

next meeting

The next meeting of the *Parish Council* will be held on *Thursday 10th May* starting at 7.30 in Hagbourne School

annual Parish meeting

will once again be held in the garden of Broomsticks at 3pm on Saturday 19th May

village tidy up

Come along and do your bit on *Saturday 14th April at 2pm* Walk the footpaths and byways and gather litter or rubbish as you go. Hi-Vis jackets, pickers and bags provided, both young and old welcome! The more the merrier!

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 swop 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

remember judging this year will be during July

annual 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

recycling + green waste

For good ideas and information about the new small green waste bins available through SODC call 01491 823416 or you'll find all the details at www.southoxon.gov.uk



Oxfordshire artweeks

During May and June 2007, artists and artisans will be opening up their homes and studios to the public and a wide array of special events will be staged around the county.

Oxfordshire's biggest visual arts festival, which celebrates a great variety of work from artists of many different styles and backgrounds, generates high levels of interest from a discerning local audience as well as from the many visitors to the county. Get a free guide from Tourist Information Centres, libraries, art galleries, museums, art shops and hotels around Oxfordshire.

exhibition of textiles:

by Helen Winthorpe Kendrick at 'Driftway', York Road in West Hagbourne

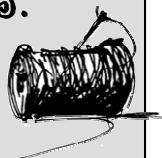
Framed and 3D pieces of Creative Embroidery, incorporating fabric, oils, acrylics and paper.

Saturday 27th May – Sunday 4th June

12.00am – 6.00pm (till 8.00pm Thursday)

Refreshments will be available

for further information 07745 434 933



www.westhagbourne.org

Have you looked at westhagbourne.org lately? Several new features have been included recently.

Firstly, a visitors book has been opened for visitors to the website to leave their name and a message, especially if they are from another part of the country or abroad.

Calendars of green waste collections and mobile library visits to the village have been included for your information, with links provided on the Information page. Also included now is information about the village shop in East Hagbourne, which can be obtained by following the link to the East Hagbourne website, also on the Information page.

Planning applications in the village will also be included in future, and the first one to be listed is for a lean-to pergola at the Horse and Harrow. The link to the planning applications page is also on the Information page.

The most recent addition is a link to the village discussion/email group (<http://groups.google.com/group/WestHagbourne>) that has been formed recently. This link is on the village website's home page.

And don't forget the useful search facility that has now been included on the Home page. This will enable you to find what you are looking for easily.

www.westhagbourne.org

West Hagbourne newsletter

April 2007
Vol 2007 Issue 75

e-discussion group

westhagbourne.org has initiated an email discussion group for people who live in the village to enable them to easily contact other members of the group.

This is a private group for village residents only and joining the Group is easy. Members will be able to initiate or join in discussion about things that interest or concern them or catch any important news that needs to be passed around the village. This is an extremely useful facility, but you have to be a member!

If you'd like to join this group go to <http://groups.google.com/group/WestHagbourne> and choose the 'Sign In and apply for membership'.

You will need to create a google account which requires no more than your email address and a nickname. Once completed we'll approve your application and you'll be part of the group. If you want to know more about google groups you can choose the 'take the tour' option at <http://groups.google.com>.

The discussion group can also be accessed from a link on the village website's Home page.

well done Rachael Wing!

Congratulations to the recently published and local author Rachael Wing for her latest novel *Star-Crossed* that has been described by her agent as the real thing – a book by a teenager for teenagers.

Star-Crossed first appeared on a writing website when Rachael was just 14 years old.

It's based loosely on a production of *Romeo and Juliet* and is set in a contemporary school, it's a hugely sassy, entertaining, and clever debut full of characters readers will love, and love to hate.

Rachel lives in York Road, spends most of her Saturday's at Stagecoach where she works and also has lessons in drama, dance and singing.

On Sunday she will be often spotted shopping with friends or spent frantically doing homework - for her impending GCSE's.

Weekdays are busy too for this author and to paraphrase from her own blog, she can be seen regularly in Didcot at Subway (chicken teriyaki all the way!).

But she needs chocolate to get her through! Like most girls, she loves chocolate!

And the only thing better than chocolate is possibly Ben and Jerry's ice cream.

She loves to share ice cream and have a bit of a chat, and in her words it's always a happy time when it's 2 tubs for a fiver at Sainsbury's!

Bernard steps down

After many years as a Parish Councillor Bernard Mead has decided to retire.

First elected to Council in 1991 Bernard has been active in our community and he worked on the nuclear part of the Harwell site.

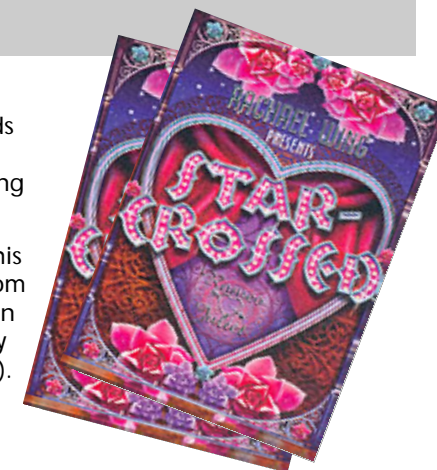
We should thank him for his commitment and wish him well in his retirement - but hope that he continues to offer his advice, which has been an invaluable resource.

village association

Everybody in West Hagbourne is invited to a **free lunch** to celebrate the Village Associations' tenth anniversary to be held in the garden of

Broomsticks on **Sunday 15th July**.

You'll need to ask for a ticket, so the organisers can gauge numbers to cater for, and bring your own tables + chairs. Please reserve this date in your diaries. We hope that everyone will come along for food and entertainment. More details will be available in the next newsletter.



Whilst she also loves pizza and likes to paint, you'll often find her dancing about when nobody's watching.

To quote Rachel " its one of my favourite things to do: dancing around my kitchen! **Everyone should try it!** "

in this issue

diary dates

Parish report

no elections

Tyrrell grants

Costa Rica

sewer update

village tidy up
Saturday 14th

SODC are carrying out a localised consultation to find out how your broadband services are operating

www.westhagbourne.org

parish council report

The Parish Council met on *Thursday* the *8th March* at Hagbourne School.

general forum

No members of the public were present and there was therefore no general forum.

The Area Beat Officer WPC Pip Walker attended and discussed local Police issues with the Council. She pointed out that there is a local shortage of officers and this has a detrimental affect on policing.

additional housing for Didcot

Sue Totterdell attended the Examination in Public and spoke on behalf of the Western Villages Alliance. She gave the Council her report on this at the meeting.

Other members have attended a meeting with Cllr John Cotton and Anna Robinson (of SODC) and members of East Hagbourne Parish Council. As part of a series of Didcot based community involvement events arranged by SODC - aimed at stimulating a group engaged in the growth of Didcot, involving much more than just additional housing.

around the village

The land by the Horse & Harrow has now been cleared at the Parish Council's expense, at long last, and it will now be seeded and possibly fenced.

The new Kissing Gate on the path to Upton has now been installed.

traffic experiment

The Council has asked Highways to analyse the results of their most recent traffic speed survey and compare them with the traffic speeds measured before the experiment started. No information has yet been received.

village tidy-up

The Annual tidy-up of West Hagbourne will take place on Saturday April 14th during the afternoon.

election update

There were only 3 nominations received for the next 4 year term of the Parish Council which commences in May - they were *Marion Judd, Sue Totterdell and Phil Taylor*. This means there will not be an election.

If you would like to become involved in the work of the Parish Council - come and talk to us at the meeting in May.

problems with the sewers

After two months of tankering sewage from the village Thames Water stopped this early in February. There has been no further information from Thames Water about the cause of the problems and it is not clear what progress they have made in their investigations other than that they suspected that too much surface water was entering the system. There have been no reports of sewage overflowing anywhere in the village despite the recent prolonged rainfall. It appears new pumps have now been installed for use when the levels of the 'wet well' require their use.

minor flooding

in Main Street and Brook Lane

Highways have told the Council that the reason for the flooding outside Wycherts after prolonged rainfall is the water level in the ditch in Moor Lane. The water from the highway drains into this ditch. After a lot of rain the water level is higher than usual and apparently is higher than the outlet of the drains in the road.

The ditch is very overgrown and a working party will be organised to cut this back and clear out some of the muck in the ditch.

After considerable work involving re-laying of pipes and digging out the ditch, flooding happened again in Brook Lane and caused the road to be closed at one point. The outlets were cleared again and now seem to be working properly.

next meeting

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be immediately after the 'Annual Meeting of the Parish Council' which will be held at 7.30pm on *Thursday 10th May* at Hagbourne School.

note that the annual *Parish Meeting* will once again be held in the garden of Broomsticks at 3pm on Saturday *19th May*

Tyrrell trust grants

Would a small grant help towards you doing something different or special that will be of benefit to you? The Tyrrell Trust offers small grants every year to young people who live in the village to help support musical, sporting, educational or other worthwhile initiatives.

Contact Bridget Pickup on 850 392 or Marion Judd 850 434 for information.

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
parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

District Councillor

Patrick Greene 813 396
patrick.greene@southoxon.gov.uk

County Councillor

Patrick Greene 813 396
patrick.greene@oxfordshire.gov.uk

planning applications

One new planning applications has been received *Horse & Harrow* - to erect an all weather canopy at the rear of the public house.

newsletter deadlines

June Issue 30 May 2007
please e-mail copy for inclusion to parishclerk@westhagbourne.org or drop off to the clerk

westhagbourne.org

The web site is constantly being updated and is growing. If you'd like to help, write, build or contribute to the site contact the webmaster or call Roger Sweet.

Travel Tokens

Confused by the new distribution scheme or think you are entitled to the free *travel tokens* please contact the clerk on 850 492

Costa Rica '06

The alarm went; it was three o'clock in the morning in the St Helens school gymnasium and team two were due to pack up and leave. We had barely slept, as we were so excited, and the bus journey to the airport did nothing to dampen our spirits.

We all felt a fair bit lighter after we had checked in our luggage, and soon settled into the duty free before our flight, which was on time! We first flew to Madrid and then on to San Jose, capital of Costa Rica, via Guatemala. The flight was a gruelling fourteen hours; I slept a little, but time was hard to kill.

The next morning, we arranged our travel to the Monteverde cloud forest which was in the north of the country, and met with our in-country-agent, Javier. We booked our White water rafting excursion, and our taxi to the bus stations. Traditionally the bus stations are in the seediest areas of any town in central and South America, so when we arrived there the next day after a hasty breakfast, we clipped our bags together, and huddled. The bus left at six in the morning and it was a seven-hour trip up to the cloud forest. Luckily we had seats, but the bus was full, and some people stood the whole way.

Upon arriving in Monteverde, we booked accommodation for the five nights we were there, and set up camp. That afternoon it rained, and you have never experienced proper rain until you have been to Central America, because in the mountains it rains every day between two in the afternoon, until at least five thirty. Passing from tent to tent was enough to become soaked, and we spent the rest of the day chatting in our tents. Our sole reason for visiting Monteverde was to see some wildlife, and become acclimatised to the country, animals, and terrain, as we would be doing some fairly hefty hiking in our third week. The first day we spent in La Fortuna cloudforest, after an extremely bumpy bus ride up into the mountains. La Fortuna was smaller than the Monteverde forest, but it was older and denser, so we were more likely to see some substantial wildlife there. There were several trails we could take and we chose a gentle three and a half kilometre one, which would be a nice warm up before tackling anything too difficult. The track sloped up and up and we crossed a few streams; the humidity even in the mountains was high, and although we were in one of the coolest parts of the country, it was still a mere thirty-six degrees, all day every day. We saw hummingbirds at the base of the trail, which were attracted to the many feeders which had been hung; it was astonishing how fast they buzzed about, and they are the only birds in the world which can fly backwards. Apart from the hummingbirds, we didn't see any other animals that day; perhaps we were a little noisy, being a group of nineteen.

The next day we travelled to the Monteverde cloudforest, which was much more touristy, and had more facilities. We took a 6km trail, which took us about two hours to complete. Then continued at a

good pace further up the trail, but after nearly an hour we felt we had gone a little far, and had probably taken a wrong turning. The bus was due to arrive in twenty minutes, and we now had to rush back to the centre o catch our bus. Two of our fittest went on ahead at a run, myself and a smaller group ran after as well, to keep the bus. Luckily we made it in time, and we all felt exhilarated on the bus ride back, singing songs rather breathlessly.

The next day was a member of our party's birthday, so we had a traditional camp style breakfast - eggy bread, a birthday cake bought from the bakery next to our hostel, and as there were so many around, pineapple and banana fruit salad!

We decided that as a treat we would hike into the mountains to a remote waterfall,



and spend the rest of the day there.

The hike was long, and had we read the guidebook, we might have known that it was a recommended day trip, taking a little over six hours to reach. We persevered however, and when we reached the bottom of the waterfall, we knew we had made the right choice: it was the most stunning thing I have ever seen. We swam in the pool below the waterfall for an hour or so and then trekked back.

The next phase in our trip saw us jeep-boat-jeep it to a place called Arenal beneath the Arenal volcano, a dormant giant which loomed over our heads as we settled into our new hostel. We all knew what the next day would bring, a gruelling hike up a hill next to the volcano, Carved into the top of the hill was an enormous lake, the steam from the volcano clouded the view so we couldn't see the other side, although we could see the hoards of army ants swarming our feet, as we hastily ate our lunch and stamped our feet to prevent them from being climbed.

The Turtle reserve was situated along a seven kilometre stretch of black sanded beach, and consisted of several wooden huts, a trail down to the Rio Pacuare, the river which leads to the reserve, and open beach for as far as the eye can see. We spent a week at the reserve, during which time we took part in night time patrols, morning nest checks, and painting. The night time patrols started at 11 and finished at 4, when the sun rose. The first patrol set out at 11pm and returned at 1:30am, and the second started at twelve and finished at 3:30, during which time we walked halfway up the 7km stretch of beach, and checked for laying turtles. For

the whole week, none of the groups on any of the patrols saw any turtles laying. We seemed to have missed them completely, as the leatherback turtle season was over, and the green turtle season had just begun. However the first morning patrol I did was successful, we spotted a nest only a hundred yards from the huts, and there were two baby turtles flapping about in the sand. We couldn't help them down to the beach, as the process of making their way to the beach develops the muscles in their flippers so that they can swim in the ocean, but we could pour saltwater on them so that they became revived, and started flapping in the right direction. They eventually made it to the sea, and it was an extremely moving moment. Out of every thousand turtles that hatch, only one makes it to adulthood to breed again, so even though there were only two of them, it was touching to know that we could have made a difference to the survival of an endangered species. On the last night, we had another optional patrol, which we didn't have to take, because that morning we had to leave at four. I and two other of the group decided to go on the last patrol, because if they saw a turtle, I would never forgive myself for missing the opportunity. And sure enough, the opportunity came. We saw a mother Green turtle that night and she laid over a hundred eggs; we marked the nest and then went back to the huts to watch the sun rise.

The Corcovado rainforest was our next destination, down in the south of Costa Rica, which was humid, hot and very, very muddy! We trekked between the four stations in the rainforest for a total of five days. The first day included a grand total of twenty seven river crossings.

On the last day of our trek we were trekking along the beach, and when we stopped for a break before we trekked into the jungle again, we saw a long line of fresh jaguar prints in the sand.

After our trekking phase, which counted towards many of our Duke of Edinburgh Gold awards, we travelled to the coast for our community project. We helped in the small local village schools, teaching English, and painting their classrooms with the national symbol. At the end of the week we threw a party for the children, with traditional English party games. They all had a great time, and the adults made a piñata for them for the very end. We spent another day by the coast, and then made our way back to the capital for our flight.

The most rewarding part of the trip I think had to be saving the turtles, and working with the children, as I really felt I had made a difference. However the trekking phase made all members of the team aware of what they were capable of. I have had a fantastic experience which I will remember for many years to come and would like to thank everyone who helped me to make this possible.

Elizabeth Telford