

West Hagbourne

January NEWSLETTER 2012 ISSUE 103

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Village Archive Afternoon

Sunday 25th September 2011

What a splendid day it turned out to be. The weather was kind, the crowds came, the photographs were stunning and the displays were interesting and fascinating to many. It was really gratifying to see everyone enjoying themselves, sharing memories and learning more about their village and its rich history from old-timers to new residents. The children loved the dragon show and some of us laughed at our younger selves on the Jubilee film. The scones sold like hot cakes. A truly memorable West Hagbourne day.

We would like to thank the many people who helped and supported the event. Special thanks go to Richard and Mary Allen for their generous hospitality in allowing us to pitch our marquee on their lawn and use their historic barns – a perfect setting.



Village History Group
Village Association

Three Young siblings

Launch three separate businesses

A nanny, a beauty therapist and a plumber – business clearly runs in the family for three south Oxfordshire siblings.



But where other brothers and sisters may bicker, co-operation is key for the Lays who at just 32, 28 and 25, have taken the plunge and each launched fledgling businesses at the picturesque surroundings of their family farm in West Hagbourne.

They're now hoping their brother-sister bond – and farming roots - will be the key to business success.

Manor Farm is now not only home to tractors, trailers and straw bales, but to Aimee's bespoke nanny agency Contented Childcare, Matt's Hagbourne Farm Plumbing business and Becky's Bare Essentials beauty therapy salon. And from sharing leaflet dropping to persuading their Dad to let them display adverts in his fields all three are going from strength to strength.

At just 25, Chiltern-trained nanny Aimee is the youngest of the three and already has a wealth of childcare experience behind her. She spotted a gap in the market matching families with nannies to suit their childcare requirements, saving them time.

At 32, Becky is the oldest and believes south Oxfordshire has great potential for her beauty therapy business. Her salon is based at Lilley Cottage within the picturesque grounds of the farm and among the treatments on offer is radio frequency designed to tighten the skin. Her business is ideal for childcare too – with her parents Chris and Sue just around the corner to help look after her daughter Lily-Ella.

Father-of-one Matt, 28, said: 'All three of us have been lucky enough to have great parents who support us with what we are doing. We're all quite young but we are the next generation bringing business to the farm and using the buildings in new and exciting ways. We've all been inspired by our parents and the hard work they have put into the farm – and now it's time to make our mark.'



News

Citizens Advice

I took my car into a local garage for some minor repairs and when I went to collect it they wanted to charge me much more than was originally agreed. They won't let me take my car away until I pay the full amount. What can I do?

If you asked the garage to do whatever needed to be done to fix the fault, you'll probably have to pay the full amount – as long as the work was necessary and the price is reasonable.

However, if the garage has carried out work that you didn't ask for, you can either insist you only pay for what was agreed or you can refuse to pay for the additional work and dispute the bill. You'll have to tell the garage why you think the bill is too high and what you're prepared to pay.

While you're disputing the bill, the garage has the right to keep your vehicle until the bill has been paid. If you need your car urgently, you should only pay under protest. State this clearly in writing on the repair order sheet, say why you think the bill is too high, and make it clear that you intend to take the claim to the county court

If you can't afford to pay the bill under protest, or the costs of going to court would be more than the amount of money you're disputing, talk to the garage to try and come

to an agreement about what you should pay.

The garage can't sell or get rid of your car while you're disputing the bill, so they may be prepared to negotiate with you to get the vehicle off their hands.

But don't take your car away before you've paid the bill, or you could be prosecuted for theft.

Carrying out work that you didn't ask for or which is unnecessary could be breaking the law. If you suspect the garage has done this, report them to Consumer Direct who can advise you (08454 04 05 06 or www.consumerdirect.gov.uk) Further information available on www.adviceguide.org.uk or from Didcot CAB at Dales, 9-15 High Street, Didcot OX11 8EQ or 08444 111 444.

the charity for
your community



Energy Advice

Does the thought of your next heating bill leave you cold?

With the recent announcements from the main energy providers of large increases in the price of energy, the cost of keep warm is rising. It is becoming harder for residents to keep their homes heated to the

recommended temperatures of 21°C (70°F) in the living room and 18°C (65°F) in other occupied rooms. To help combat this, a free phone helpline has been set up to advise residents in Oxfordshire how to cut their energy bills.

The service is offered by the United Sustainable Energy Agency in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council, the five Oxfordshire District Councils and Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust.

If you are finding your energy bills unmanageable, you are not alone. Currently over 5 million people in the UK cannot afford to pay for the heat they need. Any resident in Oxfordshire who is struggling with their energy bills can call **0800 10700 44** for free, impartial advice on:

Cavity wall and loft insulation including the grants available
Grants and loans to help with heating system replacements

Government and energy company payments
How to switch energy suppliers to get the best deal
Advice on fuel debt

How to be more energy efficient in the home

Some of these improvements can take a few months to install; don't wait until it gets cold to phone.

The helpline is available Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

LET'S CELEBRATE!

Saturday 2nd of June 2012.
THE DIAMOND JUBILEE OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE SECOND.

The Village Association Committee has agreed to make the most of this unique opportunity for the whole village, young and old, to come together to celebrate this very special event.

Will you help us?..

Come with your ideas and offers of help to a special meeting at:

Upton Village Hall on Tuesday, 24TH JANUARY 2012, at 8pm.

West Hagbourne Village Association Committee

Get Go Active

GO Active continues to offer residents in South Oxfordshire high quality, fun and affordable exercise for people looking to get active.

Anyone looking to get active should go to www.getoxfordshireactive.org where they will find more information, including dates, times and venues. For further information contact Go Active co-ordinator Hendriette Thorn on 01491 823175 or email hendriette.thorn@southoxon.gov.uk.

Notices

Parish Plan

The Parish Plan is an historic document in the life of West Hagbourne, setting out the views and aspirations of the villagers.

The last plan was developed for the period 2006–2011.

A new plan is now required to ensure the villagers can help shape the future of West Hagbourne for the next five years.

Volunteers are requested to come forward to form a steering committee.

It is considered that a minimum of four people would be needed to create the plan.

The Parish Council has a nominated representative to help with the facilitation.

If you like to help and proactively influence the future of West Hagbourne please advise Councillor Eve Setch.

Newsletter

The Editor would like to apologise for the disruption to the Parish Newsletter.

It is planned to revert to the bi-monthly schedule in 2012.

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. It is edited and distributed by members of the Parish Council and entirely funded by advertising revenue.

Volunteers interested in helping with the production of the newsletter would be much appreciated. If you would like to help please contact Councillor Thornhill or the Clerk..

Parish Council

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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_minute_s.htm

Next meeting

The Parish Council will next meet at 7.30pm in Hagbourne School on March 7th 2012.

Members of the public are welcome