

West Hagbourne

June NEWSLETTER 2011 ISSUE 101

New Council

On May the 5th elections were held for Parish Council's across South Oxfordshire, but with only five nominations lodged West Hagbourne did not need to hold a ballot.

The new Council introduce themselves on page two, and they are:

- Valerie Brownsword
- Mike Butler
- Hugh Lewis
- Eve Setch
- Michele Thornhill

District Council

A new District Councillor was elected to represent Hagbourne Ward at South Oxfordshire — Leo Docherty received 74% of the vote.

Dragons

This year's dragon competition was won by Tony Pickup whose mobile dragon cruised through the village accompanying Geraldine Peers who judged the competition for us. We had a magnificent display of dragons that put the village on the map once again and brought in lots of visitors to see them. Many of you will have heard



Wesley Smith's account of his and Geraldine's visit on Radio Oxford. There were so many highlights - just to mention a few, the dragon wedding couples were very topical, the plywood cut out dragon very innovative, the Maggie Thatcher dragon caused much amusement and some ire and the aerial dragon in Foxglove Lane was an amazing sight suspended in a tree.

Special thanks go to Mike Parker and his sons who for the third year erected the dragon in the pond - she had changed her gender since last year! This particular dragon has become an icon for West Hagbourne around St George's day and so many people stop to see him/her!

Thanks to all residents who took part .

Village Supper

The Village supper to celebrate St Georges Day, the Royal wedding and the goth anniversary of the British Legion was held in Upton Village Hall on Saturday 21st May.

It was a very jolly occasion with 43 residents who came along and enjoyed a delicious lasagne supper and a selection of lovely puddings plus their own liquid refreshments. We have some great pudding makers in the Village!

It was lovely to see some of our newer residents coming along to join the fun.

£90 was raised with a raffle for Help the Heroes.

Eva Pinkava's group provided the entertainment, with songs sung in four parts, followed by "Jerusalem" which everyone joined in.

The evening was brought to a fitting end with Malcolm Brownsword's brilliant and amusing slide show.

Thanks to members of the Village Association who organized the evening and provided the food.

News

Obituary

Barbara Blond a former resident of the village died on the 15th May at the Meadows Care Home, Didcot aged 91.

Barbara lived in West Hagbourne virtually all her life—born at Wycherts in Main Street she then spent a number of years at The Bungalow – Ragged Farm in Moor Lane. But most of her life was spent at 17 York Road—where she was very happy.



She was married to Bob Blond for over 50 years—until his death in 1996. They had two much loved sons, David and Philip.

Barbara was a very social person –and enjoyed many things-including holidays in their caravan, regular pub evenings at the Fleur-with Bob and the Hagbourne Bellringers—of which Bob was a member. She was also a keen fan of Reading Football Club—and after Bob 's death she had a Season Ticket at Elm Park-and attended most home games with nephew Dick and Great Nephew Jeff Powell for a number of years.

She was a popular Primary School Teacher for many years-working at Upton, and then Hagbourne Schools.

Our sympathies go to Dave, Pip and all the family.

Jeff Powell

The Council

The new parish council thought you would appreciate a brief introduction on each of the councillors.

Mike Butler

Mike Butler has lived in West Hagbourne with his wife Mary Ann since October 1983 . After many years of commuting to London for his work as a patent attorney, his firm opened an Oxford office in 2002 where he now spends most of his time. His leisure interests include playing golf at Hadden Hill Golf Club with friends from the Horse and Harrow, and skiing in France with Mary Ann in the winter. They have both been on Didcot twinning visits to Meylan in France and Planegg in Germany.

Hugh Lewis

I have lived in the village for twenty years at The Square in the middle of the village with my partner Tracey Anderson. I have three cats and no children. I am self employed and work from home in an office in my garden writing software and designing electronics mainly associated with ultrasound.

Eve Setch

I moved from North London to West Hagbourne five and a half years ago, due to relocation of my job to Milton Park (I am a commissioning editor for history at a publishing company). Since moving into the village we've been renovating Wycherts, trying to restore some of it's original features, and have had a baby (Edward, who is now nearly three and was born at home so is very local in origin!) Until this May Tom my husband was a Parish Councillor but since he stood down at this election, I decided to stand for the post instead.

Michele Thornhill

I have lived in West Hagbourne for fourteen years. I have three children and a very friendly dog called Star. I work locally for a petrochemical company , developing engine oils for passenger cars and trucks.

Valerie Brownsword

I moved to West Hagbourne in 1989 with my husband Malcolm (actually it was one week before our wedding!). Our daughter Helen was born just over a year later. I took early retirement from Harwell when she started at Hagbourne School and spent happy times as a volunteer helper there. By the time she left I was working as a lunchtime supervisor and dinner money lady and I'm still there but about to retire in July. My interests are upholstery, singing in the West Hagbourne Choral group and my home and family.

Farming and the Countryside

What a dry spring we have had, not good for anyone wanting to grow anything! We have been very short of rainfall our normal average per year is 26 inches, so far we have had 6 inches this year.

The wheat will have lost yield but hopefully the quality will be there, the oil seed rape is looking good as the roots have gone down very deep. The poppies are struggling as they are planted in the spring so have suffered from the lack of water.

It is predicted that harvest will be early this year may be up to two weeks early. Let's hope it doesn't just pour down when we need to start the combine!

Prices are good however, the drought and floods all around the world have affected crops and there will be a

shortage of grain. France and Germany especially affected.

It is a vicious circle though, low quantity, higher prices, therefore what is around is costly. With lack of rain – no grass, expensive hay and straw. Shortage of feed for animal stock and expensive to purchase concentrate. Food prices in the shops will definitely go up.

Many plants and trees have been lost this year, firstly from the sharp late frosts we had at the beginning of the year and now the lack of rain. Recovery will be slow.

The Kestrels came back to the nesting box again in March, I wondered whether they would as we lost a female in the winter, either the male has found another partner or last year's young have returned, I was pleased to see them.

House Martins and Swallows are nesting under the eaves, I hope we don't lose too many nests due to the dry time; it must be difficult making mud nests this year! If they dry out too much the nests fall from the eaves and lose the young fledglings.

The Red Kites are always hovering over the village, they nested at the back of the farm last year, I'm not sure if they have returned.

The resident pheasants strut about the village as if they own the place everyone seems to get a visit, it's lovely to see them, and the moorhens from the pond enjoy eating my duck and chicken food!!

Well let's hope we have a good summer!

Sue Lay

Notices

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.

Parish Meeting

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.

Didcot Forum

The next meeting of the Didcot Community Forum will be on June 14 at Didcot Town Football Club commencing at 6.30 pm. If you want to get involved please follow the link on the SODC web site.

The Didcot Community Forum is made up of representatives from a wide range of community groups, organisations, parish councils, South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council.

Next Newsletter

Deadline for anything to be included in the next edition is 30th July 2011 please contact the clerk

In this edition one new item has been suggested. If you have any ideas or features you would like to see included in the newsletter please send them to the clerk

Freecycle

It has been suggested the newsletter has a regular slot for villagers to advertise any goods for sale or available for free.

If you have anything you would like to sell or would like to see go to a new home give the newsletter a try.

Madge Trophy

The date for the Village Association AGM and the Madge Trophy judging will be circulated later.

Parish Council

Clerk

Lucy Dalby
parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

Councillors

Mike Butler 850523
mike.butler@westhagbourne.org

Valerie Brownsword 850668
valerie.brownsword@westhagbourne.org

Eve Setch
eve.setch@westhagbourne.org

Hugh Lewis 851113
hugh.lewis@westhagbourne.org

Michele Thornhill 850489
michele.thornhill@westhagbourne.org

District Councillor

Leo Docherty 519 028
07908 686706
leo.docherty@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

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

The Council agreed to monitor out of parish applications, in order to understand what might affect subsequent decisions as the sites are 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

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.

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 online. 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

At the annual meeting of the Parish Council, Michael Butler was elected Chairman. The Council received reports from Parish organisations. Trustees and Representatives were appointed to represent the Council on various committees. The annual accounts were agreed by the Council.

Next meeting

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

HODSONS
the property professionals

"Not all estate agents are the same!"

THINKING OF MOVING?

Straight forward, straight talking, professional advice from your local Independent Estate Agent

Successfully selling property in

Abingdon 01235 553686
Didcot 01235 511406
Wantage 01235 763611 and surrounding villages

www.hodsons.co.uk

house to rent in France

Noirmoutier Island, west of Nantes - sleeps 7

Just minutes from quiet family beach, great biking and sailing, two bedrooms, washing machine, dishwasher, TV

600€/week June + Sept
750€/week July

for more information and photos

contact tottedells@btinternet.com 01235 850080

For the garden of your dreams - consult a professional

MARY ANN LE MAY

• GARDEN DESIGNS •

Blissetts West Hagbourne OX11 0ND
Tel: 01235 850523 Fax: 08700 516043

westhagbourne.org

Little Acorns

Happy, family run day nursery and out of school care.

Including drop off & pick up to some local schools.
Flexible sessions – am, pm, term time, school day.

For further information, to request a brochure or to arrange a visit please contact us

01235 851423 or email

As New
PROPERTY SERVICES

Professional Reliable Home Cleaning Service
Specialising in

- * Regular Cleans * Start and End of Tenancy
- * Spring Cleans * House Moves
- * Carpet Cleaning * Builders Cleans

All staff fully insured
Call Gayle on **07749 778145**

Scotland's Ash Garage

MOT testing from 6am
Diagnostic Fault Finding and Servicing on all types of vehicles
Air Conditioning Exhausts
Body Repairs Courtesy Cars

HUGE SAVINGS ON TYRES

01235 850 707

www.scotlandsashgarage.co.uk
Main Street, West Hagbourne OX11 0NA

PTS
Pladdis Technology Services

Your local Computer & Audio Visual company

IT Services

- IT sales & support
- Upgrades and repairs
- Virus removal / cleanup
- Network setup
- Windows re-installation
- NO FIX NO FEE!

www.computer-repair.uk.com

AV Services

- AV sales & support
- Flat screen TV installation
- Projector installation
- Home cinema installation
- Sound system installation
- Interactive white boards

www.audiovisual-installation.co.uk

Tel: 01235 851237 / 07855 543082
Email: sales@pladdistechnologyservices.co.uk

CHAUCERS
picture framing
by Sallie Pickering

High quality framing at realistic prices
Huge selection of frames, mounts, creative ideas and inspiration
Conservation Framing

(01491) 652984

info@chaucersframing.co.uk
10% off orders over £50 with this advert

HFP Plumbing
Plumbing & Tiling

Reasonable Rates

Manor Farm
West Hagbourne
OX11 0NG

contact - **Matt**
07816 399 315
01235 850 738

Hagbourne_farm_plumbing@hotmail.co.uk