

St Andrew's Hagbourne
PARISH MAGAZINE
ALTERNATIVE ISSUE – MAY 2021



News, Views and Information for everyone in the Hagbournes

**Thank you very much to the Parish Councils for giving the Parish Magazine
a temporary home on their websites until we are able to safely go back
to producing and distributing a printed copy.**

www.easthagbourne.net

www.westhagbourne.org

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, HAGBOURNE

The United Benefice of Blewbury, East and West Hagbourne and Upton together with Aston Tirrold, Aston Upthorpe, North Moreton and South Moreton.



Rector's Reflections

Beating the Bounds

Have you ever taken part in the tradition of "beating the bounds"? In case you're not sure what this tradition involves, it refers to going on a walk around the parish boundaries. These walks were often held on or around the Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday immediately preceding Ascension Day. Ascension Day is celebrated 40 days after Easter, and as Easter Day is always celebrated on a Sunday, Ascension is always celebrated on a Thursday. The Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before Ascension Day are called the Rogation Days

This year, Ascension Day falls on 13th May, and this is why I am writing about it in this issue of the magazine. The days before Ascension are called "Rogation" Days from the Latin rogare, which means "to ask". During the Rogation Days, it was traditional to offer up prayers to God, asking for a blessing on the crops growing in the fields. It was a good opportunity to walk around the parish boundaries, and in the days before the widespread use of maps, these walks helped to keep the boundaries in people's memories.

The tradition of "beating the bounds" has largely, but not completely, died out. Nowadays, the idea of asking God to bless the crops might seem quaint, perhaps even a little pagan. Are these traditions simply hangovers from the past? Interestingly, in recent years there has been a revival of interest in Rogationtide. People have become increasingly interested in matters relating to farming and sustainable agriculture. Our farmers play a key role in looking after our natural environment.

And our farmers certainly deserve our prayers. The fact that we have food on our plates doesn't just happen by chance. Our farmers still play a central role in helping to feed our nation.

So, I think there's a lot to be said for the old traditions of Rogationtide, including the walk around the parish boundaries. As we walk around the parish boundaries, let us offer up our prayers of thankfulness to God. There is so much to be thankful for – not least for the beauty all around us, and for the fact that we have food to eat. And in our thankfulness, let us think how we can share God's bounty so that no one goes hungry, in this country or around the world. Fr Jason

May Pram Service Hosted by The Churn Mothers Union **12.30pm on Wednesday 5th May**

Revd Louise looks forward to meeting up with families with young children once more. If it is sunny and warm we may be able to sit outside, otherwise we will be in the Lady Chapel at St Michael's, Blewbury.



We shall celebrate the six weeks of the Easter Season: EASTER 6 WAYS!

Don't forget to bring a rug to sit on so we can be spaced out well. Inside the church adults will need a face covering.

Free HAPPY MEALS are being prepared for you or bring your own lunch. Let us know in advance if you would like a HAPPY MEAL: Revd Louise Butler 07837 009 730

CALENDAR AND DIARY FOR MAY 2021

The Intentions this month are for all who live in West Hagbourne and the Moretons

1 Saturday	Ss. Philip & James Apostles		Prayer Focus: Bear Lane NM
2 +Sunday	<u>THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</u>		<i>Weddings & God's Blessing on new & existing marriages</i>
	10.30am Online Benefice Eucharist Service		
	6pm Evensong: St Andrew's H		
3 Monday		8pm Compline	Dunsomer Hill NM
4 Tuesday		8pm Compline	Elm Road NM
5 Wednesday	12.30 Pram Service: St Michael's B	8pm Compline	High Street NM
6 Thursday		8pm Compline	Long Wittenham Rd NM
7 Friday		8pm Compline	Queens Way NM
8 Saturday			Sires Hill NM
9 +Sunday	<u>THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – Rogation Sunday</u>		<i>Churchwardens, fabric & churchyards, church cleaners.</i>
	10.30am Online Benefice Service		
	6pm Evensong: St Andrew's H		
10 Monday		8pm Compline	Wallingford Road NM
11 Tuesday		8pm Compline	Anchor Lane SM
12 Wednesday		8pm Compline	Church Lane SM
13 Thursday	Ascension Day		The Ascended Christ
	tbc Benefice Ascension Day Service: tbc		
		8pm Compline	
14 Friday	S. Matthias Apostle	8pm Compline	Vocations
15 Saturday			Clements Green SM
16 +Sunday	<u>THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER</u>		<i>PCC's, all in leadership & our benefice administrator.</i>
	10.30am Online Benefice Eucharist Service		
	6pm Evensong: St Andrew's H		
17 Monday		8pm Compline	Crown Lane SM
18 Tuesday		8pm Compline	Fulscot Cottages SM
19 Wednesday		8pm Compline	Fulscot Manor SM
20 Thursday	10.00am Mothers' Union Eucharist: St Michael's B		Haddon Hill SM
		8pm Compline	
21 Friday		8pm Compline	High Street SM
22 Saturday			Hithercroft Road SM
23 +Sunday	<u>PENTECOST</u>		<i>Clergy & all who preach or lead.</i>
	10.30am Online Benefice Service		
	6pm Evensong: St Andrew's H		
24 Monday		8pm Compline	Kirby Close SM
25 Tuesday	The Venerable Bede	8pm Compline	Church Historians
26 Wednesday	S. Augustine Archbishop	8pm Compline	Papermill Lane SM
27 Thursday		8pm Compline	Sands Road SM
28 Friday		8pm Compline	Foxglove Lane WH
29 Saturday			Grove Terrace WH
30 +Sunday	<u>TRINITY SUNDAY</u>		<i>Treasurers & church finances.</i>
	10.30am Online Benefice Service		
	6pm Evensong: St Andrew's H		
31 Monday	Visit of the BVM to Elizabeth	8pm Compline	Main Street WH

Online Services

Sundays at 10.30am login or connect at 10am to chat before the Service. **Weekday evenings** – Compline at 8pm.

You can join in using a computer, laptop, tablet, smart phone or landline. Please see the website or the Churn if you receive it for the Service access codes and full details of how to join each week.

<http://www.churnchurches.co.uk>



Midweek Communion at St Andrew's Midweek Communion will take place at St Andrew's on **Wednesdays at 10am**. St Andrew's will now be open **every day** from 10am for private prayer. Please sanitise hands and wear a face mask for the safety of others.

Ascension Day Benefice Service Thursday 13th May

Time and Venue to be confirmed. Please see website or the Churn newsletter at the beginning of May for details.

Churn Benefice Review 2030 A Discussion Document is available to all on the Churn Benefice Website under the Resources tab and is designed to gain feedback from all six parishes, whose responses will contribute to the formulation of a new Benefice Plan. Please consider the issues raised in this document, discuss them with others, and you are then invited to send in your thoughts and ideas to the Benefice Office by the 30th April or as soon as possible after that date. These responses will then be used as part of a process, which will lead us towards compiling an agreed Churn Benefice Plan by July 2021.

<http://www.churnchurches.co.uk>

Daily Reflections – Thought for the Day and Prayer During the weekdays Fr Jason is writing a short reflection and prayer. It can be found on the www.churnchurches.co.uk or please ring the Benefice Office on 01235 850267 or 07434 686044.

Thank You Thank you to Linda Benton for enabling us to use her illustration on our front cover for May. This illustration can be found in The Poets' Trail book, **The Four Seasons** which is available at our Community Shop. Please see page 9 of this magazine for some **Poets' Trail News**.



Funerals in the Benefice

6th April at St Michael's Blewbury

Ron Freeborn

Aged 85

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

During the current situation provisional bookings for Weddings, Baptisms etc. may be made by contacting the office via email. You can contact the clergy & staff on:

Revd Jason 01235 850267

office@churnchurches.co.uk

Revd Louise 07837 009730

revlouiseb@aol.com

Dawn (Administrator) 01235 850267, 07434 686044 or office@churnchurches.co.uk

Dawn is in the office from 12pm – 4pm Monday & 9am – 5pm Tuesday to Friday.

Please note: all Services and Events are subject to last minute changes or cancellations if Government social restrictions change due to Covid 19.

Nature: Our wildlife garden competition is now open from the 1st of May and we'd love to see lots of entries!

Who can enter?

- Anyone living in the 3 villages of East and West Hagbourne and Upton.
- Families of children attending Hagbourne School and Pre-School.
- Anyone with an allotment at Butts Piece.



Bumble Bee Wikipedia Commons

What are the judges looking for?

- A variety of garden features that provide shelter, food and water (such as long grass, log piles, ponds and climbing plants).
- Sensitive management of the garden (including capturing rainwater and not using pesticides / slug pellets).

How to enter From the 1st of May until the 6th of June sign up on our website www.hugsustainability.org or pick up a paper form from East Hagbourne Community Shop and fill it in and return it to the shop.

Prizes A choice of prizes including a fabulous ethically-sourced hamper and 2 bundles of wildlife products that will make your garden even more wildlife-friendly!

Helping more wildlife in your garden

Our latest [Blog](#) is about 7 wildlife species commonly found in our gardens: Little Owls, House Sparrows, Bumblebees, Bats, Hedgehogs, Ladybirds and Swifts. We share how to spot them and encourage and support them to stay in and around our gardens.

Sustainability

Solar Panel Scheme The DidcotPlus Solar Streets project launched in April and as part of the OX11 postcode, our 3 villages, East & West Hagbourne and Upton are all eligible to sign up for the solar panels survey and deal. Find out more [here](#).

Spring 3 Village Wild Walk Surveys about our lockdown behaviour suggest we'll be keeping some habits from the last year. This includes spending more time in nature and walking.

To accompany you on our 3 Village Wild Walk, our [Spring Spotters Guide](#) is ready to read/download and take with you.

Hope to see your Wildlife Garden entries soon!

Thanks, The HUGS Team.



Annual Plant Sale

Hagbourne Garden Club will be holding their Annual Plant Sale (*covid willing*) on **Saturday, 22nd May** at East Hagbourne Pavilion from 2.30 to 4.30pm. There will be a variety of plants for sale (donations also welcome), plus cake stall, raffle and refreshments! Entry free and ample parking so **save the date!**

The Scarecrows Are Coming!!



*Turn straw into Gold for
St Anne's Hospital, Liuli*

Theme: **"Going Green"**

Dates: **26th June until 11th July**

(later than usual in anticipation of Covid rule changes).

Free Straw available at 20A Blewbury Road from 29th May
(kindly donated by the Powells).

Entry Form in the June Parish Magazine or on village website.

Entrance still only £5.00 per Scarecrow

**Please Be kind To Our Environment
When Creating Your Scarecrow**

In aid of **St Anne's Hospital in Liuli, Tanzania**, which is facing growing pressure from Covid, on top of all its usual tough challenges (please see separate article on page 7 of this Parish Magazine).

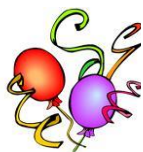


Tower Talk

We held our usual quarterly meeting in Holy Week, again this was a virtual meeting many of us sharing a cup of tea and a hot cross bun, which is our tradition at this meeting.

The bells were rung on Easter Sunday for Evensong at St Andrews, the first time since Christmas. Four bells were rung with social distancing and facemasks and for just 15 minutes. Evensong continued every Sunday in April so we were able to ring the bells for these services with the usual restrictions.

We were all very sad to hear of the death of his Royal Highness Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh. As instructed, John our tower keeper, and Daniel put the muffles on the bells and they were rung half muffled until after the Funeral Service. Four members of the team rang the bells on the day of the Funeral and Alan Foster tolled the bell before 3:00pm on the day.



**BIRTHDAYS: Saturday, 8th May – Helen Clayson,
Saturday, 15th May – Janet Corderoy,
Tuesday, 18th May – Daniel Dawson**

Shirley Goss.

Anniversary Congratulations Many Congratulations to Michael and Lesley James on their Golden Wedding Anniversary on the 15th May. Michael and Lesley were married at St Andrew's, Hagbourne and lived for many years in the School House. Sending love and best wishes for a very happy day from Mum and all the family.

Update from St Anne's Hospital in Liuli, Tanzania

Elsewhere in this magazine, on page 6, you can read about the East Hagbourne Scarecrow Trail and how its proceeds are donated to "Liuli". What is that?

St Andrew's Church has been a long-time supporter of *The Friends of St Anne's*, a charity set up in order to provide physical and financial support to St Anne's Hospital in Liuli on the shore of Lake Malawi in Tanzania; a poor rural community. We thought you would welcome an update of how things are in Liuli right now, especially given the pandemic.

Many will remember meeting Dr Sam Ndimbo on his visits to Hagbourne and been impressed with his tireless work in support of the hospital. Time has caught up with him as with us all, and in the frailty of advanced years, the management of the hospital has been taken on by Dr Sam's younger brother, Dan.

The charity helps by funding training for medical staff and by providing equipment and infrastructure; however, things remain in short supply and now St Anne's hospital is bracing itself for an inevitable wave of Covid-19.

Being rural, Liuli has been only lightly affected so far, however, refugees arrive in the country from Mozambique and the South African Covid variant creeps daily closer. Hardly anybody in Tanzania has been vaccinated so far.

Please support the Scarecrow Trail, and if you wish, also contact me if you would like to make any other donation to the Friends of St Anne's. Your support is always very gratefully received both here and in Liuli.

Mary Harrison.



East Hagbourne Community Shop

find us on the East Hagbourne village website:

www.easthagbourne.net



Crumbles are BACK! Rhubarb has been a bit slow with the lingering cold, but now our famously moreish homemade Rhubarb & Ginger Crumbles are back in Shop! New stock goes *verrry* quickly, so check back often. If anyone has rhubarb going spare that Jean can use for crumbles, we'd be very grateful. Drop off any extra rhubarb – or indeed, any produce - at the Shop, or ask us to come by and pick up by email to easthagbourneshop@btopenworld.com.

Warm Weather Favourites After school hours or on Saturday, enjoy the warm sunshine with ice lollies and cold soft drinks, or pick-and-mix your favourite sweets!

HUGS Wildlife Garden Competition 2021

The Hagbournes & Upton Group for Sustainability is hosting a competition to transform your garden into a wildlife-friendly space! The competition kicks off on 1st May. Stop into the Shop to pick up your application to show off your sustainable garden, or visit <http://www.hugsustainability.org>.



Current Shop & Post Office Operating Hours It has come to our attention that many websites that claim to provide "business hours" are actually months - even years - out of date, with no way to correct their misinformation. Please use the official Post Office site, <http://www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder>; or visit the East Hagbourne Community Shop Facebook page to view current hours.

Shop: Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm and Saturday 9am to 12:30pm.

NEW PO Hours From 12th April: Monday to Thursday, 9am to 12:30pm and Saturday 9am to 12:30pm. CLOSED FRIDAY.

Marcopolo Pick up Marcopolo's delicious pastries, fresh breads or savouries each Saturday from 9-12:30pm. Avoid disappointment by pre-ordering for the coming weekend **by 4pm Wednesdays**, either in the Shop, or by email to:

easthagbourneshop@btopenworld.com

Interested in working in the community? We are seeking additional volunteers for a variety of roles: to work with customers, help with IT support, or to help keep the Shop tidy. DoE volunteers also welcome.

Please contact Alice Smith by phone on 01235 813393, or text to 07474 937870 or by email to smith@hagbourne.plus.com



Christian Aid Week 10th-16th May 2021

In 2020 Christian Aid donors raised an impressive £4 million. Where did this money go?

Christian Aid partners helped to clean up rubble and distribute emergency packages to affected households following the explosion in Lebanon last August.

They set up education centres to support young people in the north-west region of Syria and distributed food and hygiene parcels to communities in Nepal. You can read about these projects and many others at christianaid.org.uk/emergencies.

Christian Aid is providing practical solutions to communities in the battle against climate crisis as well as standing for climate justice as the UK prepares to host the G7 and the UN climate talks later this year.

How can you help? CA has digitized their famous red envelope to give you a cashless way to donate and to raise funds. You can find out how at <http://www.christianaid.org.uk> But if you prefer to donate by cheque, you can leave a sealed envelope marked for Christian Aid in the wall safe at St Andrew's Church, located to the left as you enter the door, or contact a member of the Action Group.

If you are a UK taxpayer, please remember to provide your name and address so that Christian Aid can claim Gift Aid on your donation.

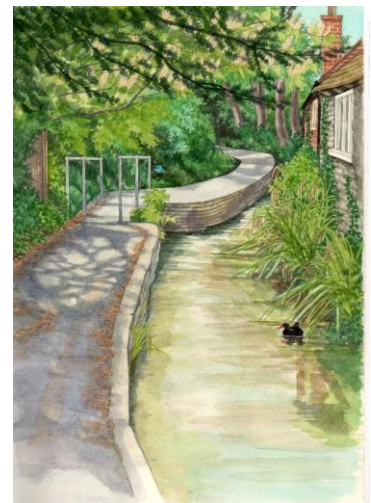
Thank you, The Hagbourne Action Group

The Poets' Trail

We are hoping to organise some events both outside and in, if Covid restrictions continue to lift. Watch this space! In the meantime, the Trail is there for anyone to enjoy with Poets' Trail books available at our Post Office.

Our next big theme, for a future poetry book, is The Environment, centred around East Hagbourne. So anything from hedgehogs, growing your own veg, and looking after trees, to traffic, and your recycling bin!

So start feeling inspired and send any early poems to Linda.Benton@live.co.uk or 33 The Croft, East Hagbourne.



Hagbourne Fun Run and Walk

We are aware that this is a much-loved village event for runners, walkers and cake connoisseurs alike, and that it raises a lot of money for charities, so it is with very heavy hearts that we have decided to cancel for 2021.

We know many people will be disappointed, as we are, but we hope that you will understand our desire to protect everyone. We will be back!

We are hoping to make the next Fun Run and Walk better than ever:

Monday, May 2nd, 2022. Keep training!

Football in East Hagbourne Hagbourne United Football Club are looking for new players to play in the North Berks league divisions 4 & 5. The Club currently fields two men's teams for age 16+ but will be pleased to hear from players of all ages and abilities. Please contact John Symonds at jesymonds29@gmail.com or 07831 714 076.

Our Local Bus Service – route 94

Didcot – Blewbury – Harwell Campus Mondays to Fridays except public holidays

Notes						Fri / Sch	Hol	M-Th/Sch	Fri / Sch		
Bus Number	94	94	94	94	94S	94	94S	94	94	94	94
Didcot, St Birinus School					1430		1530				
Didcot, Loyd Park					1438		1538				
Didcot, Parkway Station, stop R4	0840	1010	1140	1340	1445	1510	1545	1555	1715	1845	
Didcot, Orchard Centre	0844	1014	1144	1344	1449	1514	1549	1559	1719	1849	
Didcot, Sandringham Road	0850	1018	1148	1348	1454	1518	1554	1604	1724	1853	
East Hagbourne, War Memorial	0853	1021	1151	1351	1457	1521	1557	1607	1727	1856	
West Hagbourne, Moor Lane	↓	↓	↓	↓	1503	↓	1603	↓	↓	↓	↓
Upton, Village Hall	↓	↓	↓	↓	1507	↓	1607	↓	↓	↓	↓
Blewbury, The Blueberry	0901	1029	1159	1359	1514	1529	1614	1615	1735	1904	
Upton, Village Hall	0907	1035	1205	1405	↓	1535	↓	1621	1741	1910	
West Hagbourne, Horse and Harrow PH	0908	1036	1206	1406	↓	1536	↓	1622	1742	1911	
Chilton, Main Street	0916	1043	1213	1413	↓	1544	↓	1630	1750	1919	
Harwell Campus, Bus Station	0923	1050	1220		↓	1551			1757	1926	
Aston Upthorpe, The Chequers PH					1523		1623				
South Moreton, The Crown PH					1529		1629				
North Moreton					1535		1635				
Didcot, Orchard Centre					1545		1645				
Didcot, Parkway Station					1549		1649				

Notes:
Sch - Schooldays only
Hol - School Holidays only
Fri - Fridays only
M-Th - Mondays to Thursdays only

Our Local Bus Service – route 94

Harwell Campus – Blewbury - Didcot Mondays to Fridays except public holidays

Notes			Sch	Hol			M-Th/Sch	Hol	Hol	Fri / Sch	
Bus Number	94	94S	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94
Harwell Campus, Bus Station	0635			0925	1055	1225	1425	1425	1555		1800
Chilton, Main Street	0640		0800	0931	1101	1231	1431	1431	1601	1633	1806
East Hagbourne, War Memorial	↓	0728	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
West Hagbourne, Moor Lane	↓	0734	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
West Hagbourne, Horse and Harrow PH	0646	0737	0806	0937	1107	1237	1437	1437	1607	1639	1812
Upton, Village Hall	0648	0741	0808	0939	1109	1239	1439	1439	1609	1641	1814
Blewbury, The Blueberry	0656	0749	0816	0945	1115	1245	1445	1445	1615	1647	1820
Aston Upthorpe, The Chequers PH	↓	0758	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
South Moreton, The Crown PH	↓	0804	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
North Moreton	↓	0810	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Didcot, St Birinus School	↓	0824	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Didcot Girls' School	↓	0832	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
East Hagbourne, War Memorial	0704	↓	0824	0953	1123	1253	1453	1453	1623	1655	1828
Didcot, Sandringham Road	0707	↓	0827	0956	1126	1256	1456	1456	1626	1658	1831
Didcot, Orchard Centre	0712	↓	0832	1001	1131	1301	1501	1501	1631	1703	1836
Didcot, Parkway Station	0716	0838	0836	1005	1135	1305	1505	1505	1635	1707	1840

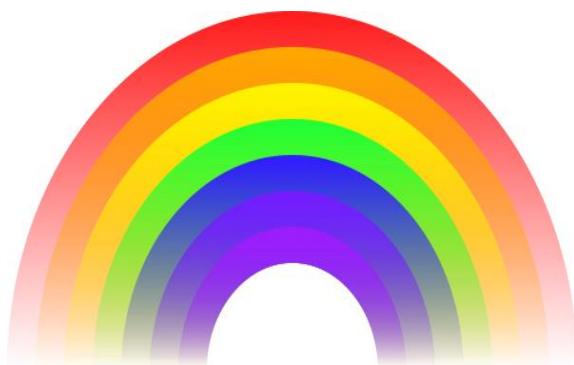
Notes:
Sch - Schooldays only
Hol - School Holidays only
Fri - Fridays only
M-Th - Mondays to Thursdays only

Our Local Bus Service – route 94 Didcot – Blewbury – Harwell Campus Saturdays

Bus Number	94	94	94	94	94	94
Didcot, Parkway Station, stop R4	0840	1010	1140	1340	1510	1710
Didcot, Orchard Centre	0844	1014	1144	1344	1514	1714
Didcot, Sandringham Road	0848	1018	1148	1348	1518	1718
East Hagbourne, War Memorial	0851	1021	1151	1351	1521	1721
Blewbury, The Blueberry	0859	1029	1159	1359	1529	1729
Upton, Village Hall	0905	1035	1205	1405	1535	1735
West Hagbourne, Horse and Harrow PH	0906	1036	1206	1406	1536	1736
Chilton, Main Street	0913	1043	1213	1413	1543	1743
Harwell Campus, Bus Station	0920	1050	1220	1420	1550	1750

Our Local Bus Service – route 94 Harwell Campus – Blewbury – Didcot Saturdays

Bus Number	94	94	94	94	94	94
Harwell Campus, Bus Station	0925	1055	1225	1425	1555	
Chilton, Main Street	0800	0931	1101	1231	1431	1601
West Hagbourne, Horse and Harrow PH	0806	0937	1107	1237	1437	1607
Upton, Village Hall	0808	0939	1109	1239	1439	1609
Blewbury, The Blueberry	0814	0945	1115	1245	1445	1615
East Hagbourne, War Memorial	0822	0953	1123	1253	1453	1623
Didcot, Sandringham Road	0825	0956	1126	1256	1456	1626
Didcot, Orchard Centre	0830	1001	1131	1301	1501	1631
Didcot, Parkway Station	0834	1005	1135	1305	1505	1635



Meadow

I do find,
Peace in the meadow of my mind.
No birds of prey,
Rabbits stay.
Flowers growing wild
Lovers smiled
In the meadow of my mind.

From Roger the Poet

HAMS - 'The Ghirlanda, A Country Girl's Curse'

A poem written by Margaret Gallop and dramatised for the ODN Winter Festival 2021.

Margaret explained the background to this piece in the following way:



"The poem was inspired by the Spellbound Exhibition at the Ashmolean in 2018/9. I read that some of the objects had been found in the walls or roofs of buildings when they were being converted and seemed to have no purpose unless it was an attempt at magic.

In an early cabinet I saw a 'Ghirlanda', the word is Italian for garland, which was a rather pathetic string garland with collected things attached to it: hair, bones and feathers, and wondered who might have made it.

I pictured a young girl who had been sent into service at a big house when she was still in her early teens, how far from home she would feel and how at a loss if she felt she was being treated badly. A thin recourse might have been to remember what she had heard about magic in her village.

I used the form of the villanelle which goes round and round and gets you nowhere - the last verse repeats lines from the opening verse - just like the garland and the magic which goes nowhere except perhaps to haunt its maker."

The video, which can be viewed here, [Ghirlanda - YouTube](#), was created by **Doug Amos**, recited by **Margaret** herself and performed by **Eve Goodenough**. Eve was given a special mention for her mime work in 'The Ghirlanda' by the ODN Festival judges, with the comment that her performance had 'a haunting quality about her'. This is what she said about her experience:

"Being in the HAMS performances was fun. I liked being in Ghirlanda because I wasn't able to speak so had to use body language and actions. I liked being in the Luncheon too because I had to challenge myself to remember all the speech my character said. I also enjoyed being in Jack and the Beanstalk as it was fun to record and act in. I really enjoyed being a part of it all." Eve Goodenough.

www.thehams.co.uk

email:info@thehams.co.uk

Dog owners – take care There have been reports that sadly dog theft is on the increase. Please be vigilant and do not leave your dogs unattended. There is some very useful advice on the animal charity, Blue Cross, website. You will find this if you go to: <http://www.bluecross.org.uk/pet-advice/protect-your-dog-against-theft>

Comments from the East Hagbourne Parish Council Chairman

County Council Elections on 6th May One of our local elections this year will be to elect a County Councillor. This is an important position as the County Council are responsible for many important services from social care to roads and footpaths and an active County Councillor can be a useful ally in obtaining support for the village and helping the parish council negotiate the OCC bureaucracy. I strongly encourage you to vote in this election. Our current councillor, Simon Clarke, is not standing, but there are certainly good candidates to be his successor.

The other election on 6th May is for the Police and Crime Commissioner and does offer a genuine choice. The Oxford Times is carrying interviews of the candidates to clarify how their election can help the community. I feel unhappy that these elections carry the burden of association with political parties but thankfully this does not affect us at the parish level.

Village improvements While the Parish Council cannot solve car parking issues on Main Road, we have been busy supporting several projects to improve the environment for villagers. The benches on the railway embankment in East Hagbourne and in the neighbouring parishes of Upton and West Hagbourne are being refurbished by Jason Capone and the completed ones are objects of some beauty.

Quite shortly, we will be installing two picnic benches on Butts Piece together with a waste bin near the existing seat. We are ordering Village Gateways for New Road and Blewbury Road to make an attractive entry to the village. A similar one on Main Road is included in the plans for the development by the village hall.

Housing Development by the Village Hall It was the archaeological dig on the Mactaggart and Mickel site that was responsible for the mini-mountain and lake. In these excavations, they discovered some interesting iron age artifacts. These were discussed at an open meeting in Hagbourne Village Hall on 8th November 2019 when some of the artifacts were on display. An 88 page post-excavation assessment has now been produced by Cotswold Archaeology. It will shortly be available on an OCC website, and you can now find a copy posted on the village web site: <https://easthagbourne.net/archeological-report/>

There are two files there. The report in "E Hagbourne v1.1" and another file for figures and maps. This file is quite large (over 20 Meg). While this digging has provided a temporary lake on the building site, the other excavations that have been taking place over the last couple of weeks should have the opposite effect. A survey of the drainage system between Lake Road and Main Road found two trouble spots. One was by Main Road that caused the road flooding a couple of months ago and was fairly easily cleared. The other was a restricted flow through the culvert under the Harwood Road allotments.

On further investigation supported by Deanfield Homes, this was found to be more severe than originally thought. It should, however, be completely clear by the time you read this article. Since this is believed by the builders to be the remaining issue for the SODC acceptance of the main building plan, it is entirely possible that this might be passed in early May and that Deanfield Homes may be on site by the summer time. As soon as we hear anything, we will broadcast any news through our facebook and mailchimp channels.

Communicating information An easy way to get information from the Parish Council is to sign up for emails by going to <https://mailchi.mp/9791c642ed24/ehpc>. Please note that your email will not be shared with any other people or used for purposes other than sending communications from the Parish Council. Normally, you should expect no more than about one message each week.

Continued on page 13

Parish meetings The Parish Council will continue to hold Parish Council meetings on-line and, as in normal times, members of the public are welcome to join the meeting through the Zoom link that will be included on the agenda. The next meeting will be held starting at **7.30pm on Thursday 6th May**.

I have cancelled my face-to-face surgeries but am very willing to talk on the telephone or online with any parishioner. You can get details of how to do this by phoning 07891 551851 or emailing the Parish Clerk (easthagbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com). Let me remind you that this is not a formal or even approved article from the Parish Council but is rather a few words from me. Thus anything in this article should not be construed as coming from or endorsed by the Parish Council.

Iain Duff

The Donkathon

Thank you to those who came to say hello to Polly Vacher who was driving her carriage pulled by her donkeys Wizard & Muffin through East Hagbourne, Coscote & West Hagbourne on the 8th April - a 5 mile trip in 2 hours. She is practicing before she drives with them to North Wales (which will take about a month i.e. 8 miles a day) raising money for The Multiple Sclerosis Society.



The Donkathon, a 200 mile journey by donkey cart from Oxfordshire to the pilgrimage church of St Melangell in North Wales, begins on 25th June when Polly sets out with her donkeys, Wizard and Muffin. Polly has recruited a hard working committee of nine volunteers. Preparation for the Donkathon has included finding a route on country roads, finding stabling for each night stop (27 in total) and accommodation for humans. Notgrove Holidays is sponsoring the Donkathon and organising a reception at 'The Nuttery' in Notgrove on 30th June. The Cotswold Farm Park is also hosting the Donkathon on 1st July.

The donkeys themselves have a training programme to build up their stamina and strength along the lines of humans training for marathons. Wizard and Muffin will travel between 8 – 10 miles a day to arrive at St Melangell's on 25th July. Hooves have to be properly trimmed and in good condition. Polly invited Colin Goldsworthy – the most experienced donkey farrier in the country to come and meet her farrier. Together they discussed the best way to trim the hooves and the best way to look after hooves.

The Donkathon is raising funds for Research into Multiple Sclerosis. Polly's nephew, Alexei, was diagnosed with this progressive debilitating disease of the central nervous system at the age of 26. It is hard to imagine coping with this diagnosis in the prime of life, knowing you will only deteriorate and almost definitely end up in a wheelchair. Despite his disability Alexei was chosen for the 'Great British Sewing Bee' in 2019. The MS Society is the recipient of funds raised as they have a big target to find the cause of MS within 10 years.

Clare Horwood, Executive Director of Engagement and Income Generation at the MS Society, said: "We were so impressed to hear about Polly's Donkathon challenge. It's such a unique way to raise money for MS research and we wish her, Wizard and Muffin the very best of luck! We'd love to encourage people all over the UK to get involved too. Whether that's riding along with them for a day, volunteering to help with the challenge, or making a donation. Together, we can stop MS."

To find out more about Polly's Donkathon challenge, or make a donation, please visit: <http://www.donkathon.org>



East Hagbourne Parish Council

NEWSLETTER No.229 – May 2021

CONTACT DETAILS:

Parish Clerk, Laura Lloyd

Telephone: 07891 551 851

Email: easthagbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com



BENCHES IN THE PARISH

The walkers among you may well have noticed that the restoration of the art benches along the old railway embankment is well under way. This project has involved the parishes of East Hagbourne, West Hagbourne and Upton, as well as Sustrans who are the custodians of the national cycling network. The final bench to be completed will be the ridge and furrow bench in East Hagbourne parish. Many thanks to Jason of J Capone Property Maintenance for your efforts with the restorations. A project is also underway to add two picnic benches on Butt's Piece in the coming months.



VILLAGE PARKING

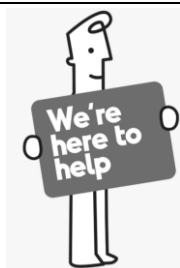
As lockdown eases and we are able to welcome more visitors to our beautiful village, please encourage them to park considerately and safely. Some of the older properties do not have off-street parking and park responsibly on the road as a necessity, however this does mean there are sections particularly along Main Road where it is essential to drive carefully due to the narrow width of the road to avoid oncoming traffic, as well as cyclists and pedestrians.

The cemetery has signage asking walkers to use the village car park to ensure the layby is clear for cemetery users and The Fleur also has clear signage requesting that visitors should use the village car park, which is of course free to use. Thank you!



CORONAVIRUS SUPPORT GROUP

The group is still active, so please do get in touch if you need help. Please contact easthagbourncovid19@gmail.com or call/text 07568 395228.



ADDITIONAL HELP AVAILABLE: If you are in need of additional support for any reason, the following resources are available:

Hagbourne Charities – hagbourne.charities@gmail.com or 07572 401769

East and West Hagbourne Fund – www.easthagbourne.net/directory/village-fund

Contact Trevor Chambers on 01235 814892

Community Hub – Contact via communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk or call 01235 422600
www.southoxon.gov.uk/communityhub



Defibrillators: The village defibrillators are available 24/7 at the following locations:
Outside the Village Shop at 114 New Road Hagbourne Village Hall next to the main entrance. In an emergency, call 999 – they will give you the access code.

Planning applications received since the last meeting:

P21/S1428/HH 3 Kingsholme Close, East Hagbourne - Replacement of windows to front and back of property (front of property is covered by an article 4 direction).

The Annual Parish Council Meeting will be on Thursday 6th May 2021. This will be held virtually using the Zoom platform. The Zoom details will be included on the agenda for anyone wishing to join the meeting.

All Council meetings are open to the public and we welcome your participation.

Agendas and Minutes of previous meetings are published at www.easthagbourne.net



NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME
Gardens Open For Charity



East Hagbourne Gardens

East Hagbourne, OX11 9LN

Bottom Barn • Buckels • The Gables •
5 Higgs Close • Kingfisher House • Lime
Tree Cottage • Little Thatch • 2 Lower
Cross Cottages • Yew Tree Cottage

Sunday 13 June

2 - 5pm

Combined entry £5 Children free



TEAS



PLANTS FOR SALE

Registered charity No. 1112664

More information at ngs.org.uk

OPEN GARDENS are held in the village every three years and this year 9 garden owners will be opening their gates post lockdown to support the National Garden Scheme. NGS's core beneficiaries, Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice Care and the Queens Nursing Institute have never needed more support, stretched to their limit by the current crisis. NGS garden income fell by 85% last year due to lockdown and for many of these charities, the NGS is their largest cumulative funder. The NGS made £3m in donations from funds raised at gardens, including East Hagbourne, in 2018.



Oxfordshire Artweeks 1st to 23rd May 2021

Amazing Art and Craft across Oxfordshire and On-line

Feast your eyes on a huge range of creative activity, from painting, photography, textiles, sculpture and ceramics, to furniture, glass, mosaics and jewellery in pop-up galleries and shops, gardens, community centres and other venues. Meet amazing artists in a wide range of interesting places, talk about their work, watch demonstrations and even have a go yourself. All venues have committed to be Covid-secure.

Be inspired, entertained and delighted: browse, and buy a treasure to take home with you.

From Saturday 1st - Sunday 9th May, venues in North and West Oxfordshire open.

The second week of the festival, from Saturday 8th - Sunday 16th May, explore venues across Oxford. In the final week, from 15th May until 23rd, discover studios and exhibitions across South Oxfordshire & the Vale of White Horse.

You can see the festival flip-book [here](#) or download the pdf [here](#).

In the meantime, keep checking in to enjoy [a continually-changing selection of fresh art every day](#) or follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

Oxfordshire Artweeks is the UK's biggest artist open studios & pop-up exhibition event.

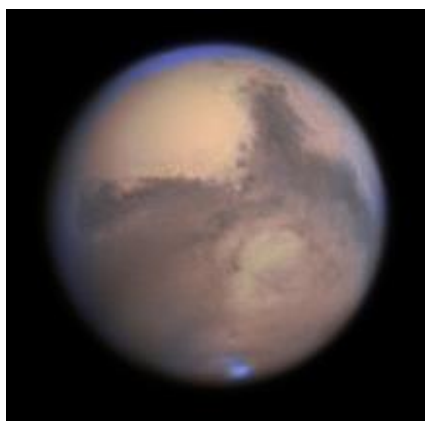
Enjoy Artweeks on-line <http://www.artweeks.org>

Astronomy Notes - Two for the price of one this month.

This dramatic looking galaxy is known as Messier 65. Charles Messier was a famous comet hunter of the 18th century. He compiled a list of over 100 faint fuzzy objects that looked like but were not comets. In other words, a list of objects to avoid. He added number 65 in 1780. Back then of course, they had no idea what these faint patches of light were.



Messier 65 Galaxy



Mars

Today, his list contains many prime targets for our telescopes. M65 being one of the finest.

This galaxy lies at a distance of around 35 million light years, and can be found in the constellation of Leo.

Imaged from Hagbourne back in February, this galaxy has a very low rate of star formation, and is full of old stars, plus plenty of dark dust lanes to see in its spiral arms.

Imagine my surprise the other evening, when the BBC featured one of my Martian images on the April edition of **"The Sky at Night"**!

The image, (shown here), was from 3rd November last year. Makes it all worth the while sitting in the observatory on a cold November night!

John Napper – 01235 818853 napperjohn@gmail.com

www.flicker.com/photos/67647466@N08/

STOP PRESS: We will be Spring Cleaning **St Andrew's Church** on **Saturday, 1st May** ready for regular Services and for Weddings If you would like to come and help we will be starting at about 10.00am. More hands makes light work! Your help will be much appreciated.



Help with long-term Covid Over a million people in the UK are suffering from Long Covid, the accepted term for Coronavirus that lasts more than four weeks. And, sad to say, more than 70,000 people in this country have had Covid symptoms - fatigue, breathlessness, numbness, pain or partial hearing loss - for over a year.

If you are one of those affected, you should know that PIP (personal independence payments) may be available. PIP is financial support for those who have an illness, disability or mental health condition, making it hard for them to do everyday tasks or get around. Income, savings and employment status don't affect your PIP eligibility, and PIP can supplement any other benefits you might be receiving. To apply, you need to be aged between 16 and your state pension age, and you need to have had these health problems for at least three months and expect them to continue. For help with applying for PIP, contact Citizens Advice Adviceline on 0800 278 7907 (for Oxfordshire South and Vale). There is more information about PIP at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/sick-or-disabled-people-and-carers/pip/>

Didcot Emergency Foodbank

The Didcot Emergency Food Bank now has a new home at The Didcot Baptist Church, 43 Wantage Road, Didcot. OX11 0BS

Telephone: 01235 813187. Email: office@didcotbaptist.org.uk

An Emergency Foodbank is a practical, community-based project aimed at providing short term relief by giving food to people in crisis in our local area. The Didcot Emergency Foodbank serves Didcot and the immediate surrounding villages.

Do you need help? If you need to access the Foodbank, this can be done by referral from one of the agencies who are registered with them. You must already have a connection with the referrer or be known to them. The list of referrers includes schools, housing associations, social care departments and various voluntary organisations. Please contact one of these organisations and ask for a Foodbank referral. They will either issue you with a voucher or make an email referral. Citizens Advice Bureau can advise you about other help that might be available. Their offices are currently closed due to COVID-19, but they can be phoned on 0300 3309 042.

Can you help? If you would like to make a financial donation, this can be done by visiting [online donation facility](#) and choosing "Foodbank" as your option. Alternatively, a bank transfer can be made, or a cheque sent - please contact the Foodbank for details. If you would like to volunteer to help practically, please contact us for a chat.

Contact details You can leave a message on the Baptist Church Office answering machine on 01235 813 187. You can email the Foodbank: foodbank@didcotbaptist.org.uk or use the [contact form](#) on the website. Thank you.



JUNE 2021 PARISH MAGAZINE

We hope that as many of our readers as possible are able to see the online Parish Magazine.

Please let us have copy for the June parish magazine by **19th May** to **magtemp5@gmail.com** Thank you.

Keep safe and well, Janet Corderoy, Joy Napper and the parish magazine committee.

Pilates Classes and 1-1s

PRINCIPAL PILATES Pilates classes and 1-1 sessions both online and in person in East Hagbourne and Milton. Please contact Caroline Hunt: carolinehunt@btinternet.com 07758 814578 www.principalpilates.com

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Delivery Service During the pandemic, because we are not able to cater for our normal events, we are providing a delivery service to East and West Hagbourne. Burger Night on Fridays, Dine In Menu on Saturdays and Sunday roasts.

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