephone box
- Set up a volunteer group to help in the various projects we undertake
- Hold some more walks around Wheathampstead
- Continue work on implementing the Signage Design Statement (Continue work on making the most of the river in Wheathampstead)
- Work with Wheathampstead Core Community Promotion (WCCP) to develop a public garden between the crinkle crankle walls behind the Old Rectory.

David Johnson's presentation on the Heritage Trail

For us there were two highlights. One was the presentation by David Johnston on the Heritage Trail (of which more on the front page). David emphasised the richness of Wheathampstead's history and outlined the plans for the Trail.

The WDPS Awards

The other highlight was the opportunity to recognise the achievements that have benefited our village over the past year. We did this in the form of two awards, one for a team effort and one for an individual.

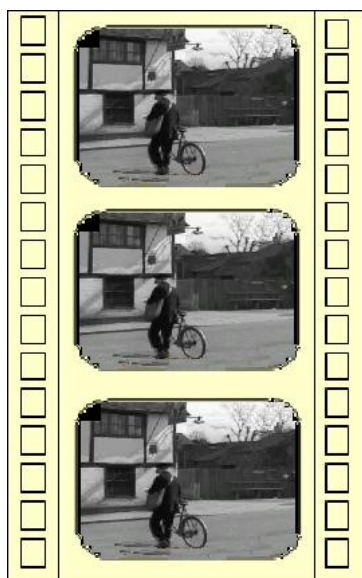
These are designed to acknowledge the contributions that so many local people make to conserving what is best about Wheathampstead, to making sure that new projects are sympathetic to what already exists and—in short—to making our village all the richer.



The Station Project Team receive their award.

Continues on p.3

The postman rides again



Nigel Oxley, our Vice Chairman, has discovered on the internet a 10 minute *Pathe* film about Wheathampstead as it was in the 1940s.

The film appears to have been designed to explain the job of a postman to schoolchildren. Fortunately the film makers chose a Wheathampstead postman, and the film forms a wonderful portrait of the village 60 or 70 years ago.

You will be amazed at how much is still recognisable today. The postman cycles everywhere, in a very rural setting, wearing his cap and smart attire. We can recognise the Brewhouse Gallery, St. Helen’s church, the Lychgate, Rectory Close, Necton Road, and the Hill (very hot work cycling up that!).

There are hay stacks in the surrounding fields that we would not see today. And finally our postman has to stop to pump up his tyres again! How life has changed...

Perhaps there may be someone out there who would recognise that postman?

The film is available at:
www.britishpathe.com/record.php?id=75398.

Parish Council agrees in principle to WDPS Signage Design Statement

We reported in our last issue that WDPS had launched a Signage Design Statement. This proposes the kinds of sign that are appropriate in the historic centre of Wheathampstead. Our intention is to persuade local businesses and others to abide by the proposals voluntarily in the interests of making Wheathampstead a pleasanter place to live, work and visit. We would also like the Parish and District Councils to take the guidelines into account when considering planning applications.

The good news is that the Design Statement has now been agreed in principle with the Parish Council. They are happy for WDPS to use it as a consultation document.

Further to that, we have spoken to WEB, the local traders’ association, and agreed that we will work together to introduce the Statement to some specific businesses. This will be a good way of gauging their opinions before finalising the Statement and publicising it more widely.

We hope that the outcome of this work will be to encourage everyone in the village and in particular High Street businesses to consider the traditional image of Wheathampstead and ensure their signage is in keeping with the character of the conservation area.

Lively AGM—Cont’d from p.2

The WDPS Committee was re-selected for 2011-12 .

<i>Chair</i>	Julie Bell	01582 833789
<i>Vice Chair</i>	Nigel Oxley	01582 832900
<i>Treasurer</i>	Lisa Hobden	01582 629599
<i>Secretary</i>	Sue Johnston	01582 833679
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Madeleine Salter	01582 831658
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Richard Brett	01582 833789
<i>Committee Members</i>	John Wackett	01582 834224
	Sonja Fillingham	01582 831899
	Linda Halford	01582 760593

No name change

WDPS recently asked members whether they thought our current name best suited the work we do. Many people provided good suggestions for a new name, for which we are very grateful, and were asked to vote. There was no clear winner, and WDPS was as popular as any alternative, so we decided not to fix that wasn’t broken, especially as this would mean losing our high profile on Google and other search engines. Thanks lots for your ideas and contributions.

Opening up the river

Another successful working party – organised in conjunction with Mark Carter of Countryside Management Services – took place in February.

The mission this time was to tidy up the overhanging shrubbery on the north bank of the River Lea upstream from the Mill, opposite King Edward Place. We were careful to ensure that the kingfishers still had branches on which to perch as they survey the river, and Nigel Oxley was delighted later that same day to see a kingfisher back on one of its usual branches.

Our thanks go to all those who helped on the day: Eddie Cornell, Julie Bell, Linda Halford, Lisa Hobden, Mark Carter, Nigel Oxley, Rick Sanderson and Richard Brett.



The next project will be to take up the suggestion – initiated by Terry Holden of Wheathampstead River Residents' Association and approved by the Environment Agency –

to remove the builders' rubble that has accumulated on the river bed just upstream from the Mill. If anyone is interested in helping out on this project, please contact Nigel Oxley (01582 832900).



Our tradition of planting daffodils continues, and late last year we took the opportunity to enhance the areas around the village entrance signs.

It was of course very disappointing that two of the entrance signs were later stolen – though we understand that replacements are now on order. At least however the thieves did not trample on the daffodils.

New logo for WDPS

As you will have seen from the banner at the top of the newsletter, the committee has finally decided on a new LOGO. We loved the old one, which was beautifully drawn. The real problem was that it was so detailed that it made reproduction with any degree of accuracy very difficult indeed.



We have consulted graphic designers (and artistic committee members!) before coming to a decision. We chose this design for three main reasons. It is simpler and much easier to reproduce, it retains the important image of the tree and it uses the "heritage" colours of dark green and gold. This blends well with the new village signage and with the overall style of the proposed Wheathampstead Heritage Trail. We do hope that you like it.

Heritage Trail for Wheathampstead

Continued from p.1

A number of **special events** are planned:

- ☛ An Opening Event later this year
- ☛ Community Archaeological Digs
- ☛ Tours led by local volunteer guides
- ☛ A re-enactment at Devil's Dyke of the Romans v. Catuvellauni
- ☛ A Victorian Garden Party in the crinkle-crankle garden behind the Old Rectory

A vital part of the project is to record the memories of anyone who remembers the Wheathampstead of long ago.

If you would like to become involved—and in particular if you have memories of old Wheathampstead or if you know someone who does—please either email

info@wheathampsteadpreservation.org.uk or phone Sue Johnston on 01582 833679.