



Tidying the river

Volunteers from WDPS spent a long and fruitful Autumn morning clearing the river at Mill Quay, just in front of *The Bull*.

The main aim was to remove as many stinging nettles as possible, but we also removed other weeds – not to mention a great deal of rubbish.



We shall be turning our attention in February to the section of river on the other side of the Mill. The stretch upstream from Mill Walk, much loved by local swans, is also in need of clearance.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact Nigel Oxley (01582 832900 or noxley@talktalk.net)



Take a bow !

WDPS was delighted to take part again in the Christmas Tree Festival organised by *Wheathampstead Churches Together* at Wheathampstead United Church. Sonja Fillingham did a great job decorating the WDPS tree with a theme this year of birds and bows

WDPS launches Signage Design Statement



Design Statement: Signage in the Parish of Wheathampstead

WDPS have published the first draft of a Design Statement covering signs in Wheathampstead. The aim is to provide guidelines for anyone planning to erect a sign in the parish, but the emphasis is on the central conservation area.

Around two years ago WDPS presented a series of proposals about signage to the Parish Council. We are delighted that since then the

Parish Council has erected a village sign at Mill Quay and new Wheathampstead signs on each of the main roads into the village. A very important aspect of the proposals is to help ensure that signage, particularly in and around the High Street, is faithful to the character of the village.

The Design Statement suggests the kinds of sign that are appropriate for the historic centre of Wheathampstead, and the proposal is that both the Parish and District Councils should take these guidelines into account when considering planning applications.

Fascias, A-boards and temporary signs

The Statement covers shop fascias and similar signs as well as A-boards and other temporary signs.

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Annual General Meeting: Friday, 25th February 2011

8 pm, Memorial Hall,
Marford Road, Wheathampstead All are welcome.

Our guest speaker this year will be

Dr David Johnston
talking about the

Wheathampstead Heritage Trail

Subscriptions for 2011

Membership subscriptions – just £5 per household – are now due for 2011. Thank you if you have already paid.

The easiest way to pay is by Standing Order—and it helps us too! If you don't already pay this way, you can do so from January 2011—either by

- contacting our Membership Secretary, Madeleine Salter, on 01582 831658 or
- downloading a Standing Order form from our website:

www.wheathampsteadpreservation.org.uk

Please remember you have complete control over a Standing Order (unlike a Direct Debit Mandate).

Every member is another voice to be heard – and we thank you for your continued support of WDPS.

Core Strategy for District

Public Consultation in Wheathampstead

St Albans District Council is holding a series of public consultation meetings on where future development should be located throughout the District. The Wheathampstead and Sandridge meeting will take place at 6.30pm on Friday 4 February at the Memorial Hall in Marford Road.

In December SADC published its interim proposals in a consultation document called *Shaping Our Community*, which can be found on their website: <http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/planningconsultation>

The meeting will be an opportunity to find out more and comment on whether the Council's proposed strategy is maintaining the right balance between the competing needs of the District: preserving the Green Belt while allowing for affordable housing and sustainable development.

Surveying the Car Park

Wheathampstead is very lucky to have a free car park in the centre of the village. However, the car park is sometimes completely full causing frustration for residents and visitors and a loss of trade for High Street shops.



The Parish Council is organising a survey of the car park to help understand how often it is full, who uses it and the average length of stay. By doing this we will obtain a profile of daily use which will help decide whether or not the car park should be expanded and/or whether we should look for other ways to improve capacity.

The survey is planned to take place every day for two weeks between the 14th February and the 27th. We are looking for volunteers to help count cars at specific times during the day for half days at a time. It will involve visiting the car park on the hour, every hour for half a day, once or twice over the two week period and counting either the number of spaces left or the number of cars (whichever are fewer). Ideally volunteers will have easy access to the car park to minimise the time spent.

One of the weeks is half term so maybe it could be an activity where children can get involved.

Julia Warren, the Clerk to the Parish Council, is coordinating volunteers. You can contact her on 01582 832541 or e-mail julia.warren@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk

Traffic is a serious issue affecting us all – if you can, please give some of your time for this important project.

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This is a long-term project and we do not expect change overnight. It also relies on subjective judgments, and it is vital therefore that we consult widely with everyone who is affected or who may have some useful ideas to contribute. We have already discussed our plans with the Parish Council, and now – working with WEB, the local traders' association – we shall consult with the local businesses and others who have signs in the conservation area.

If you are interested in reading the Design Statement, a copy of it can be downloaded from our website: www.wheathampsteadpreservation.org.uk

We would very much appreciate your views on the proposals. If you have comments or ideas, please either write to Sue Johnston, 9 Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead AL4 8AN or email info@wheathampsteadpreservation.org.uk