

# West Hagbourne Oxfordshire

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OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2009 ISSUE 91

## 50mph

The Highways department currently have plans which the Parish Council has supported, to implement a 50mph speed limit along the stretch of the A417 that comes through the Parish. The main aim is to reduce accident rates and as there were several major incidents at the junction with Hagbourne Hill. So this can only be seen as a good thing.

## Fire

The arson of an enormous straw stack to the north of the village last month, which was reported by a vigilant villager, reminds us how destructive fire can be (picture below by Malcolm Brownsword)



## Chimneys

The number of chimney fires has been on the increase in recent years, as the more people use open fires. This is especially concerning for villages like the Hagbournes that contain thatched buildings.

Recorded incidents in Oxfordshire have increased by around five per cent over the last four years, and in January 2009, crews in the south of Oxfordshire attended nearly twice the number of chimney fires (21) compared with 2008 (12).

Regular sweeping and maintenance of chimneys eliminates the build-up of soot. It also clears obstructions such as birds' nests, leaves and other debris. It's an easy step to take to make sure that your home is safer.

## Calming

The County Council has now acknowledged that the existing road networks would not cope with the increased employment and housing being proposed at Didcot and that stronger transport links between housing and employment locations such as the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus (SIC) and Milton Park are needed:

Their proposals include:

- a Harwell Strategic Link Road from the A4130 east of the Milton Interchange to the A417
- relief to the Rowstock Junction to include a Harwell Field Link Road from the A417 to Harwell SIC on the A4185, increased capacity at the campus entrance, and improvements to the Featherbed Lane junctions.
- traffic calming through the villages of Harwell, East and West Hagbourne
- improvements to bus services throughout the area
- improvements to cycling links between Didcot and both Milton Park and Harwell SIC

There will now be local consultation and despite some of these items being required NOW, it may be many years before any of this is implemented.

NO changes to access onto the A34 at Chilton were included.

## Action Day

On Saturday 14th November we are hoping as many people as possible, young and old alike will come out and do their bit around the village.

There are lots of areas which need tidying up, including kerbs, paths, verges and boundaries that have become overgrown or gathered rubbish.

If everyone does a little in their part of the village an enormous difference could be made - so if you want to help planting hedge plants, clear brambles, or collect litter everyone will be welcome.

So those of you with paths beside your properties with weeds that need scraping out, hedges that are overhanging or fence lines that face public paths and you are prepared to put in an hour to improve the condition of your village - please come out and do your bit on the 14th.

The Pond needs the weed removing, autumn bulbs need planting, benches need scrubbing down.

If you have a petrol hedgecutter, strimmer or a bush saw, there are parts of the lanes / footpaths which need cutting back and clearing. We'll also need people to move rubbish, watch bonfires, fetch and carry, rake up and do all sorts of little jobs.

There'll be a list by the bus shelter, so come along, decide how much or how little you can do, and let's see what can be done in just one day.

Anytime from 10am on

Saturday 14th November 2009

# News

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## Madge Trophy

Judging for the Madge Trophy, for the most colourful village garden, took place on the morning of Thursday, 3rd September, and once again proved to be a very difficult task.

Our Judge, Brenda Andrews, was very impressed with the "very well kept lawns and well tended shrubs", and as she walked through the village she commented on the way in which size and situation made for great variety.

Brenda made special mention of several well designed gardens and considered Lilley Cottage to be "outstanding" together with Blissets, Green Thatch, Fermain and Meadows Edge. Downs View with "it's attractive layout and fine display of begonias" was rated very highly. The Laurels "charming and vibrant with good strong colours" was highly commended, and special mention was made of the way in which the ivy on the front of the house had been reduced, a centuries old tradition, which preserved the history of the cottage.

Finally, the winner, "a truly cottage garden - simple, charming, full of colour" - 16 York Road and so congratulations to Frank and Gladys Hill.'



Brenda Andrews with Hazel Rack and Keith Walton during their judging of the village gardens.



## Trick or Treat

Halloween is a great time for children, youths and some adults to dress up as 'ghouls' and 'witches' and go out into the night to knock on doors to play "Trick or Treat". The majority of your callers will be harmless and will be happy even if you say "no thank you".

Remember that many of the smaller children in the village are often accompanied by a parent and will visit early in the evening.

Thames Valley Police in South Oxfordshire are working with local shopkeepers and schools to reduce incidents of nuisance and criminal damage that happen at this time of year. Their advice is not to open your door if you are unsure who is there.

If you feel threatened or vulnerable call the police on 08458 505 505

## Pumpkin

This annual competition will be held soon at the Horse and Harrow.

Prizes are awarded for the largest and heaviest pumpkins and this year given the strange weather conditions, anything could happen.

## Housing

In the Parish plan there was an indication that the Parish as a whole would support a few additional houses being built in the village. Affordable housing for local people is quite difficult to facilitate in small settlements but it is possible.

If you would like to express a view on this, you can help inform the Parish Council about how many local people would be interested in this sort of scheme by talking to a Councillor or you can write to the Clerk.

# History Group

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In an article about the village conservation area in the August newsletter, Roger Sweet asked some questions which the History Group may be able to answer.

We responded to the Proposed Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Plan for West Hagbourne in 2005, suggesting the extension of the conservation area west of Manor Farm to include the Horse and Harrow as a building of local note and of special historic interest.

We know that the Horse and Harrow existed in 1754 but it is probably much older than that. It has historic links with Morlands Brewery at West Ilsley and may well have been one of its first tied estates. The area adjoining it was once the site of a toll gate and toll house. It was known as Scotlands Ash Turnpike Gate and belonged to the owners of the Horse and Harrow in 1888.

The Horse and Harrow is one of West Hagbourne's oldest buildings and, in the absence of a church, village hall or shop, our only 'public' building. It has always played an important part in the life of this rural community and is an integral part of its history, making it a building of historical and cultural significance – two of the criteria for listed building status.

Furthermore, with an eye to the future and the very real threat of further expansion into our parish from the north west it's important to provide as much protection as possible for this historic building.

The Horse and Harrow has been under threat of closure in the recent past, for want of a landlord. If this happens again the owners could easily decide to close it down like so

many other pubs throughout the country.

By placing the Horse and Harrow within a designated conservation area as a building of local note, it makes it much more difficult to destroy it.

On a final note, the building may not be of architectural significance but it does sit invitingly at the western approach to our village with its frontage facing the main road, providing a pleasing welcome to West Hagbourne.

The History Group

## Moor Lane

Oxfordshire Conservation Volunteers spent a full day in the lane in September and the results of removing several tonnes of bramble and dead wood is really quite dramatic.

Under the advice of Cynth Napper various habitats were retained and some created, and masses of bramble and dead wood was removed from the watercourse.

Some of the views out from the lane across towards the old railway line have been restored and during the winter months we hope to restore some of the hedge planting.

A few of us tackled the upper ditch beside Thatch Cottage and despite disturbing a wasps nest, cleared lots of dead wood and nettles, which should allow the grass verge to fully recover, and now its almost ready for some native bulb planting which will be undertaken some time in mid November.



# Notices

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## Visual treat

Hagbourne Garden Club will be holding an audio-visual show on Thursday 22 October at 7.30pm

Tea/coffee and cakes served from 7pm in Hagbourne Village Hall

Following the success of local events such as the Scarecrow Trail in East Hagbourne, the NGS Open Gardens, the 'Britain in Bloom' Competition, and the St. George's Day dragon competition in West Hagbourne.

## Extension

The Parish Council have been asked to consider making a substantial contribution to the proposed extension to Hagbourne Village Hall. The request is for West Hagbourne to contribute several thousand pounds towards the scheme.

Any significant amount would have to be raised through a small increase in your council tax.

This will be discussed fully at the next Parish Council meeting in November, but if you have a view please talk to a Councillor before then. There are plans to add a meeting room and improve the entrance hallway and the toilets.

## Coffee Morning

Sue Totterdell raised over £ 80 for the MacMillan appeal at a coffee morning in September. Thank you to everyone who supported the event and to Justine Thompson and Janet Cockburn for their cake contributions. If you didn't go, you can still contribute or donate the cost of your coffee before the end of October!

Make your cup count donate your morning coffee to Macmillan Cancer Support - just text COFFEE to 70123 and donate £3.



## Skip

There will be a skip for green waste only in Greengate Lane on Saturday and Sunday 14/15th November.

## Recycling waste

The District Council reports a significant increase in the rates of recycling in our area, and the collection service seems to be working very effectively right across the village.

Remember any food waste you put into the weekly dark green box, is then composted using a high temperature process.

Several of you have asked why the same vehicle collects it, but it actually goes into a separate compartment.

## Blankets

Oxfordshire County Council's Trading Standards and Fire and Rescue and Services are urging electric blanket owners to get their blankets tested free of charge ahead of the approaching colder months.

Tests will be made by appointment at Didcot Fire Station.

To make a booking contact the county council's Trading Standards Service on 01865 815607.

The testing team will collect and deliver blankets for people who have severe mobility problems or have no means of getting the blanket to the testing venue.

## Poor roads

Please report any potholes to the Highways department as soon as they appear. The more reports they receive the faster they are dealt with. Full details of how to report them are on the website, or phone Highways on 0845 310 11 11

[westhagbourne.org/noticeboard](http://westhagbourne.org/noticeboard)

# Parish Council

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## Clerk

David Totterdell 850 080  
[parishclerk@westhagbourne.org](mailto:parishclerk@westhagbourne.org)  
Meadows Edge, York Road OX11 0NG

## Councillors

Phil Taylor 850 182  
[phil.taylor@westhagbourne.org](mailto:phil.taylor@westhagbourne.org)

Marion Judd 850 434  
[marion.judd@westhagbourne.org](mailto:marion.judd@westhagbourne.org)

Tom Barker 850 858  
[tom.barker@westhagbourne.org](mailto:tom.barker@westhagbourne.org)

Sue Totterdell 850 080  
[susan.totterdell@westhagbourne.org](mailto:susan.totterdell@westhagbourne.org)

## Vacancy

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please talk to a councillor or you can contact the Clerk by email on [parishclerk@westhagbourne.org](mailto:parishclerk@westhagbourne.org)

## District Councillor

Patrick Greene 813 396  
[patrick.greene@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:patrick.greene@southoxon.gov.uk)  
South Oxfordshire District Council  
01491 823000

## County Councillor

Patrick Greene 813 396  
[patrick.greene@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:patrick.greene@oxfordshire.gov.uk)  
Oxfordshire County Council  
01865 792422

## Planning applications

These are now available as web links  
[westhagbourne.org/planning](http://westhagbourne.org/planning)

## Copy deadline

December 30 Nov

Contributions for the newsletter are always welcome on all subjects but in particular anything affecting the residents of the parish of West Hagbourne

For sale or wanted Small ads are free if you live in the Parish

please e-mail copy for inclusion to  
[parishclerk@westhagbourne.org](mailto:parishclerk@westhagbourne.org)

## Minutes

[westhagbourne.org/councilminutes](http://westhagbourne.org/councilminutes)

Minutes of all meetings of the Parish Council are available on line.

If you would like a copy of the minutes emailed to you, please contact the clerk.

Or if you do not have access to the internet, please call the clerk and a copy will be delivered to you.

The Council received a report from Patrick Greene who was unable to attend the meeting as he had suffered a broken leg. It contained an update from the SCOTS report and information regarding the increase in recycling rates.

It was agreed that a whole village action day was the right way to try and clear up some of the public realm like footpath fringes, rubbish collection and small areas which have become overgrown.

The Parish Councillors are not elected to be general labourers, although they do tend to participate more than most, it is hoped that everyone will do a little at the event in November.

John Baille will now look after the web site and anything sent to the webmaster will be dealt with as usual.

The Council had no strong views on one small planning application at 13 York Road, and was advised that SODC has approved an extension at Scotland's Ash Garage.

The County Highways department has at last confirmed that as it agreed to re-erect the milestone on the A417 which is a listed monument, this should have been done by the time this is published.

The Council discussed the possibility of realigning its meetings to coincide with the dates of East Hagbourne Parish Council in order that the two Councils use the available space in the Village Hall to its best advantage.

## Next meeting

The Parish Council will next meet at 7.30pm in Hagbourne School on Thursday 19th November

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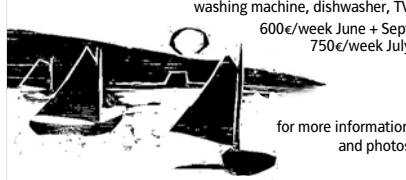
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