

West Hagbourne

February NEWSLETTER 2011 ISSUE 99

Infinity

Congratulations to everyone!

An incredible 98% of all the households in West Hagbourne took part in this campaign!

The Blewbury exchange was one of the winning six exchanges that should be upgraded to fibre optic broadband earlier than it might have been otherwise. Winning exchanges will be enabled in early 2012 subject to availability, survey, terms and conditions.

This will make working or learning from home so much easier for those who want the service, and make the village more attractive to small businesses and individuals alike.

Park Road

As we went to press an application to build 159 dwellings, together with informal open space, new means of vehicular and pedestrian access onto Park Road and associated infrastructure, has been submitted to SODC and is now in consultation.

This site forms a small part of the Great Western Park development, but is owned by different landowners, and so is being treated separately to the main Taylor-Wimpey scheme.

The consultation ends on 23rd February 2011 and to view the plans you can find them under planning at www.southoxon.gov.uk with the reference no P10/W1959

It is likely that this area will be the first building stage that West Hagbourne sees as part of the current expansion of Didcot.

Local Elections

Ever thought about contributing to your local community? What about putting yourself forward to become a Parish Councillor?

With the forthcoming local elections to be held in May, representatives are elected for the Parish Council.

There will be five posts to be filled and you can get further details from the Parish Clerk whose contact details are on page three.

Core Strategy

Following the approval of their draft core strategy back in November, South Oxfordshire District Council is now publishing the document for further comment from the public and other interested parties. The strategy sets out how the council will help deliver housing and improved town centres across the district.

The round of public involvement started on Friday 3 December, giving residents seven weeks to put the plan to the test. Unlike previous consultations on strategy, this final stage takes a much more formal route. Anyone wishing to make a comment will have to follow set criteria provided by the Planning Inspectorate. Parish Councillors spent a large amount of time over the Christmas holiday considering the content of this document, and putting forward comments in particular to the section covering Didcot. The strategy proposes growth of the town should go to the north east up until 2027, but makes little or no provision to protect the Hagbournes after that time.

Census 2011

The 2011 Census is coming: help tomorrow take shape!

Your 2011 Census questionnaire will arrive by post in March, just as a questionnaire will arrive for every household in England and Wales.

It's vital that you complete your census questionnaire as the statistics are used to make so many key decisions about services and development in our district and our local towns and parishes. Decisions about everyday facilities such as playgrounds, water pipes, refuse collection, and even where new local shops should be located, are based on census statistics.

Our district receives an annual grant from the government that is based on the number of people living here according to the census - funding that can be used for schools, hospitals, transport, employment and training, and many other services. True - the size of the funding pot may be shrinking, but the first step to ensuring our community receives its fair share is that everyone completes the census.

It's all confidential, so no one will see your personal information.

For more information and help of all kinds with the census, visit www.census.gov.uk.



Clearing Snow

There is no law stopping anyone from clearing snow and ice in public spaces, on the pavement and other routes.

If an accident does happen, it is highly unlikely that you would be sued as long as you are careful, use common sense to and don't make a path more dangerous than before

The best way to clear snow + ice safely

- Start early - it's much easier to clear fresh, loose snow compared to compacted ice
- Don't use hot water - this will melt the snow and may be replaced with black ice, increasing risk of injury
- Think where you are going to put cleared snow and ice, so you don't block routes or drainage channels
- Make a pathway down the middle first, so you have a cleared surface to walk on
- Spread some salt on areas you have cleared to help stop ice forming. Table or dishwasher salt will work, or if not, sand or ash will do
- Pay particular attention when clearing steps and steep gradients
- Use the sun to your advantage - removing the top layer of snow will allow the sun to melt any ice beneath. But you will need to cover any ice with salt to stop it refreezing overnight
- Remember to be a good neighbour - some people may be less able to safely clear snow and ice than you.

News

Edna Scott

5th Feb 1928 - 27th Dec 2010

Edna Scott was a friend and supporter of the History Group long before she officially joined us. Both she and her husband Fred invited us to set up our history displays at Chapel Hayes on Village Open Days and held afternoon teas for our fund raising events. Edna kindly offered to provide a sales point for our notelets, tea towels and the history book. She managed the petty cash with calm efficiency and saved our treasurer many headaches.

We and the village will be forever grateful to Edna and Fred for allowing not one, but two, archaeological surveys on their land at great inconvenience as these events took many days. However, Edna was always welcoming and hospitable to the survey teams and as enthusiastic as the rest of us when the site of the old Chapel of Ease was confirmed at Chapel Hayes.

Edna contributed a great deal towards the research for the history book from her own memories and knowledge but most of all she shared her deep love of our countryside and wildlife.

Her gentle nature could not even hold a grudge for the foxes which took so many of her beloved chickens.

Nothing demonstrates this affinity for nature and Edna's own humanity than the poem she wrote for the history book about the old orchard at Chapel Hayes. We shall miss Edna very much.

The West Hagbourne History Group

I love to walk down the old orchard
At that special time of day,
When blackbirds sing their late songs,
And noise of traffic's died away,
Just as the sun's low rays are slanting
Over fruit trees summer-bright,
Throwing elongated shadows
Over evening's mellow light.
It's all so calm and peaceful,
But it wasn't always so –
This tiny piece of ground
Has seen its share of joy and woe,
As relics found amongst the soil
Beneath the hedgerows show,
From where, at dusk, appear
My favourite ghosts of long ago.

This is just the first verse of the Poem Orchard Twilight, you can find the whole poem in the book 'Windsor Hakeborne'.

Electric Cars

A network of electric car charging points now exist in several of Oxford's car parks, allowing green-minded drivers to recharge free. Electric car users can now plug their vehicles into the 20 public recharging points in some city centre and park-and-ride-car parks in Oxford.

Drivers can use the points to 'top up' their electric vehicles for free while they are out and about (a car battery can be fully re-charged in three hours) but they must register with the scheme operator Chargemaster.

As well as being a practical resource for people already using such cars, it is hoped they will spark people's interest in electric transport and the environmental benefits it could bring in the future. Scientists from Oxford Brookes University have worked out that users of the new electric Mini, which has a range of 155 miles per battery charge, could save up to £1,400 on the cost of fuel over a year.

FREE Training is provided, so you're not thrown in at the deep end and all expenses are paid so you won't be out of pocket. Interested?

For more information and dates of next training course available, call Parent Partnership Oxfordshire on 01865 810516 or e-mail them parentpartnership@oxfordshire.gov.uk

New Clerk

The Parish Council has now appointed a new Parish Clerk to take over from Dave Totterdell who stepped into the role at short notice and who has kept the administration of the Parish going for longer than planned.

Thank you Dave for all of your hard work and in particular for keeping the finances under control.

Lucy Dalby has been Parish Clerk at Milton and Culham for some time and though she does not live in the village the Council feel she will bring her experience, county wide contacts and an informed approach to the role.

Wanted! VIPS!

Fancy joining the ranks of VIPS and being somebody really special? Well now's your chance, we are on the look out for VIPS!

- Volunteer
- Independent
- Parental
- Supporters

Just what makes an Independent Parental Supporter so important?

Any parent of a child with Special Educational Needs will tell you what a difference it makes when they have someone with them at a meeting about their child's education; someone who can take notes; someone who can explain the jargon; someone who listens and someone by their side.

Join the VIPS and you could make a real difference!

Footpath

A recent planning consultation may provide the Parish with the opportunity to apply for funds to upgrade the route from the north end of York Road to Portway in Didcot.

This would create a safe cycle and walking route for children and others between the village, the town and the Girls School, as well as the Didcot Hospital and Woodlands surgery. This was supported in the Parish Plan.

The Parish Council would like to hear your thoughts on this before they meet with the developers towards the end of February.



Village Assoc

2011 Dragon Competition!

This year, starting on April 16th, our third dragon competition will run until the weekend of 30th April. Due to the Royal Wedding on 29th April, a final date for the judging will be confirmed in the following Newsletter.

Meanwhile, we look forward to another fantastic display of dragons around the village.

Village Celebration Supper

The next village supper is being held on Saturday 21st May.

This will be a combined celebration of St George's Day, the Royal Wedding and the Royal British Legion's 90th Anniversary. Proceeds from a raffle will go to Help the Heroes and the Royal British Legion. All welcome! Please keep this date free and come along. More details to follow in the next Newsletter.

Mobile Library

The mobile library will next visit the village on Friday 18th February and 4th March and every other Friday thereafter. It will be in the Square from 9.00 to 9.15am.

Notices

Valentine Quiz

There's a fund raising Quiz being held in the Horse & Harrow on Saturday 12th February at 7.30 Only £5 for a team of up to four. Go along and have some fun with all of the proceeds going towards Helen & Douglas House Hospice.



Enough Oil?

For those with an oil tank tucked away out of sight, now is the time to remember to check you aren't running low on fuel.

Ruth Webb

Sadly Ruth Webb of Manor Close, who had been our Parish Clerk for several years died on the 15th of December .

Edna Scott

Edna died on the 27th of December and will be greatly missed by all who knew her as the egg lady.

Frank Hill

Frank died in the last week of January after a long illness. Our best wishes to his family.

Elections

Remember local elections will take place in South Oxfordshire in May to elect a new Parish Council.

You can find further details at www.southoxon.gov or you can ask the Clerk for further information on how to get involved.

Next Newsletter

Deadline for anything to be included in the next edition is 30 March 2011

Be safe in 2011

Follow the top ten winter fire safety tips from the Fire Service:

Have your chimney swept, make sure embers are under control and properly put out before you go to bed and use a British Standard fire guard to prevent sparks escaping.

Do not leave candles unattended - extinguish them before you leave a room or go to bed.

Make sure candles are in a proper holder so they don't fall over.

Never air or dry clothing near open fires or portable heaters.

Never use hot water bottles in the same bed as an electric blanket, even if the blanket is switched off.

Unplug blankets before you get into bed, unless they have a thermostat control for safe all-night use and check regularly for wear and tear.

Make sure you have a working smoke alarm and test it weekly.

Have a fire escape plan.

Don't get distracted when you are cooking - turn off or turn down the heat if you have to leave the cooking unattended, for example to take a phone call or answer the door.

Don't leave lit cigarettes, cigars or pipes unattended - they can easily overbalance as they burn down, land on a carpet or newspaper and start a fire. When you put it out, make sure it really is out.

For further fire and road safety advice visit www.365alive.co.uk

Parish Council

Clerk

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Councillors

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South Oxfordshire District Council
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County Councillor

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Oxfordshire County Council
01865 792422

Planning applications

No new applications have come 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

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

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.

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

As the Parish Council had agreed to respond it spent considerable time evaluating the Core Strategy which had been issued for consultation by SODC. Sue Totterdell had consolidated the comments and had brought together a number of very important points which among others included the loss of prime agricultural land, lack of guarantees to provide and protect the gap between the expanding town and West Hagbourne and the question over infrastructure keeping up with the pace of growth. You can view the whole submission on the website.

The Parish Council welcomed its new clerk Lucy Dalby and thanked the outgoing Clerk Dave Totterdell who reported that a handover had been made of general documentation, minutes, financial records and the hard drive which contains copies of all its electronic correspondence.

Several other applications for the role had been received after Lucy had been offered and accepted the position.

Given that a new Clerk was appointed, the Council has purged its records discarding previous planning applications which it had held onto for over a decade, and given these are now readily available on the web at SODC's planning portal they were no longer deemed necessary. Many of the general correspondence files and copies of consultations were also sent to recycling. Nothing of value was discarded, and the Council continues to professionally store the oldest items from its archive.

CLr Patrick Greene reported for the first time in 2011 and was asked for help in acquiring a new salt bin. He informed the Council that there were pressures on all services at OCC but that SODC expected to maintain all existing facilities and deliver a 0% on Council Tax 2011/12.

Next meeting

The Parish Council will next meet at 7.30pm in Hagbourne School on Thursday 17th March 2011 .

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