

next meeting

The next meeting of the *Parish Council* will be held on **Thursday 8th March** starting at **7.30** in Hagbourne School

tell everybody



Would you like the Newsletter to include a section on personal events or activities or a feature to promote an event ?

Please send items for the next Newsletter to janet@jcockburn.plus.com

book exchange

A small book exchange is held by Marion Judd at Broomsticks. If you are short of reading material, or if you have a book to exchange, please come along and see what there is. A fee of 20p is being charged for Village Association funds. Please phone Marion first on 850 434

skip this month

There will be a skip for green waste provided on **Saturday 24th February** on Greengate Lane just off York Road between 9am - Noon

brown bins

As the 8th January collection of green waste didn't happen because of the weather the next collection **will also take** any open bags of green compostable waste that are left next to the bin.

mobile library

the library will now be stopping outside the **Little Acorns Day Nursery** at 09:20am as well as the present stop at **The Square** on 09.00-09:15am

skill swap

if you'd like to offer to swap some ironing in return for someone clearing your gutters, or dog walking in return for a trip to the dump - send details to janet@jcockburn.plus.com

madge trophy

judging in 2007 will take place in July

bike night

the Annual North Berks MCC British Bike Night will be held this year at the Horse and Harrow on Tuesday 17th July 2007

bridge building

After the recent vandalism in the village, the Bridge on Moor Lane was repaired and then almost replaced. Hopefully the one that crosses further East will receive similar attention soon.

verges and grass

To continue to keep the village tidy, the Parish Council is monitoring the 'revised' village grass cutting contract and would like to hear from people about any verges that are not being cut. Or if there any other areas that you think should be considered or excluded then please contact the Parish Clerk or any Councillor with information or concerns.

Do bear in mind that the cutting of the verges is one of the biggest single expenditures the Council undertakes, and extending it will affect the precept.

village association

Invitation to all residents of West Hagbourne You are all invited to a **free lunch** to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Village Association on **Sunday 8th July** between 12.00 - 4.00 pm at Broomsticks on Main Street.



Please reserve this date in your diaries. We hope that everyone will come along for food and entertainment. More details will be circulated nearer the time.

travel token distribution

SODC is changing the method for distributing travel tokens. Following a consultation with town and parish councils, from the 1st April 2007 travel tokens will be sent **direct** to individuals concerned. This change has been primarily driven by security concerns.

Every applicant who receives travel tokens will be sent a renewal form to request their travel tokens for the following year. Only new applicants will be required to fill in an applications form, supplies of these forms will be available from the Parish Clerk.

More detailed information will be passed on to residents as soon as it becomes available.

green waste bags

SODC are introducing some alternative options for the green waste collection service from this April.

Smaller wheelies will be available for people who don't have enough room or don't generate enough waste for a large bin. Cost £29 pa or £27.50 if paid by direct debit.

A year's supply of biodegradable 110 litre sacks can be provided to people who are generally unable to use a wheelie (this might involve a visit from SODC to verify). 52 sacks will cost £29 or £27.50 by direct debit.

Contact SODC on 01491 823416 or you can email them at recycling@southoxon.gov.uk

thanks for hard work

Well done and thanks to the Steering Group who have now produced and published the Parish Plan, and to the Village Appearance Group - and in particular Dave Totterdell for spending such a long time with a shovel, clearing back the layers of mud that have built up and now removed from the tarmac path as it leaves Foxglove Lane and joins School Path.

West Hagbourne newsletter

February 2007

Vol 2007 Issue 74

parish plan delivered

Saturday 10th February was a date to mark in your diary as it saw the delivery of the first Parish Plan for West Hagbourne.

This document, produced by a small steering group, with the help of all of the residents of West Hagbourne, sets out villagers' priorities for the next few years.

If you were one of those unable to make the event in Hagbourne Village Hall you will be pleased to know that you can pick up your copy at the Annual Parish Meeting, later this year, or download your copy from the Village web site.

borneo report



The Tyrell Trust has helped young people from the village over the years and on page 3 is a report from Hannah Wing who went on a trip of a lifetime to Borneo.

floods, wind, now snow

Despite the change in the way our weather happens, it seems mother nature is very determined to test all parts of our waste water and foul drainage system.

The persistent calls to the Highways department and Thames Water did at last achieve some results to deal with the latest surface water problems on our roads.

The ditch and culverts on Brook Lane were all cleared out and part of the subterranean pipe work replaced. The best quote of the day came from the men working on it, one of whom said "**this road isn't meant to cope with so much traffic**".

Thames Water have refused to tell the Parish Council why they have spent so much time pumping out the sewerage system, but they have moved to the Square, where it can be done more safely. It would appear fresh water is flooding the underground piping, and the pump in the village can't cope. Investigations continue to locate the source and remedy it.



The recent storms have done lots of damage to the hedgerows in Moor Lane - more vegetation needs cutting back and the ditches clearing to help keep the culverts in Main Street clear.

in this issue

diary dates

free lunch

elections May

Police visit

diamond opens

travel tokens

Parish Council report

green waste
skip on
Saturday
24th May
Greengate
Lane

The Parish Council met on **Thursday** the **11th January** at Hagbourne School.

General forum

Before the meeting there was a general forum with four members of the public from West Hagbourne and Cllr Patrick Greene attending.

Some concerns were raised about the flooding in Brook Lane, which is becoming more frequent and has changed. The removal of the white lines and road signs, the problem with the sewers and the advertising next to the A417 on the approach to the village.

The suggestions of a southern ring road for Didcot were discussed, and

Patrick Greene advised that he was opposed to a proposed southern relief road and asked the Parish Council what their views are about the proposed Harwell/West Hagbourne bypass.

The Council answered that they wanted a solution that worked for all of Didcot – both old and new, but that it needed to work and remove the need for traffic to come through the village.

The Council repeated its opposition to any further southerly growth of Didcot toward the Hagbournes.

Concern over the number of signs appearing on the verges at the entrance to the village was also discussed.

Additional housing for Didcot

The Council discussed the Western Villages Alliance's draft submission to the Examination in Public on the South East Plan. The submission will make the case for the housing to be built at Oxford instead of Didcot. The Parish Council approved its content.

Parish boundaries review

The Parish Council discussed whether there is really a need for a change in the boundaries of the parish which is being

carried out in readiness of Great Western Park as much of this is currently within the parish of West Hagbourne. The Council decided to participate, in the review and the views it expresses will take into account the best interests of residents of West Hagbourne.

the Parish Plan

The Council formally approved the content of the Parish Plan which has now been finalised by the steering group. The Plan has taken into account the views of every household in West Hagbourne expressed in a wide-ranging questionnaire distributed some time ago. The Parish Plan is now ready for publication.

Conservation of biodiversity

The Council discussed information from Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust about parish councils' duty to conserve biodiversity under recent legislation and decided to take the duty into account in future decision making, especially when considering planning applications.

West Hagbourne to Upton footpath

The village action group has obtained a grant to replace the awkward stile over the ditch on the parish boundary, with a kissing gate. The old stile has already been removed and the kissing gate delivered. The work will be completed soon.

Traffic Experiment

The results of a recent Highways traffic speed survey have been given to the Parish Council, but these need to be properly analysed and compared with the traffic speeds measured before the experiment started. Oxfordshire Highways will be asked carry this out and report on whether the experiment has been successful.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Thursday 8th March** at Hagbourne School starting at 7.30pm

election news

There are 89 Parishes in South Oxfordshire and the next elections for the Parish Council will form part of the Local Government elections in May 2007 and all seats are up for election.

Polling will be held **Thursday 3 May** and is normally held in Hagbourne Village Hall.

area beat officer

The Area Beat officer for Cholsey and the Hagbournes will be attending the next Parish Council Meeting to discuss the policing, or lack of it that affects our area.

Parish Council

Chair
Phil Taylor 850 182
phil@philtaylor.demon.co.uk

Vice-Chair
Marion Judd 850 434
mbjudd@supanet.com

Keith Little 850 094
Bernard Mead 850 783
bernardmead@westhagbourne.org

Sue Totterdell 850 080
susan.totterdell@pharm.ox.ac.uk

the Parish Clerk

Roger Sweet 850 492

planning applications

No new planning applications have been received within the Parish.

The application for a parking area in York Road has been withdrawn.

An **appeal** against the refusal to grant planning permission has been lodged for the plot in Manor Close.

newsletter deadlines

April Issue 30 March 2007

please e-mail copy for inclusion to parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

westhagbourne.org

The web site now has a search facility and will see more improvements and updates in the forthcoming months.

borneo and the jellyfish

It seems I'm the resident traveller of the village as once again, I was given an amazing opportunity and felt I had to grab it while I could.

I asked the **Tyrell Trust** for their support and as usual they were very generous and helpful asking only for this report in return.

The opportunity put before me this time was the chance to go to Borneo for a month, with a company that offer expeditions to anyone from early teenagers to mid 20's. I took part in the Team Challenge with a group of 11 other 6th formers, the year above me. I admit I was slightly nervous about going with a group I didn't



know too well as they had all been together for a year already but I know it would not have been as amazing had I gone with anyone else and I've made some close friends for life.

The main part of our expedition was a week that we spent helping out at a village. This village was a three day trek away, with us trekking an average of 7-8 hours a day, stopping and setting up camp where we'd cook and sleep in hammocks. One night, on the way back, we trekked our hardest so as to have a whole day in the

jungle, to break up the walking. During this day three of our members ventured into the jungle with our guides only to return with a deer they had hunted for our meals that day. Together we prepared the deer and made ourselves the best meal of the whole trip!

The time spent at the village was by far the most rewarding thing I have ever done. They were even reluctant for us to work as we were seen as 'guests' but we made sure we did our fair share, working around 5 hours every morning then going to the school of about 40 pupils and taking over the after-school activities. One day we even found ourselves teaching them! This was by far one of the most incredible times of the trip and me and Helen were so shocked when, after preparing a few simple English tasks, our group of four 5-6 year olds seemed to know more English than us! I know it hurt a lot of our group, if not all of us, to leave that village and I still look back and feel as though I could have stayed there forever.

I feel I have to explain about the most challenging part of the month. Although this was part of our four day 'rest and relaxation' period, climbing Mount Kinabalu (the highest mountain in South-East Asia) seemed, at some points, anything but relaxing. There were points where I felt I would have to turn back if I didn't see a resting spot soon but I kept going, we all did, with the support of each other and eventually we made it half way up the mountain. The most incredible thing about the climb was that we were to only go half way up on the first day so that we could complete the last 2 kilometres very early the



next morning. **In the dark.**

This sounds ridiculous to some people, especially if you'd seen the steepness of the ridge and the lack of foot holds at several points but this was something that I would love to do again and one day I will. It was all worth it just to see the most gorgeous sunrise at the top. Although only 9 of our team made it to the summit due to various reasons we stood at the top, grinned and screamed "Jellyfish" at the top of our voices. This was the word we used to call a roll call and our mark on Borneo.

With the amount of things I've seen and the amount we did in that short month, it's taking a lot for me to hold back so this report doesn't end up being like my current coursework. I look back now, read through my personal diary, the group diary and I just marvel at what we did, I laugh and cry and sometimes just can't believe how long it lasted and how much I felt as if I belonged in that country and could've stayed there forever.

Thank you so much again to the Tyrell Trust for helping make this possible.

Hannah Wing

diamond project news

The Diamond project will be officially opened in May/June 2007. There will be a **public open day** on **14th July 2007**.

A numbers of proposals have already been received for use of the 60 work spaces at the site.

Members of the WI Art Project have created a number of panels that will go on permanent display at the Diamond Project. It is said to be magnificent.

Before final installation, the artwork will be touring the district so if you are interested look out for venues where it will be exhibited.

