

next meeting

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



outings for 2008

Would anyone in the village be interested in going on group outings for day trips to visit places, events and entertainments such as the popular Tutankhamen exhibition, the Terracotta Warriors, local stately homes, perhaps the Highgrove gardens or local Oxford theatre productions?

Members of the Village Association are willing to organise block bookings and transport if there is sufficient interest in the village.

To visit the Highgrove gardens, bookings have to be made 2 years ahead and the only permitted way to access the gardens is by coach party. Booking up a visit for West Hagbourne residents would need people to commit at least 2 years in advance.

If anyone is interested in taking part in any of these types of outings, or if you have suggestions about other places of interest that you would like to visit, please contact Val Walton 851 089, Marion Judd 850 434 or any other member of the Village Association.



more daffodils

This year more daffodils have been planted in the bank in Main Street between the Horse & Harrow and towards the duck pond.

This should create a lovely display in spring, extending our daffodil planting further along from those already planted.

The Parish Council needs more help to continue the planting programme, especially to add to those along the bank towards Scotland's Ash. As the drought seems to have taken its toll on the bulbs which were planted there some time ago, please contact Marion Judd if you can help.

bus service review

The Parish Council has asked ORCC to collate and analyse all of your responses to the bus transport survey and when this information is collated, it will then be made part of a formal response.

moor lane

Only a few of you have made any reaction to the condition of Moor Lane and the suggestion to improve the hedge-line and clear away some of the dead and fallen trees.

Some clearance and improvement would prove a worthwhile effort, as if this ancient lane could be restored a little, it would leave a legacy for the next generation.

If you would like to join a working party one weekend to help clear some of the debris or if you have any suggestions for what you would like to see happen next, please contact the clerk or you can email phil.taylor@westhagbourne.org



At the western end of one of our most ancient byways, Moor Lane is now becoming very overgrown, with all kinds of weeds and brambles making it increasingly difficult to walk down, without getting nettled or covered in thistles, is impossible with a pushchair and could be improved quite easily.

West Hagbourne newsletter



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skill swap

if you'd like to offer to swap some gardening in return for someone driving you to Oxford email janet@jcockburn.plus.com

village tidy up

Put this date in your diary and come and spend just an hour or so collecting litter as you walk the paths and lanes around the parish on Sunday **6th April** 2008 (time to be confirmed)

message board

you can use the message board section on the web site to add messages, news items, notices

mobile library

the library will visit the village stopping at the *Little Acorns Day Nursery* at 09:20am and outside *the Square* 09.00 - 09:15am see the web site for dates of next visit

garden club

this meets fourth Thursday each month (except Aug + Dec). Events include talks, slide shows, demonstrations, plant sales, garden visits and occasional seed distributions. For details contact Malcolm Brownsword on 850668

annual general meeting

the Village Association will be holding its AGM at Broomsticks 8pm Tues 12 Feb

last posting dates



Friday 14th December
standard *Parcels*
Monday 17th December
2nd Class
Thursday 20th December
1st Class

more rubbish

Because of the days that the bank holidays fall this year, our normal collection days for refuse are unchanged.

Thursday 27 December '07 Normal collection

Thursday 3 January 2008 Normal collection

However the Drayton waste recycling centres (tips) will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Years Day (and will be closing at 3pm on 24 and 31 December)

It will be open 8am to 5pm on all other days over the Christmas period.

Remember you can recycle your Christmas Tree in your Brown wheelie bin, but you must put it inside - or some garden centres will also be offering a recycling service. See notice-boards for further details.

Hagbourne hall

There is still a *vacancy for a committee member* at Hagbourne village hall.

The committee still needs an additional member from West Hagbourne to represent the village, with Keith Little (who has been our sole representative for a number of years) There is very little work involved, as the committee does not meet that often, but we do need more people to help Keith represent West Hagbourne's interests, as after all this is a shared village hall.

If someone could spare a small amount of time now and again to attend these Village Hall meetings, then please contact either Keith Little on 850 094 or alternatively the Parish Clerk on 850 492.

newsletter

If you've got something you'd like to be included in the newsletter just send copy (ideally by email) to the clerk, details all on page two.

If you've got some forthcoming event or a special date for our diary, let everyone in West Hagbourne know through the pages of the newsletter.

Advertising

From January the newsletter will carry a small number of advertisements with the purpose of covering the cost of production only. Businesses based in the Parish will benefit from advantageous rates, and space will be limited. (Details and rates will be available from the Clerk after January 10th)

the next 20 years

South Oxfordshire District Council is encouraging residents to play a part in planning the future of the district. The council is looking ahead to 2026 and seeking views on how much and where new housing, employment and other facilities and services should be provided.

This will help it to plan at least **10,000** more new houses, which the government, through its South East Plan is requiring the council to build across the area in the next 20 years.

SODC is preparing a *Core Strategy* for South Oxfordshire, which will identify the big issues and directions of growth for new development.

The council is holding a consultation exercise over December and January and wants to hear views on options for the amount and location of new housing and other development in the district.

Have your say - there is an online questionnaire with link from www.southoxon.gov.uk

To help the council make sure these polices are relevant and reflect what residents want in years to come, it would like to hear views on:

- the amount and type of housing/employment development that should take place over the next 20 years and where it should go
- what local people would like to protect or what they would like to change about where they live, work and relax
- what services and facilities local people would like introduced or improved
- people's key concerns about the future and what the council should do about them

The Parish Council will formally respond to this consultation, but your voice is also very important so make it heard.

In part of the consultation, SODC have suggested a route for a Harwell bypass, with no mention of reducing traffic through West Hagbourne and it has also highlighted an area south of Didcot and north of West Hagbourne as one of its potential areas for yet more housing.

Note that the closing date for comments is the 1st of February 2008.

wishing all of our readers a very *Merry Christmas* and a truly happy New Year



nice parking

by the 12th of December several vehicles had been caught by black ice on the corner of Main Street, one vehicle completely demolished the trough, and on the 13th this car took out some of the posts and almost made it into the pond.



in this issue

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AGM

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drink aware

Parish Council

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farming and the countryside





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

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

Around the village

Although earlier in the year the Council made an offer to Greene King for the purchase of the land by the Horse & Harrow there has still been no response from the company.

A small party of parish councillors recently collected litter from Brook Lane as it had become very untidy, this had become more noticeable after the grass cutting of verges.

Village Tidy-up

The next scheduled village tidy-up will be on the first Sunday in April 2008.

The Council will carry out some further tree planting in January 2008.

There is still concern about the Foxglove Lane end of the School path which tends to disappear under mud. This could be cleared again after all the leaves have fallen but a permanent solution needs to be identified.

The Council will try to get the missing footpath / bridleway markers replaced.

Traffic issues

The Council discussed a schedule of potential highways maintenance and other highways improvements that parish councillors feel could be carried out. When the final schedule is approved by the Council it will be the basis for ongoing discussions with Highways and will be kept updated

Planning applications

The Council has recently advised SODC that it has no strong views about a planning

application for a double garage with home office space over at Downs Farm.

Work to the ditch in Moor Lane

The Council acknowledged that work to the ditch near the junction with Main Street is now urgent, but the Council has still not received the expected formal quotation. When the work is carried out it should help prevent flooding in the road. The Council has not yet received a promised contribution towards the cost from the riparian owner.

The Parish Plan

SODC has carried out a scoping process of all parish plans it has recently received (including the Parish Plan for West Hagbourne). When SODC develops its plans and policies it intends to ensure it considers the main local issues identified in the parish plans.

Budget and precept for 2008/09

The Council decided on a modest increase to its budget is necessary for 2008/09 after managing to keep its budget the same for the last two years.

(NB The SODC calculation for the amount of Council tax for each parish is based on the equivalent number of band 'D' dwellings after allowing for exemptions and discounts. This is known as the taxbase. This year the taxbase for West Hagbourne increased slightly although the Council's budget and its precept [i.e. the amount of Council Tax it receives] remained the same. This resulted in Council tax payers in West Hagbourne paying slightly less for their Parish Council services this past year.)

Next meeting

The next meeting of West Hagbourne Parish Council will be on Thursday 10th January at Hagbourne School.

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 Barker** 850 858
tom.barker@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

Two applications have been considered, one for a conservatory at Rosland on Main Street and another for a double garage with office over at Down Farm.

newsletter

This newsletter is **published by** West Hagbourne Parish Council

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please e-mail copy for inclusion to **parishclerk@westhagbourne.org** or drop off at Uplands, Main Street

The Parish Council hopes everyone in the Parish gets to enjoy this Christmas, and would like to thank all of you who have offered your encouragement, help, assistance and support through this past year.

Have a Merry Christmas !



The winter crops of milling and feed wheat and oilseed rape have been planted. The fertilising is being completed and any necessary spraying is underway. Soon all will be quiet out in the fields.

We are growing poppies again for morphine. The price has been raised more in line with the wheat. This is also a good break crop and future niche market.

We have been busy hedge cutting in line with the ELS.

The horse livery is full, storage good and at long last the office barn conversions are all let to four different companies. (Simtex, Thomas & Thomas, AGF Kitchens and The Church of God)

The broody hen has been told 'No Way!' as all these poor creatures are getting muddled with the weather pattern.

I have seen baby ducklings around and about and don't fancy their chances!



If you happen upon a young hedgehog do let me know as one of our horse owners takes them in for the winter. The late arrivals will not be able to gain enough weight to survive the winter hibernation.

The old tale of plenty of berries means a hard winter – if true, then it's going to be cold!! All the best for Christmas!

Sue Lay Hagbourne Farm Partners



the village association

The Village Association will be holding its **Annual General Meeting** in Broomsticks at 8pm on Tuesday 12th February 2008

There are no membership subscriptions and its purpose is to arrange and hold social, fund raising and other village events

Everyone living within the parish of West Hagbourne is automatically a member of the Association.

This has been a relatively quiet year for the association.

The Madge Trophy judging took place in July and this year it was awarded to Cornerways, York Road.

Note that next year the judging will be held during August.

In July of this year we held a very successful free lunch in the garden at Broomsticks, to celebrate 10 years of the association. Over 90 people attended and despite a little fine rain everyone had a really nice day.

Come along to the meeting and tell us what social events you would like us to organise next year.

All welcome.

South Oxfordshire District Council has recently undertaken a consultation on how to change the way our rubbish is dealt with, and how to improve rates of recycling.

The Results of their surveys were:

- 90% supported the introduction of a kerbside collection of glass
- 78% support the introduction of a weekly kerbside collection of food waste
- 64% would be willing to accept a fortnightly residual rubbish collection if food waste is collected every week
- 55% would support a fortnightly recycling collection in wheeled bins
- 50% would prefer recycling to be collected in a wheeled bin and 32% in a box
- 42% would prefer their remaining rubbish to be collected in a wheeled bin and 39% in plastic sacks

The current contract is due to be reviewed and changes won't come into place **until 2009**.

As a result on 16 November, SODC incorporated these views and approved the following recommendations:

- Weekly separate collection of food waste
- Kerbside collection of glass
- Kerbside collection of recycling (paper, cans, plastics)
- Fortnightly residual rubbish collection in wheeled bins
- Fortnightly opt-in charged for garden waste collection in wheeled bins (as at present)

Garden waste Brown Bin service

The council's garden waste service has two sizes of wheeled bin, available for £29 a year (or £27.50 if paid by direct debit).

Apply via the quick links at www.southoxon.gov.uk

or pay with a credit card by phone on 01491 823416

in memory of Stephen Gore



Julia and the triplets have planted a rowan tree in memory of husband and father Steve, who sadly died over a year ago.

The tree is located at the side of Moor Lane ditch under the railway arch, alongside the copper beech and silver birch planted for Mike Wilson and Jeff Higgins. Once the trees have grown they will look very beautiful and provide a haven for wildlife.

Julia's family and parents, Peter and Andrea Mitchell, Keith and Val Walton and June Little were at the planting ceremony which took place on 10th November



the tree is planted in the field at the end of Moor Lane and has a memorial plaque .

roads and potholes

Manor Close

Thank you to everyone that has come forward with information about the probable ownership and their own understanding of the legal position regarding Manor Close.

It may not prove possible or even practical to consider improving the surface of this roadway but it is one of the outstanding issues raised at the Parish Meeting and remains on that list until the Parish Council comes to a conclusion.

If you have any further information, please make it available before the next Parish Council meeting, so it can be considered.

Reporting problems

If you find the condition of our roads to be in poor state, or become concerned about a particular pothole then you can report it to the Highways department at

www.oxfordshirehighways.org

or by telephone **0845 310 11 11**

don't drink and drive

Road safety experts in Oxfordshire have already started their Christmas crackdown knowing that accidents linked to drinking and driving are on the increase.

Figures released today showed that the number of Oxfordshire drivers involved in accidents - and subsequently shown to have been drinking - has increased from 68 in 2005 to **93**, so far, **in 2007**. yet in 2006 the figure was only 84.

One road safety expert has said: "It's bad news that the number of people who give positive breath tests and are involved in an accident seems to have risen.

"Drivers don't seem to understand that how they feel is a totally unreliable indicator as to whether it is safe to drive."

Whilst a tutor on Department for Transport drink drive awareness courses, said: **"I'm often staggered how many people think they won't get a ban if convicted of driving under the influence"**.

Please be safe this Christmas, get a taxi or walk.