

West Hagbourne newsletter

February 2006

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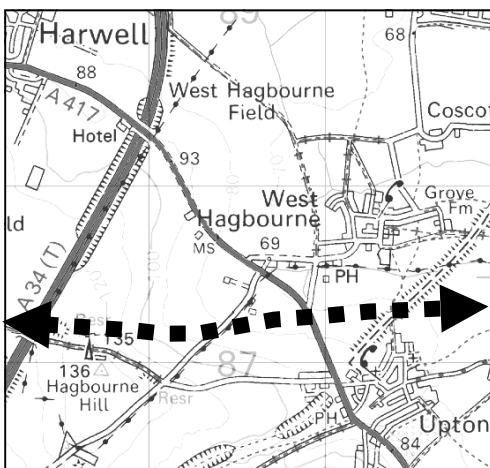


A belated **Happy New** to all of our readers and well done to those of you who took the time to make the most of your decorations during the festive season. **The lights on some houses in the village were really fabulous** and the inflating Santa did make lots of people smile as they passed by.

Hagbourne Hill pipeline

A new pipeline is being built by Thames Water from Goring to Fyfield.

The 900mm diameter water pipeline will come to the reservoir on Hagbourne Hill and so you will see a 25m wide construction area. Work should start around June. There will be some construction traffic - but it should be confined within its own working area. Hedgerows removed, will be re-instated when construction is complete.



experiment proposed

Last year a detailed electronic traffic survey was taken in Main Street and on the stretch of road beyond the Horse and Harrow.

As a result the Parish Council has now asked Oxfordshire County Council Highways department to consider making the village the subject of an experimental traffic scheme. This may involve removal of some of the signage and the centre white lines within the 30mph zone, on the proviso that - should it not be proved that traffic speeds are reduced, they are re-instated - is agreed to, by the OCC Highways Department.

In a recent extract from The Psychologist:

A NEW report from the Transport Research Laboratory suggests that using 'psychological' measures to lower traffic speed - for example, reducing the perceived width of the road - may be preferable to physical strategies like road humps and signs. The research team, which included Society member Mark Elliott, held focus groups with drivers to identify potentially effective psychological measures.

They then conducted trials with a driving simulator, before testing the efficacy of a real-life scheme in the village of Latton, in Wiltshire. That village scheme involved adding stone gateways to the entrance and exit of the village, removing the road's central white line. Driving speeds were reduced significantly. The authors said only a small proportion of this effect could be explained by the change in speed limit.

meet over coffee



As requested by many of you and as a result of the Parish Plan this is **an opportunity to meet friends and your neighbours** both new and old.

You are invited to a **coffee morning**

to be held at Keith and Val Walton's home **Fairview in York Road**

on **Wednesday 22nd February** 10-30am to noon

There will be a **bring and buy** stall - £1.00 for coffee and biscuits and **all profits will be used for a deserving cause in the village**

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Parish Council report

The Parish Council met on *Thursday 12th January* at Hagbourne School.

One member of the public attended the *Open Forum* and the experimental traffic proposals to remove white lines and unnecessary road signs from within the entire 30mph zone were discussed at length. There were concerns voiced, and the evidence for the benefits in reduced speeds shown in other villages across the country was considered.

Planning applications

- The revised submission for Didcot West was discussed and it was apparent that there were several matters in the submission from the developers that the Parish Council were concerned about. Councillors will finalise the detail of the Parish Council's response.
- The Parish Council had no objection to the planning application for a conservatory at Fairview, York Rd.
- The planning application for a rear extension at Appletrees, Main Street has been approved by the District Council.

Experimental traffic proposals

As the road through the village is less than 5.5 metres wide and there is no statutory requirement for the white lines, there was concern that the County Council would refuse to reinstate them should the experiment not be a success and traffic speed not be reduced. Therefore it was decided (by a majority vote) to implement the changes, on the proviso that the Parish Council received an assurance from the County Council Highways Dept that the lines could be re-instated if the Parish Council requests this.

Village tidy-up

A village tidy-up will be carried out in the spring. As well as litter collection, this time it will include sweeping

pavements. The District Council will be requested to sweep the kerbside gutters and the County Council to trim back the overgrowing grass to the footpath between York Road and the Horse and Harrow, especially close to Lizard Bank. It was hoped that East Hagbourne Parish Council might coincide efforts with litter collection at parish boundaries, e.g. near Coscote.

Parish Plan

Although the Steering Group has not met since the last Newsletter was published, progress is being made by most of the volunteer groups.

Land adjacent to Horse and Harrow

Chilton Construction has been appointed to clear and level the ground during January.

Tree Planting

extensive new hedgerow tree planting will occur in January to provide screening from the Didcot West development.

Mobile Library Service

A request has been received by the Parish Council for the Mobile Library to come to the village. This has been passed on to the County Council, but there has been no response so far.

The *next meeting* of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 9th March at Hagbourne School.

Didcot Great West Park

The REVISED planning proposals for 3,200 new houses plus ancillary facilities and schools in what is described as Didcot Great Western Park have been lodged with SODC and *the Parish Council has responded* in detail to the planning department.

If anyone wishes to see a copy of the Parish Council's response, please contact the Clerk.



tree planting

New trees were planted to provide screening from the Didcot West development.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the tree planting on Saturday 21st January. Over 30 native saplings and hedgerow plants were planted along the track from Coscote across the back of York Farm. In years to come these will help to screen West Hagbourne from the Didcot West development.

Thanks also go to Dickie Allen for allowing the trees to be planted on his land, and to Bob Warner for donating 5 silver birch trees that were planted with the others.

Special thank you

We would like to thank all of our family, friends and neighbours for coming to help us celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary.

It was a lovely day and we hope you enjoyed it as well. Also thanks for all the lovely flowers and for the contributions made to Breasts Cancer Research.

We collected £300 which we will take to the Churchill Hospital. Thank you once again

Marge & Ernie Coster

heavy traffic on Main street

Several residents have recently complained that the number of overweight Vehicles passing through the village is increasing. Some large vehicles do need to deliver to the farms, but a number are using us as a short cut up to and from, the A34 at Chilton

Drivers of heavy vehicles / loads that flout the permitted weight limit (of 7.5T) by using Main Street can be reported directly to OCC's Trading Standards service who say they will take action.

The service can be contacted by:

Phone: **0845 051 0845**

e-mail: trading.standards@oxfordshire.gov.uk

website: <http://www.oxon-tss.org.uk/>

address: **OCC Trading Standards Service**
PO Box 618, County Hall, Oxford OX1 1DX

Phone or visit the website to find out about the wide range of consumer advice leaflets available. Useful information provided includes how to stop unwanted junk mail and cold calling and how to block premium rate calls.

It would help the village's traffic campaign **if people would report overweight vehicles seen passing through Main Street whenever possible.**

Accidents to village car users and pedestrians:

facts & figures needed

The Parish Council would be grateful to hear from any resident who has had an accident, collision or a near miss, no matter how small, (e.g. knocks, bumps, splashing, damage to vehicles etc) that has been caused by traffic passing through the village.

Unless these events are recorded, they cannot be taken into account when we argue for traffic calming. Even backdated notes will help us immensely.

sad news

It is with great sadness that we report the death of **Steve Gore** who died in hospital on Tuesday 24th January after a short illness.

Steve was known to many people in the village. He was an active member of the Village Association and his quiet and diligent help at village events and on various working parties was always greatly appreciated.

Latterly Steve coped with his illness with great bravery and fortitude.

He will be sorely missed by all his friends and acquaintances in the village and beyond and especially by his wife Julia, his three young babies and close family to whom our sympathy goes out.



Farming and the Countryside

The hedge cutting programme has been completed while the plants are dormant and we have been busy checking all the canes and guards around the trees, we have replaced over 1000 this year, mainly due to the damage caused by deer.

We have been accepted into the ELS (government Entry Level Scheme) so we have strict regulations to follow with how we maintain all the hedgerows and field margins etc. this is just a management scheme so doesn't include capital work like the CSS (Countryside Stewardship Scheme). Our CSS has nearly been completed, only three more years of maintenance to do.

Everything has to be recorded and ready for inspection at any time. So all of our field applications and operations are recorded on a computer program so that we always know precisely what work has been carried out and how much product has been applied. With the trace elements we are now using satellite mapping which can even tell us what part of the field requires more or less of the product and even when not to apply at all. The autumn applications have been done.

The winter spraying has been completed for various herbicide and fungicide protection, this is kept to a minimum.

The woodlands seem to be growing well and apart from the damage (mentioned above) not many trees have died.

Winter time is when we tidy up the farm and work on any repair and maintenance jobs to buildings, stables etc.

There are a lot of owls about at present, Chris saw a barn owl out the back the other evening and we often hear the Tawny and the Little owls.

The resident cock pheasant knows which side his bread is buttered on and remains local strutting around the gardens. The shoot has finished for this season, and it has been a successful year.

The Fox and Vixen have been spotted on the embankment and in the woodland, so look out all poultry keepers - they're back with a vengeance!!



You will notice that we are down to one solitary Indian Runner drake on the pond, just before Christmas his last friend disappeared, there were no signs of a fox - so I think that someone received him as a Christmas present!! The lonely soldier chats to the Moorhens and comes for his corn every morning; perhaps a wild duck will join forces with him in the spring, he is really very handsome!! The pond is filling up very slowly but the streams still all remain dry.

Sue Lay

next meeting

The next meeting of the *Parish Council* will be held on the *Thursday 9th March* at **7.30** in Hagbourne School, East Hagbourne.

green waste scheme

You can still *buy SODC's green recycling sacks* directly from the Clerk - contact *Roger Sweet* on 850492 and Green Recycling boxes are available too

village association news

The Village Association committee met on Tuesday 10th January .

A *village lunch* will be held on *Sunday 2nd July* preceded by a *mystery village trail* for children and adults. Please keep this date free and come along!

consumer direct

The government has recently set up a new consumer advice and information service. For queries or advice on concerns relating to consumer goods and purchases, contact the service on **08454 04 05 06** or via their website www.consumerdirect.gov.uk

www.westhagbourne.org

Information about the Village Association, local links, previous newsletter and minutes of meetings of the Parish Council as well as notification about planned events are available *on the village website*. Remember the webmaster is still looking for help to develop the site plus ideas for inclusion.

Royal Mail

The Post is still being collected in the village mid-morning as well as mid-afternoon, Monday to Friday but this mail will arrive no quicker than anything 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

- Fairview—rear extension
 - expansion at Scotland's Ash Nursery **WITHDRAWN**
- The outcome from SODC planning department is still awaited on the following:*
- Ivy Farm Barn conversion
 - Didcot West—Revised

your Parish Council

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the clerk

Roger Sweet 850492
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mobile library to call in the village ? We have asked the County Library Service to re-instate the library calling in to the village. Details will be posted on the web site and on the notice boards when they have been confirmed.

cycle tracks

A book on English cycle tracks has been acquired by the Parish. Residents can borrow it by contacting Roger Sweet on 850 492 . You will be asked to sign for it.

report from County & District Councillor *Patrick Greene*

- *County Council meetings can now be viewed live via a web cam over the internet.*
- There will be no increase in SODC car parking charges during 2006/07.
- From 1st April 2006, only people of 70 and over, disabled people and their carers will be eligible to receive £20 worth of travel tokens per annum. Details of how this affects this area to be confirmed in the next newsletter.
Details available from the clerk.



0845 8 505 505

the single number for Thames Valley Police

This number should be used for all non-emergency calls to Thames Valley Police, which covers the counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

All calls will be charged at local rates.

This is now the only non-emergency contact number for Thames Valley Police.

In an emergency call 999. It is an emergency if a crime is being committed, or is about to be committed, or if there is a risk of serious injury.

www.thamesvalley.police.uk



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