

# West Hagbourne **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2004**

May 22nd 2004

## Report from the *Chair of the Parish Council*

*2003/04 has been something of a steep learning curve especially for the four new councillors. The amount of reading, literature and reports that are required, is at times quite overwhelming.*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors who have worked hard to meet the promises they made at the beginning of their term of office. The burden of meetings, paperwork and consultation processes that a Parish Council is expected to undertake, is quite onerous. Much of which has little relevance to West Hagbourne.

Thank you to all who attend this years' Parish Meeting. We hope that you like the change of venue and this light hearted arrangement for the Annual Parish Meeting. This annual meeting is statutory, and is meant for us to tell you what the Parish Council has done in the past year, and give you a series of updates that affect this community. **The most important aim** is to give you the chance to talk about what has been happening in the Parish in the past 12 months, to discuss the actions of the Parish Council and in turn help us make sure we are doing what you as a Parish think is important.

We have tried to do things a little differently this year and have attempted to make sure you know exactly what we are considering, and we hope that you feel we have achieved an appropriate level of transparency in what we have done.

At the beginning of the year we put down in writing the aims and objectives for 2003/4 and an update on these issues is detailed. This list was put together after taking notes from the last Annual Parish Meeting.

Our biggest regret is, that so far, we have been unable to find a solution to a play area in the village. As yet, no alternatives have been suggested and nothing new offered.

At what is effectively the AGM of the Parish Council we reported on how we spent the small amount of money that is given to the Parish to spend, as part of your Council Tax. If you want to see our budget, or how it has been spent please ask our clerk.

We have improved the visibility of West Hagbourne by making our communication more distinct, by

implementing a cohesive communication policy, which we believe has built on previous Councils work to continue making our voice heard. But our biggest change has been our adoption of email wherever possible and we hope to see a web site for the Parish established in 2004. The improvements to our newsletter seem to have been well received and we are grateful to Tracey Anderson for her help in the production of it this year.

***We have responded to the second draft of South Oxfordshire District Council's Local Plan 2011- this will now be reviewed in the Public Enquiry which is currently in progress.***

One of the main areas of contention in the Local Plan, is the expansion of Didcot and the implications this will have upon the Parish. The proposed 3,200 new homes are still a threat, and one which is unlikely to go away.

We have continued to make our objection to the expansion of Didcot to the West in conjunction with the local Parishes Group. Whilst we feel a compromise situation might be better, (if the expansion is split between north and west this would be fairer) - the impact of such a huge expansion into the Parish would have desperate implications. Our traffic would grow intolerably, the environmental impact on us would be severe, both air and light pollution would increase dramatically, and the very nature of our rural character threatened.

In addition we made comments on the first deposit of ***Oxfordshire County Council's Structure plan***. It also included additional proposals for more houses to be allocated to the expansion of Didcot.

We have complained to the Secretary of State and Office of the Deputy Prime Minister over the imposition of housing targets which threaten small communities like ours.

In 2003 we were invited to join the Harwell Liaison Committee and discovered that the most polluted spring in the area rises behind the Horse & Harrow. There is no cause for concern as the volatiles disperse almost immediately on exposure to the air.

We spent considerable time complaining over the implementation and construction of the Cycle Track linking Didcot to Upton. The project was managed

by Sustrans – a national organisation which stands for sustainable transport - a charity that works on practical projects to encourage people to walk, cycle and use public transport in order to reduce motor traffic and its adverse effects.

We complained in the strongest terms about the way it changed our landscape with little regard for those of us who live nearby, those who use it, its impact on our safety and security, or the wildlife and vegetation which depended on it. The Parish Council have forced Sustrans to adopt a new working practice. This will ensure, things like 'environmental impact' and 'bat' studies, are carried out, in conjunction with full and proper consultation with local bodies and residents, **before** they urbanise another stretch of ground.

The Sustrans plans to include artworks on the embankment were put before the public at an exhibition after they had already been designed, with no prior referral to any of the Parish Councils in South Oxfordshire. However SODC did give money to the project, as have Upton and Chilton Parish Councils. We have liaised with the arts implementation team and the necessary planning officer and believe we have achieved a compromise on size and design of seating which will be installed.

We responded to the Route Management Survey that the Highways Agency undertook for the development and future planning of the A34. This is a national highway and is likely to be used even more as the M4 underpass is completed. We indicated that better alternative access to the A34 from Didcot would greatly ease the traffic using the village as a rat run.

We have spent some considerable time in trying to encourage greater co-operation and joint working between the local Parishes that bound ours, in both South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse districts to jointly further areas of mutual concern.

We failed in our attempts to have SODC re-instate the occasional 'rubbish' service that visited the village. Their financial and recycling targets have led them to believe that having us all drive to either Drayton or Didcot is a 'greener' and more cost effective solution. If the Parish agrees we will attempt to provide a West Hagbourne service, but there will be some cost implication, one which we would need to share.

The parish has continued to recycle using the green box scheme. There are more for those who want another or if you haven't already got one.

The proposal to produce a Parish Plan was very well supported at the launch meeting held in the Autumn - it was good to see so many of the Parish take the time to come and express their wants and feelings for the Parish. A steering group has already been formed and the next step of asking everyone ( both young and old ) to respond to a questionnaire is now underway. The Parish Council believe that in the future, the views of the Parish will be taken more seriously by other agencies and authorities if a Parish Plan is produced. My thanks to Sue Totterdell who has acted as enabler on the project and the members of the steering group – who will present an update at the Parish Meeting.

The success of our launch event was reflected in East Hagbourne asking us if we could consider producing a 'joint' Parish Plan with them. However at their Parish Meeting, they have decided NOT to proceed with a plan.

We have made some progress in improving some aspects of the road provision, with instant changes such as replacement of broken bollards, signs and chevrons. The references to Didcot from the main road have now been removed and we are grateful to Roger Sweet for this suggestion.

Members of the Council have attended many meetings with the consultants involved in the Didcot Integrated Transport Study and we have lobbied for all of the elements we put before you at the launch meeting. All of the villages have agreed on gateway entrances and we have requested that these must have some kind of chicane aspect, in order to slow vehicles down. We appear to have achieved agreement for the road narrowing (priority working) by Green Thatch as well as interactive speed warning signs on the faster stretches of road.

My fellow Councillors have shared the responsibility of taking part in other Committees and their reports are included here. They have all ensured West Hagbourne has been represented on other local meetings including the Didcot Area Forum and the new Didcot Town Council Group formed to oppose the possible closure of Didcot Community hospital.

There are plans to continue the 'tree planting programme' but in view of the work in Moor Lane and up on the embankment, it seemed appropriate to defer new planting until the autumn of 2004.

We have been consulted on a number of planning applications this year, and have responded within

the allocated period of time allowed us by South Oxfordshire District Council. It has not always been easy to ensure the views of the Parish Council are made in a balanced way. All decisions are actually made by SODC and we only form part of the consultation process.

Very recently there have been budgetary reviews of the bus services that serve the Parish – the results suggest that we may benefit from an improved and more regular service into Didcot.

I would also like to thank all of you that have helped make this village what it is today. A special mention should be made to the Village Association who have brought the village together with events, both large and small and who have helped make this event possible by providing help and their tent. And to those who have helped keep the village clean and free of litter, especially the six children, on organised days and at other times through the past year. Also to Mary Ann Le May and Marion Judd, for keeping the planters looking so good; Ken Bishop for controlling the shrubs at the entrances to the village and by the bus shelter; Fred Scott for taking on the repair of the bench in the square and for being part of the informal grass

cutters who keep the footpaths clear, and to Chris Lay and others for keeping on top of the growth in Moor Lane.

We are also very grateful for the help given by ORCC who have assisted in the Parish Plan Process.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to attend the odd Parish Council meeting, especially if you have a specific issue that might be bothering you. We set aside the first half hour of every meeting to discuss informally anything relevant or important to residents. It gives you the chance to see your Council in action, we appreciate your unspoken support, but we also need to know that we are representing you in the way that you want us to. We can only do that through you talking to us.

When posed questions and asked for help, we have always tried to respond quickly and effectively. But the Parish Meeting today is the perfect time to ask anything you have not had an opportunity to raise before, either about things affecting you personally or concerns that affect everyone, now and in the future.

*Phil Taylor*      Chair - West Hagbourne Parish Council

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## West Hagbourne *Village Association* Report May 2004

The main event organised during the last twelve months was the Village Open Day staged back in September. The atrocious weather forecast for the day was a contributory factor for the lower than usual turnout. The forecasters got it wrong and those who came enjoyed a pleasant afternoon in our village. Many thanks to those who opened their gardens, provided venues for teas, stalls, side shows and exhibitions, to the children for providing the music and to all who provided help and support before, during and after the event. The day was rounded off with an evening supper and quiz.

Organising and staging events takes much time & effort and their success depends on your continued help and support.

The AGM of the Village Association was held in November and the following were elected to the committee.

Alan Browse	Chris Browse
Steve Gore	Marion Judd
Betty Kendrick	June Little
Peter Mitchell	Bridget Pickup
Hazel Rack	Mike Telford
Julia Tiller	Dave Totterdell
Keith Walton	Val Walton

The judging for the Madge Trophy for the best front garden took place in August. The month for the competition is moved forward by one month each year - April to September. The aim is to give everyone a chance to win when gardens are at their best. The judges are independent and do not live in the village.

The Village Association is an independent organisation with an elected committee drawn from those living in West Hagbourne. Our objective is to stage social events in order to foster a sense of community and an understanding and respect for each others needs and points of view. The Village Association came into being following the very successful first Open Village Day organised by the History Group. Money was raised towards the cost of publication of the Story of West Hagbourne.

It has become increasingly difficult to organise some events, particularly those held out of doors, because of new laws and their interpretation by the local authority. Some District Councils take a more enlightened view towards village events than others. We are also faced with the problems of insurance and the fact that many insurance companies have withdrawn offers of certain types of cover. The majority of those remaining have raised premiums to an often unacceptable level. So far we have not had to admit defeat!

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# West Hagbourne *Village History Group*

## *Summary of activities*

The Group has been involved in several activities over the past year. The biggest project has been the **restoration of the font** in St Andrew's Church. Other activities have included an historical exhibition for the Open Day which was also shown at the PC's Parish Plan evening last November. On the archaeological front, a settlement site has been identified on Hagbourne Moors and the site of the medieval chapel is being pursued. The History Group is represented on the Parish Plan Steering Group and has been asked to provide a character study as part of the Plan. The Group has continued to advise the Parish Council on historical matters and contributes to the village newsletter. We have also gained two new members this year.

## *Restoration of St Andrew's Church font*

The unique armorial font has particular historical significance for West Hagbourne because it bears the coats of arms of the families of Clarice de Windsor and her second husband John York. Together they founded the south aisle and chapel in the early part of the fifteenth century. Clarice was born into the Drokensford family and her first husband was Richard de Windsor. The Windsors held both the manors of West Hagbourne at various times.

Most of the last year has been taken up with obtaining a faculty for the restoration project. It was finally granted in March 2004. The project also has the blessing of English Heritage. Quotations were received from three conservation companies recommended by the Diocesan Advisory Board on the Care of Churches. The work has been assigned to Nimbus Conservation Ltd. This includes cleaning and restoration of the stonework and repainting of the shields in the original documented colours.

The work will commence on 24 May and is expected to take 2 weeks.



## *Exhibition at the Village Open Day*

The exhibition was devised to present to the village some of the results of our millennium questionnaire. The exhibition focused on five of the houses which make up the area known as The Square: Woodleys, the Old Post Office, Brookmead, The Square and York Farm Cottage. The presentation included the history of the house, photographs and information about previous inhabitants.

## *Ancient street names*

The old village street names from the census map of 1851 were used on the Open Day programme map.

They also temporarily replaced current street names. For example: Windsor Hakeborne replaced West Hagbourne at the entrance to the village.

Whilst part of York Road took its old name of Goosecoobs for the day.

## *Archaeological finds*

Roman settlement site

An archaeology student from East Hagbourne has contacted us about some pottery sherds and worked flint which he has discovered on the West Hagbourne Moors. County archaeologists have identified these as Roman, except for one Iron Age item. Aerial photographs of the site indicate agricultural enclosures. Together, the evidence of the finds and the photographs suggest a settlement site there over one or more periods, encompassing the Iron Age and Roman occupation. The site has been registered on the county monuments record.

## *Site of medieval chapel*

Prior to the dissolution of the monasteries, West Hagbourne had its own chapel. This has been documented in a charter of 1133 and the supposed site, behind Chapel Hayes, noted on an early map. The History Group has visited the English Heritage National Monuments Record at Swindon to research aerial photos of this site. Unfortunately these do not reveal any evidence of the chapel from the air. However, Berkshire Archaeology Research Group (BARG) has declared an interest in pursuing the site of our chapel. They have agreed to do a Resistivity Survey in September.

# South Oxfordshire *District Council*

Following the elections held last May, the Conservative Party Group took control of the Council, and this follows eight years of a hung Council, run by the Liberal Democrats and Labour. The number of Councillors has been reduced from 50 to 48 and some wards have changed (Hagbourne ward is now less the Millbrook area) as agreed by the Boundary Commission. The Council has a Cabinet of 8 Members, one Scrutiny Committee, one Overview Committee and one main Planning Committee and one Licensing Committee. There are several Task Groups that work up various issues relating to the Council's work.

A major change has been the one main Planning Committee that meets every other week. Targets are being achieved, set by the Government, and a more efficient way of dealing with applications.

The Council communicates and consults in several ways; Outlook magazine three times a year, Area Forums, Parish Digest, press releases and a new initiative of a Citizens' Panel made up of more than 1,000 residents across South Oxfordshire, all of which helps us identify the Council's priorities for setting the budget and delivery of services.

When we were elected we stated our main aim was to keep Council Tax within inflation, and this we have done with a 2.6% increase. We have also set out our priorities following the various consultations:

**Fear of Crime** – we are introducing CCTV in Henley and Wallingford by this summer and Didcot by next year. There is £100,000 in a growth budget to have eight Police Community Support Officers with a matching grant from the Police.

Work with the Community Safety Committee involves Parish Councils, volunteers and the Police. We have given out some Anti-social Behaviour Contracts that has resulted in fewer problems in those areas.

**Cleaner Environment** - we reintroduced the Parish skips for green waste only in the late Summer and early Autumn of 2003 as a trial still keeping the green waste and household waste collections at the four town and nine rural community waste sites. This scheme started on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2003.

Abandoned cars are now taken away within seven working days. We have achieved this target by working with the Police. We have used additional money for an extra crew and vehicle to enable the quick removal of fly tipping and litter on roads and verges. Fly tipped material is currently being removed in 5 days from reporting whereas in 02/03 it was taking 16 days.

It is now possible to have more than one green box for the weekly collection of recyclables (Paper, cardboard, tins – aluminium & tin and plastics (but not polystyrene)). We must continue to increase amounts of recyclables collected to minimize residual waste that goes to expensive 'Landfill'. Composting also helps reduce residual waste and this current year we have sold using the subsidized cost scheme over 2,000 composter units. Our waste awareness campaign with two dedicated officers working on education in schools, door knocking, recycling competitions, informative leaflets, green box promotions, visiting fetes/public meetings and working with SOXON the Council's recycling mascot has produced excellent results and will continue.

We must all work together to achieve our Government given targets on recycling and to have a cleaner environment. The clearing of litter is a very costly process so please help us by

organising 'Clean Up' events through Town and Parish Councils and reporting to Public Amenities team anyone fly tipping and any location of fly tipped material so that collection is arranged.

**Affordable Housing** – more houses are being allocated to South Oxfordshire with the majority being in Didcot; 3,000 new houses.

Within planning developments the new Local Plan, if agreed by the Inspectors, there will be 40% affordable homes for developments of 15 or more dwellings built. In rural areas the figure is 50% of 2 or more dwellings built. Exception sites; sites in areas where a housing survey has been carried out to showing a need and where planning permission would not normally be agreed. There are several completed schemes in the District and more in the pipeline. By the end of March this year, we had to comply with a government directive that all families were out of Bed and Breakfast accommodation, and this has been achieved.

In our budget we agreed £1m from the Community Investment Fund (money from sale of Council's housing stock) towards providing new homes. The Government changed its method of funding schemes that have caused huge problems for all Councils to provide houses.

There is lots of pressure on the Council to build more houses as the County Council prepare their Structure Plan with a proposal requiring us to build 1,000 houses in the Green Belt outside Oxford, which we have fought against and so far won. Gravel extraction in the areas of Stadhampton, Berinsfield, Warborough and Benson (SBWB) – again we are fighting against this. It would certainly change the beautiful countryside. It is not just nimbysm but the actual need and is it the best option?

**Flooding** – last winter we had not only the river flooding but also springs causing problems. We have allocated money into the budget for some schemes to improve those areas liable to flood and have been working with landowners, parish councils and the County Council.

**Didcot** has been the designated growth area for many years, taking 3,000 new houses. The Council has worked with Taylor Woodrow to achieve a new town centre of new shops that will include Sainsburys, Argos, and Woolworths that is scheduled to be completed by the Spring of 2005. This Council is committed to build a five-screen cinema and an Arts Centre integrated with the new shopping centre costing £10.9m in total.

Local government has changed so much over the last few years and it will be for residents to judge if it is for the better. We are being asked to be Community Leaders, work in partnership with other organisations, broaden and cross cut our services and produce a Community Strategy for South Oxfordshire. The South East Region is taking a leading role in Planning and other Council services.

For the last three years your Council Tax for this Council rose by 6%, 7.7% and 6.7% and this year 2.6% - a big difference. We will no doubt have to make hard choices of the future services but there are no plans to make any drastic changes.

**Cllr Patrick Greene**

Hagbourne Ward, South Oxfordshire District Council. - April 2004

# Oxfordshire *County Council*

*Herewith in brief is a list of some of the achievements in the last year.*

The Council's Waste Management team reported performance indicators that showed Oxfordshire residents produce the lowest amount of rubbish in England.

The County Council's five new directorates came into being: learning & Culture, Environment & Economy, Community Safety, Social & Health Care and resources replaced the old departmental structure.

The introduction of free admission to the Oxfordshire Museum - introduced after a successful pilot - saw visitor numbers rocket by 300%.

Social & Health Care was rated among the best in the South East at dealing with children in need. A government audit of such services took place in every Social & Health Care department in the country in response to one of the recommendations of the Victoria Climbié inquiry.

The Oxford Castle development received a £6m grant from the South East England Development Agency. Archaeological work yielded numerous interesting finds that were filmed by the BBC's "Meet the Ancestors" programme.

Our Youth Offending Team was singled out for praise in a Home Office report called "Restorative Justice" for the way it works.

Thirty years of Park and Ride in Oxford were celebrated with the opening of a state of the art terminal building at the newest site at Water Eaton.

The long planned re-organisation of schooling in Oxford was brought to a successful conclusion with the new two-tier system smoothly replacing the former three-tier structure.

Social & Health Care secured two stars in the Department of Health's latest national review of social care - a year sooner than the Directorate expected to achieve this status.

Schools Minister David Miliband praised Oxfordshire for the county's impressive Key Stage 3 results.

An online catalogue of almost a million items in Oxfordshire's libraries was made available for the first time thanks to the installation of a new generation of computer equipment.

The government placed Oxfordshire's transport service in the top 10% in the country calling it "well above average".

The Leader welcomed comments from an Audit Commission report that said "fundamental flaws" in the current system of funding local government led to large Council Tax increases last year. It said that the system by which the Government decides how much money is given to local councils is unclear and in need of reform. It also re-enforced the arguments made by Councils in South East that money was shifted from them to authorities in the North and Midlands. The Leader Keith Mitchell commented 'that all along that the Council Tax rises last year in the south were the product of a flawed system and not the fault of Councils. It is most re-assuring to have the support of an independent body for the case we have been making.'

This leads onto the Council tax for 2004/05 and to report that a cross section of Oxfordshire residents, as in previous years, attended a special MORI discussion day that gave them £10m spending options across 11 themes and if accepted would

have resulted in an 8% Council Tax increase at Band D compared with a standstill level of 3%. At the end of the day participants had set their own level of Council tax rise, between 6.6% and 7.5% giving an overall message to Councillors that although Council Tax is important services come first.

In setting the 2004/05 budget the Executive were determined to:

- Set a lower Council Tax rise,
- Identify further efficiency savings,
- Be clear about our highest priorities for spending.

The Executive considers that it has been successful in these objectives. The revenue budget requirement for 2004/05 was agreed at £547.760m and after grant deductions the Council tax income required was £212.594m making Council tax payable for the County at Band D £924.81. Percentage rise increase in Council tax being 6.25% and there is a commitment to lower rates of increase in future years.

***Priority spending areas that were identified by the Executive:***

***Schools*** - where the Council needs to drive up attainment is investing £4 million here.

***Child Protection*** - The Council is investing £1 million more to ensure it never sees a Victoria Climbié case in Oxfordshire.

***Services to older and disabled people*** - The Council is spending £5 million more to meet rising needs.

***Roads and Transport*** - The Council is investing £1 million more in much needed highway improvements and £300k in public transport, including hard pressed rural services.

***Improving pay for many of our lowest paid workers*** - both to give them fairer pay and to help with recruitment and retention. The Council is investing £2½ million here.

***Strengthening our corporate centre*** - (finance, property, personnel and computer services) to improve the efficiency of the whole council. The Council is investing £3 million more here.

***Structure Plan***

Concerns of local residents have been over the proposal of extraction of sand and gravel in the local areas, particularly at the Stadhampton, Berinsfield, Warborough and Benson (SBWB). The building of a 1,000 houses in the Green Belt south of Grenoble Road and mention of houses in the area North east of Didcot Post 2016. I have fought against all of these issues in Council in June 2003 and recently in the Environment Scrutiny held on the 10<sup>th</sup> March and again at the Executive meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> March. The Executive supported an officers' recommendation not to build houses South of Grenoble Road and this was carried at the Council Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> April. My amendment to delete any mention

of Post 2016 was lost, however, my further amendment to include a policy and supporting text in the Structure Plan for the Wilts & Berks and the Oxford Canals was carried nem.con. Dr John Howell's amendment that 'a decision over the need for a new strategic area for sand and gravel extraction will be made in the context of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan as the needs for and available amounts of minerals become confirmed'. This amendment was lost by only two votes!

Alterations to the draft deposit Structure Plan have been advertised and any representations to the proposed Pre-EIP changes should be made by latest Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2004. In June, a draft list of issues will be advertised for discussion and participants at the Examination in Public (EIP). In July, The list of EIP issues and participants will be finalised. This is a likely timetable but may change. August 2004 EIP preliminary meeting - October EIP - Winter 2004/05 EIP panel report - Spring 2005 Proposed modifications on deposit and Autumn 2005 Adoption. .

#### ***Boundary Review***

The County Council, it is proposed, by the Electoral Committee, is to become a Council of 74 members and some Divisions are being redrawn. The Council is keen to have single member Divisions and Divisions were possible should not have an urban rural mix. Also, the Council placed great emphasis on achieving electoral equality in order that as many divisions as possible did not exceed 10% from the County average. Amendments to the draft proposals have been drawn up by the County and forwarded to the boundary Commission. The final outcome will not be known for some while, however it is hoped that the divisional changes will be in place for the County Elections in May 2005. The Moreton Division is likely to remain as it is now.

#### ***Didcot Area Integrated Transport Study (DITS)***

Halcrow was commissioned in summer 2002 to develop an Integrated Transport Strategy for Didcot and the surrounding areas. The objectives are: 1). To enhance the quality of the area as an attractive place to live, work, shop and visit. 2). To mitigate the adverse effects of additional traffic on Didcot and the surrounding area and to increase accessibility for all. 3). To ensure that transport demand and supply associated with new developments is fully integrated with existing transport network.

At its last meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2004 it was confirmed as to the Didcot Town implementation programme and the priorities. Since the previous meeting Parish Councils were consulted again for their views on village traffic management and road safety schemes. Two options of implementation were on offer - option 1, gave priority to villages accessing the A417, the B4016 and A4130 in that order, for gateways and vehicle actuated signs, followed by other outstanding gateways and village scheme measures, all as funds permit - option 2, as a priority to begin the detailed design and consultation for all the schemes listed as a top priority by each of the villages. Implementation as funding permits and so on for the next set of priorities. The

members steering group voted for option 1. The strategy has been put to the Didcot Town Council, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils for endorsement and then to the County Council's Executive to approve on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2004. At that meeting after representations from Didcot Town Councillors the Executive resolved:

- a. to agree that part of the phase 1 proposals of the Didcot Area Integrated Transport Strategy so far as to avoid delaying the proposals for Cow Lane;
- b. to defer consideration of the remaining elements of the phase 1 measures to enable the Town Council to submit a formal response to the proposals on the understanding that this response would be made within two weeks.
- c. ask officers to ensure that, where the views of any individual or body were being sought on any matter, this be made clear and precise in a formal communication to that effect.

This matter will come back to the Executive on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2004.

Didcot Town Council asked for certain amendments which were adopted.

#### ***Local Interest***

Roads in the Division have had a fair share of attention from the Drayton Depot, as funds would afford. Officer Brian Short made a tour of some of the area with your councillor.

A permanent vehicle actuated sign (VAS) was installed in Moulsoford for traffic traveling north that has helped motorists recognise the 30pmh limit.

New experimental reflective and life sized posters of children walking have been installed on the Sands Road rail bridge in South Moreton. It is hoped that these posters will slow down motorists and alert them to the possibility of school children and other pedestrians/cyclists who may be crossing this narrow and angled bridge. Sands Road bridge has poor visibility for approaching motorists since the parapets were strengthened and raised in height by Railtrack for rail safety reasons.

#### ***Cllr Patrick Greene***

Moreton Division - Oxfordshire County Council April 2004

Apologies for not being able to attend your Parish Meeting do please let me know if I can help on any specific matter.

# William Tyrrell Trust Annual Report 2003

Between January - December 2003 the Trustees met on 5 occasions.

## **Tenancy**

Matthew Napper continues to hold the tenancy of the main part of the land. The Trustees have undertaken to update the terms and conditions of the tenancy to bring it into line with current legislation. This work is ongoing.

## **Allotments**

Again there have been no applications for the allotment part of the land during 2003 year. Investigations are also ongoing for alternative use of this land. **REMINDER:** Plots are still available with water supply at £2.00 pa.

## **Trespassers**

An incident where Trust land was occupied illegally by travellers was successfully resolved with the help of the police. The Trustees learned that prompt and immediate action in the event of unlawful occupancy is essential to invoke effective legal processes that ensure eviction within 24 hours.

## **Dispersement of Charity funds**

The Trustees maintain an interest in supporting young people in the village for worthwhile projects, and continue to welcome suggestions and proposals from villagers.

This year, a grant was awarded to Ian McKenzie as financial support towards kit for an expedition to South America. This is a once-in-a-lifetime, well planned trek through six countries, experiencing the mountainous regions of the Andes and many diverse cultures and communities.

## **Resignation and appointment of new Trustee**

Following the resignation of Sue Totterdell in November 2003, the Trust is pleased to welcome Mike Butler as a new Trustee. Thanks to Sue for all her work on behalf of the Trust.

## **Accounts for 2003**

The accounts for the year have been prepared by Bridget Pickup and are available for inspection.

**Bridget Pickup   Marion Judd   Mike Butler**

*NEXT meeting of the  
Parish Council wil be at  
7.30 at Hagbourne School  
on Thursday July 9th*

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**your  
Parish  
Council**

**the clerk**

