

# West Hagbourne

April NEWSLETTER 2011 ISSUE 100

## Elections

On May the 5th elections are being held for a new Parish Council, a new SODC District Councillor to replace Patrick Greene, who is standing down and, for a change to the voting system which will probably affect the next General Election.

Remember you have to be on the electoral roll in order to be eligible to vote and you have to do this every year, as it is not automatically updated.



## Alternative vote?

So what is the Alternative Vote  
AV represents a logical progression from first past the post. Preserving the traditional one member, one constituency, it ensures all MPs have a real mandate while delivering greater choice and eliminating the need for tactical voting.

- The Alternative Vote (AV) is very much like First-Past-the-Post (FPTP). Like FPTP, it is used to elect representatives for single-member constituencies, except that rather than simply marking one solitary 'X' on the ballot paper, the voter has the chance to rank the candidates on offer.
- The voter thus puts a '1' by their first-preference candidate, and can continue, if they wish, to put a '2' by their second-preference, and so on, until they don't care anymore or they run out of names. In some AV elections, such as most Australian elections, electors are required to rank all candidates.
- If a candidate receives a majority of first-preference votes (more people put them as number one than all the rest combined), then they are elected.
- If no candidate gains a majority on first preferences, then the second-preference votes of the candidate who finished last on the first count are redistributed. This process is repeated until someone gets over 50 per cent.

The case for AV shows that

- Following the 2010 election two thirds of our MPs lacked majority support, the highest figure in British political history.
- It retains the same constituencies, meaning no need to redraw boundaries, and no overt erosion of the constituency-MP link.
- It penalises extremist parties, who are unlikely to gain many second-preference votes.
- It eliminates the need for tactical voting. Electors can vote for their first-choice candidate without fear of wasting their vote.
- It encourages candidates to chase second- and third-preferences, which lessens the need for negative campaigning.

AV is already used in the Leadership elections for Labour and Liberal Democrats, for UK parliamentary officials, the Academy Awards, the Australian House of Representatives, businesses and trade unions internal elections, most Student Union elections and the Irish Presidential election.

## Reminder!

2011 Dragon Competition and Village Celebration Supper

**BRING OUT YOUR DRAGONS!!!**

This year's dragon competition starts on April 16th and will run until the weekend of 30th April. Judging will take place during the last week of the competition and a voucher worth £30 will be awarded to the owner of the best dragon. We look forward to another fantastic display of dragons around the village for the enjoyment of local residents and people from far and wide.

The village supper will be held on Saturday 21st May, celebrating 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.

Everyone welcome! Please keep this date free and come along.

Venue and time and where to get tickets to be confirmed later.



# News

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## Sheep Fair

East Ilsley is holding a Sheep Fair on Sunday, 5th June from 12:30pm - 4:30pm and entry is free.

There'll be lots to do:

\*Craft tent \*Kids' zone \*Dog show  
\*Local charities \*Side shows \*Farm animals \*Laser clay pigeon shooting  
\*Grand raffle and there'll be Food & Drink on offer.



## Mobile Library

The mobile library will visit the village on Friday 15th April and every other Friday thereafter. It will be in the Square from 9.00 to 9.15am.

## More traffic

Building work is expected to start in July of this year on 275 houses on the Harwell site at Chilton, with the first properties going on sale in December.

The entire site, which will include large open spaces and a community hall, is due to be completed by 2014.

Future investment at the Harwell site is expected to create up to 5,000 jobs.

## Footpath

The Parish Council has asked SODC to consider, as part of their planning consultation, if funds could be allocated to upgrade the route from the north end of York Road to Portway in Didcot. This would come from an s.106 agreement which has yet to be negotiated with the last remaining developer site which is just off Park Road.

Supported by our Parish Plan, it would create a safe cycle and walking route for children, elderly and others between the village and the town.

## Smoke Alarms

The Fire Service are encouraging you to clean your smoke alarm.

All you have to do is open the case and gently vacuum the inside to remove dust from the sensor. If it doesn't open, vacuum through the holes. Ensure all your smoke alarms are working and remember to test them on a weekly basis.

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service has Facebook and Twitter pages which offer free weekly reminders to test your smoke alarm. Or you can sign up for reminders at [www.safelincs.co.uk/reminders](http://www.safelincs.co.uk/reminders).

Keeping your home safe

As part of the checks this weekend, the Fire and Rescue Service is also asking people to complete a 'Home Fire Risk Check' in order to make sure they are safe from fire. The check will ensure people are aware of the fire hazards in the home, how to identify them and what to do if a fire occurs.

A questionnaire and guidance on how to carry out a home fire risk check can be found at [www.365alive.co.uk](http://www.365alive.co.uk), or a paper copy can be ordered by calling our freephone Community Safety Helpline on 08000 325999.

## Litter Pick

By the time this edition is published there will have been a litter pick done along Brook Lane, Main Street and the footpaths towards the railway embankment.

If you are out and about, please pick up and dispose of any litter you see.

This year there has been a concerted effort to keep on top of the rubbish thrown out by passing drivers along Main Street, but if we all do a little, the load is shared.



## Census complete?

The 2011 Census took place on Sunday 27 March and you should have filled in your forms either online or by hand and sent them back by now.

If the form is not returned by 6 April, the Census team will visit to offer help.

Here's some advice to help you stay safe:

- Census staff will carry an ID card
- they will not ask for your bank or credit card details
- you won't be asked to leave your completed form on the doorstep
- you can arrange a visit by calling the helpline number of the form
- Census staff will only visit residents who have not returned their forms
- don't let the caller in your house
- if you're not sure of the caller's identity, keep the door closed and call the Census helpline

(0300 0201 101).



For more information visit [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk) or call 0300 0201 101.

## NHS: Petition

For anyone who has concerns about government proposals for the NHS, an online petition can be found at: <http://www.38degrees.org.uk/NHS-petition>



## Bench proposal

The Parish Council proposed that the Hagbournes between them should install a commemorative bench, in memoriam of Monica Lawson, who had been the chair for many years of the Governors of Hagbourne School, represented the interests of both the Hagbournes as a Parish Councillor and ensured the best interests of West Hagbourne were not ignored when in the past this small parish was often ignored or disregarded.

The site put forward is just east of Shovel Spring, where an old metal bench needs to be replaced, and has a view towards the church and the railway embankment.

The winning design is revolutionary and very striking, allowing you sit and face in either direction. But the best cost tendered to manufacture it comes to a little over £3,000. Without significant fund raising this innovative piece of craftsmanship is unlikely to be implemented.

East Hagbourne has agreed to contribute up to £1,000 but the implication for this small parish to underwrite the remainder left the Council uncomfortable.

The Parish Council agreed to defer any monetary decision on this proposal to the Annual Parish Meeting when residents can make their views known.

# Notices

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## 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](http://www.southoxon.gov) or you can ask the Clerk for further information on how to get involved.

## House to let?

House wanted in West Hagbourne for short let? If anyone plans to be away in the last week of June/first week of July and would be willing to let their house for that period, please contact Marion Judd, 850 143

## Help needed

Helpers will be needed to put up the tent for the Parish Meeting on 18th June, collect the chairs from the church, and return them afterwards.

Contact the clerk if you can help.

## Bus Review

The County Council is about to undertake a review of the bus services it provides and subsidises. Our transport representative Terry Pritchard of York Road, will look at this consultation, but unless the services are used by enough people regularly they are likely to be at risk.

If you want more information about this, and how you can respond, please contact the clerk.

Having fought hard to get a service into Didcot, the pressure on cutting back unnecessary services is acute, so if the buses aren't used we are likely to lose them!

## SODC

South Oxfordshire has just completed a consultation which involves changes to car parking.

The council is proposing several changes to car parking in South Oxfordshire in the form of an 'Off Street Parking Places Order'.

The proposals include:

- Allowing parking spaces to be used for business and commercial purposes.
- Requiring you to display tickets during all charging periods, even if the first hour is free.
- Reducing by half the charge for season tickets and parking permits for low carbon cars.

More information as and when it becomes available.

## Funds Raised

Pauline Mulford would like to thank everyone who attended the Quiz night at the Horse & Harrow when a good time was had by all, and which raised an amazing £123 for Helen and Douglas House.

## Village Supper

The village supper will be held on Saturday 21st May, further details to follow.

## Next Newsletter

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

# Parish Council

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## Clerk

Lucy Dalby  
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## Councillors

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Marion Judd 850 143  
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Sue Totterdell 850 080  
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Michele Thornhill 850 489  
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## 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

One major new applications came before the Council for their consideration.

P10/W1959 Construction of 159 dwellings; open space; vehicular and pedestrian access onto Park Road. The Council has objected to this on the basis of it being piecemeal and out of phase with the required infrastructure.

P10/W0680/LB Down Farm application for a porch was permitted by SODC.

Land at Park Road Didcot

P11/W0046 Spine road, secondary streets, tertiary streets and infrastructure including drainage required to service the schools located within the District Neighbourhood, at Great Western Park

The Council agreed to monitor these out of parish applications, in order to understand what might affect subsequent decisions as the site is built.

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 do not have access to the internet, 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)

At the March meeting of the Parish Council Cllr Greene reported that there won't be an increase in the Council Tax from the County or District Councils. There will not be any cuts to the Fire Service or Children's Social Care and cuts to the library service continue to be reviewed. The County Council are to receive extra money from central government for repairing potholes. He also confirmed that he will not stand for re-election at the District Council Elections in May.

Once again potholes around the village have been reported, the damaged bollards repaired/replaced, the kissing gate at Coscote reported damaged and the Clerk is pursuing a second salt bin, and having the road sweeping dealt with given the poor current condition.

The water butt has been re-levelled and the tubs under the chestnut tree will be replaced by early summer.

Every house in the village received a leaflet encouraging parishioners to put themselves forward as Councillors.

## Next meeting

The Parish Council will next meet at 7:30pm in Hagbourne School on Thursday 19th May 2011.

An ordinary meeting will follow the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council.

## Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held again in the village, in the grounds of Manor Farm, just beside the pond.

Saturday 18th June 2011 at 3pm

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