



A Village Garden in need of care

WDPS are currently working—in partnership with the Parish Council—on a project to refurbish the small garden at the corner of Bury Green and Church Street. The garden is looking run-down and very much in need of re-invigorating. The crazy paving is uneven and dangerous. The planting is uninspiring and the bench is old and falling apart.

We are intending to create a new path, carry out landscaping works including planting new trees and shrubs, installing a new pergola and timber benches.

The garden is located close to the village centre and will hopefully benefit local workers, church goers and the general public.

We will shortly be looking for volunteers to assist with the works so if you are interested in taking part please contact our Vice Chairman, Nigel Oxley, on 01582 832900.



WDPS Committee has vacancies

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 notice-board, we are preparing to take on some new challenges for 2014 and we need your help!

Our Committee meet 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



This Year's AGM & WDPS Awards

It was wonderful yet again to see the support for the work that WDPS does and the interest that our members showed by attending our 2014 AGM.

The AGM is always a good opportunity to reflect on what WDPS has achieved over the previous 12 months. This year we were able to look back on the opening of the red telephone box in the High Street, the installation of the community notice board outside Tesco and the first Transition Streets project in Wheathampstead, as well as our usual tasks of responding where necessary to planning applications, maintaining the Diamond Jubilee Garden, cleaning signs and planting bulbs.

Our community has the honour of having within the village Devil's Dyke, and it was very interesting to hear from **David Kenny**, Heritage at Risk Projects Officer at English Heritage, about the strategic importance of the site. We were all therefore concerned to hear that it is at

risk, and David's talk motivated us to make sure the historic site is properly preserved.

WDPS Awards 2014

It was a pleasure to take the opportunity to recognise particularly notable local achievements during the Awards section of our AGM. This was the third year that we have presented awards, and we were delighted that there was no shortage of worthy achievements.

The awards are intended to give recognition to people or teams who make a significant contribution to conserving what is best about the village and to making sure that new projects are sympathetic to what already exists.

The winner of the individual award for 2014 was **Brian Gwinn** (on behalf of St Helen's Church) for the Swan murals, while the team award went to the '**History of our High Street**' project.

We also recognise that there are occasions when something significant in the community just

cannot go unnoticed, and we made our first Community Award this year to Mrs **Nonwy Maw**, who ran the Derby and Joan Club for over 50 years.

The Award winners

Below: Brian Gwinn; Sandra Wood (on behalf of the 'History of our High Street' project); Mrs Nonwy Maw.



Paying Matters

As we approach the end of the year, it will soon be time to renew our WDPS subscriptions. Although £5 seems a very small amount, with over 350 households now signed up to the society it does allow us to launch significant projects that help enhance our lovely village.

It is worth reminding ourselves that subscriptions have stayed the same since Wheathampstead and District Preservation Society was founded in the early 1990s. Despite advice from some of our members we have decided not to raise the amount. This is because we do not want to discourage anyone from joining the society. At present we have approximately 15% of the households in Wheathampstead supporting us. Clearly this means that WDPS is able to have a significant voice when speaking on village matters.

Nevertheless, we are very aware that our projects require finances, so while we have decided not to raise the basic subscription, we are offering our members the opportunity to add a donation to their £5 either on their standing order or their regular renewal form.

Collecting payments can be a long, slow process, so it might be useful for you to know how this can be improved. Approximately one third of our members now pay by Standing Order. If you would like to join that growing group, or would like to amend your existing Standing Order, please complete the enclosed form.

Thank you for your continuing support: we couldn't do it without you!

Linda Halford (Tel. 01582 760593)

Now is the time to nominate for 2015

Before we know it, we shall be at the 2015 AGM with an opportunity to recognise the significant achievements of 2014. Please can you help us ensure that we give proper consideration to all worthy causes by nominating suitable individuals or teams? All you need to is drop us an email (to the address below) to tell us who you would like to nominate and why.

Not everyone can be winners, but we know that just having a nomination can be a heart-warming and meaningful experience.

An evening to remember

Following the success of the Roman Hoard talk last year, WDPS had been looking for another opportunity to collaborate with the Wheathampstead History Society.

We are delighted to have agreed on a project that we hope was meaningful and memorable for the whole village: a production called ‘Wheathampstead’s War’, that commemorated a hundred years since the outbreak of the First World War.

Wheathampstead’s War: Stories of ghosts long departed, was based on Terry Pankhurst’s book; ‘More Than Just a Name’. A number of those ‘characters’ were asked to come out of the audience to tell their stories. In addition the audience also had a chance to study the display and consider the impact of the First World War on our village.

Although this was originally a WDPS/History Society project, we tried to involve a number of societies in the village helping us to fulfil one of the aims of our society to ‘promote traditional Village enterprises’.



Heritage Trail Phase 2 is launched

It was a great occasion when in June the village was invited to the launch of Phase 2 of the Heritage Trail. Phase 2 covers six walks through the beautiful countryside that surrounds Wheathampstead, passing numerous sites of historic interest.

The Heritage Trail was a joint project with Wheathampstead Parish Council and Wheathampstead Business Group (WEB). It is something that is very close to our hearts. We believe it matters a great deal for the conservation of the village and the surrounding area if we all understand how much there is to treasure, and so we were very keen that WDPS Committee members had an active involvement in the project.

It is very rewarding to be able to sit outside Charlies and see so many people walking past studying both the village centre and the countryside walks Heritage Trail leaflets.



WDPS Website