

West Hagbourne newsletter

April 2006

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idea for memorial

Parish Councillors have been considering the question of whether people might like to have a special place to plant trees in memory of deceased village residents, given that the garden by the bus shelter is fully planted and there are very few other places available in the village.

Sue Lay has suggested that people could plant a tree in memory of someone on the parish boundary, *with of course the permission of the landowner.*

The location of memorial trees and who they were planted for would then be marked on a map of the village and kept by the Parish Council and the Village History Society in perpetuity for all to see. Over time this would provide a long term record of people who have lived in West Hagbourne as well as enhancing the Parish borders.



new village map

The new notice board and village map have now been installed in the square.

Thanks to all the hard work of the village History Group.

please slow down in moor lane

several people have narrowly avoided being run down, remember pedestrians have right of way on this ancient byway !

village hall committee member

The Hagbourne Village Hall Committee is seeking an additional member from West Hagbourne, in addition to the Parish Council representative. If you would like to find out more, or would be interested in contributing to the work of this committee, please contact either Keith Little on 850 094 or the Parish Clerk on 850 492.

travel token changes

From the 1st April 2006 SODC will be offering those **over 60 a FREE bus pass**. This allows travel anywhere in South Oxfordshire, Reading and Oxford City. It also lets you to travel to Abingdon, Princes Risborough, High Wycombe, Stoke Mandeville Hospital and destinations on the way.

If you are **over the age of 70** you can now **choose** between the free bus pass, or £20 worth of travel tokens which can be used on bus, train, taxi or local voluntary transport schemes.

You need to apply for the bus pass, you will need a passport photo and you will have to submit an **application form**, please contact the clerk for further details.



The Parish Council does not supplement this, as this would mean another increase in the precept which is collected as part of your council tax bill.

mobile library - good news!

As of Friday 16th June, West Hagbourne will be getting a regular visit from the mobile library. It will stop in the village every other Friday. Details to follow on web site and notice boards.

It will have a good range of books for adults and children that are issued for four weeks. The mobile library will also carry audio books, videos and may carry DVD's too - videos and DVDs are loaned for one visit only. For a nominal charge, you will be able to order anything in the library catalogue. All the mobile libraries have a passenger lift.

If you are already a member of Oxfordshire Libraries, you need only to bring along your existing ticket to make use of the mobile library's facilities. If not bring along 2 forms of identification that show your name and address, and join straight away.

The use of the service will be reviewed regularly, and if demand warrants it then Oxfordshire Libraries will arrange a longer visit.

Easter Holiday for young people

SODC is running a range of Easter Holiday activities for young people. For more details please contact the Parish Clerk.

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village *tidy up* on April 22nd

history group host *coffee morning* May 6th

parish council report

The Parish Council met on **Thursday 9th March** at Hagbourne School.

One member of the public attended the Open Forum and the new notice board and village map and the new concessionary fares were discussed.

Planning applications The Parish Council's objection to the revised planning application for Didcot West has been submitted.

Cllr. Patrick Greene has advised that there is likely to be further delay as the Highways Agency has objected on the grounds of additional traffic accessing the A34.

Planning permission for the conservatory at Fairview, York Road was granted.

The Planning Officer dealing with the barn conversion at Ivy Farm has advised that he is still waiting for further information from the applicant.

Experimental traffic proposals The County Council's Area Traffic Engineer has confirmed his agreement to replacing the white lines and any signs removed if traffic speeds are increased or other problems are identified. A decision will now be made on which signs can be removed and arrangements will now be made for the white line and signs to be removed.

Village tidy-up The village tidy-up will be on 22nd April. Volunteers will be sought to carry out other minor jobs, e.g. exposing the Foxglove Lane end of School Path which is lost under the mud.

The future of Didcot Bernard Mead attended a workshop held for parish councillors on the "Vision for Didcot's future".

Marion Judd has also attended a similar workshop although the emphasis was on Health Service provision in the town, although it also considered wider issues about Didcot's future.

Memorial tree planting A suggestion was made for a memorial grove for the village to be included in the Parish Plan. The Parish Council has decided instead to facilitate memorial tree planting along the parish boundaries with the locations of each tree recorded on a map and this will now be included in the Parish Plan. Of course landowners' permission will be needed for any planting and the Parish Council feels it should create a map showing land ownership in the parish.

The new notice board and map The new notice board purchased for the Village History Group's new village map is now in place and the new map will now be fitted as soon as possible. Future use of the old notice board, perhaps as a third parish notice board, will be discussed by the parish council.

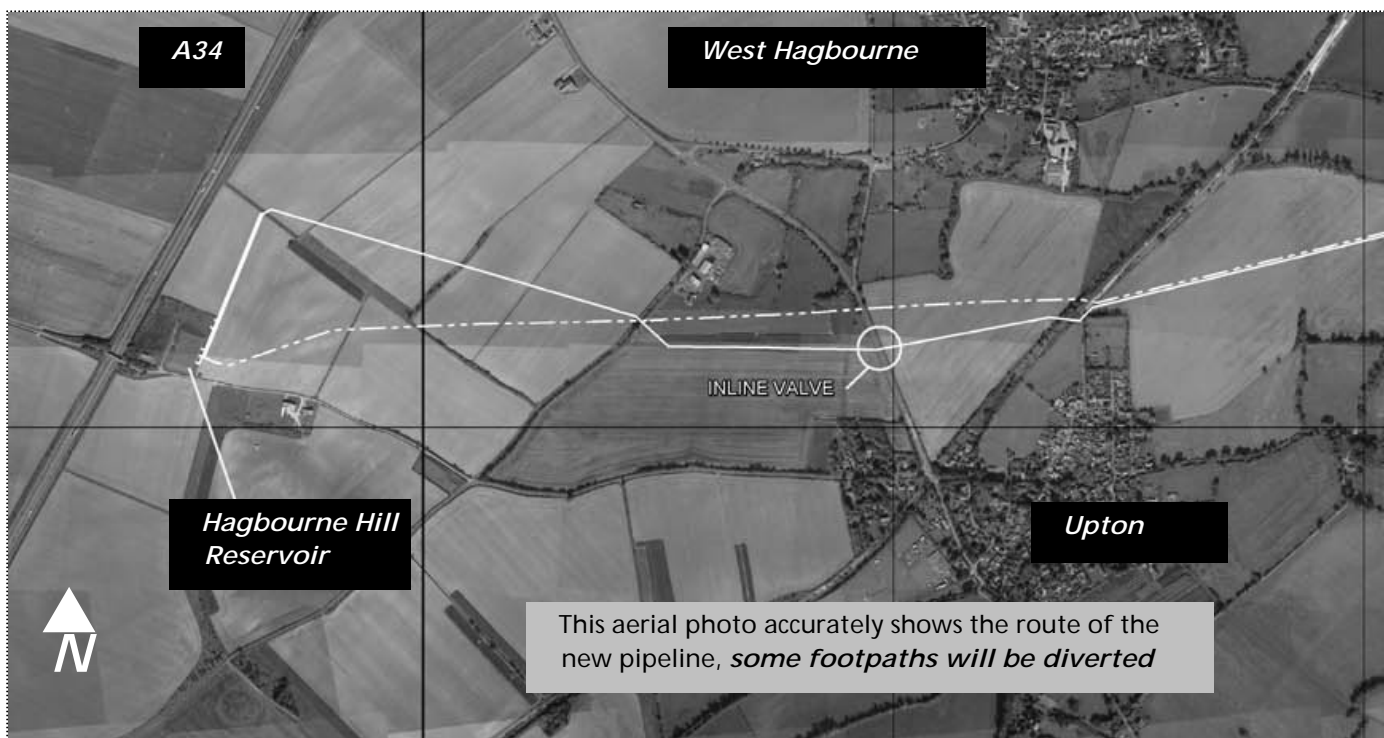
Parish Plan Progress is being made, and it is now in its final stages. The first village coffee morning has been held and was most successful.

Land adjacent to Horse and Harrow The ground was not cleared in January as expected. Chilton Construction now say they will clear the ground during March.

It was agreed that the **Annual Parish Meeting** will be on **Saturday 20th May** and will be held in the garden of Broomsticks (by kind permission of Marion Judd).

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Thursday 11th May** at Hagbourne School. This will be preceded by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

route of the new thames water pipeline



farming *and the Countryside*

The application of fertiliser is in progress, the spring beans have been planted and where the ground is hollow underneath the growing corn has been rolled, what we need now is a good dose of rain!

We have had to keep the bangers active on the rape and bean fields as the pigeons and rooks are having a wonderful time digging out and eating all the young shoots. There are a lot of rookeries around it must have been a prolific breeding season last year.

The lapwings are back in the field behind the house but I doubt they will nest there as it is a winter crop and it grows too high for them, they prefer a spring crop or fallow which of course with the change in farming practices the majority of cropping is done in the autumn.

We have been tidied up the horse paddocks and chain harrowed them to promote new grass growth. Fencing has been erected, stables renovated where necessary, and the livery is full to capacity at the moment, with the added addition of a foal to everybody's delight! (In the last paddock near the embankment).

Quote from local RSPB – Did You Know? – ‘You would think that tawny owls must have 20:20 vision to be able to fly around in the middle of the night, but in fact, their eyesight isn't much better than ours. Their secret is to know every inch of their territory like the back of their wing, so that they can fly from memory. It's their fantastic hearing that enables them to pinpoint their prey’.



The pond has some water in it as last, without a decent regular top up during the next few months it will be dry again before the end of summer, the streams are also very low for the time of year.

With Spring just around the corner, the daffodils should be at their height of splendour for Easter and our village should look wonderful.

Sue Lay Hagbourne Farm Partners

new feature

A suggestion received at the Parish Plan Roadshow was for this newsletter to include personal announcements and messages.

If you would like us to include any of the following:-

Anniversaries, Birthdays, Births, Congratulations, Commemorations, Commiserations, Engagements, Weddings, Welcomes, etc .

Please send the details of items to be included in the next newsletter to - janet@jcockburn.plus.com

- *We would like to extend a warm welcome to Nicki and Alex and their daughters Hazel and Lolly (Laurel) who have recently moved into "Brook Furlong" in Main Street.*
- *Congratulations to all those who attended the first coffee morning at Fairview. It raised £140 and a special thanks to everyone who helped arrange this successful event.*

guide to road safety in Oxfordshire 2005/06

The Parish Council has received copies of the new OCC Guide to Road Safety in Oxfordshire 2005/06.

The guide covers topics such as Oxfordshire casualty statistics, in-car safety, cycle safety, education, drinking and driving, use of mobile phones in cars, older road users and what to do in event of an accident.

To obtain a copy, please contact the Parish Clerk

parish plan steering group

The Parish plan made considerable progress over the past year. Villagers were invited to see the outcome of the Parish Survey at drop-in meetings in Upton and East Hagbourne Village Halls. They were also asked to sign up for those projects that they were most keen to see taken forward.

The greatest support was expressed for a Transport and Traffic lobby group and it is planned to arrange their first meeting in April.

Interest was expressed in having some day time social events and a successful coffee morning was organised by Val Walton and Hazel Rack. It is hoped that this will prompt further events.

A Village French conversation group that meets once a month was also established following the drop in meetings. Do you have an interest you would like to share? It is not too late to include this in the plan.

Marion Judd has been seeking suitable sites for a Memorial Grove and a suggestion has been made and which will be pursued. To plant trees around the Parish Boundary. These trees would be marked on a master plan, perhaps displayed in the village, and would provide some formal expression of the historic extent of the parish, hopefully resisting further erosion. Other projects under way include the preparation of a 'Welcome Pack' for new villagers, which will be managed by Andrea Mitchell and Mary Ann Butler, and the establishment of a 'personal' column in the village newsletter..

The Steering Group will be working on producing a written plan in the next few weeks and this will be circulated to all households for comments. They will then arrange a meeting to formally adopt the plan and to establish how progress to delivery will be monitored. ***Your help continues to be essential to the success of any plan adopted.***

next meetings

The next meeting of the **Parish Council** will be its formal Annual Meeting and will be followed by an Ordinary Meeting.

It will be held on the **Thursday 11th May** at **7.30** in Hagbourne School

annual parish meeting

will be held in the garden of Broomsticks on **Saturday 20th May** at **3pm** - this is your chance to come and raise anything of importance, ask questions and catch up

new waste scheme

SODC has introduced a regular collection NEW brown wheelie bin scheme for compostable garden waste - for an annual cost of £29 - contact SODC



Green boxes are available FREE for weekly paper and plastic Recycling, but the last collection for eco sacks will be on June 2nd

village association news

A **village lunch** will be held on **Sunday 16th July** preceded by a **mystery village trail** for children and adults. Please keep this date free and come along!

Thirty one people enjoyed a lively **Skittles evening** on Saturday 18th March. A number of cut-throat skittle players were revealed; the winner was Juliette Little, with Ted Kendrick and Eva Pinkova a close second. The evening raised a total of £112 from a raffle (£82) and donations. Thanks go to all the pudding-makers and organisers of the event

www.westhagbourne.org

Information about the village, local links, previous newsletters and minutes of meetings of the Parish Council as well as notification about planned events on the website

gardeners note

Madge Trophy **judging** will take now place this year in the month of **June**

police station hours

Revised opening hours of police stations

Didcot Mon, Tues & Sat 1000 – 1800

Wed, Thurs, Fri 0800 – 2000

Abingdon Mon – Sun 0800 – 2200

oxfordshire highways

the County Council, Isis Accord and Babtie now have a single telephone number for all highways enquiries covering all area offices: which is now **0845 310 11 11**

planning applications

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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phil@philltaylor.demon.co.uk

Marion Judd 850434 **Vice-Chair**

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the clerk

Roger Sweet 850492

parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

newsletter copy deadlines

- **April** 30 March
- **June** 30 May
- **August** 30 July
- **October** 30 September
- **December** 30 November
- **February** 30 January 2007

please email copy for inclusion to parishclerk@westhagbourne.org



village tidy up Saturday 22nd April

Every year we ask for volunteers to help walk the footpaths, gather litter, this year we want to also cut back overhanging bushes and brambles on some of the lanes and paths.

Everyone welcome - young and old, so even if you only have an hour to spare, come and do your bit please. **2pm at the bus shelter**



garage sale in May

There are plans to hold a village garage sale in May contact Sue Totterdell for more information or look out for details on the web site and on the notice boards

The Village History Group have arranged a

bring and buy coffee morning

at Silva Felix, York Rd

on **Saturday May 6th**

10.30 - 12 noon

£1 for coffee and biscuits and **all** the profits will be for a deserving cause in the village