

## The Wheatley Flood: June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008

Almost an inch of rain fell over Wheatley during two hours early on the afternoon of Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Wheatley Brook, which now runs beneath the High Street, burst its banks at the west end of the village, beside Brookside Cottage, close to The New Club.

At its peak, the water was nearly two feet deep as it flowed fast down the length of the High Street, and into Crown Square. Many of the older houses and shops were flooded, as was the Schoolroom of the United Reformed Church, where a funeral wake was due to have taken place. This was hastily re-located into The Merry Bells.

The area behind the parade of shops on the south side of the High Street was under a foot of flowing water, and this extended into the footpath which links Farm Close Road to the High Street.

Two or three feet of water collected in Crown Square and, following the course of the stream, it flooded several of the old cottages and the barn which used to belong to College Farm. The force of the water lifted a caravan from its position, and damaged parked cars.

Beech Road was also flooded, and several properties suffered from water damage.

The firemen struggled to control the rising waters but there was nowhere for the surplus water to go.

Extraordinarily, all the water had disappeared by 5 pm, although there was still a great deal of clearing up to be done by those whose property had been affected.

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