

West Hagbourne newsletter



December 2005

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riots on Hagbourne Down

The Village History Group have recently uncovered *documents describing riots which took place on Hagbourne Down around 1583*. These riots are described in Star Chamber records held by the Public Record Office.

The Downs were granted to William Dunch and James Braybroke by Thomas Windsor in 1565.

Dunch claimed that the Windsors reneged on the deeds, misinterpreting them for their own purposes. Dunch accused Andrew Windsor, son of Thomas, of *"lewde and ungentlemanlie practys"*, as well as inciting the locals to riot, *"being in warlike manner with bows and arrows... and diverse other weapons"*.

Fences were broken and trees uprooted on two occasions.

Andrew Windsor for his part claimed that Dunch was using the Down for his *"most greedie and insatiable desire of lucre and to the great oppression and impoverishment of the commoners..."* In other words, enclosing land and denying customary access to the woods.

It seems that the inhabitants of West Hagbourne were prepared to take up arms when they felt their rights were threatened in the 16th Century. No waiting for the findings of public inquiries, local government distortion or submissions to the Minister of State in those days!

experimental traffic proposals

Is the village of West Hagbourne brave enough to join the pioneers of a revolutionary new way of thinking in the world of traffic management ?

How would you feel about trying a new psychological approach that has worked in other villages to slow traffic down with some measured success?

The Parish has spoken out clearly in the past against road humps through the village as they would affect too many people and could not guarantee a reduction in flow, even if we could get them implemented.

It has been suggested by OCC that we consider a radical approach within the 30mph zone involving the removal of all the white lines from the centre of the roads and removal of all unnecessary warning 'signage', completely.

The underlying theory is that drivers become less comfortable within a less defined space and as a consequence slow down, and treat other 'users' of the road better. (you may remember this from when the road was re-dressed last year - drivers did become more courteous albeit for a short while)

Following on from earlier successful experiments conducted in Norfolk, the village of Latton near Cirencester has had all conventional traffic signing removed from its village roads, along with all of its road markings, and people are pleased with the results. It is anticipated that similar measures in West Hagbourne will encourage drivers to pay more attention to the road and those on it.

Modern traffic signing and calming is often seen as intrusive by both drivers and residents, and does easily spoil the character of rural villages like ours.

In one test in a Norfolk village, *average speeds fell by up to 8mph* and the speeds of faster drivers by even more, whilst in Wiltshire the County Council has tested removal of white lines from the centre of some roads and found that accidents fell by 35 per cent.

Given the budgetary nonsense in the County the Parish Council have learned that it is extremely unlikely that enough funds - for the build outs and speed activated signs that were suggested as part of Didcot ITS - will ever be granted.

So whilst this is a very radical departure from what we have become accustomed to, *I want to suggest we embrace these new ideas and would like us to say we'll try them, initially as an experiment.*

If the experiment doesn't change traffic behaviour and slow traffic down then the signs can always be reinstated and lines re-painted, but unless we try something soon we may find nothing ever happens at all, or until the village grinds to a halt every morning, or worse, a serious accident happens.

We will debate the proposal *at the next Parish Council meeting in January* and I would like to do this with your input and support, so please tell us if this is too radical or if you are prepared to try something different !

Phil Taylor - Chair of the Parish Council

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Hannah Wing and the Great Wall of China

With the festive season fast approaching us very fast , *we would like to wish all our readers and their families a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.*

Perhaps we could all keep an eye on our neighbours, especially if the season ends up bringing us snow and icy weather. Help clearing paths and a quick hello can make a real difference !

If you are going away, please remember to lock sheds and windows and think about how your house will look if it's left completely dark.





The Parish Council met on Thursday **10th November** at Hagbourne School.

No members of the public attended this meeting.

A senior area traffic engineer from Oxfordshire County Council was present before the meeting and talked to the Parish Council at length about traffic affecting the village, the questions already raised by the Council and repeated requests for action, both to try and calm speeds and discourage rat running. The councillors had a lengthy dialogue and several regulatory points were clarified. Some good proposals were put forward and the Council hopes it will be able to move forward on these ideas soon. There were no other members of the public present and so no other points were raised in the Open Forum.

Planning applications. There were no new planning applications to discuss. The Council had no strong views over the rear extensions to two properties in Main Street, There was no news of the anticipated revised planning application for Didcot West nor had anything been heard about the barn at Ivy farm.

Village maintenance Various minor highway defects have been reported to Highways. As the Council had been advised by their own officers that there was nothing wrong with the dangerous kerb, photos were sent of missing kerbstones on the road towards the Horse and Harrow.

Empty waterways Thames Water have confirmed they are not abstracting water from the West Hagbourne pumping stations, so the absence of water in the pond is entirely due to low rainfall. Blewbury is the nearest place where water is being abstracted. Various items of rubbish have been cleared from the pond and the invasive water weed is to be cleared by Mary-Anne Butler's gardener.

New village notice board and map The notice board is ready for delivery and arrangements will be made for it to be held and then installed.

Green waste It was noted that the Drayton recycling site will be closed for 3½ months from 13th November.

Parish Plan The Steering Group were disappointed at the turnout for the Parish Plan drop-in meetings.

The Steering Group will now finalise the report and draw up the Parish Plan.

Land opposite the Horse and Harrow The Council still wishes to continue with plans for clearance of the site as soon as possible. Quotations have already been sought.

The Sustainable Communities Bill It was decided not to formally support a campaign for this Bill as it could be considered political.

Management of facilities at Didcot West Since the Parish Council meeting we can report that Bernard Mead attended a meeting with Harwell and Didcot to discuss how open spaces, etc. will be managed. The Parish Council's preference is that each parish retains responsibility for facilities in its own area. The Parish Council considers it essential that the green band through the development should be retained. The issue of adequate cemetery provision seems to have been overlooked and the electoral boundary implications may create some interesting debate in the future.

Highway management arrangements It was decided to enter into new arrangements next year - again only for the highways grass cutting (for which a grant is received) and removal of any signs on the highway. The Parish Council has similar arrangements at present.

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 12th January** at Hagbourne School. There will be a special forum at this meeting to consider the radical proposals for changing how through traffic uses the road through the village.

The Parish Council needs to know your views -

You can email your councillors, or telephone them, details on the back page of this newsletter, or write to them - via the Clerk c/o Uplands on Main Street.

If you have anything else you want the Parish Council to consider or act upon - just **tell us !**

The Parish still needs an internal auditor to check our accounts before we submit to the District Auditor. Our accounts are not complicated !

Please contact the Clerk if you can help.

parlez-vous Français?

As a result of a chance comment at the Parish Plan drop-in meeting, we are setting up, for a trial period, an informal French conversation group in West Hagbourne. A need was demonstrated on the recent twinning trip to Meylan, on which West Hagbourne was extremely well represented, where we struggled to communicate with our hosts, whose excellent English put us to shame.

Who is this for ? anyone in the village who wants to practise their French **What level of French is needed ?** Do you have a rusty CGSE, GCE? Can ask your way, order a coffee and buy your bread but want to try something a little more challenging.

What format will the group follow? To be decided. Meetings will be held in the village, probably circulating around the member's homes.



Interested ? contact **Janet Cockburn or Sue Totterdell**

The Tyrrell Trust offers small grants to young people resident in the village to sponsor musical, sporting, educational or other worthwhile initiatives.

Want to know more about The Tyrrell Trust? Visit the West Hagbourne website to find out more about the history of our own village Trust and you can read about Hannah Wing's recent visit to Beijing in this newsletter.

Grants are on offer each year for individuals or groups (up to £100 for groups). Please contact Bridget Pickup 850 392 or Marion Judd 850 434 for more information about the grants.

Written grant applications should be sent to Bridget Pickup, 12 Manor Close.

parish plan update

The Parish Plan Progresses.

Two drop-in meetings were held in October to present the results of the survey and to identify which projects villagers want to take forward. Transport was provided to both meetings.

The first, in Hagbourne Village Hall, was well-attended but the second, held on a Saturday afternoon, seemed less popular. Nevertheless, a number of people volunteered for specific activities (see the list below) and these will be taken forward in the Parish Plan. The next step for the Steering Group is to help these volunteers get their proposed projects started and to produce a Parish Plan detailing the villagers' short, medium and long term goals. It will also show how we will monitor our progress and evaluate our successes. We hope to have the Plan ready in the

Spring and copies will be delivered to each household. We gratefully acknowledge a grant from Oxfordshire Rural Communities Council towards the costs of the meetings and the production of the Plan.

We would like to thank all those people who offered to get involved at the meetings and those who have contacted us subsequently. Nevertheless, there is still time for you to join in. In particular we are looking for volunteers to help with regular village tidying sessions, but would like to hear from anyone who wants to contribute their efforts in any form. One outcome of the Plan will be to hold a list of volunteers.

In the meantime, please contact **Sue Totterdell on 850080** or e-mail via the web site.

	TIME SCALE	WHAT	WHO	OUTCOME
TRANSPORT & TRAFFIC				
TRAFFIC	SHORT TERM	Set up a traffic group to monitor traffic issues in the village, to campaign for improvements	<i>John Baile & Mike Butler with Doreen & John Watling Tony Pickup, John Thornhill Phil Taylor</i>	Reduced traffic through village Reduced speeds through village
TRANSPORT	MEDIUM TERM	Cycling group to lobby for improved routes	<i>Mike Butler & Keith Walton</i>	Cycle route to West Didcot & DGS
VILLAGE LIFE				
RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS	SHORT TERM	Set up a register of volunteers/skills	<i>Andrea Mitchell / Sue Totterdell</i>	List of volunteers, (updated annually)
VILLAGE EVENTS	SHORT TERM	Coffee morning	<i>Val Walton & Hazel Rack</i>	Coffee morning
	MEDIUM TERM	Village Garage sale (+ plants?)	<i>Paul Ryman</i>	Sale arranged
VILLAGE APPEARANCE	LONG TERM	More regular clean-ups, improvements	<i>Dave Totterdell John Thornhill, Mary Ann Butler</i>	Two clean ups a year Help with flower planting
	LONG TERM	Location for memorial grove of trees	<i>Marion Judd</i>	Location found First trees planted
VILLAGE MEETING PLACE	SHORT TERM	Identify a suitable location & investigate funding opportunities	<i>Marion Judd / Sue Totterdell</i>	Site found List of possible grants
	MEDIUM TERM	Establish what sort of facilities might be used.		Survey to find out what is needed
	LONG TERM	Draw up plans		Plans prepared
HOUSING FOR VILLAGERS	MEDIUM TERM	Discuss feasibility with Rural housing agency Identify possible locations	<i>Sheila Taylor</i>	Locations identified for affordable houses (4 ?) for villagers
COMMUNICATIONS				
NEWSLETTER	MEDIUM TERM	Increase the number of contributors	<i>Janet Cockburn</i>	More contributors to help the WHPC
INTEGRATION INTO VILLAGE LIFE	MEDIUM TERM	Prepare a welcome pack for newcomers	<i>Andrea Mitchell & Mary Ann Butler</i>	Welcome packs distributed
YOUNG PEOPLE	MEDIUM TERM	Young people's web site	<i>To be identified</i>	New web pages

South and Vale Carers Centre

The Carers Centre is just going into its thirteen year of supporting unpaid family and friend Carers in your area. We have consistently received support from your local Parish/Town Council which enables us to continue to identify Carers and help them with benefit forms, getting suitable services, general advice on any problems they are facing, or just with a cup of tea and someone to talk to who understands what it is like to be a family carer. In addition to this support, contact with the Carers Centre will allow you to access the following free and confidential services.

- Time for Carers Service which is small amounts of financial support to purchase services or items to support your caring role including a small amount of help to look after the person you support while you have a break.

- An advocacy worker who will take up difficult or confused cases and pursue them through to conclusion with the various agencies.
- Carer Training to help with your caring role, moving and handling, stress management etc
- The help of Young Carers workers to support children and young people who help to look after a parent or sibling. We take them on outings and let them have fun.

Although being a Carer is very rewarding it can also be a very demanding, difficult and frustrating role, as well.

So for those times we are here for you, so call us on 01235 510212 and we will visit you at home.

next meeting

The next meeting of the *Parish Council* will be held on the *Thursday 12th January* at 7.30 in Hagbourne School, East Hagbourne.

green waste scheme

You can buy SODC's green recycling sacks directly from the Clerk - contact *Roger Sweet* on 850492

tree planting volunteers

Last year Oxfordshire County Council offered generous numbers of free native trees and hedging to Parish Councils for local planting. This year we have received another similar offer and a working party will be needed to carry out the planting in the New Year.

If you would like to offer some help with tree planting, probably during January 2006, please contact Marion Judd on 850 434. All offers of help gratefully received!



village association

The annual general meeting of the Association was held on Tuesday 29th November.

Peter Mitchell (Chair), Hazel Rack (Secretary) and Keith Walton (Treasurer) were re-elected. New members welcomed include Roger Sweet (who has agreed to be the new Communications Officer), Mike Parker, Simon Ford and Eva Pinkava.

All residents of the village, including new residents, are automatically members of the Association which was originally formed to raise money for the Village History Book. Latterly the Association has focused primarily on social events for residents.

The most popular and successful event run by the Association during this year was the Pâté, Pimms and Pudding lunch held in September.

Suggestions for future events are welcomed - if anyone has ideas about events that people would enjoy, then please contact Hazel Rack on 851 241 - all suggestions will be welcomed.

Gardeners please note: judging for the Madge Trophy will take place next year in June.

Information about the Village Association including minutes of meetings and notification about planned events will soon be available *on the village website*.

christmas Mail

The Royal Mail informs us that our last collection of letters from the square is **5pm Monday to Friday**

Last posting dates for Christmas

17th December - Second Class

20th December - First Class

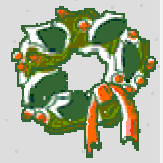


Post is still being collected mid morning as well as mid afternoon, but this mail will arrive at their destination no quicker than those posted at 5pm.

A collection is made at Cockcroft Post Office at midday on Saturdays and the last post on weekdays is 6.30pm at the main Royal Mail depot in Didcot.

planning applications

- New rear extension at Apple Trees, Main Street
 - New rear extension at 2, Main Street
 - Two storey expansion at Scotland's Ash Nursery
- The outcome from SODC planning department is still awaited on the following:*
- Ivy Farm Barn conversion and Didcot West



your Parish Council

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Marion Judd 850434 *Vice-Chair*

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the clerk

Roger Sweet 850492

parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

the tyrrell trust turning mandarin

I was given the exciting opportunity through my school (Didcot Girls') to take part in a summer school for two and a half weeks to go to China and learn Mandarin in Beijing.

Naturally, I jumped at the chance to get involved and I would like to thank *the Tyrrell Trust* for helping me to make it possible.

The course involved spending my two and a half weeks in the Central University of Nationalities (CUN) and being taught by university professors for three hours almost every day. The classes were quite difficult as our professors could not speak much English.

In a way it was better because we could *hear* how the language is used and we were able to pick it up quite well. As well as learning the language we were able to visit many famous sites such as Tiananmen Square, the Summer Palace, the Forbidden City and of course the great Wall of China.

Although, in true British style, it rained all the time we were at the great Wall, which was brilliant, and it was dry when we got back to Central University .

We got the chance to do lots of traditional Chinese things such as Kung Fu, paper cutting, calligraphy, painting and mask painting, all taught by the professors of the University and translated by our guides. We got amazing opportunities to understand the culture of China and make some friends that we're still in contact with and will be for a long time.

I'd love the chance to go back to China because it was just an amazing experience and I'd love to get an even longer time to explore its secrets and sites.

Hannah Wing

盈歎何書時 to

Would anyone like the mobile library to call in the village ? Please let the clerk know and this will be arranged, the County Library Service have kindly offered (even if only one person asks)



Congratulations to proud parents Steve Gore and Julia Tiller on the birth of their *triplets* on November 12th. James, Sophie and Isabelle are still in hospital and making good progress. We look forward to seeing them safely home in West Hagbourne before too long.