

next meeting

the next meeting of the *Parish Council* will be held the *Annual Meeting of Parish Council* which will be followed by an ordinary Parish Council Meeting will be held on *Thursday 8th May 2008* starting at *7.30* in Hagbourne School



parish meeting

this will be held at Broomsticks on Saturday *24th May 3pm* - come, meet or put questions to your District and County Councillor who is Patrick Greene, and receive reports from the Parish Council and various committees the Councillors attend on your behalf.

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

don't forget to 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* meet at the bus shelter.

air and country show

Abingdon Air & Country Show event will be held on the May Day Bank Holiday weekend *4th May 2008* at Abingdon airfield Dalton Barracks near Abingdon

hedges & boundaries

please keep an eye on your hedges and planting especially if they overhang onto the pavements. It's important you keep hedges under control so pedestrians can pass easily.

potholes

if you find the condition of our roads to be in poor state, or there is a particular pothole on your road report it to Highways department www.oxfordshirehighways.org or by telephone *0845 310 11 11* please let the Parish Clerk know too !

sewers full?

Have you had problems with your sewers during the recent heavy rains? Thames Water know too much fresh water is getting into the network somewhere in West Hagbourne and this has been causing problems down the line. Thames Water owns and maintains the public foul and surface water sewer network. (But note that it does not maintain the pipe work between your house and the system). To report an overflowing public sewer, call Thames Water Customer Services on *08459 200 800* (24 hour service).

message board

you can use the message board section on the web site to add news items, notices or feature information about forthcoming events.



cars crash

March saw two major incidents on our roads and yet another vehicle tried to park itself in the pond.

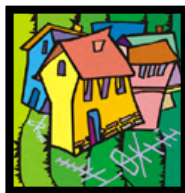
Two cars collided at the bottom of Hagbourne Hill and one was written off.

Whilst another car managed to overturn in Brook Lane and as petrol leaked on the road its two occupants had to climb out of the window to escape.

Do you know about any other incidents?

design guidelines

SODC are going through the process of re-considering the guidelines they use to influence the design of new buildings in the district. In particular this will impact on the look and feel of the streetscapes which are to be used in Great West Park.



old houses

Marianne Suhr (of BBC Restoration Programme Fame) has put together an excellent course to be held in Blewbury in a historic barn on Saturday May 10th.

It will cover most aspects of living in an old house and will cover things like Dealing with damp, Timber frame repairs, Lime plasters and renders, thatching, wattle and daub and lime-washing demonstration. (Cost is £45) Contact Paul Whitehead on 850836 or email p.g.whitehead@reading.ac.uk See noticeboards for more details

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH FETE
Saturday 14th June

Heroes, Heroines and Villains

This is the major fundraising event for St Andrew's Church and so if you enjoyed last year's fete, why not get involved and help to make it an even greater success this year.

Please let us know if you can help either on a sideshow or a stall, by selling raffle tickets, or with the setting up before and also after the fete.

NEW IDEAS AND HELPERS WELCOME.

contact Ben Lawson on 212404 or Andrea Mitchell on 850719

or come along to St Andrew's on Sunday 27th April for coffee at 11.30a.m

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PULL YOUR FINGER OUT



Fire Services throughout Oxfordshire are urging everyone to pull their fingers out and test their smoke alarms.

According to new survey results, 94 per cent of Oxfordshire's households have a smoke alarm, but, 83 per cent **do not** test their alarm often enough, risking the safety of homes and loved ones.

Statistics show that on average, there are 394 accidental house fires in Oxfordshire each year, injuring 95 and killing 4 people.

If you don't own a working smoke alarm you are twice as likely to die in a fire. *So please get one and check it regularly.*

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West Hagbourne news

April 2008 Issue 82



Despite the verges being destroyed by large vehicles the daffodils have never looked better !

opportunists about

A burglary in York Road took place in broad daylight on Easter Monday which should serve as a warning to us all.

Do please double check all of your security arrangements, window locks and ensure padlocks on sheds are working and not too small or rusty.

Security lights and good practice when you go away or even leave the house for a day are all too easy to forget but are important.

If you are interested in getting involved with a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in West Hagbourne or if you would like to find out more please contact the co-ordinators on 01235 556957 or email ringmaster.sopa@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

For help in reporting any crime, or advice on crime prevention the neighbourhood police team in the area can be contacted on *08458 505 505*

time to spare?

Have you time to spare to meet someone new and help them?

South & Vale Carers Centre in Didcot are starting a new project and are looking for volunteers. Would you be interested in helping out someone caring for a relative in their own home? You would be introduced to a household where the carer and the cared-for person are living, and asked to stay in the home while the carer took some time off: perhaps an hour a month, perhaps an afternoon a week.

This would all start off with an interview for you, and references sought, and then a short training course to equip you for any situation and send you free from anxiety into your future as a volunteer! We will take care in matching volunteers and cared-for people, and you would have constant support by phone when you need it as well as ongoing face-to-face meetings with colleagues and with Chris Elliott, the co-ordinator of the scheme.

Chris is waiting to hear from anyone who might be interested, and has much more information to give. Please email her at the Carers Centre on chris@svcarers.org.uk

or you can phone her there on 01235 510212
She will be delighted you've called!

in this issue

smoke alarms

parish council

tidy up

diary dates

old weather

bus passes

incidents on our roads

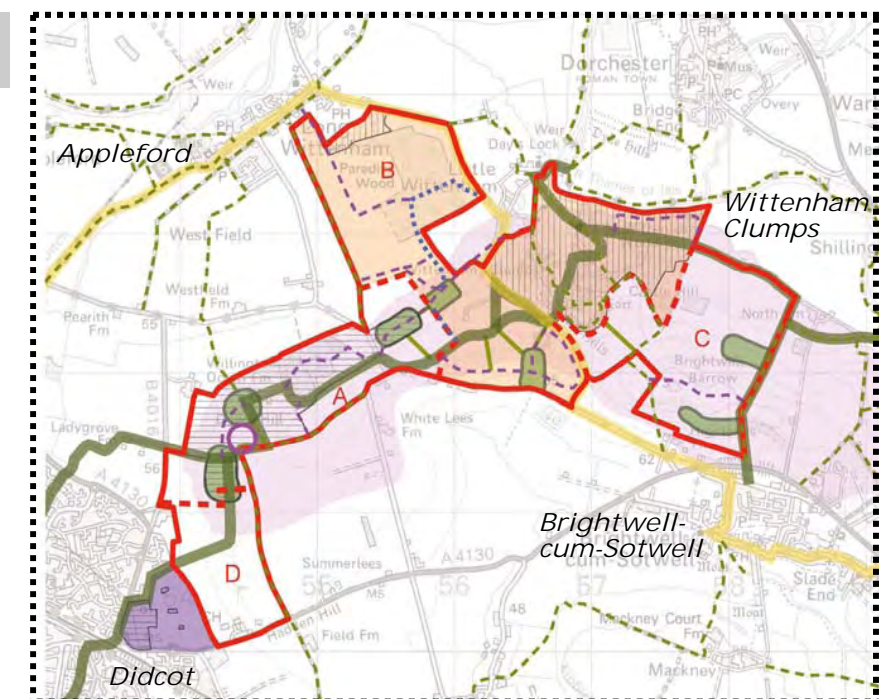
country park proposals

A study has been commissioned by South Oxfordshire District Council from independent consultants, to examine the need for enhanced provision of natural green space in and around Didcot, to meet the needs of the ever growing population of the town.

It proposes a green link which would then encompass the Wittenham Clumps that lie to the North East of Didcot.

The study has been informed by consultations with the local community and key stakeholder organisations to identify needs and opportunities for enhanced provision of accessible natural greenspace for Didcot.

The study's recommendations, which are summarised in a document, which will then be considered by the Council as part of the South Oxfordshire District Local Development Framework (LDF). You can view the proposals at www.southoxon.gov.uk



parish council report

The Parish Council last met on *Thursday 13th March 2008* at Hagbourne School.

Three members of the public attended the meeting. At the public participation session concern was expressed about the appearance and condition of the village, for example excessive damage done to grass verges, etc. by oversized lorries, and delivery drivers who continue to flout the 7.5T weight limit on a regular basis. The traffic using the road through the village continues to be the biggest concern for most residents. One vehicle was recently written off in a collision on Hagbourne Hill and another overturned on Brook Lane.

Appointment of new parish clerk

The Council appointed Michelle Lightfoot as its new Parish Clerk, starting from the beginning of April, as Roger Sweet resigned as parish clerk after the January council meeting.

It was decided to purchase an external hard drive for the use of the new Clerk and the Council also decided to look into long-term fire-proof storage of the parish archives.

Around the village

The Village Action Group will shortly commence some initial clearance in Moor Lane between the Upton footpath and the railway embankment.

The Council discussed replacement of the planting trough by the pond as it had recently been demolished by a car when the road was icy. There has been some opposition to its replacement and the Council noted that it is not actually its responsibility. Any replacement of the trough should be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting.

SODC's Parish Remuneration Panel

Following the recent SODC report, the Council discussed whether to pay allowances to councillors. No conclusion was reached but the members present stated that, although there might be some merit in the reimbursement of travel expenses in exceptional circumstances, they do not wish to be paid an allowance.

The Council decided to raise the matter at the Annual Parish Meeting and to defer any decision until then.

Traffic issues

The Council has now written to Highways with a list of highways improvements or outstanding maintenance work, many of which the Council has been pressing for over recent years.

Proposed development at Broomsticks

The Council discussed the possibility of a development at Broomsticks following Stewart Lilley's first meeting with the Council before the January meeting. It was felt that specific proposals should be waited for, before making any comment. As yet no planning application has been submitted.

10 year old application to formalise bridleway along route of old railway

The Council noted that as the embankment is now leased to Sustrans this guarantees access for cyclists, walkers and horse-riders for the next 25 years, it could add no more information to the consultation.

Planning applications

The Council was dismayed by the refusal of planning permission for conversion of the barn at Ivy Farmhouse. The Council expressed disappointment about how rigidly the local plan had been applied in this instance.

Land opposite Horse and Harrow

The Council decided to once again lobby Greene King for a decision. In the meantime the Council decided to maintain the ground and arrange for the grass to be cut four times during the growing season.

Village Tidy up

The spring litter pick up will take place on Sunday 6th April meet in the square at 2pm. Gloves, bags and pickers will be provided. All welcome, walk the paths and clear as you go.

Next meeting

The next meeting of West Hagbourne Parish Council will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council which will be followed by an ordinary Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 8th May 2008 starting at 7.30 in Hagbourne School

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at Broomsticks on Saturday 24th May at 3pm

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

new Parish Clerk

Michelle Lightfoot 851 875

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

South Oxfordshire District Council planning committee has **refused** the listed building application for the barn at Ivy Farm .

newsletter

This newsletter is *published by* West Hagbourne Parish Council

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

copy deadlines

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 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 Brooklands

the weather: nothing new

There has been a lot of unusual weather during the last twelve months but *nothing is new, it has all happened before*. In the 17th Century fear and superstition abounded everywhere and any changes in the weather were of great concern to ordinary people.

In April 1652 there was an eclipse of the sun which so alarmed people that no one stirred from their home.

Many strange phenomena occurred during that century, there were terrific storms, hail, rain, floods, tempest, frosts and earthquakes. The Thames was frozen over several times and there were extremes of cold and heat never experienced before.

Extracts from an essay on Elias Ashmole by A L Humfrey FSP were published in the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archaeological Journal Vol. 28 in 1923/24

Elias Ashmole 1617-1692 though not born in Berkshire was the County's first historian and we must remember that this part of Oxfordshire was once Berkshire. He lived in Bradfield, had close associations with Reading and in 1660 King Charles II created him Windsor Herald.

Ashmole is of course commemorated in the *Ashmolean Museum* in Oxford which he founded in 1682 with his very old friend John Tradescant.



skating on the frozen Thames at Marston Ferry

Some services are increasing prices

Garden Waste Scheme will increase to £30 a year (or only £28.50 if paid by direct debit).

For household *bulky waste collections* minimum charge of £20 for up to three items and then £6.35 per additional item.

The cost for the collection of an *unwanted vehicle* will be £68.



It is illegal for lorries over 7.5T to go through the village (except for access).

Please report violations to Trading Standards who now have the legal power to take action and tell the Council

Call the Heavy Lorry hot line 01865 810839 noting date, registration, time and please take pictures too if you can.

artswEEKS 2008

Helen Winthorpe Kendrick is again holding an **exhibition of her textiles** during Oxfordshire Artweeks 2008.

The exhibition is being held at 'Driftway', York Road, West Hagbourne.

It will include framed and 3D pieces of creative embroidery, incorporating fabric, oil pastel, paper and computer parts.

You can catch it between

1.00 - 6.00pm from

Saturday 3rd May to Sunday 11th May (Thursday open till 8.00pm).

Refreshments available with proceeds going to the Helen & Douglas House hospice for children.

New national concessionary bus pass scheme!

From 1 April 2008 if you are 60 or over, or eligible disabled you will be able to enjoy free off-peak travel on local buses anywhere in England.



Don't miss out

Your new bus pass will be issued by your local authority, the arrangements for issuing passes is different depending on who your local authority is.

See right for how to obtain your bus pass from your local authority and information about further concessions in your local area.

Are you 60 after 1 April 2008?

If you become 60 after 1 April you must apply in person to your local authority for your national concessionary bus pass.

Most of those of you who are eligible, should by now have received your new bus pass.

But SODC have informed us that by the 1st of April quite a number of requests had still not been processed.

Your current bus pass will still work locally on services within South Oxfordshire.

With 11 million passes to issue, the contractor is assuring that all will be delivered sometime during April.

If you have any questions regarding your new pass or problems using it contact the Concessionary Fares Team on 01491 823413

or you can email them at concessionary-fares@southoxon.gov.uk

Travel information
The regional travel information service call T: 0871 200 22 33, or visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

thanks

Thank you to everyone who supported my Quiz on the 15th March, first event raised almost £400 as part of my fund raising for an expedition to Ecuador next year. Thanks in particular to those who made a contribution, even though they couldn't make it on the night.

If you do any of your shopping online with places like Amazon or Blockbuster you could also help by simply registering at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/ellietailor

They give a small percentage back, and some businesses make a flat donation if you change your broadband supplier, or take out a new credit card through the site.

Ellie Taylor

