

West Hagbourne Oxfordshire

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2010 ISSUE 93



Snow...

The recent snowfalls made it difficult for many of us to travel far or get to work; it also left many people isolated in their homes.

The icy conditions made the village look very pretty whilst the youngsters produced a range of fantastic snowmen, made all the better by the extended school closures...and now the first signs of spring are already making themselves visible.

Footpaths

The Parish Council have recently been approached by both the Ramblers Association and members of the public concerned about the way the laws relating to public rights of way are not always being observed by all landowners.

The County Council have already walked the affected paths and have noted the illegal deviation of one route and the environmental damage done to the surface of Moor Lane and they have assured us they will take appropriate action.

Note that paths which have been ploughed must be made passable for walkers, and those designated by a fixed width, for example the path from Coscote back to West Hagbourne, should never be cultivated.

Thank you

On behalf of all those in the village that received offers of help during the bad weather, Frank and Glad Hill would like to say a special thank you to their neighbours and friends for the care and consideration shown during the cold weather.

From the use of 4x4's and offers of shopping, to just checking that the elderly and infirm were warm enough and OK has been a real comfort to many. It is reassuring for many to know that in such unusual circumstances there are others that they can rely on.

Icy Road

The Highways department blame the depth of Moor Lane ditch for the persistent flood water which keeps lying outside Wycherts and the gate at Broomsticks.

The recent snow and subsequent rain together have raised the groundwater levels and springs which seem to come from somewhere under Broomsticks were evident again.

Highways have done some work already to the gully, but the damage being caused by the persistent splashing of the cob wall is of real concern to its owners and this has been communicated to the Conservation team at SODC.

At least one car lost control and was badly damaged on Friday the 29th as black ice was formed all around the corner in the Square. Nobody was hurt but the driver was very shocked.

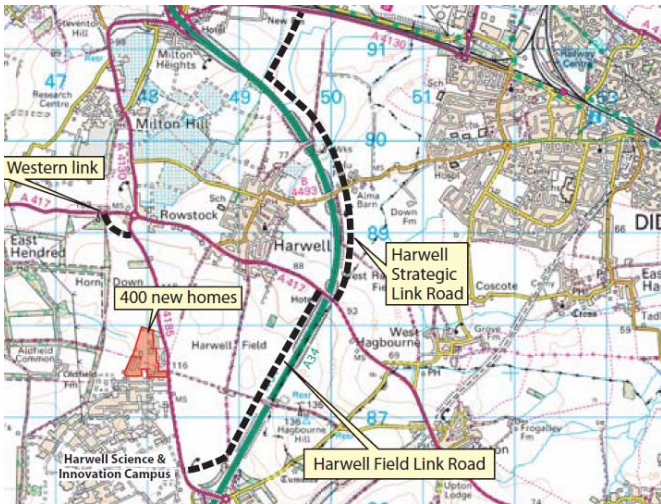
Tractor Fire

The village was once again lit up with the blue lights of the fire service when they had to attend a tractor which had become engulfed in flames.

This all happened during ditch and hedge clearing in one of the fields that back onto Manor Close.



News



Vale strategy

The Vale of White Horse has been consulting with the community as it prepares its Core Strategy. The schematic above shows the latest thoughts on where relief roads should be located. In the opinion of the Parish Council these routes would not solve the traffic going through West Hagbourne or Harwell, and a response has been made, asking that this is reconsidered properly, in line with relevant local knowledge.

The proposals would fail to encourage road users from Didcot to use it, and the rat running we currently experience would simply get worse.

AGM

The Village Association AGM is being held on Tuesday 23rd March 8.00pm at the George and Dragon, Upton. Everyone welcome.

More details available from Betty Kendrick on 850788

Papers

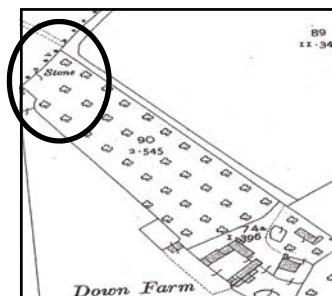
Many thanks to everyone who kindly gave me a Christmas tip for delivering their newspapers.

Best wishes for 2010 from Harry

Long gone

John Baille and Phil Taylor went on something of a fruitless search for an ancient stone in January -

This stone which is clearly shown in the 1933 Ordnance Survey Map, (see extract below) was probably just a boundary marker as its location is on the Parish border, to the north of Downs Farm. But whilst the pond and orchard field edge remain relatively unchanged only a wide modern ditch remains. If anyone knows anything about the history of this stone please contact the History Group.



Pavements

There has been some concern raised over the number of vehicles parking on pavements causing an obstruction to pedestrians.

Wherever possible please ask trades people not to park on the footpaths.

Tyrrell Trust

The Tyrrell Trust is a local charity founded in 1662. The Trust has a very small annual income which enables it to offer small grants to village residents in need of financial help.

Grants are available for anyone whose need corresponds with the Trust's aims. Young people who need help with funding for musical, sporting, educational or other worthwhile initiatives are particularly encouraged to apply for a grant. In the past grants have been awarded to help with fundraising for World Challenge or other charitable or educational expeditions and for national-level sporting activities.

Find out more about the William Tyrrell Trust on the website: www.westhagbourne.org

If you are interested in applying for a grant please contact Bridget Pickup (850 392) or Marion Judd (850 143) for more information. Grants are available for individuals or groups (up to £100 for groups). Applications should be sent to Bridget Pickup, 12 Manor Close, West Hagbourne, giving details of the project to be sponsored.

UK households are throwing away 8.3m tonnes of food a year, most of which is perfectly edible. A typical family with kids bins £680 worth every year. Equally unsettling is the environmental cost - the wasted water and energy in growing and transporting uneaten food and the methane it produces in landfill.

So, how can we do better?

1) Send less food to landfill. WRAP, the UK authority on waste & recycling, recommends that we plan meals, manage portions, keep an eye on 'use by' dates, and freeze surplus (See lovefoodhatewaste.com).

2) Compost food waste. Over 30% of average household waste could be composted. Peelings and tea bags can be converted into rich food for your garden. Home composting doesn't starve waste of oxygen so it releases very little of the potent greenhouse gas methane.

3) Recycle food containers. On average the UK resident sends 2000kg of waste to landfill every year. Why not recycle? Aluminium cans are one of the most cost effective materials to recycle. Compared to manufacture from scratch around 95% of energy can be saved. 80% of all glass sent to recycling reappears in the UK, mostly as new bottles and jars. For more green, money saving tips, call the Energy Saving Trust on 0800 512 012.

Your small green bin is collected every week for hot composting and by using it you can help reduce the amount of waste that is going to landfill.

Notices

Police

If you need advice from the police on any matter please contact your neighbourhood officer (PC Walker) on 07800 702686.

The Cholsey and Moulsoford neighbourhood police team covers the Hagbournes. You can go and talk to the team face to face at one of their Have Your Say meetings which is being held at Hagbourne Village Hall on the 12th February between 7pm and 8pm

Holes

Although there has been some fast and furious patching around the village recently please report any new 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

Councillor

We need another Councillor to bring us up to five. If you are interested in representing the Parish please talk to one of the current councillors or you can contact the Clerk by email on parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

St George

Following last year's very enjoyable St Georges Day celebrations, another St Georges Day dinner is being held on Saturday 24th April. Please put this date in your diaries and come along. Further dragon-related and other information will be circulated later.

Borneo Quiz

A fund raising quiz is being held at Upton Village Hall on Friday 19th March at 7.30pm Teams of six, tickets £8 including hot supper are available from Frankie on 850182

Tree Planting:

Call for volunteers

Can you spare an hour of your time to help plant a new hedgerow in Moor Lane?

Hedging and tree plants arrived recently from OCC and need to be planted soon.

Please come along to Moor Lane on Saturday 13th March at 11am to lend a hand. Your help will be greatly appreciated and as they say, many hands will make for light work!

DESIGN COMPETITION



The Parish Councils of the Hagbournes jointly invite you to design a memorial bench to be erected in memory of Monica Lawson who was Chair of Governors at Hagbourne School and the Parish Council for many years.

The winning idea will be made professionally by a craftsman and installed near Shovel Spring.

All entries should be sent to Marion Judd, 4 Grove Terrace, West Hagbourne OX11 0NL no later than: 19th March 2010

Hagbourne Hall

Would you consider representing West Hagbourne by attending the Hagbourne Hall Committee? They only meet a few times a year and it is important we remain represented. Contact the clerk for further details.

Parish Council

Clerk

David Totterdell 850 080
parishclerk@westhagbourne.org
Meadows Edge, York Road OX11 0NG

Councillors

Phil Taylor 850 182
phil.taylor@westhagbourne.org

Marion Judd 850 143
marion.judd@westhagbourne.org

Tom Barker 850 858
tom.barker@westhagbourne.org

Sue Totterdell 850 080
susan.totterdell@westhagbourne.org

District Councillor

Patrick Greene 813 396
patrick.greene@southoxon.gov.uk

South Oxfordshire District Council
01491 823000

County Councillor

Patrick Greene 813 396
patrick.greene@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Oxfordshire County Council
01865 792422

Planning applications

There are no new planning applications in the Parish - but you can search based on your post code at southoxon planning, there will be a link on the web site at www.westhagbourne.org/planning

Application P09/W0916 is being appealed
Listed app at Thatch Cottage approved

Deadlines for 2010

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

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

The newsletter is distributed to every house in West Hagbourne Parish, is funded by advertising revenue and is currently assembled by Phil Taylor and printed by Tracey Anderson.

Advertising

For sale or wanted Small ads are free if you live in the Parish, but all other advertising revenue pays for the production of the newsletter and the costs associated with hosting the web site.

please e-mail copy for inclusion to
parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

Minutes

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 printed copy will be delivered to you.

There will be a link from our own web site www.westhagbourne.org to South Oxfordshire's planning pages where you can search based on your postcode and view drawings and applications

Consultations

The Parish Council is responding to the Vale of White Horse Core Strategy consultation, and SODC's Green Strategy.

X32

It has been suggested that villagers could benefit from use of the X32 bus service to Oxford. The council will look into the possibility of suggesting a minor route change to include West Hagbourne

Fire Service

In view of possible reductions in capability at Didcot Fire Station's full time force, it was agreed that the council should register its support for maintaining the service.

Affordable Housing

The Council agreed to prepare its own housing needs survey and to involve ORCC in the whole process.

Correspondence

The Council agreed to include Parishioner correspondence on the web site to ensure transparency of locally raised issues.

If there something you particularly want the Council to address, or you want to see what we do, meetings are open to the public and we have an open forum in which all points of view are taken into account.

We also need another Councillor to join us, for more information contact the clerk.

Next meeting

The Parish Council will next meet at 7.30pm in Hagbourne School on Thursday 18th March 2010