

next meeting

the next meeting of the *Parish Council* will be held on *Thursday 11th September* starting at *7.30pm* in Hagbourne School

seat rubbing

Volunteers are needed to help sand down and re-stain the seats in The Square. Weather permitting, during weekend 13/14th September. Watch notice boards for further details - all materials will be provided.

overhanging hedges

Please ensure your hedges are kept trimmed back to boundary lines especially where they are next to, or overhang the highway.

potholes

if you find there is a particular pothole on your road which needs attention please let the Parish Clerk know too or you can report it to Highways department *0845 310 11 11* www.oxfordshirehighways.org

smoking bonfires

please have some consideration for your neighbours when having bonfires.

co-ordinator sought

The village needs a co-ordinator to take on the neighbourhood watch role. If you'd like more details please contact the clerk.

message board

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

web site

the site is getting more visits, but will evolve if more of you use it, so use the message board, engage with skill-swap and get involved. If you've an idea, or something new for the site contact the web master at www.westhagbourne.org

drivers beware

With more children playing in and around the village on bicycles, would all drivers please take more care, especially in Moor Lane and York Road.

new residents welcome!

Welcome to the all the new residents! Hacca's Brook where the new family are Rachel and Tim and their baby Alice. Michael Field has moved in to Thatch Cottage. The Silcock family are newly resident at Corbière and the Tilbury's in Grove Terrace.

And *congratulations* on the birth at home of Edward, son to Tom and Eve of Wycherts.

bulbs and trees

If you are prepared to put in some time this Autumn, planting bulbs, cutting back overgrowth in Moor Lane, or planting trees and shrubs?

Let Marion Judd know so she can tell you in advance about the weekends when activities will take place. You'll find her details on page two.

volunteer carers

A scheme to train and place volunteers is gathering speed at the South & Vale Carers Centre in Didcot. They would like to recruit more: would you be interested in helping out someone caring for a relative in their own home?

Chris is waiting to hear from anyone interested, and has much more information to give. email her at the Carers Centre on chris@svcarers.org.uk or phone her there on *01235 510212*

She will be delighted you've called!

use your email

If you would like to join the *email circulation list* which receives notifications of meetings, minutes, public consultations and important headlines, please email the parish clerk and your address will be added to the list. For those of you who do not have access to a computer, a telephone cascade exists to pass on neighbourhood watch and other urgent messages.

(You can opt out at any time.)

volunteers sought

Andrea Dennis is a PhD student at Oxford Brookes University and I am one of her supervisors. Her research investigates important aspects of understanding how people divide their attention between two or more activities.

In her current study she is asking people to attend to different sorts of information while they walk at a faster speed than their usual comfortable pace. Everyday situations might include trying to recall what you were intending to buy for supper while hurrying to the shop before it closes, or watching out for oncoming traffic while crossing a busy road to catch a bus.

She is currently looking to recruit healthy volunteers who are at least 60 years old to take part in the study. The testing will take place at Oxford Brookes and will last about 2 hours. Travel to the university will be reimbursed and parking arranged.

If you are interested in taking part in this study, please contact me in the first place for further information.

Janet Cockburn Orchard House
janet@jcockburn.plus.com

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West Hagbourne news

August 2008 Issue 84

unexplained signs

There was much concern around the village in July, and especially in York Road when a series of random flour markings appeared.

Thames Valley Police confirmed that organised burglars did use similar marks to identify target houses, for example those with no burglar alarm.

However the mystery marks appear to belong to a Hash run centred around Upton - which was not highly publicised..

Hash House Harriers (abbreviated to HHH or H3) is an international group of social, non-competitive running, social, and drinking clubs.

Hashers frequently describe themselves as 'a drinking club with a running problem', and the social element of hashing is of equal importance to the running, often linking up local pubs.

The template for a hash run is loosely based on hare hunting. One or more hashers (the "hares") lay out a running trail, that the rest of the club (pack or 'hounds') follows. The trail may include false trails (check-backs or CB), short cuts (or splits), breaks, and checks (a marking on the trail that requires the pack to search the area to discover the correct direction of the trail. These features are designed to keep the pack together regardless of fitness levels or running speed.

Lead runners who locate the trail and the dead ends are often known as FRB (Front running b*stards) as they cover the most ground and balance out the tail ends.

Despite this false alarm, you should remain vigilant and not simply ignore unexplained markings or signs near your property.

Every effort will be made to try and publicise events when we get to know about them, and similarly the cascade system will be used to advise of any potential threat to households. If you would like to become involved in neighbourhood watch or add your email address or telephone number to the cascade just contact the Clerk - full details on page 2.

overhanging hedges

There have been requests from several of the farms around the village, for residents to cut back to their boundary hedges and overhanging foliage. At harvest time you are more likely to see wide loads and tractors struggle to negotiate some parts of the village, in particular those areas where wing mirrors can easily reach hedges that have grown.

Everyone is obliged to ensure hedges, planting and shrubs are cut back keeping footpaths and the highway clear of obstacles; in the same way as landowners have a duty to ensure rights of way and watercourses are kept clear.

repair at long last

You will see that the very poorly surfaced part of Main Street by the pond, has been repaired (at long last) It's taken almost three years to get this relatively small part of highways maintenance rectified after the surface dressing was done in the rain, despite promises in writing that it would be done back in 2006.

transition community

The challenges presented to us today by global warming and peak oil (and gas) are perhaps the greatest that humanity has faced. This time brings a great opportunity for rethinking the way we live and making conscious choices about what kind of community and world we would like to live in. Change is coming whether we like it or not - a planned response to the change will leave us in a much stronger position than simply waiting until change is upon us.

Totnes is the first of a series of Transition Initiatives, a community in a process of imagining and creating a future that addresses the challenges of diminishing oil+gas supplies and climate change, creating the kind of community we would want to be part of.

Do you think West Hagbourne should consider the implications of becoming a transition community? If you do, speak to one of your parish councillors, or the parish clerk.

Find further details at www.transitionnetwork.org

Madge trophy winner

The annual award of the Madge Trophy for the best presented front garden in West Hagbourne was made at the beginning of August. The winning front garden was 5 Manor Close see page three for full report

World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Sue Totterdell is planning to hold an event on the morning of **Saturday September 27th** at Meadow's Edge. in York Road, as part of the fundraising campaign being run by Macmillan Cancer Support 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' Coffee from 10.30am but please contact Sue on 850 080 for details or *see notice boards*



Every cup will help improve the lives of people living with cancer.

meetings of the parish council

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

Two members of the public attended, Tom Barker and Patrick Greene gave their apologies

Public participation session

Terry Pritchard raised concern that the new bus timetables were missing at Bus Shelter and Didcot Parkway. It was explained that there had been a delay and the bus companies should be providing the new timetables. He was also concerned about discrepancies on the new timetable, and expressed disappointment that the bus from West Hagbourne arrives at Didcot Parkway long after the first cheap day train to London has departed. Terry pointed out several other mistakes and agreed to input on any response to OCC and the Bus Company

Declaration of interest

Following attendance at a recent SODC Code of Conduct Training session it was suggested and agreed, that a list be drawn up of all Committees with any involvement by a Parish Councillor. This will then be formally recorded by the Clerk as part of the declarations of interest.

Planning applications

Declarations of interest - In view of the proposed development at Broomsticks – advice to be sought from SODC regarding any application, and how Councillors could / or should not be, involved in this particular planning item.

Little Acorns Nursery – planning granted SODC.

Ivy Farm Appeal – barn conversion – appeal

The Parish Council has so far been unsuccessful in obtaining a meeting with the Head of Planning to discuss future planning gain – though a suggestion for a drop-in session with other local Parish Councils affected by Great West Park, was felt to be another example of misunderstanding by SODC of their own plans. The only Parish affected by 'housing' in South Oxfordshire is West Hagbourne. Clerk will try to arrange something in September before next meeting.

Finance

It was agreed to add a figure to the regular financial statement showing the amount of money in reserve.

The annual audit statement was agreed - with one query to be raised with our own auditor

Consultations

It was agreed to reply to Thames Water Consultation and the Draft Strategy for Change, an online questionnaire is to be completed. The Parish Council would support Sutton Courtenay Parish Council's request for over the proposed incinerator.

Village Maintenance

A replacement litter bin opposite the Horse & Harrow will be installed in the next month.

The History Group report water damage to Noticeboard which contains the village map. Clerk has followed this up with Greenbarnes who supplied it and is awaiting a response.

Village garden – the water butt base has collapsed and needs to be stabilised. The garden has been tidied by Dave Totterdell and is now much improved. In the Autumn a severe cut back of all the shrubs will take place, opening up the

area which has become rather overgrown. This will look brutal but will result in a tidier appearance next year..

Rights of Way

Several complaints about footpaths between Didcot and West Hagbourne being overgrown or unmarked have been received, one area being almost impassable. Clerk to contact East Hagbourne Parish Council and Didcot Town Council regarding responsibilities.

Planter near pond – replacement is being considered. Clerk to obtain written confirmation from Chris & Sue Lay that they are happy for a replacement to be considered, and the History Group have agreed to give some thought to what the new planter might look like.

Terry Pritchard asked if resurfacing of York road could be requested, as it in a very poor state.

Maintenance of **Village seats** – it was agreed that volunteers would be sought to sand down and re-stain the seats in The Square on the weekend of the 13th/14th September weather permitting.

It was noted that the dead elder trees by the substation in York Road had been removed leaving the ditch wide open with the spring visible, it was suggested extending the fence would make this small area safer.

Moor Lane – Oxford Conservation Volunteers have agreed in principle to carry out some of the heavier manual work which is needed to improve the hedge line on the South side.

No response on had been received following our request for ash which could be used in Moor Lane – Clerk to chase.

Land by the Horse & Harrow

The Land opposite the Horse & Harrow has now been cut and the Council agreed to once again to formally write with reference to the promised transfer of land from Greene King.

Neighbourhood Watch

The request for new co-ordinator for neighbourhood watch has so far generated no responses - though a few new people have joined the E-mail/telephone cascade. It was suggested that liaison with the Village Association might help find a replacement Co-ordinator.

Traffic Issues

The condition of the surface water drainage in the village was discussed – in particular the state of York Road and areas requiring some modifications to stop flooding / standing water

The letter sent out to all local farmers regarding farm vehicles travelling through the village, asking them to take extra care as damage had been caused near the pond, generated one response from Rowan Napper. Having discussed his own concerns, it was agreed to reply, and to address where possible the specific issues raised – in particular overgrowing hedge-lines which are causing a nuisance to farm vehicles.

The Council plans to hold a formal meeting with the Highways Department in September to discuss a range of specific issues.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 11th September** at 7.30pm in 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

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

New planning applications for French doors at Downs Farm and extension at 1, Grove Terrace and a loft conversion at 10 Manor Close have been received.

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

October issue 30 September
December issue 30 November

please e-mail copy for inclusion to parishclerk@westhagbourne.org or drop off at Brooklands

village association lunch

The Village Association held a very successful Pimms, Pate and Puddings, open air lunch on July 27th in the garden of Broomsticks by kind invitation of Marion Judd

Thank you to the committee for providing delicious food and to those who came and told us that it was one of the most



the Madge Trophy

Each year the West Hagbourne Best Front Garden Competition is held with the Madge Trophy awarded to the winner. This year judging took place on Tuesday 5th August and the judge was **Mr Roger Phipps**.

The judge's overall view was that many gardens were well tended using a variety of flowers and shrubs.

The Best Garden was judged to be:-

Angela Booker at **5 Manor Close**. "A typical village cottage garden, well kept, beautifully designed and full of flowers".

Second – Mr & Mrs T Mulford, 11 York Road. - "Well kept and a riot of colour. Full of flowers, in baskets and containers".

Third – Mr and Mrs D Carter, Green Thatch, Main Street - "A garden whose overall shape blends in so well with the cottage buildings, full of flowers and outstanding box hedges".

Gardens or parts of gardens receiving special mention were as follows:- (they are not in order of merit).

Mr and Mrs Butler, **Blissetts**, - A lovely Elizabethan garden.

Mrs J Cockburn, **Orchard House**, A typically English border garden.

Mr and Mrs I Thomson, **Fermain**, York Road - Interestingly shaped garden with colourful beds of flowers and shrubs.

Mr and Mrs F Hills, **16 York Road** – Colourful, filled with old and new varieties of flowers. Special mention made of the lilies in bloom.

Mr and Mrs B Warner, **Downsview**, Different and interesting. The raised circular centre bed making a focal point, pulling your eyes into the garden. The side beds magnificent in colour.

Mr and Mrs F Scott, **Chapel Hayes**, Main Street - Good use of plants and baskets of flowers to bring the house and outbuildings together.

Mr and Mrs J Watling, **Sula Sgeir**, Main Street - Good use of trees, shrubs and flowers in a well designed garden.

Mrs Pepper, **Sarnia**, Main Street - Attractive and colourful.

Mr R Sweet, **Uplands**, Main Street - Attractive garden, full of plants with at its centre a lovely small flowering tree.

Mr M Freeland, **Main Street** - Beautiful old hydrangeas growing up the wall.

The competition is held each year and our thanks go to this year's judge, Mr Roger Phipps. The Madge Trophy Cup is held by the winner for twelve months. Thank you to all gardeners who help to make West Hagbourne such an attractive village.

August 2008.

BARN DANCE

at Didcot Town Football Club

Saturday 27th September

Official Welcome for the Meylan visitors by Members of Didcot Town Council and Didcot Twinning Association at 7.30pm

Dance starts at 8pm Bar Buffet Supper at 9pm

Tickets from Sue Totterdell 850080