

West Hagbourne

February NEWSLETTER 2012 ISSUE 104

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Diamond Jubilee celebration

Saturday 2nd June 2012

Everyone, young and old, is invited to come together on this very special day for food and fun in the grounds of York Farm, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Richard Allen.

Details to follow .
Book this date!

The members of the Village Association Committee would like to take this opportunity of saying thank you to all those who came to the Village Meeting at Upton Village Hall on Tuesday, the 24th of January, bringing ideas and offering to organise, and be responsible for, events on the day.

Any offers of help will be welcomed - just contact a member of the Village Association .

Committee Members are:
John Baile, Robert Griffiths, Marion Judd, Ted and Betty Kendrick, June Little, Peter

Mitchell, Mike Parker, Tony and Bridget Pickup, Hazel Rack, and Keith and Val Walton.

Betty Kendrick. On behalf of West Hagbourne Village Association

Dragons

Calling all Villagers
Bring out your dragons!
16th April to 29th April 2012

Let's begin our Diamond Jubilee Celebrations with another fantastic display of dragons throughout the village. Last year more than 30 dragons were to be seen prowling in and around the village, not forgetting the duck pond! People came from far and wide to view these remarkable creatures

This year's Dragon Competition will start on Monday, the 16th of April, running until Sunday, the 29th of 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.

Madge Trophy

The Madge Trophy is awarded each year to the owner of the best village garden, and this year judging will take place during the week beginning on Saturday, the 26th of May.

The trophy will be presented at the village's Diamond Jubilee Celebration on Saturday, the 2nd of June 2012.

Bunting

We hope to decorate the tents and site for the Queen's jubilee celebrations. If a few people could offer two or three hours work each, between now and the spring this would make such a difference!

Help is needed to create, adapt and sew some more bunting. The village has some red white and blue already, but we hope to create some more.

If you could offer a few hours to cut fabric, hem and sew pennants, or offer any offcuts of fabric which we could use – please contact Marion Judd on 01235 840143

Margaret Hedger

Margaret died peacefully in the John Radcliffe Hospital on Thursday 16th February after a short period of illness. Her funeral is being held on Saturday 25th February at 11am in St Andrews, Hagbourne. Margaret will be greatly missed by all who knew her. More about Margaret and her life will appear in the April edition of the Newsletter.

Marion Judd
The final fundraising event of 2011 was held in October at



the Conservative Club in Didcot where they raised the grand sum of £4,134'

Pauline Mulford of York Road would like to thank everybody who supported her at the various functions and for their generosity through the year.

There will be many more Charity events planned for

Community

Infinity for West Hagbourne?

West Hagbourne is getting short changed because we will not get our own green box of tricks. Unlike previous internet connection technologies, Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) should have allowed West Hagbourne to be put on a level playing field for internet connection speed with the rest of the Blewbury exchange. The speed that you could expect to get from dial-up or ADSL was dependent on how close you were to your exchange. With FTTC it is how close you are to the cabinet. This should have been the green box on the corner of Main Street and York Road outside Lizard Bank. Instead it will be the green box outside the George and Dragon in Upton. So it is better than now, but not good and not level with all the other conurbations in the Blewbury exchange area.

Blewbury is getting 1 cabinet per 173 homes, The Astons are getting 1 for 214 homes and Upton and West Hagbourne it is 278 homes. If BT were working on the same ratio as Blewbury, Upton would not have West Hagbourne's connections.

I, Hugh Lewis, took part in a meeting with BT on the 1/12/11. The disappointment that West Hagbourne was getting "Infinity Lite" was raised. Their technical solution

was that West Hagbourne could get an infill cabinet fed as a spur from the Upton cabinet. This should have been part of BT's initial plan but was not. They suggested that they might be able to do this if we find the funding. In the region of £40K.

The good news?

The Upton cabinet should be one of the first to start working. This was promised very soon and at least by February 2012. Of course this has been missed now. BT was also talking about rolling out the up to 80Meg from the start.

BT suggested that even without our own cabinet we should get 3 times better performance than currently do for the up to 40Meg product. Therefore it might be that it will be 6 times when they implement the up to 80Meg product. For some in West Hagbourne this may still be a snails pace it they are less than 1Meg at the moment. I am one of the lucky ones, by careful positioning of my modem in my house, I get 3Meg currently. On one speed check simulation, for the fibre product on my line, the estimate was 22Meg.

There is an argument that if none of West Hagbourne sign up for connection to the Upton box and complain that it is not good enough for BT to run the Infinity race and then not provide, we might pressure BT to do the infill box.

Hugh Lewis

Age Content

Help when it's needed!

The need to offer greater peace of mind to the elderly prompted a new business to be set up last year in West Hagbourne by Robert Baker. Age Content now provides a modern telecare solution across Oxfordshire that offers much more than the traditional pendant which simply allows someone to call for help.

RESPOND:24 has the enormous benefit of real people who will come to your aid and has already been described as the sixth emergency service. The business aims to provide homeowners with access to the sort of additional support which can allow them to continue living independently in their own home. In so doing, it helps provide the elderly and the families who care for them, with a positive quality of life and greater peace of mind.

When a situation arises that does not need or warrant an ambulance, an area car can be despatched to the customer's home. So far it's helped find keys that have been dropped and re-set fuses that were high up. With a call centre operating twenty four hours a day, the team can help with medication reminders and arrange regular well being visits. They even offer add on services such as smoke alarms that detect extreme

temperature changes or sensors that monitor lack of movement – as well as other features which can all be added to meet the needs of the individual.

With customers across the district, the business has entered into a joint venture with Hedges Solicitors that will prompt an increase in local activity and give the added benefit of a link to all the legal services offered by this long established local firm. All new enquiries received before the end of April 2012, will benefit from membership of the Age Content loyalty scheme, this gives preferential rates and offers free installation of the base system.

Those with an existing system installed can add RESPOND:24 to ensure when a little help is needed, someone will always be available to come. Or if you bought your base unit outright; we can even re-connect you over the telephone, or upgrade you to one of the latest discreet pendant units. These can be worn under a shirt or blouse without anyone knowing you have the protection of a telecare system.

Do you know anybody who might benefit from this service? Do you have a family member struggling to balance their work commitments with an aged relative? Go to www.agecontent.co.uk or call 0843 289 6070.

Does the thought of your next

Notices

Heating Oil

Save money on the cost of your heating oil!

ORCC is giving away 250 FREE memberships for Bulk Oil Buying Scheme between now and 31st March.

ORCC, Oxfordshire's long established community charity, has set up a social enterprise that will reduce the cost of your domestic heating oil each time you place an order! The scheme is designed to help purchasers of central heating oil to save money by buying in bulk. By operating county-wide, the scheme makes it possible for new or existing local community oil-buying groups to make the most of their collective purchasing power. Under the Warm Homes Healthy People scheme households at risk can benefit from cheaper heating oil with FREE membership. Households at risk are households unable to meet the cost of fuel prices over the winter, perhaps families with young children, older people, people with a disability or long term illness, or out of employment. If you are worried about the cost of your heating, or if you think that there might be people in your community who could

benefit, please get in touch.

For free membership please contact

oil@oxonrcc.org.uk

Apply on-line <http://www.oxonrcc.org.uk/home/bulk-oil-buying-scheme>

Telephone 01865 883488 (but we would prefer an email or on-line application if possible)

Village Tidy UP

The annual village tidy up is planned for the weekend of the 17th/18th March. If you could spare an hour over the weekend to help clear up litter in the Parish it would be much appreciated. Please contact Michele Thornhill.

Bus Timetable

The bus timetable will be posted on the Village Website.

Parish Council

Clerk

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Councillors

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County Councillor

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Oxfordshire County Council
01865 792422

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

Newsletter

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 the Clerk..

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