

West Hagbourne news

June 2013 ISSUE 109

Community Plan

Only one third of West Hagbourne's residents have responded to the survey so far and the 32 replies are being analysed, but sadly the picture they give is not representative of the views of all the village since responses come mostly from the older residents. This means that the Plan might be criticised by SODC as being unrepresentative of the village as a whole, particularly of those in younger age groups.. Perhaps people have not understood how important it is for everyone in the village to make their views known, as the eventual Village Plan will materially affect future developments for and in the village, with consequences for everyone who lives here!

If you have young people in your household who would like to make their opinions known, or are yourselves under 60 and have not yet responded, we would be particularly pleased to have your response forms. All replies will be included for analysis.

If you have mislaid your form, copies may be obtained from Marion Judd, 850 143, or Sue Totterdell, 850 080, or can be downloaded from the village website.

Madge Trophy

Remember that Judging for the best kept front garden this year will take place in June.



Archaeology

Save our Sites (SOS) - update

The Didcot Archaeology group continues to seek signatures on its web site www.petitionbuzz.com/petitions/ddmile to support its proposal to save Didcot west's archaeological sites for future generations. More than 700 people have already signed up. Sites they want to highlight include Iron Age and Bronze Age villages, setting of a 9000 year old Neolithic pot, Mesolithic and Neolithic camps, pond barrow and Roman villa.

One suggestion is a history walk through the new Great Western Park estate with information boards and a reconstruction of a roundhouse. They are exploring how this might link with Harwell's plans for a Heritage Centre in their village hall.

So far all the archaeological explorations have been limited to the part of Great Western Park that lies north of the Wantage Rd (B4493). Who knows what treasures might lie under the southern site, in the parish of West Hagbourne?

You might also like to take a look at <https://en-gb.facebook.com/SocialLandscapeDidcot> where local resident Paul Bodsworth documents Didcot and its surroundings in a series of photos.

Sobell house

Many of you will know of the excellent work of the Sir Michael Sobell House Hospice, providing palliative and end of life care to Oxfordshire residents. This work is supported by the Sobell House Hospice Charity who will be holding their annual Oxford Moonlight Stroll on 13th July 2013 starting at 10:30pm

This is a nine-mile night-time sponsored walk through the streets of Oxford with all proceeds going to the Sobell House Hospice, caring for people throughout Oxfordshire affected by terminal illness. This year's theme is Sci-fi so all those Star Trek and Dr Who lovers can dress as their favourite characters to join in this fun event. You can sign up at www.oxfordmoonlightstroll.org or call 01865 857 007



Twinning news

A sale of interesting and unusual perennial plants will be held on **Saturday June 8th** at Lime Tree House, High Street, Harwell from 10.30 am until noon. Entry costs £2 per person to include a coffee or tea. Cakes will also be on sale. Profits go to Didcot Twinning Association.

The AGM of Didcot Twinning Association is on Wednesday June 17th between 19.30 and 20.30 in Didcot Civic Hall. New members are always welcome. Didcot and the surrounding villages are twinned with Meylan in France and with Planegg in Germany.

Potholes

The Community led plan highlighted that the police are not interested in reports of oversized vehicles in the village. You should report breaches of weight restrictions in West Hagbourne directly to Trading Standards via their

online form which can be found on their website

<http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/weight-restriction-orders> or by phone (0845 051 0845) or email trading_standards@oxfordshire.gov.uk Their dedicated Road Traffic Enforcement Team will investigate further.

Please report potholes direct to Oxfordshire Highways. If you can supply a photograph that gives some idea of the extent of the pothole this will help assess the urgency for its repair. You can do this online at highwaysenquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk by telephone: 0845 310 1111

All of this information and the relevant links are available on the web site. <http://www.westhagbourne.org/noticeboard.htm#potholes>

Fred Scott 1925-2013

Fred died on 16 April, just over two years after the death of his beloved wife Edna. He was an engineer and the couple moved to the area from the North East when Fred came to work at Harwell. In 1974 they moved from Blewbury to West Hagbourne where they built a house they fortuitously named Chapel Hayes after an old field name on their deeds. Fred and Edna kept a flock of up to 150 hens which ran freely in the orchards. People came from far and wide to buy their eggs. After his retirement Fred served on the Parish Council.

Fred and Edna supported the History Group long before they became fully active members. They were always hospitable and we set up our history displays in their barns during our village open days to raise funds for the history book. They laid on afternoon teas for our very first open day in 1996.

Many of us still remember the wonderful warm summer evening when Fred and Edna hosted a ceilidh at



The Dragon returned to the pond - more inside

News

Chapel Hayes as part of the open day activities.

The Scotts also contributed to the research for the history book and were generous with their house deeds, photos and maps. Fred contributed his time and expertise to several History Group projects, including the restoration of the memorial seat to John E Lay next to the war memorial. The History Group will be forever grateful to Fred for allowing two disruptive archaeological surveys to take place on his land in 2004 and 2007 which confirmed the existence of West Hagbourne's medieval chapel behind Chapel Hayes.

Our condolences go to Fred's daughters Margaret and Anne and their families who were also involved in the village events which took place at Chapel Hayes over the years.

Village History Group

Spring Clean

It was not a particularly nice morning, being cloudy and grey like so many this spring, but there were still around 5 people who turned out on April 27th for the Village clean up. Clad in high visibility jackets, the volunteers took on different stretches of verge to clear. Given the relatively high traffic levels on a Saturday morning, one volunteer delayed her contribution and took on the considerable task of collecting the litter on Brook Lane on Sunday morning instead. It never ceases to amaze me how little thought the passing traffic gives to our particular environment as they jettison crisp packets, sweet wrappers, drinks cans and bottles (both plastic and glass) from their passing cars. And that is not to include the hub caps and assorted plastic that drops from their cars. In all, around 10 sacks of rubbish were left near the bus shelter for collection.

It would be nice to have more helpers for this sort of project. One early outcome from Community Led Plan survey is the suggestion the that small groups of volunteers might take responsibility for sections of the roads

and paths, thus gaining some sort of ownership for their appearance. We know that there are volunteers who regularly tidy along the routes that they walk, outside of the clean up weekend and perhaps this could be incorporated into the ownership scheme. Is there a Parish Councillor or a resident prepared to take on the coordination needed to test this out? Please get in touch.

Unwanted items

So far there has been only one positive response to the suggestion of a Village Garage Sale. If you are interested, please get in touch with Sue Totterdell (850 080). Otherwise, if you have items you are prepared to give away, send up a short advertisement with the details for inclusion (free of charge) in the next newsletter.

Citizens Advice

Pay day loans have been in the news recently, so what can you do if you have borrowed money from one of these companies?

Pay day lenders make their money from high interest rates and the fact that people often can't pay back their instalments. Taking out another loan or "rolling over" your existing loan will be very expensive. If you have such a loan you will have agreed for the company to automatically take a certain amount from your account. However, if you want to re-examine your debts, you have the right to ask your bank to stop these payments. The next step would be to organise a realistic repayment plan and prioritise other debts. Didcot Citizens' Advice Bureau can help you negotiate repayment plans allowing you to pay back these unfair pay day loans without getting caught in a debt spiral.

If you've got other debts, it's important to prioritise those that are most important to pay back quickly. These include your mortgage or rent, gas and electricity, and council tax. You can find detailed advice on which debts to

prioritise at the Advice guide website: http://www.adviceguide.org.uk/england/debt_e/debt_help_with_debt_e.htm

Citizens Advice are monitoring how well pay day lenders are sticking to their Good Practice Customer Charter and borrowers can play an important part in helping this by filling in the survey at www.adviceguide.org.uk. You'll also find advice and template letters to send to the pay day loan company and to the financial ombudsman if you've been wrongly treated.

You can get more information about Pay Day Loans and about consumer rights on the Citizens Advice website www.adviceguide.org.uk the government website www.direct.gov.uk or from Didcot CAB at Dales, 9-15 High Street, Didcot OX11 8EQ or 08444 111 444.

Out walking

As the weather improves more of us will be walking the footpaths around the village. Many of you will have noticed the tall white flower growing alongside Church Path, looking a little like cow parsley but with smooth stems, spotted with purple blotches. Beware. This plant is Hemlock and all parts of it are poisonous. For more information see:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conium>

St George's Day

Yet again residents did our village proud with their fantastic display of dragons to celebrate St George's day. The Village Association thanks everyone who participated in this year's Dragon Competition in April. Twenty three amazing dragons appeared in various locations in the village including the fantastic dragon in the pond. The dragons provided a lot of interest and attracted many visitors to our lovely village. This year's judge was Father Jason from St. Andrew's Church. The winner was Robert Griffiths for his dragon in the phone box and highly commended dragons were at Orchard House and Drift way. Photos of all the dragons are displayed on the village website



These and lots of other photos mainly by Roger Sweet can be found on the website

Garden club

Hagbourne Garden club has a programme of monthly summer garden visits you might like to join:

Thursday 27 June -The Old Vicarage, Aston Rowant, nr. Watlington, Oxfordshire, OX49 5ST

Romantic, 1¾-acre vicarage garden lovingly rejuvenated and enjoyed by the present family. Centred around a croquet lawn surrounded by beds brimming with shrubs and herbaceous plants, hot bed and roses. Lushly-planted pond leading through a pergola overflowing with roses and clematis to a tranquil green garden. Small vegetable and cutting garden. Transport in members' cars. We will leave the Hagbourne village hall car park at 6.15 pm. £4 for garden entrance plus £3.50 for refreshments

Thursday 18 July - Clematis Corner, 15 Plough Close, Shillingford, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 7EX

As well as the National Collection of herbaceous clematis, Mike Brown's garden contains many other types of clematis as well as other interesting plants. Transport in members' cars. We will leave the Hagbourne village hall car park at 6.30 pm. Donation of £3 to one of two charities: Sue Ryder and Cancer Research UK.

Please note that only the June visit is our normal fourth Thursday of the month. Evening meetings resume on Thursday 26 September – speaker to be announced.

Healthwatch

HealthWatch Oxfordshire is the new independent 'consumer champion' for people and patients of all ages, who wish to raise concerns about health and social care services, carrying forward the strong legacy of the LINK in Oxfordshire. Oxfordshire Rural Community Council has been chosen to provide this service on an interim basis as they previously 'hosted' the Local Involvement

Network which has been superseded by Healthwatch.

Who can be part of Healthwatch Oxfordshire? Healthwatch are inviting people in Oxfordshire to join their local Healthwatch.

The more people involved, of all ages, the better. You can find out more about joining Healthwatch Oxfordshire in three ways:

1. Click on the following link (or copy it into your browser) www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk Here you will find all the information you need to join Healthwatch Oxfordshire via the 'Join Us and Vote' button.
2. Or write to: Freepost RSUC-BRXH-JGEH, Healthwatch Oxfordshire, Oxford Rural Community Council, Tithe Barn, Jericho Farm, Worton, Witney, Oxon OX29 4SZ and we will send you all the information.
3. Or phone us: at the Healthwatch office on 01865 520529 and we will explain how to join.

Lunch Club

Where? The Horse & Harrow

When? 3rd Friday of every month at 12.15 pm

Nine village residents (and 1 ex-resident) met together for lunch at the Horse & Harrow on Friday 17th May. The next lunch will be on Friday 21st of June – all welcome.

If you intend to come please contact either Marion Judd (850 143; mjudd449@btinternet.com) or Sue Totterdell (850 080; susan.totterdell@westhagbourne.org) as we need to let the pub know how many people to expect.

Parish Council

Clerk

Lucy Dalby 817 464
parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

Councillors

Mike Butler Chair 850 523

mike.butler@westhagbourne.org

Valerie Brownsword 850 668

valerie.brownsword@westhagbourne.org

Hugh Lewis 851 113

hugh.lewis@westhagbourne.org

Eve Setch 850 858

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Michele Thornhill 850 489

michele.thornhill@westhagbourne.org

District Councillor

Leo Docherty 01235 519028

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

Slowing traffic down

To encourage through traffic to slow down the Parish Council have a stock of "Twenty is Plenty"

stickers for you to attach to waste bins, so that when they are put out they will be seen by drivers. Stickers are available from Michael Butler at Blissetts on Main Street and from Valerie Brownsword at 14 Manor Close



Meetings

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

Planning Applications

One new planning application has been received for a single storey dwelling at Grove Manor Farm:

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/planning/ApplicationDetails.jsp?REF=P13/S1457/FUL>

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

Parish Boundary

At the Annual Parish Meeting which was held in May there was support for the proposal that we should agree to transfer to Didcot the part of the parish containing land falling within the Great Western Park development.

FREE TO COLLECT

Around 90 concrete 2ft x 2ft paving slabs will be available **free** to anyone who comes to collect them from the end of July. Please call Dave Totterdell (850080) for more details.

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. If you would like a feature on your **local business** please e-mail copy for inclusion to editors@westhagbourne.org



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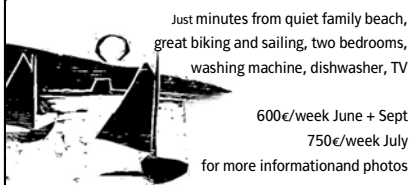


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Blues Festival

This year's Wallingford Blues and Beer Festival 7-8 June 2013 will have one of the best line-ups yet, both musically and in beers available.

There will be two amazing headline bands, Mike Sanchez playing on the Friday and King King playing on the Saturday, as well as four highly talented support acts and not forgetting local bands playing on the family-friendly Saturday afternoon, to which children are allowed to come along and sample the music (but not the beer!).

'Blues-Buster' tickets are available this year too, reducing the prices from £17.50 to £15.00 for each evening event, £5 for the Saturday afternoon session (accompanied children under 14 free) and £30 for the entire weekend, and this year's Wallingford Blues and Beer Festival will be supporting three local children's charities: South and Vale Young Carers, Wyfold Riding for the Disabled, and Footsteps Foundation.

For more information on the festival, see <http://www.bluesandbeer.co.uk/>

See you in June!

Village Association

The Village Association welcomes new members and new ideas for the enjoyment of our residents.

Please contact Val Walton on 851 089 or June Little on 850 094