

next meeting

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

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 2pm*

moor lane clearance

come and help clear back some of the brambles and dead wood in Moor Lane from *2pm - 4pm Sunday 6th April*

message board

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

piano for sale

Twenty year old upright piano in good condition seeks new owner - offers invited call Eleanor Tims on 850438

green waste skip

There will be a skip provided for resident's green garden waste only on

Saturday 8th March located at the eastern end of Foxglove Lane from *10am*

home wanted

A quiet, single lady in her 60's is seeking her own accommodation, ideally a granny flat in or near to West Hagbourne. She is a great housekeeper, cook and loves animals too. Contact Eleanor Tims on 850438 or email eleanortims@yahoo.co.uk

parish clerk wanted

the Parish Council is looking for someone to take over the role of Parish Clerk from April 2008. This is a paid position, involves about 3 hours work per week includes maintaining the records and minutes of meetings. Further details are available from any Councillor.

twinning visit

the twinning association is arranging a youth visit for 14-17 April. We now know that seven young people will be coming from Meylan but we have only one firm offer of accommodation.

Would anyone with children be interested in hosting one of the young people during their visit?

They arrive late on Monday 14th and will then leave at midday on Thursday 17th.



tree planting

This January we received yet more 'free' trees and hedgerow plants from SODC. They have been used to infill at various locations around the village. Thanks to everyone who helped with the planting in January.

ditch thanks

Many thanks to Jeff Powell who kindly brought his trailer along and cleared a vast amount of debris and trimmings, as well as a lot of other rubbish, left over from the tidy up and cutting back of the first part of the Moor Lane ditch. Also to Chris Lay for helping dispose of the ivy-clad dead wood.

keeping warm

The Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust has issued an advice sheet on keeping warm this winter, especially for older people.

Anyone interested in having a copy of this advice sheet please contact the Parish Clerk or you can go directly to the PCT website at www.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk

paper boy message

Your paper boy Harry, would like to say thank you to all those people who gave him a generous Christmas tip for delivering their newspapers and wish you all a Happy New Year!" Many thanks!



new baby

Justine and Ian are delighted to announce the birth of their son *Albie*, brother to Maisie and Nathan. Born at home in Fermain, York Road, he weighed in at 7.5lbs on Sunday 30th December 2007.

fundraising quiz

Ellie Taylor is holding a quiz with a difference in Upton Village Hall, to raise funds for her world challenge trip to Equador in 2009

Saturday 15th March from 7pm - 10pm tickets available now only £7 each to include supper. Teams of up to six contestants. Prizes and raffle. Bring your own drinks & glasses.

For tickets contact Ellie on 01235 850182

roads + potholes

Reporting problems on the roads and highways around Oxfordshire:

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*

Let the Parish Clerk know too!

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energy saving

should you consider changing to low energy light bulbs?

Low energy bulbs can last up to 12 times longer than the conventional light bulbs, and you can save up to £10.00 a year on electricity bills

Choosing energy-saving light bulbs is one of the easiest ways of cutting your energy use, and as low energy bulbs use a quarter of the energy of a conventional light bulb to create an equivalent amount of light, low energy light bulbs come in lower wattages.

If every household in Britain replaced just three normal bulbs with energy savers, *enough energy could be saved to run all the country's street lighting.*



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West Hagbourne newsletter

February '08
Vol 2008 Issue 81

core strategy submission

The Parish Council has made a lengthy submission to South Oxfordshire District Council as part of their consultation to develop a Core Strategy. Among the responses we asked for:

A clearly defined Green Buffer to be established between settlements, forming a strategic gap (with distinction given to the different visual landscapes)

Development of the right road infrastructure, one suitable for an increasing population and integral to the Spatial Strategy – one that places less reliance on essential feeder roads which radiate from Didcot. This would mean an appropriate road network that works for Didcot, but not one done in such a way to be at the expense of the surrounding villages

Better use of brownfield land and the need to improve the visual quality of the Didcot streetscape.

Consideration to be given to more proportional development across the district, so that smaller pockets of housing could be encouraged, rather than the massive swathes of new housing which are proposed.

It was also suggested that SODC adopts policy to encourage affordable apartments are built above all new build commercial premises in the higher density areas of town centres – making better use of building footprints. To encourage survival of businesses and make shops viable. Also that some consideration is given where facilities could better share parking, flood lighting, service access, bus services, cycle routes and users/customers.

Provide bus services which encourage commuters and shoppers to access a essential services with perhaps consideration for a call and ride service.

If you want to view the submission or any other Parish Council responses please contact the clerk.

wet feet at Coscote

The state of our roads over past weeks has seen excessive flooding, which was especially noticeable at Coscote (which is in East Hagbourne Parish) yet again.

This does question whether all landowners are maintaining their ditch network adequately, but also highlights the fact that our roads are being used by more and increasingly 'heavy' vehicles, all of which are having a detrimental impact on the verges and the existing road surfaces.

Thames Water engineers spent several days digging up York Road, re-sealing sewer caps replacing manholes. as it was believed fresh water was flooding the sewers.

More recently one of the gulleys on Main Street became blocked and Highways engineers dealt with tree roots which seemed to be causing the problem.

air quality management

South Oxfordshire District Council has been working to improve air quality throughout the district, to make sure residents, businesses and visitors all benefit from being part of a healthy, clean and pleasant environment.

The Council reviews the following pollutants against national standards (air quality objectives) as outlined by the Environment Act 1995:

Nitrogen dioxide	Sulphur dioxide
Carbon monoxide	Lead + Benzene
Fine particulates (PM10)	1,3-Butadiene

The Council must identify locations where levels of pollutants are a problem. If the Council finds any problem areas, it must declare an 'Air Quality Management Area', and then prepare an action plan to show what can be done to improve the air quality in that area.

The Council's assessments have shown air quality in South Oxfordshire is generally good, but monitoring has identified some areas where the national air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide has not been met. It will declare Air Quality Management Areas where there is evidence that pollution is adversely affecting residents and the environment.

If you are concerned about the quality of air in your area you can contact the environmental services team at SODC on *01491 823203* or email them at environmental.services@southoxon.gov.uk

in this issue

fostering

twinning

tidy up

trough gone

Parish Council

diary dates

Parish clerk
wanted



parish council report

The Parish Council last met on *Thursday 10th January 2008* at Hagbourne School.

Stewart Lilly of Stewart Lilly Associates addressed the Council before the meeting started about the possibility of a development in the village.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Patrick Green's reports

Patrick Greene advised the Council of the likelihood of Council Tax increases for both SODC and OCC as Government grants for next year will be low. He also told the Council he will be meeting council officers to discuss the review of subsidised bus services, all waste disposal contractors likely to be asked to tender have said they favour energy from incineration schemes, a 40mph speed limit is being introduced on Haddon Hill. Councillor Green was questioned as to why the district council saw fit to waste time and money naming the Arts Centre in Didcot which will be known as the Cornerstone Arts Centre.

Public participation at council meetings

The Council decided to include public participation at council meetings as agenda items in future rather than the past practice of enabling an open forum before council meetings started. Also if a councillor has a prejudicial interest in any matter to be discussed at the meeting the councillor will in future have the same right as a member of the public to address the council but will of course withdraw whilst the matter is discussed by the Council. The change is necessary following recent changes to the councillors' code of conduct

Around the village

The Council hopes a working party will tidy Moor Lane between the Upton footpath and the disused railway bridge on Sunday 6th April, the same day as the scheduled village tidy-up.

The ditch at the Main Street end of Brook Lane has now been dug out and water is flowing well, but the ditch needs some further hand finishing. The bank will be seeded and planted with daffodil bulbs in due course.

e-mail distribution

Given the general move towards reducing the amount of paper being used, the Parish Council receives a lot of information in electronic form that contain all sorts of matters of interest and relevance to West Hagbourne residents.

For example, the police regularly send out crime alerts to inform householders about prevalence of particular crimes and advice on precautions to take. SODC has numerous consultations, where peoples' opinions are being sought. These are often important and people need to have their say.

Most recently SODC have consulted about new housing and the environment surrounding Didcot - future strategies and plans will affect us all and the PC would like to let as many

Traffic issues

The Council further discussed a schedule of outstanding and potential highways maintenance and other highways improvements that parish has been pressing for, over recent years.

When the final schedule of outstanding items is approved by the Council it will form the basis for ongoing discussions with Highways and will be kept updated for future councils to refer to.

Planning applications

The Council has recently advised SODC that it has no strong views about a planning application for a conservatory at Rosland in Main Street.

South Oxfordshire Core Strategy

The Council is concerned that another major consultation from SODC required input during the Christmas break. Nevertheless it is preparing a detailed response to the Core Strategy consultation. The Council will be encouraging the public to make SODC aware of their views and is providing copies of SODC's questionnaire.

Changes to SODC's procedures for considering planning applications

The Council is concerned that SODC is considering referring planning applications to the planning committee in future only if the planning officer thinks planning should be granted and the parish council have raised an objection to the application. Currently planning applications are referred to committee if there is any difference of views between the planning officer and the parish council. The parish council believes that these changes would fail to recognise the importance of local knowledge, feedback and views and the rationale behind this.

Newsletter

Advertising will be carried in the newsletter to allow production costs to be recovered.

Next meeting

The next meeting of West Hagbourne Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on *Thursday 13th March* at Hagbourne School.

people as possible know about this sort of information at an early stage.

The easiest and most efficient way to pass this sort of information on to people quickly is via distributed e-mail.

The Parish Council is therefore inviting residents who would like to be in the information loop to indicate their consent to join a distribution group by e-mailing the Parish Clerk.

This way we will know more accurately how many residents without e-mail will need to receive hard copies of information, particularly consultation documents, as it comes in to the Parish Clerk.

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

SODC has granted approval 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

We welcome contributions on all subjects and in particular anything on issues that directly affect the residents of the parish of West Hagbourne.

copy deadlines

April issue	30 March
June issue	30 May
August issue	30 July
October issue	30 September
December issue	30 November

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

the waiting game

Tim is waiting for a new home. Tim, age 11, has been with short-term foster carers for over a year. After it became clear he could not return to live with his parents and that his Nan was too ill to care for him, the search began to find him a long - term permanent foster home. Tim needs someone to come forward who could foster him until he can live independently. Ideally Tim will be the only or youngest child in the household. Some months have now passed since the search began but sadly no-one has come forward.

Emma has been living with foster carers for 3 months. She originally went to live with them on an emergency basis. After just a few days of living with her emergency foster carers, it became apparent that the problems at home would take a while to fix and that Emma would need to remain in foster care for some months. Emma has settled quite well with her current foster carers but is not happy to have been placed so far from her home. She finds this makes it difficult to see her family, and friends and she positively hates the 20-mile each way journey to school each day. She is hoping that her social worker will move her to foster carers who live nearer to home but each time her social worker visits the news is sadly the same, "Sorry, but there is no-one available".

Local independent fostering agency, familyplacement.com, is working to help Tim and Emma and other children like them.

The agency seeks to do this by recruiting foster carers for children in or near to their home area and by encouraging people to consider fostering as an alternative to work outside of the home. As agency director, Andy Clipson says, "Our foster carers are paid a professional fee in addition to a child maintenance allowance. This allows some people to give up work to start a new career in fostering. Proper rewards do not stop foster carers from loving the kids". "All of the agency's foster carers are also provided with high level support and ongoing training to help them to develop their parenting skills to a higher level."

If you think you might be able to help call 01993 201514

or email: info@familyplacement.com

Diane Garland

Diane Garland of the Old Post Office, Main Street, who was a founder member of the Village History Group, sadly died on November 18th 2007.

She did some valuable research into the Iron and Bronze Age artefacts found on Hagbourne Hill in the 19th century and visited the British Museum where some of them are displayed.

Diane also followed up the history of the postal service and how it affected the village, and researched how it developed throughout the 19th century.

Though illness often prevented her from attending meetings Diane put together two scrapbooks of photographs and cuttings of village events for the archives. We are grateful for all she did towards the publication of the story of our village and she will be greatly missed by us all. The members of the Village History Group send their sincere condolences to both Brian and Craig.

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

new planters

Following the vandalism of one of the plant pots by the bus shelter, Shirley Streeeter has very kindly donated a pair of stout concrete pots that used to be her father's, to replace the damaged pair - these will definitely survive attacks from mindless passers by.

Anyone kicking these pots should at least break a toe!

Currently the new pots are painted cream, but they are due to receive a new coat of weatherproof paint once the weather is drier. They are currently planted with spring bulbs, with annuals to follow during the summer months.

Many thanks to Shirley - the pots are an asset to the appearance of the village and should stand the test of time as they have already done for 50 years!

another trough or not

Some debate around the village has occurred since the icy nights and the subsequent collision by an unknown vehicle that demolished the trough by the pond.

The trough was awarded many years ago as a prize for winning the best kept village competition so often, for the village to enjoy in perpetuity.

What would you like to see replace it ? Anything or nothing ?

At least one suggestion has been made to do nothing, just allow the pond to regain its original setting, and another that if it is replaced, that it should be bigger and more rurally related. Perhaps a reclaimed feeding trough of some kind?

Should we set a competition to design something more contemporary, perhaps to be made from green oak ?

Let us know what you would like to see.



vision for Didcot

SODC have come up with some ideas for promoting Didcot, with the aim of altering existing perceptions of the town and reflecting its importance as a centre for sustainable growth.

Now they want feedback to help inform the thinking around how they promote Didcot in the future. Have your say by taking their survey. www.yourviewsondidcot.com/didcot