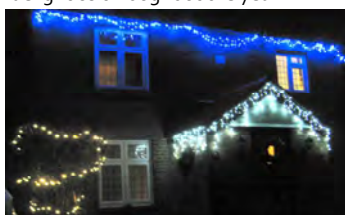


# West Hagbourne news

February 2013 ISSUE 107

## Christmas

Once again, villagers made an excellent show with their Christmas lights and outdoor displays. Entering the village from Didcot in the run up to Christmas it is heart warming to see the effort that householders have made to light up our winter nights. About a third of homes make the effort to put up some sort of decoration and it would be unfair to pick out any in particular, as we all have our favourites. Nevertheless, it is always worth taking a walk up Manor Close if this is not on your usual route. Meanwhile, the crisp white lights on the tree at the Square continue to delight us throughout the year.



## Water everywhere

It seems that 2012 was the wettest year on record in England. In West Hagbourne we know this because local footpaths are almost impassable and walking round the village is unpleasant because of the puddles in the road. In particular the flooding in Brook Lane and the small lake outside Wycherts which has caused concern to a number of residents many of whom have been soaked by inconsiderate drivers.

The County Council's drainage department have cleaned out the drains on this section of road and cleared the ditch in Moor Lane but think the problem is worsened by a spring that has appeared in the wet winter. The council says "We will have to investigate and fix the problem with a view to increase the capacity of the system to accommodate the extra water from the spring". A request has been made for an additional capital scheme this financial year to undertake these works. In the meantime, sporadic flooding still affects Main St. at the southern junction of York Road.



## Bike night

North Berks Motor Cycle Club tells us that their first Event of this year will pass through the village on Sunday 17th February starting from the Horse and Harrow Public House at 9.30am.

Riders will move on to Foxglove Lane, with the last one scheduled to depart by 12.30. Their popular Bike Night will take place at the Horse and Harrow on Tuesday 16th July at 6pm.

The third event of 2013 will be at the same venue on Sun 17 November, kicking off at 9am.



## Sports Pavilion

East Hagbourne Parish Council is planning a new Pavilion at the recreation ground in Great Mead, opposite the village shop. The building will provide much improved sports and changing facilities and a community room both of which will be available for hire for regular or occasional activities. These new facilities will provide improved sports facilities for

all ages and the community room will be suitable for table tennis and other indoor pursuits as well as a base for outdoor activities on the playing field. East Hagbourne Parish council is particularly keen to hear from groups or individuals who might be interested in using the new facility or helping with organisation. Support from the community is important if grant funding for the project is to be secured.

Residents should also remember that they are eligible for a special rate when they hire Hagbourne Village Hall..



## Warm homes

Oxfordshire County Council has been awarded over £152,000 from the Government's Warm Home Healthy People scheme to help residents keep warm this winter. The money will be used to distribute food and fuel vouchers to households struggling to pay these bills, to help with home improvements designed to increase the efficiency of household heating (radiator thermostats, draught-proofing, emergency boiler repairs), to promote bulk oil-buying schemes with a year's free membership for residents with oil as their main heating fuel, and more help towards ensuring that people claim the benefits to which they are entitled.

If any of the above sounds helpful to you or someone you know, or if you have any further questions on affordable warmth, please contact the helpline today on 0800 107 0044.

The friendly team are available Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. An answer service is available outside of these hours, and over bank holidays. More information is available online at: [www.usea.org.uk/](http://www.usea.org.uk/)

## Road funding

Oxford City and County Councils have got together to apply to a £50m transport pot to improve the A34 and A40 as the region develops its role as a world leader in high-tech and scientific business. The county and city councils have drafted a bid to harness the influence of the city's universities to turn the Oxford region into the world's leading knowledge-based economy. But to do this the councils want at least £50m to revamp the Wolvercote Roundabout on the A40 and the A34 junctions at Milton and Chilton. Although alterations to the A34 as it passes through south Oxfordshire have been discussed and dismissed in the past, the new County Council plan envisages adding two new slip roads to the two-way A34 junction at Chilton and adding waiting lanes and dedicated slip roads to reduce congestion on the roundabout at Milton junction.

Given the recent re-modelling of the Milton interchange, it is interesting that this is apparently still considered to be a limitation to further growth in the area. Any changes to the Chilton interchange might have significant impacts on traffic through West Hagbourne.

## Traffic Order

Notice has been given to the Parish Council of a Temporary Width Restriction and 30mph Speed Limit along a short section of the A417 between Blewbury, B4016 Bessels Way, and Westfield Road (Kingstanding Hill), Aston Upthorpe and Aston Tirrold,. This is so that Oxfordshire County Council can carry out carriageway retexturing works. Vehicles wider than 2.3m (7'6") will be diverted via the A329, the A4130 and the B4016. The temporary order comes into operation on 20th February and the estimated duration of the works is 8 days (Monday to Friday, off peak). If you are planning to use this route, please allow a little extra time for your journey.



# News



## Germany links

The coming year will see the formal recognition of a new link between Didcot and surrounding villages (including West Hagbourne) and the town of Planegg in Germany.

Planegg lies a few miles south-west of Munich and, like Didcot, is close to a number of internationally famous scientific research establishments. On July 6th, 2013, a twinning agreement will be signed between Didcot and Planegg town councils, in the presence of representatives of Parish Councils from the surrounding villages.

There have already been contacts between the Didcot and Planegg secondary schools and it is hoped that business and community links will be fostered by the new twinning.

## Gridlocked roads

On 22nd January another accident on the A34 northbound caused traffic chaos between Hagbourne Hill and Milton Park with journeys from the village to Abingdon taking well over an hour as everyone diverted at Chilton.



## U3A

The U3A is a democratic, self-funded and self-managed organisation which draws upon the knowledge, experience, skills and enthusiasms of its members to organise interest groups in accordance with the wishes of the membership. [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

Didcot & District's second meeting is being held at 2pm on Tuesday 19 February 2013 at Didcot Civic Hall.

## Archaeology

Didcot can now trace its past back 9000 years - further than originally thought. Oxford Archaeology, an independent archaeology and heritage practice, has been digging away at the 180 hectare site known as Great Western Park since 2010. Recently, one of their archaeologists gave a talk to the Didcot and District Archaeological and Historical Society revealing some amazing finds. These include more than 1000 flint implements dating from the Mesolithic period (7000BC), a complete Neolithic bowl that had lain undisturbed for 6000 years and a Bronze Age settlement. Iron Age pits and about 50 roundhouses were uncovered behind Stephen Freeman School, whilst a small villa with numerous wells and corn dryers emerged from Roman times. Only the Roman villa and ancient boundary will be preserved in situ: the rest will disappear under Great Western Park's 3000 new houses. Although we have not yet seen maps of the excavation site, part of it would almost certainly have been within the parish of West Hagbourne before the northern part was amalgamated with Didcot in 1935. The finds from the Bronze, Iron and Roman periods are consistent with finds on Hagbourne Hill.

You can see archaeologists' drawings and photos as part of an exhibition called 'Didcot Dog Mile' at Cornerstone, Didcot between 7 February and 3 March 2013. Studies of the area by Miranda Creswell of Oxford University and local artists will accompany the exhibition. There will also be a talk at Cornerstone about the site excavation on 14 February at 6.30pm, with a chance to view the exhibition from 5.30pm.

Village History Group



## School Path

School path at the Foxglove Lane end has become a quagmire of mud and rotting leaves again. This is mainly caused by the road level being higher than the footpath so that mud washes downwards onto the path each time it rains. Previously, a volunteer used to clear this part of the path periodically to keep it clear for those who use it for access to school, church or country walks but this kind person is no longer available. Would anyone else be prepared to take on this task?

Hopefully, it could be possible to raise this part of the footpath in the future, so residents concerned about the current state of this footpath are advised to contact the Parish Clerk.

## Tyrrell Trust

Fencing bordering the Trust land on the A417 that was damaged in a car accident in November is to be repaired shortly. The Insurance company of the motorist responsible has agreed to pay for the new fencing.

Two new Trustees are needed to help administer the Tyrrell Trust, our local registered Charity. The Charity was founded in 1662 for the benefit of the poor in West Hagbourne.

More information about the Trust can be found on the village website: <http://www.westhagbourne.org/tyrrell.htm>

Trustees serve for a fixed term and duties are minimal. If anyone is interested in becoming a Trustee, please contact Mike Butler on 850 523

## Potholes again

Residents are reminded that they need to report any potholes direct to the Highways Department on <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/contact-highway-enquiries-team> or phone: 0845 310 11 11

They can also be contacted by e-mail via the website or you can write to:

Highway Enquiries Team  
Oxfordshire County Council  
PO Box 842 Oxford OX1 9LL

## Bare Essentials

I set up Bare Essentials in 2011 and started doing 1-2 days a week while I was living in Swindon. I had been looking for premises for a while then my Grandpa kindly offered me his room that was no longer used, separate from the main house and this ticked all the boxes. It is a huge space situated in stunning countryside. Having the room meant I could move back to where I grew up which I had been wanting to do for a while. Working for myself has many benefits and has meant I can work around my daughter's school hours.

My business has since come on in leaps and bounds. It's taken a lot of hard work getting here but it's been worth it now that I can work for myself. I have managed to build up a lovely client base, all of whom are local to the area. I really enjoy coming in every morning as each day is different and it doesn't actually feel like work!

I offer a wide range of treatments including Fake Bake tanning, anti-aging facials, waxing and gel nails. I have also invested in a machine which helps treat thread veins, pigmentation & IPL hair removal. It has been great that so many local people are supporting me. A lot of people still don't know that I am here as I am very tucked away but word of mouth is always the best advertising. I would like to offer people that live in West Hagbourne 20 % off any beauty treatments this month.

Becky Lay

## Contributions

If you have a story to tell, or an event coming up, or if you run a business based in West Hagbourne and would like to tell us about it, please get in touch with us.

**Copy deadline** for the next newsletter is the **28th February 2013**

[editors@westhagbourne.org](mailto:editors@westhagbourne.org)





## Health Service

Check this group's website for current and future consultations with members of the public:

<http://www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/>

### Choose Well this winter.

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) is making sure you have all the information to choose the right health service if you become ill. 'Choose Well' so that you get the right medical advice and help as soon as possible. If you become unwell during hours when your doctors surgery is closed, call 111 if it is not a 999 emergency. 111 is a new three digit number that will make it easier for patients to access urgent NHS healthcare in Oxfordshire. NHS 111 will help patients' access local health services and will be available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls from landlines and mobiles will be free. Think about whether to contact your GP out-of-hours service, a pharmacy, or a minor injuries unit, before going to A&E or calling an ambulance. For immediate life-threatening emergencies, continue to call 999. The NHS 111 team will, where possible, book you an appointment or transfer you directly to the people you need to speak to. If they think you need an ambulance, they will send one immediately – just as if you had originally dialled 999. The 111 service is currently not available in border areas with phone numbers starting 0118, 01793, 01280 and 01844.

Patients are urged to consider the full range of NHS services available to them. Advice about self-care and details of local health services are available at NHS Oxfordshire's website: <http://bit.ly/svfNrl>

### Take part in health consultations

The new **Public Involvement Network (PIN)** has now been established so that you can take part in and have your say about joint health and social care issues across Oxfordshire. This will help to ensure that the views and voices of Oxfordshire people inform

the work and priorities of the new Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board and its subgroups – improving joined up health and social care locally for you. Do you have something to say about a health and social care issue? Or do you just want to be kept up-to-date on the work of the Health & Wellbeing Board? You can [register now with the PIN online and choose your specific areas of interest](#) and preferred ways to get involved. Visit <https://publicinvolvementnetwork.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

### Information about stroke and dementia

A pioneering online public information service has been launched in January for the South of England. The 'Our Health' website is the first of its kind in England. It aims to transform the way that patients, their carers and health professionals access and share the latest information on a range of key local health and care services across the South. The Our Health website was developed in the South West, initially providing information on local stroke and dementia services. The website received the Prime Minister's backing in March 2012, when David Cameron launched his 'Challenge on Dementia' and set out the need to promote local information on dementia services.

Patients, friends and families will be able to find out more about a particular health condition (initially stroke and dementia) and will be able to see what treatment and services they can expect at different stages. Those visiting the website will be able to click on a map to identify relevant services in their local area. It will be possible to compare these services with other services locally and across the South. Comparing information about different treatments and services will enable both patients and practitioners to make decisions about their treatment and care. The website can be reached at:

[www.ourhealth.southcentral.nhs.uk](http://www.ourhealth.southcentral.nhs.uk)

# Parish Council

## Clerk

Lucy Dalby 817 464  
[parishclerk@westhagbourne.org](mailto:parishclerk@westhagbourne.org)

## Councillors

Mike Butler Chair 850 523  
[mike.butler@westhagbourne.org](mailto:mike.butler@westhagbourne.org)  
Valerie Brownsword 850 668  
[valerie.brownsword@westhagbourne.org](mailto:valerie.brownsword@westhagbourne.org)  
Hugh Lewis 851 113  
[hugh.lewis@westhagbourne.org](mailto:hugh.lewis@westhagbourne.org)  
Eve Setch 850 858  
[eve.setch@westhagbourne.org](mailto:eve.setch@westhagbourne.org)  
Michele Thornhill 850 489  
[michele.thornhill@westhagbourne.org](mailto:michele.thornhill@westhagbourne.org)

## District Councillor

Leo Docherty 01235 519028  
[leo.docherty@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:leo.docherty@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

You can search for any current or past planning applications, view plans, see decisions based on your post code at  
<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationCriteria&TYPE=Application>

The Parish Council now have a stock of "Twenty is Plenty" stickers to attach to waste bins, so that when they are put out they will be seen by drivers. Some stickers will be delivered to houses on Main Street. Additional stickers will be available from Michael Butler at Blissetts, Main Street, and from Valerie Brownsword at 14 Manor Close



## Meetings

6th March 2013	Ordinary Meeting
1st May	Annual Meeting
3rd July	Ordinary Meeting
4th September	Ordinary Meeting
6th November	Ordinary Meeting

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](http://www.westhagbourne.org/pc_minutes.htm)

## Boundary Changes

The council lodged objections against the proposal to have a county councillor representing the parish in a ward with South Didcot. We submitted that we should be in a ward with other rural parishes, and we were supported in this by East Hagbourne and Didcot councils. The outcome is awaited. See <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/oxfordshire/south-oxfordshire-fer>

This year the parish boundaries will be assessed. At present, the parish covers a section of Great Western Park, and we can ask that it be limited to exclude this region, so that we are not in a parish with new housing on Great Western Park, although there is no guarantee of success if we do. If you have any comments on whether the parish boundary should be changed, please send them to the Clerk.

## other

The flooding on Main Street has been investigated and various options tried with little success. We have now been advised that the road will need to be re-profiled and the gullies altered to provide effective drainage. We do not yet know when this work will be undertaken.

## 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 the web site. please e-mail copy for inclusion to [editors@westhagbourne.org](mailto:editors@westhagbourne.org)



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## Greener Homes

Holding on to more of the heat you pay for is a sensible way to reduce your energy bills. In an older home 3 key steps will help to achieve this:

### 1. Draught-proofing

Start by draught-proofing doors, windows, letterboxes, keyholes and cat flaps. Install extractor fans in kitchens and bathrooms so you don't need to open windows.

### 2. Insulation

You've already put 270mm in the loft.

Now to the walls. If they aren't cavity walls which are easily insulated, solid wall insulation may suit. Adding it externally should be easier following a recent change in planning advice. If not, internal wall insulation adds real comfort and is best installed just prior to redecorating.

All these approaches are supported by the government's Green Deal.

### 3. Improved Glazing

Energy efficient glazing is now available to

replace single glazing, even in original sash window frames. If upgrading isn't affordable, consider removable secondary glazing. Failing that a thick pair of curtains helps!

You can see these and other improvements in homes in March and September at free events around the country.

For more information and to meet a homeowner who has already had the work done see [www.superhomes.org.uk](http://www.superhomes.org.uk)