

# West Hagbourne



December NEWSLETTER 2010 ISSUE 98

## Infinity Vote!

If you have a BT telephone line, and have not yet voted in this campaign—please do so today! **Even if you do not have the internet you can still vote and help the campaign!**

If enough of us simply express our interest we could find ourselves moved up the priority list, and this has got to be good for anyone who works from home, local businesses and our children, all of who complain the current service is slow, intermittent and unreliable. **See Page 2!**

## Didcot expansion

The Parish Council have continued to lobby South Oxfordshire District Council over the expansion of Didcot, as yet more vast areas of our Parish are being promoted by the developers Taylor Wimpey as a site they could deliver as part of the Core Strategy which SODC have put forward.

The Vale of White Horse has only one area of growth in its Core Strategy - that land fills up the space between the A34 and Great Western Park, coming down as far as the Driftway – the footpath which crosses the fields from the village to Harwell. Of particular interest was the reneging on promises to retain hedgerows, mature trees and the routes of rights of way.

The Parish Council has attended more meetings between stakeholders and the developers, as part of the consultation over the content, design, layout and service provision for Great Western Park. We have done this to ensure consistency when the southern half comes forward for detailed

planning, albeit this is at least two years away.

Given the way planning has been managed, the last remaining parcel of land for GWP - just on the left of Park Road, it is likely this will come forward for building much earlier than the main site. These unused fields are not in the Parish of West Hagbourne but sit against our boundary with East. As there is a possible future risk that plans could be changed later to allow access from the whole GWP site onto the road which feeds the Hagbournes, once again the Parish Council is being strident over the risk of any potential modifications to current agreed plans.

Parish Councillors felt it was in the best interest of the village to participate with other local Parishes in asking for a moratorium on the expansion of Didcot. This was very much in line with the mandate given at the last three Parish Meetings when concern was raised over the lack of infrastructure planning being in place before more houses are built. The aims of the South East regional assembly were always considered undemocratic and the targets set for housing numbers did not take account of the current economic climate.

## Highways

As traffic frequency and perceived speed increases through the village, it is becoming increasingly unsafe to cross the road, and in particular to walk from York Road to the Pond.

With no safety provided by a pavement, the white lines (defining the traffic area) remain but need to be updated. Since the road was surface dressed, the lines and many holes remain un-remedied in our roads.

The strip by Green Thatch has become a "no-go" area for elderly pedestrians and Highways are to meet on site with the Parish Council to discuss once again if a constructive solution to this problem area can be found.

## Merry Christmas

Despite the recent snow, can we wish all of you a very happy Christmas, and best wishes for the new year.

The newsletter needs a new editor, and would welcome any input from those of you who would like to write something, submit a photograph or suggestions for regular features.

## Tyrrell Trust

Advice needed; can you help?

The Trust needs to value its assets from time to time and we need somebody to value its land. As the Trust funds are very small, Mike is prepared to share some of his wine with anybody prepared to do the job.

### A new Trustee?

We would like to get another Trustee with fresh ideas about how the Trust can best fulfil its obligations. If anyone would be interested in becoming a Trustee, please contact Marion Judd, 850 143 or Bridget Pickup, 850 392

### Small grants available:

Please note, especially new residents The Tyrrell Trust is a small local charity that offers grants to village residents in need of financial help, especially to young people who need help with funding musical, sporting, educational or other worthwhile initiatives involving self-development and/or involving community service. 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.

If you are interested in applying 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.



# News

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## infinity

IF YOU HAVE A PHONE LINE,  
PLEASE READ THIS!

This is like 2003/04 all over again, except this time we need more help. As you might be aware, BT is running a 'race' to decide which of the UK's smaller exchanges will jump the queue to get super-fast fibre optic broadband. (Didcot and the larger towns will get it automatically, but once again we'll have to fight for it.) There will be five winners, and one of them will also get computer equipment worth £5000 for a local school or community project.

The race runs from now until December 31st and simply requires people to vote for their exchange. There's no cost and no commitment – you just need to stand up and be counted.

For the Blewbury exchange (serving Blewbury, Upton, the Astons, West Hagbourne and part of East Hagbourne) to be in with a chance, we need at least 1,000 votes from all the villages combined.

If you're on the Internet already, you can vote by going to <http://www.racetoinfinity.bt.com/vote/cast> and entering your details. It takes less than a minute.

Only one vote is allowed per postal address, and according to BT there are only 1236 postal addresses in all the villages put together. That means in order to get 1000 votes, we need 81% of all our households and businesses to stand up and be counted. So you can see why we need your help! Please vote as soon as you can and ask your friends, family and neighbours to do the same.

Keep up with the campaign as it develops.

We'll report on progress in the early December and Christmas editions of the Bulletin. If you want more frequent updates than that, you can contact Chris at [cwhatmore.tst@btinternet.com](mailto:cwhatmore.tst@btinternet.com) and

he'll add you to the campaign mailing list. And for all you social networkers out there, you can follow us on Facebook by searching for "Better broadband" and clicking the 'Like' button on our campaign page. You can also follow 0123585infinity on Twitter. Whatever it takes to spread the word and get this done, we're going to do it!

Good luck and thanks very much to all those who have voted from the Campaign team.

## Village Assoc.

The Skittles evening held on Saturday 13th November was a great success.

The last skittles competition run by the Village Association was in 2006. This time 37 people came along to Upton's newly refurbished Village Hall and enjoyed getting together with friends and neighbours over a delicious supper, and a cut-throat game of skittles. The winner was John Baile who beat the nearest contender by 2 points.

### New members wanted !

The Village Association was originally formed with the aims of serving the Village through providing opportunities for residents to get together, get to know each other and for mutual enjoyment through participating in activities suitable for residents of all ages. In the past the Association has run suppers, lunches, skittles evenings, St Georges' Day celebrations and has marked national events such as the Queen's Jubilee. Now, times are changing and new opportunities for community activities to enhance Village life in a variety of ways have presented themselves. One example concerns the need for new initiatives to help the Village to be 'greener' as currently being promoted through towns and villages nationally.

The same group of dedicated people has run the Village Association and worked to carry out its aims for a number of years. Now the Association needs more members to help take these new contemporary agendas

forward and would welcome some younger people with new ideas to help us expand and fulfil the association's remit. As well as new members, we would like to hear from residents about activities they might enjoy that the Association could run in the future.

Please contact any member of the Village Association with your ideas, or with offers of help. New members would be very welcome!

Betty Kendrick 850788

Val Walton 851089

Mike Parker 851389

and Marion Judd 850143

## Funds Raised

Over the last three years £10,000 for local charities has been raised by Pauline Mulford of 11 York Road.

Recently as the result of a charity evening with a 'Take That' tribute band, comedian, auction, raffle and disco she raised £2,200 for the Oxford based Helen & Douglas House .

Many thanks to everyone who has personally supported Pauline and especially to those who helped and were involved in raising funds for such a worthy cause.

Helen & Douglas House is a registered charity providing respite and end of life care for children and young adults with life-shortening conditions, as well as support and friendship for the whole family.



## Traffic count

The last time through traffic in the village was counted visually in the village was in 2005.

Since then the Highways department has provided electronic counters which measure speed and frequency, but no evidence of the type of vehicles using the route through the village.

We need to update this data to make sure it is accurate so that when the Parish Council is lobbying for traffic reduction through Main Street it can substantiate its arguments and prove oversized vehicles continue to flout the weight restriction.

Could anyone prepared to give time to help with this either between 7.30-9.30am or 4.30 – 6.30 pm.

Please contact the Clerk.

## Moor Lane

Oxfordshire Conservation Volunteers spent another day improving the overgrown watercourse in Moor Lane, they cleared back the hedge line which had overgrown the ditch, and this should help improve the habitat for a range of wildlife in the years to come.

Parts of the re-planted hedgeline are becoming established, and there is already noticeable difference in the condition of the lane, as sunshine has once again penetrated the undergrowth allowing the often sodden ground to dry out, making it easier to walk down.

It was good to see at least one villager taking part in this exercise!

# Notices

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## Social Care

Oxfordshire County Council's "Transforming Adult Social Care" has organised a series of public Information Days, one of which is taking place on Friday 10th December between 1-4pm at Cornerstone, Didcot. The event is open to all who are interested in finding out what is available locally to support people in need of care and assistance.

The event takes place on Friday 10th December at Cornerstone in Didcot from 1pm until 4pm. Over 30 local organisations and groups will have a stall in the theatre, and here will also be talks explaining what personalisation is and what help is available for making support plans. Free coffee and tea are available.

## Potholes

The village still has a number of areas which get repaired on a rather irregular basis. Despite the worst holes in York Road being filled earlier in the year, others continue to appear.

It took more than ten attempts to get the huge holes on the bend in Brook Lane filled, and yet another has already appeared next to where the fix was done.

If you find there is a particular pothole on your road which needs attention please let the Parish Clerk know, but you can also report it yourself to Highways department 0845 310 11 11 but tell the Clerk as well

**Note that the more reports Highways receives from individuals the faster it will be dealt with.**

They can be contacted at [www.oxfordshirehighways.org](http://www.oxfordshirehighways.org) or you can email to the depot by using [southernarea@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:southernarea@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## Wanted

The village still needs a new co-ordinator to take on the neighbourhood watch role.

For further details please contact the clerk.

## Bonfires

There have been a number of horrible bonfires recently. Please try and ensure that you consider your neighbours, especially if the wind is blowing towards nearby housing or those with washing hanging on their line.

## Xmas Tree!

If you're looking for an unusual gift this Christmas...or simply trying to find the perfect gift for someone who has everything... You could take a look at a range of unique eco gifts in a range online at: [www.oxtreegen.com](http://www.oxtreegen.com)



# Parish Council

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## Clerk

[parishclerk@westhagbourne.org](mailto:parishclerk@westhagbourne.org)

## Councillors

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

Marion Judd 850 143  
[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)

Michele Thornhill 850 489  
[michele.thornhill@westhagbourne.org](mailto:michele.thornhill@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

No new applications came before the Council for their consideration.

You can search for any current or past planning applications, view plans, see decision - all based on your post code at [www.southoxon.gov.uk/planning-service](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/planning-service)

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 entirely 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](mailto:parishclerk@westhagbourne.org)

## Minutes

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.

[www.westhagbourne.org/pc\\_minutes.htm](http://www.westhagbourne.org/pc_minutes.htm)

The Parish Council spent considerable time debating and refining its budget for the period 2011/2012. It agreed to a budget which shows NO increase at all on the budget when compared with its own spending from the current year. This may be interpreted slightly differently by the overall information you see on your Council Tax when this arrives in April.

The Council was appalled by the statement made by Cllr John Flood at a recent SODC Scrutiny Committee meeting which was attended by three members of WHPC and it was agreed to formally write to Didcot Town Council refuting the comments, and making it clear that West Hagbourne relies on Didcot for its local services and amenities, but would like to be protected from the increasingly active road users which are the by-product of the towns expansion and popularity.

Dave Totterdell formally resigned from the post of Parish Clerk which he had taken in order to allow the Council to continue its function.

The post has been advertised, and the Council hopes to have engaged a replacement in time for the January meeting, in order that an effective handover can be implemented.

The term of the current Parish Council comes to an end in May 2011.

If you would like to learn more about what the Council does, or have a view to express, or a cause for concern, or would be interested in standing at the next election come along to the meeting in January. Everyone is welcome, but alternatively you can always ask a Councillor before then about anything you might wish to discuss.

## Next meeting

The Parish Council will next meet at 7.30pm in Hagbourne School on Thursday 13th January 2011 .

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