

## next meeting

The next meeting of the *Parish Council* will be held on *Thursday 13th September* starting at *7.30* in Hagbourne School

## skill swap

if you'd like to offer to swap some ironing in return for someone clearing your gutters email [janet@jcockburn.plus.com](mailto:janet@jcockburn.plus.com)

## madge trophy

Cornerways was judged this year's winner and the results were announced at the Village Lunch

## message board

Remember you can use the message board section on the web site which is available for you to add their messages, news items, notices, etc.

## search for Woodley's

Mary Wiley recently had a short visit from some New Zealand descendents of the Woodley's who left West Hagbourne in the 19th Century for the other side of the world. They were anxious to make contact with any other members of the Woodley family in East and West Hagbourne.

Can you help with any contacts?

Kath Woodley 249 Fox Street, Hamilton New Zealand or you can phone 0064-78584365  
e-mail [jelly.k@extra.co.nz](mailto:jelly.k@extra.co.nz)

## mobile library

the library will visit the village *Little Acorns Day Nursery* at 09:20am and outside *the Square* 09.00-09:15am on *7th & 21st* September



## history group

The West Hagbourne Village History Group A.G.M. took place on July 16th when the following were elected:

Chairman: Josie Hill, Secretary: Val Walton, Treasurer: Linda Thompson

Tea towels, notelets, and copies of the Windsor Hakeborne books are still for sale at Chapel Hayes.

The next meeting will be held at Fairview in York Road on the *1st October* at *8pm*.

New members will be very welcome.

I would like to thank all those who kindly sponsored my 10,000ft charity skydive. I raised **£2,300** towards a final cheque of £5,817.90 which was presented to a representative from the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital on my final day at The Chiltern College in Caversham. The students helped to raise funds for this chosen charity during their two years of training, some students have been able to attend work experience at the hospital.

The skydive was amazing fun, I was the first of our group to jump which was fortunate as I had little time cope with any last minute nerves, the last poor girl had to wait until 6 p.m. because of bad weather.



## farming and the countryside

How different each season is to the last and each year to the next! This time last year we had finished the harvest by the third week of August working through a hot dry summer. This year, the spring was dry and Chris was doing a rain dance on the poppy field hoping they would germinate – didn't he do a grand job, it hasn't stopped since!

We are thankful, compared to many who have lost their crops completely this year through severe flooding, we have managed to gather in the oilseed rape and have started on the wheat. In between times we have helped our neighbours with their rape and barley. We did manage to get the combine and the tractor stuck at one point but the jobs were completed.

It's a matter of grabbing the moment and pushing on this year, the crops have to be dried to bring the grain down to suitable moisture content, and large lorries are carting away on a regular basis.

Hopefully the quality will grade high enough for Warburtons, their standards are high with the amount of protein and elasticity reaching the right percentage.

The poppies have been desiccated so that the crop ripens at the same rate; they are harvested under contract by a special combine which travels around the area. This crop is grown under license for the pharmaceutical industry to make morphine. They did look beautiful across Hagbourne Hill when they were in flower.

Many of you have commented about the family of ducks on the pond – Dad has left home (was bored of hanging around while Mum was incubating). He is around the back of the farm with all the other ducks, never fear he was not taken by the fox! Mum has done a great job in rearing her brood; one little yellow duckling met his demise on day one, when he mistook a moorhen for being Mum. The other five have continued to flourish and are eating me out of house and home! Unfortunately I think they are all drakes which will present a problem in the spring; we'll face that at a later date. The Moorhens have had a successful hatching except for one poor soul having lost her nest twice had the third attempt washed away in the flood! There are plenty around the back streams too, they rush out to eat my duck food every morning. I think they believe I do it purely for their benefit!!

The Kestrels returned to the box once again and I recently watched two beautiful barn owls hunting over the grass margins.

The wild mallards have hatched plenty of young but unfortunately many go by the wayside in the first few days and the mother keeps constantly on the move to try and avoid predators, they never hang around for long.

Around the farm we definitely have less Housemartins nesting than usual, perhaps some were lost during migration. The Swifts screech by in the evenings and Red Kites are now regular visitors.

Wild flowers are in abundance especially along the embankment and lots of butterflies and moths flit about. There is far too much Ragwort everywhere this summer, we dig up and burn everything we can but the thousands of seeds from the heads spread for miles in the wind and some folk are growing far too much in their setaside! A never ending battle.

At least we're not having a hose pipe ban, yes, we must be thankful.

*Sue Lay* Hagbourne Farm Partners

## Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital skydive

Aimee Lay



# West Hagbourne newsletter

September 2007  
Vol 2007 Issue 77

## could we become a greener village?

Following the July floods climate change has been big news and its effects on the environment, people and the planet are potentially very serious, especially for future generations. People are rightly becoming very alarmed about the ultimately life-threatening consequences of not making an effort to reduce the effects of carbon emissions. With this in mind, a growing number of Oxfordshire villages and towns have started groups to tackle climate change issues in their own communities. Groups are already up and running in Blewbury, North Leigh, Wolvercote, Wantage & Grove, Chinnor & Thame, Witney, Wheatley, Burcot., Charlbury, Wallingford and Abingdon

Some West Hagbourne residents have already expressed an interest in starting a similar green group in West Hagbourne with the aim of doing something to help us tackle climate change issues in our own community. There are a number of initiatives that could be considered.

The Environmental Change Institute at Oxford University Centre for the Environment is working with local communities to raise

awareness - whether it's about the issues or what could and needs be done - on a local and national level. This is one local source of advice about energy saving measures along with SODC and OCC.

If you want to know more about climate change, visit the SODC website at [www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk) or the OCC website [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Information about local initiatives can be found at <http://climatex.org/organisations/category/campaigns-local-ngos/>

People who do not have access to the internet can contact SODC or Oxfordshire County Council for more information about climate change. Or you can use the internet connections in the library in Didcot.

Would anyone be interested in joining a group to help West Hagbourne do its bit to become greener? If you are interested please contact Marion Judd, phone 850 434 or e-mail: [mbjudd@supanet.com](mailto:mbjudd@supanet.com)

## successful village lunch

Over 90 villagers got together for a fabulous free lunch provided by the Village Association.

The weather was reasonably kind to the event with only a short period of rain followed by evening sunshine. The mystery trail challenged many to answer some testing questions about the village and the features in it.

A big thank you to all those responsible !



### in this issue

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who does what around the village and how to complain to the proper authorities

## parish council report

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

No general forum was held as no members of the public attended this meeting.

### financial reports

The Council accepted the reports of the internal auditor and approved the statement of accounts and the governance statement included in the Annual Return.

The Council accepted and approved i monthly itemised expenditure report.

### parish meeting

In reaction to the unanimous views of the Parish Meeting a formal offer has been made for the plot of land at the Horse and Harrow but there has been no response yet from Greene King. The Council decided to assemble a database of funding sources for possible capital projects and future schemes.

There was extensive discussion about the points raised at the Annual Parish Meeting

### traffic update

Traffic through the village was one issue raised at the Annual Parish Meeting. The Council decided to re-visit all means of reducing traffic.

Specifically the Council decided to compile a list of all outstanding items of Highways maintenance in the parish and to keep drawing them to the attention of Highways until the works are carried out, to remind Patrick Greene about his promise to help the village get responsive speed warning signs at the approaches to the village and to maintain the condition of its potholes.

All subjects would be re-visited, including the safety of pedestrians and traffic calming measures.

One letter received by the Clerk raising concern about speeding traffic along Manor Close and York Road identified some specific vehicles from within the village that are being driven recklessly. This will now be reported to the Community Police Team.

## google group

The Google Group was set up a few months ago but surprisingly only ten people so far have joined it. A very useful facility, it enables members of the group to exchange information.

If the group got off the ground it could enable members to receive important or up-to-date information from the District or Parish Council about matters of local concern. But of course messages can be about any subject members chose either by online discussion or by email. You can choose whether you want to read messages online from within the group, or to just use your current email

### planning applications

The Council considered a Listed Building consent planning application should be approved for the repair of timbers and wall panel on gable end at Wychert's on Main St.

The Council considered the planning application for a new access to York Farm across a field north of the village, which would exit through an existing gateway off Brook Lane. The Council had already told SODC it thought the application should be refused, and decided to advise them that its previously expressed views still apply. The Council felt the use of the Byway linking to the existing roadway by the silage clamp might be a better solution. It was also considered that this road, if approved, would increase the opportunity for infilling to the north of the village.

### village maintenance

Moor Lane ditch needs to be dug out and the clerk was instructed to engage a contractor, and to pass on some of the charges to the owner of Thatch Cottage. Due to the general deteriorating condition of Moor Lane, east of the footbridge, it was felt important to seek grant funding for this. The hedgerows suffered badly during the spring, and these could do with some serious work. It would be a very big undertaking to clear Moor Lane, but by designating the work a 'nature project', things like re-instating the 'ancient pond' could be considered.

### footpaths

Concern was shown over the general condition of some footpaths which have become a little overgrown with nettles and overhanging brambles. Much of the problem raised by Michelle Lightfoot had been addressed by this meeting, and the Council would monitor the affected areas, and re-consider its grass cutting requirements if specific places were a cause for concern.

### next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at **7.30pm on 13th September** at Hagbourne School

account to read and respond to a message that someone else posted. You can of course post a message or question of your own and then receive replies.

if you are interested in joining the group contact Roger Sweet on 01235 850492 You must be able to use the internet and have an email address.

## over-hanging hedges

A reminder to all householders about over-hanging hedges and other vegetation - please remember to make sure that pavements are kept clear and passable for people walking and pushing buggies round the village.

## Parish Council

**Phil Taylor** Chair 850 182

phil.taylor@westhagbourne.org

**Marion Judd** Vice-Chair 850 434

marion.judd@westhagbourne.org

**John Thornhill** 850 489

john.thornhill@westhagbourne.org

**Tom Parker** 850 858

tom.parker@westhagbourne.org

**Sue Totterdell** 850 080

susan.totterdell@westhagbourne.org

## 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

- York Farm new road to Brook Lane
- Wychert's listed building consent
- Ivy Farm Barn listed building

## newsletter deadlines

October Issue 30 September 2007  
please e-mail copy for inclusion to [parishclerk@westhagbourne.org](mailto:parishclerk@westhagbourne.org)  
or drop off at Uplands, Main Street

## not happy ?

**don't gripe in private - tell someone!** People are reminded that everyone is invited to the General Forum at Parish Council meetings to raise their concerns and issues with Parish Councillors who are there to do their best to address them.

Parish councillors can also be contacted individually at any time and welcome contact from residents so that concerns can be addressed wherever possible.

## who looks after what ... potholes, blocked drains, litter bins etc.

### Responsibilities of the County Council:

All matters of highways maintenance (e.g. pot-holes, damaged kerbstones, dangerous surfaces, reduced width of footpaths, etc.) are the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council through Oxfordshire Highways. The County Council also has an overall responsibility for ensuring that rights of way are safe and kept free from obstructions. However direct responsibility for public footpaths, etc. lies with the land-owner. The Parish Council has no responsibility for highways maintenance or countryside matters.

### All Highway-related matters:

Telephone: 0845 310 1111

By letter: Southern Area Office  
Oxfordshire County Council  
Milton Road, Drayton OX14 4EZ  
Email: southernarea@oxfordshire.gov.uk  
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

### All Countryside matters (Rights of Way, etc.)

Telephone: 01865 810226

By letter: Countryside Service  
Oxfordshire County Council  
Holton, Oxford OX33 1QQ

Email: countryside@oxfordshire.gov.uk  
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

### Responsibilities of South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC)

Rubbish collection, including emptying the litter bins, is the responsibility of SODC. Litter bins in the village should be emptied weekly by the contractor who collects the refuse. None of the litter bins in the village is the responsibility of the Parish Council. SODC also has responsibility for fly-tipping, abandoned vehicles and street cleansing.

Telephone: 01491 823416

By letter: Environmental Services  
South Oxfordshire District Council  
Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford  
Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8AT  
Email: environmental.services@southoxon.gov.uk  
Directly through the SODC's website:  
www.southoxon.gov.uk

### Responsibilities of householders and land owners:

Property owners / householders are responsible for keeping the highway, including the pavement, free from obstruction. This includes trimming back hedges and shrubs, etc. and maintaining the visibility of road signs. The highway and the footway must be kept free from obstruction at all times and sightlines for traffic maintained for safety reasons. The County Council has powers to enforce this requirement.

Roadside ditches are also the responsibility of the adjacent landowner, although the County Council has a right to drain the highway into the ditches. However, if a ditch has been culverted as a road improvement measure the County Council will assume responsibility for maintaining the culvert. The County Council is responsible for all road drainage and clearing blocked gullies (drains) in the road.

Other ditches and watercourses are also the responsibility of the land land owner, who all have an obligation to keep them clear of obstruction.

Where a problem can be resolved within the village a friendly word from a parish councillor pointing out that something needs to be done is often the best way of going about it. So please contact any of the parish councillors if you think they can help with a problem.

### Keeping the Parish Council informed:

When you report problems to the County Council or SODC please advise the Parish Council too so it can add its weight to the complaint and, if necessary ensure Patrick Greene, your County Councillor and District Councillor, is made aware of the problem as

well. It is better for you to report issues directly to the County Council or SODC yourself, rather than just to the Parish Council. That way they will be made more aware of the public's concerns and are more likely to take action

### Responsibilities of The Parish Council:

The Parish Council has very few responsibilities for carrying out work in the village. It is however directly responsible for things it owns in the village and for grass cutting. It also pays a gardener to look after the village garden next to the bus shelter.

The Council's only possessions in the village are the bus shelter (the village's war memorial), the village notice boards and benches. Please report any damage to any of the Council's possessions to the Parish Clerk, especially if anything is dangerous.

The Parish Council has a formal agreement with the County Council to cut the highways grass (the grass adjacent to the highway within the 30mph speed limit zone) a minimum of three times a year and it receives a grant to cover the cost of this work. The Parish Council's current grass-cutting contractor is Scion Estates who are based at Harwell Business Park. They are contracted this year to cut the grass seven times at monthly intervals. Scion Estates also cut the grass along School Path for the Parish Council as far as the parish boundary. If you have a complaint or comment about any aspect of the grass cutting please report it to the Parish Clerk so it can be investigated.

Telephone: 01235 850492

Email: parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

www.westhagbourne.org

### Work done by volunteers around the village

Many village residents may not be aware that volunteers carry out a lot of the work around the village without being paid. As the Parish Council's annual income is only around £4,000 from council tax, many essential jobs just wouldn't get done if it wasn't for these volunteers. The Parish Council encourages everyone to help with the annual village tidy ups each year, and could always do with more help, but many other jobs are also done by individuals who just do their bit. The Parish Council appreciates this work and hopes residents appreciate it too. For example, each year young trees are planted around the parish and all the daffodils along the roadside were originally planted by volunteers. Other volunteers have planted flower containers or kept footpaths tidy and many walkers have picked up litter and rubbish as they wander the paths and tracks across the Parish.

The Village Action Group was started recently to identify some of the bigger jobs that need doing around the village and where possible carry them out, jobs such as clearing the mud from the Foxglove Lane end of School Path and putting in a new kissing gate on the footpath to Upton. If you like to see the village looking nice and can spare a few hours why not offer your services to this group? Details on the web site or contact Sue Totterdell for more information about how you can help.

Residents may not fully realise that there is a hidden army of anonymous volunteers who quietly undertake all sorts of tidying jobs that help keep our public places looking nice. We owe them our thanks and appreciation for all they do. One outstanding example is **Ken Bishop**, ( he's 80 this year) and has been voluntarily tidying the planting around the West Hagbourne signs at each end of the village for years and we owe him a big vote of thanks for all the work he has done and continues to do - it is very much appreciated.

Others keep the bus shelter swept, the water butt filled, round the chestnut tree tidy, pick up litter and other manual help on various working groups. It's important to raise awareness about the work of all of these kind people and let everyone know that without it, more work would have to be paid for from an increased precept.

