

West Hagbourne *reports for 2003-2004*

April 29th 2004

This document has been produced to consolidate the reports from the various committees West Hagbourne is represented on by Parish Councillors

This has helped save duplication costs and presents the information in a consistent form.

If you would like to see minutes of any meetings attended or discuss any of this in more detail please feel free to contact the appropriate Councillor directly.

Their details are on the back page.

the East & West Hagbourne Cemeteries committee

This committee has met twice in the past year. The summer meeting, held in the cemetery, provided an opportunity to review the appearance of the area and the graves and the newly re-surfaced lay-by (now adopted by OCC).

The committee also visited the Wild Flower Meadow and agreed to delay its cut until after judging for the Britain in Bloom competition.

The winter meeting was held in Kingsholme, East Hagbourne. The right to burial in the cemetery (e.g. all village residents, plus people who had lived in either village for most of their lives)

and to the reservation of plots (e.g. when a partner is already buried there) was discussed.

It was decided that, due to a shortage of space, in such cases people should be encouraged to consider double (depth) plots, rather than two separate plots.

After a review of accounts, an increase in the clerk's salary was agreed.

The next meeting will be June 21st, at the cemetery.

Sue Totterdell

Hagbourne Village Hall

It had been a good year for the Village Hall with various renovations taking place, during the year, the finances were in an health position, but we are concerned with what the bookings would be like with the new football club having a bar and licence for future bookings.

David Ford presented the accounts and copies were distributed to all that were present. It was suggested that more interest be sought for our outstanding credit balance. All of the committee agreed to their re-election. John Lawson suggested that they are elected en-block (seconded by Monica Lawson) and this was done.

A request was made for an active East Hagbourne, parish council representative. We would also

welcome one or two additional independent members on the committee.

Road crossing,, a reply from the Charity Commission as to whether or not we can 'dedicate' this small piece of our property, this is on going along with the stage refurbishment. Climbing Frame Inspections – It was asked: 'Who holds the records of these inspections?' There was no clear reply but it was suggested that this should be of no concern to this committee

Deeds for Village Hall – We do not appear to have these. An increase for Iris was proposed to £210/month and agreed.

Keith Little

Hagbourne Charities

There is very little to report on activity as the Committee has not met during the past year. The next Committee meeting is on Wednesday 28th April.

The Butt's Piece land remains unused. No interest has been expressed in rental or purchase and no one has applied for an allotment.

There has been no dispersment of income during the year and attempts to assist people with transport problems have had no response.

Marion Judd

Hagbourne School Governors Report

My how the time flies. Last year's Class 6 have now settled in to their new schools, and I have already heard some of them have made their mark; a "good" one, I hasten to add.

Our Reception Class is on the way to a wonderful experience of learning and sharing with others. What an opportunity Hagbourne School offers to them. We are so fortunate to have a dedicated team of teachers who unstintingly give of their experience and time to create a background of learning. Through their home life, our little ones have already gained a framework of good behaviour and we continue to hold up this good example of sharing and working with others. We ask for your support in all we do.

As a Church of England school, we are closely linked with St Andrew's. Fr Edwin and the Headteacher lead collective worship and classes lead a "sharing" assembly in school each week. Each term the children organize and run a service in the church. They attend services on several other occasions celebrating the church calendar. The explicit, positive Christian ethos of the school ensures a sense of a caring and considerate community. It is successful in providing a secure environment in which children can work, and learn about others' beliefs, and play. This caring and supportive atmosphere encourages their own self-respect and respect for others. Governors support and foster Christian values in all aspects of school life.

Achievements Our achievements, as usual, are outstanding and numerous. Congratulations to our last year's website team in Year 6 for their outstanding success not only in winning the Junior Oxfordshire category for the best website, but also the overall silver challenge cup for "Site of Excellence". Children represented school at the "Healthy Oxfordshire" schools' conference. They gave an outstanding Power Point presentation on the work of the school. We were requested by Didcot Power Station to design safety posters that encourage employees to wear eye protection. We reached the finals of the Community Safety Action Group; we won the top schools' award in the Thames and Chiltern Country in Bloom competition for the nature board relating to "Shovel Spring". We won first prize in the junior category of the British Computer Society's web page design competition. We won the silver trophy in the Didcot and District Running events, and also the silver award in the swimming. Our excellent kitchen staff won the title for "Best School Meals in Oxfordshire". Mark Sutherland, one of our parents and a school governor, was nominated by the children for a top national award for promoting "Safer Ways to School". Mark has organised our Walking Bus and encouraged cycling to school. 17% of our children cycle to school. A "bus" leaves Fleet Meadow Community Centre at 8.1 Oam each morning. We would be very grateful if more parents, grandparents and friends could help on a rota basis.

Happenings We are an international school with links to Spain, Italy, Australia, Greece, Czech Republic, Uganda, Germany and the USA. Spain and Italy have been celebrated in school with 'International days. Children dress up in national costume, eat food from each country, learn about their customs, learn to speak their language and have been entertained by Flamenco dancing. These days stem from our "Tasty Tuesdays". Each Tuesday children sample pieces of fruit and vegetables (some of which they have never tasted before and some they think they do not like!) Thank you to all those parents who run this valuable service.

We are an Eco-School. We have been re-awarded the Green Flag which you can see flying from our flagpole. This is now ours - we have won it three times in a row. We are still the only school in Oxfordshire to hold this coveted award. Because we are an Eco-School, we have an Eco-Council. One child from each class (selected by their peers) meets regularly to discuss what we do and what else we can do to help the environment. We switch off lights, make sure taps aren't running, collect aluminium cans, car batteries (cans and batteries can be left at "Kingsholm", behind the gate), mobile phones, textiles, used stamps, ink cartridges, we use paper on both sides, shred waste paper, compost all apple cores, banana skins... make sure Mrs Spurrett and the staff do not throw away anything that is compostable. We have been presented by ASDA with an industrial paper shredder. Children fill bags for ue in their animal hutches.

Village pensioners lunch here every Wednesday during term times, two courses for £2.20, served by the children. Please come - it is open to all pensioners. Phone the school office beforehand on 813367; we would love to see you. TV chef Antony Worrall Thompson visited school, spoke to the children and sampled a school lunch, pronouncing it very good. Pupils opened the new Sustrans cycleway between Didcot and Upton. They have also visited a landfill site in Bicester to watch materials being sorted for recycling, and launched "Soxon", a waste recycling video for schools. At the end of the Summer Term the parents of Class 6 generously donated a sum of money. This was invested in atomic clocks, one for each classroom and the playground, the benefit being that they will all be accurate to the second throughout the year. No more classes late for hymn practice! The Life Education Centre's mobile classroom paid us a visit. All classes were taught to think about themselves, about healthy diet, and the effects that medicines and other drugs, including cigarettes, may have on the body. We were awarded a grant of £1,460 from OCC towards the "Living Churchyard" project. This involves creating a wildlife area, and will cover all areas of the curriculum, culminating in the production of a book. Hagbourne was chosen as regional winners in the "Computers for Schools" category in Tesco's own school awards. Annual World Book Day will be on 13 March this year.

Our sponsored swim raised £2,300, which was divided between our new TA centre, The Charlton Centre, and the charity Children with Leukemia. We accessed a grant of £1,000 from Innogy, £800 from TV Energy and £500 from SODC for a wind turbine and photocell for renewable energy. The electricity this generates will provide not only experimental work for the children but some lighting to the cycle shed and swimming pool, and power to run a water feature. World music and dance came to school with live performance workshops.

Lillian Boutte again visited our school and ran music workshops, followed by a public performance in the

Parish Church. "Footsteps" Road Safety Training - this invaluable programme helps children develop road safety skills. The junior choir visited Royal Berkshire Court and Hanover Court to sing carols. Class 1 spent a day at Little Wittenham Nature Reserve. Class 5 visited Didcot Girls' School as part of International Week. Class 6 spent five days at Yenworthy adventure hostel. Year 6 had a field trip to Llandudno. A visit to Harcourt Arboretum was arranged for Year 2.

Clubs Football, netball, athletics, chess, swimming, recorders, keyboards, environmental, cricket, computer, board games, internet, gym, rounders, drama. Who provides these opportunities? Yes, our dedicated staff who willingly give up their spare time after school to organise and run these clubs, aided by more and more volunteer helpers.

Charities The children collected (with a lot of help from you!) £204 for Douglas House in Oxford, £300 for Red Nose Day, £500 for Children with Leukemia, and £500 for The Charlton Centre for teenagers and adults with learning difficulties. £140 was raised for Wrong Trousers Day to aid hospices throughout the country, whilst our Macmillan Coffee Morning raised £553. Children filled 90 shoeboxes for "Samaritan's Purse - Operation Christmas Child" and £53 for the Poppy Appeal.

Visitors Two German teachers visited from our partner school in Bavaria. A teacher from our Greek partner school visited with her two sons. A group of Australians, TV chef Antony Worrall Thompson, Mr John Leighfield, Managing Director of Research Machines Plus many others.

Projects There has been a delay over the extension between Classes 6 and 3, but we hope this work will soon be started. This will create a small teaching area for groups of children. Many parents have subscribed both with offers of help and finance. Thank you. The support staff are also requesting a small room and they have already raised £350 by themselves towards furnishings. I have heard whispers of a new computer!

School Council The council comprises a president, vice-president and secretary, with each class electing representatives (even the little ones). They have a monthly meeting to talk over issues concerning the school in general, such as plans for the future of our old playing field. Not long ago they chose the names of the school houses - water, fire, earth and air - much more fun than red, green, yellow and blue. This is proving an excellent way of allowing students more say in the running of their school and the school's future.

Productions The children's Christmas productions were as usual inspiring evenings. They were a delight, beautifully produced and acted, with every child making a contribution in some way or other. The carol service in Church was another inspirational evening.

We have had an invitation from our Australian partner school for

two of our children from Year 6 and our Headteacher to travel to Australia in March to represent our school. These two children were chosen unanimously by the School Council. They will address a large assembly of adults and show a video of our school which our children are now working on. This trip is being funded by the Australian partner school. What a wonderful experience and honour for our school.

Our headteacher was one of a group from other schools who travelled to Singapore to research the provision given to gifted and talented children in their country. Richard was also chosen for international work involving five European partner schools. He has also been flying the Hagbourne flag at a number of conferences, sharing the children's successes with those of the combined efforts of the Didcot partnership of schools.

PTA What can I say? Not many schools can boast such a wonderful group of parents who work for their school. Not only do they keep the swimming pool going (a new liner has just been purchased, at a cost of £6,000) but running costs are paid for, training is provided for life-savers, and the daily upkeep (no mean feat) is constantly being monitored. Our pool is open during the summer months to villagers and outside groups. The PTA also provides many items for school, all for the benefit of our children. The money they raise is through Craft Fairs, 200 Club, quiz nights, ladies' nights, dinner dances, the Cookery Book, and many other events. Any parent who would like to join this happy band, let us know.

Playing Field After eight years our playing field is now ready. It has been a long struggle to provide this facility. It is now drained and seeded, but at the moment the only players to use it are rabbits!

Pedestrian Crossing I shall believe it when I see it, but yes it is going to happen in March/April. We are top of the list! It will be a great relief to know that our children will be safer when crossing the road. Hopefully it will ease the congestion and particularly cut down the speed of traffic coming down Main Road.

Governors We have twelve governors: three from OCC (Monica Lawson, Lynne Carter, Neil Higgins), three from the Church Diocesan (Fr Edwin Clements, Graham Goy, Jeff Powell), three parents (Debbie Thompson, Andrew Kaye, Mark Sutherland), one staff (Ruth Sargison) and Richard as headteacher. Soon, we will need one more parent governor. Elections will be taking place and if you feel you would like to join us please put your name forward. I wish to thank all my fellow governors for their hard work and support. Our aim is to support and further the interests of Hagbourne School, which I believe we do. We have gained charity status and this enables us to obtain relief on any money raised, or gifts donated. The money that the governors raise through bingo, raffle and tombolas are used for the children. An example being to subsidise children on school trips or paying for extras such as the slate mines in Llandudno. Without this money the children would not be given this extra experience. We and the children are grateful for your support.

I feel so proud to be associated with such a caring and vibrant school. If you feel you have any suggestions for further development, or if you can help our school in any way, do not hesitate to contact me (01235 812726).

Yours sincerely

K Monica Lawson,

These reports form part of the *Annual Meeting* of the *Parish Council* of West Hagbourne. Effectively this is like an AGM where we review our accounts, agree the officers of the Parish Council, elect our Chair and Vice Chair and reconsider things like our Insurance, Subscriptions and frequency of Meetings. It is often followed by a normal Parish Council Meeting.

This not to be confused with the *PARISH MEETING which is held once a year* to review the actions and performance of the Parish Council, it would normally receive a report from the Local and District Council, the Tyrrell Trust as well as the Village History Group and the Village Association. It has been requested that these meetings are held in the village, and this year will be held in the garden of Broomsticks on the 22nd May 2004

*your
Parish
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