

# West Hagbourne news

August 2013 ISSUE 110



## Brook Lane flood

Wednesday June 12th was not a wet day but as we drove back into the village from Didcot in the early afternoon we noticed the water pouring down Brook Lane and flooding the road. By the time we got to the bridge over the culvert, the water was higher than we had ever seen and cars were passing only with difficulty. Water was coming off the field at the Coscote junction faster than it could flow away in the stream, so the level was building rapidly. Those cars which did make it through produced quite a wave, which threatened to bring the

water even closer to the village. The driver of an MG sports car wisely decided to find another route and a cyclist diverted to take the railway cycle track. Shortly after we had passed through, police closed the road. Hurrying home, we called Thames Water who luckily were already aware of a mains leak and had a repair crew on its way.

Once they had stopped the water leak, the level in the road soon fell but not before home-coming Harwell traffic had had to find an alternative route. By early evening the road was re-opened with nothing but a residue of gravel and dirt to show where the flood had been.

## Bike Night 2013

After a wet event in 2012, the 2013 John Wheeler British Bike Night, jointly organised by the North Berks Motor Cycle Club and the AJS and Matchless Owners' Club, was held at The Horse and Harrow on Tuesday 16 July - well into the heat wave period.

In addition to a record entry for the 'best bike of the show' competition there was also a record attendance, estimated to be in excess of 5,000.

As well as British bikes, there were plenty of foreign ones, including a fine BMW combination, as well as a Russian Ural, and there were also trade stands and a small show of

British cars, mainly from the 1960s and 1970s.

A collection of customised bikes also attracted plenty of attention.

Nate and Alicia, the grandchildren of Fred Robinson of Manor Close, were the youngest members of the team performing trials demonstrations in the arena at the edge of the field and showed amazing skills when negotiating various obstacles at speed. The skills of teenage riders riding over parked old cars also contributed immensely to the continuing success of this annual event the proceeds of which go towards providing a Christmas lunch for village pensioners at The Horse and Harrow.

Report & photos: Malcolm Brownsword



## Madge Trophy

The judging of the front gardens in West Hagbourne took place on Friday 28th June. Mrs Madge, who kindly agreed to be judge, commented that the attractive, well-kept gardens were a credit to the village.

**The winner was 16, York Road**

(Mrs Hill's garden)

Highly commended were: 1, Main Street and Uplands.

Mrs Madge was also impressed with the attractive flowers and plants around the bus shelter. Many thanks to Sue and Dave Totterdell who spend a lot of time caring for the garden.

Val Walton

## Lunch Club

Despite a bit of a hiccup in June, the Hagbourne Lunch club is alive and well. On Friday 19th July, ten villagers met for lunch at the Horse and Harrow. First suggested as a way to support a local business and to meet informally with other residents, this idea is gaining support. If you want to come along to the next lunch, it will be on Friday 16th August (the third Friday of the month) starting at 12h30. All village residents are welcome to come along and if you want to check who else might be going, please call Sue or Marion (850080 or 850143). Normally we let the pub know the day before how many are going.

## Macmillan

On Saturday 28th September, Val Walton is hosting a coffee morning at Fairview, York Road, 10 am to 12 noon to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Support.

Please put this date in your diary and come along and have delicious cake and coffee, a chat with friends and neighbours, and help raise money for a good cause. If you want to advertise your charity event in this newsletter, please get in touch with Sue or Marion.



## Garden update

This summer has seen more changes to the gardens on either side of the bus shelter. The wild flowers planted last year provided a good splash of colour but sadly not much variety. It may be too shady between the bus shelter and the phone box. At the end of July the project for the border below the noticeboard was finally completed with the planting of a range of hardy perennials which should attract pollinating insects. The soil was first improved and the water-retention increased by digging in a thick layer of compost. The planting is quite dense so that the effects should be seen by next year.

A start has also been made on tidying the gardens on the left of the bus shelter. Although originally planted with an interesting range of shrubs, this area had become seriously overgrown and the shrubs were misshapen due to the competition between each other and the effects of the underplanting with periwinkle. We have decided to try to eliminate the periwinkle before replanting this area with a less invasive ground cover. We will also be removing some of the existing shrubs but replanting in the same spirit as the original plan, to provide year-round interest. In the next couple of weeks we hope to move the salt box from its rather intrusive location along the edge of this garden and place it on some paving, between the bus shelter and the phone box, to the side of the water butt. It should be equally as accessible there but should no longer spoil the view of the gardens.



# News

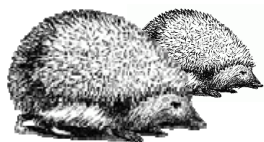
## Fly Tipping

Becky Lake, the communications officer at the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership, wants to alert you to some of their forthcoming campaigns. Over the summer they will be at local recycling sites highlighting the problem of fly tipping, providing information about what happens to your recycled rubbish as well as promoting the National Love Food Hate Waste campaign giving away free recipe books for using left over food and providing information about how to reduce food waste. You can find more information at their web site [www.oxfordshirewaste.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshirewaste.gov.uk) or find Recycle for Oxfordshire on Facebook. Our local fly tipping hot spot is at the first Coscote bend at the northern end of Brook Lane. If you see waste there, please let the Parish Clerk know as she can arrange for it to be taken away.

## Broadband

Oxfordshire County Council recently announced that they are confident that their programme of Broadband investment will deliver superfast broadband (24Mbps) to at least 90% of premises (homes and businesses) in the county. This £13.86 million investment translates into 65,000+ premises across the county getting superfast speeds that would otherwise not have done so. Negotiations are ongoing and they expect to start delivering the programme over a two-year period beginning January 2014. In the meantime, OCC is advising local groups to hold back on community ventures. Coverage maps should be available from the beginning of August.

Given West Hagbourne's experience with BT in terms of failed promises, it will be interesting to keep an eye on how this county-wide plan works for us. Be prepared to lobby your County Councillor, Patrick Greene, to ensure that we are not short-changed again.



## Hedgehogs

A group of ecologists based at Reading University is interested in examining the impact of major roads on hedgehog populations. It is estimated that hedgehog populations in some parts of the UK have declined by approximately 20% in the last 20 years, and one possible factor contributing to this decline is the fragmentation effect of major roads on hedgehog populations i.e. hedgehogs avoid crossing these major roads, leading to populations becoming more and more isolated from one another, which potentially makes them more vulnerable to other factors.

For their study, the scientists want to obtain genetic samples from hedgehogs in a zone approximately 10 miles north and south of the M4 between Bristol and Reading. They want to enlist the help of people living in this study zone by getting them to report any dead hedgehogs they see so that the remains can be collected and small tissue samples taken for analysis. If anyone wants to report any sightings, please do so using the email: [hedgehogs@reading.ac.uk](mailto:hedgehogs@reading.ac.uk)

For more information contact Ben on [b.williams@pgr.reading.ac.uk](mailto:b.williams@pgr.reading.ac.uk).

Mr Ben Williams, Dr Phil Baker

## Craft Fair

Hagbourne School PTA will be holding its popular annual craft fair - where a wide variety of high quality arts, crafts and gifts for the whole family will be on offer.

So save the date!

Sunday 24th November 2013  
11am - 3.30pm

For further information contact:  
Clare Downing 07847 448 894

## Wantage Group

Wantage Association of Retired Persons (WARP) welcomes retired people over 50 from Wantage and surrounding areas including Abingdon, Didcot and Steventon. Their popular monthly meetings are usually held at Wantage Civic Hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 2pm, which includes a topical presentation from a guest speaker followed by refreshments and a raffle.

The group also organises monthly pub lunches, line dancing, outings and holidays.

Guests are welcome at the door with an entrance fee of £4 per person. Go to [www.ocva.org.uk/warp](http://www.ocva.org.uk/warp) to view the full programme of upcoming events; telephone Mary 01235 764573 for more information on their programme:

7 August Rustic Copper, presenter Brian Wood

4 Sept History of Charlton Garden Centre presenter Hazel Stevenson  
2 October Administration of Guildford Cathedral, presenter Lt.Col. (ret'd) Jon Fleming OBE FRGS

6 November Not So Bleak Midwinter, presenter Tim Walker

4 December Christmas Lunch for Members at Drayton Golf Club

## Missing

The Village History Group has lost a folder relating to the Village Open Day of 7 July 1996. It contains photographs and memorabilia relating to the event.

It was last seen when it was displayed at our archive day at York Farm on 25 September 2011. We may have given it to someone to identify people in the photographs.

If anyone has this folder please contact Sheila Taylor on 850251 or post an email to the village website: [webmaster@westhagbourne.org](mailto:webmaster@westhagbourne.org)

## Christmas Fayre

We have received notice of what promises to be a unique and bespoke Christmas Gift Fayre which will be held on 26th and 27th October 2013 at Stowe house in Buckingham. With around 100 exhibitors within both the mansion and marquee, and with a dedicated food hall, last year's event saw a staggering 3000 people through the doors over the weekend. If you are interested, please make a note in your diary. The event is open from 10 am - 5 pm and the entry fee of £6 per adult and £4 per child includes entry into the magnificent State Rooms at Stowe, free parking and minibus transfer to the event. Enquiries call 01280 818282

## Didcot U3A

Didcot and District University of the Third Age meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month at 2pm in Didcot Civic Hall. Visitors are welcome to come to one meeting as a taster before joining.

The August meeting will be held on 20 August and the topic is 'Journey to the East: Travels in China'.

Didcot and District u3A is a democratic, self-funded and self-managed organisation which exists to provide educational and leisure activities at minimal cost. It draws upon the knowledge, experience, skills and enthusiasms of its members to organise interest groups in accordance with the wishes of the membership. There are over 20 groups - there's something for everyone.

## History Group

It will come as no surprise that the History Group has decided to finally call it a day. Following many futile appeals for new blood and the loss of several members of the original team, we feel the time is right to make an exit.

The West Hagbourne Village History Group was established in 1991. The Group published Windsor Hakeborne: the Story of West Hagbourne to coincide with the millennium year 2000. The publication followed nine years of research and received very appreciative reviews. Following the launch of Windsor Hakeborne the Group embarked on several projects, including:

The commissioning of a new memorial plaque bearing the names of all the men from West Hagbourne who gave their lives in two world wars. A dedication ceremony took place on 30th June 2002 at the village war memorial (bus shelter).

A major restoration of the unique armorial font in the south aisle of St Andrew's Church, including repainting the medieval shields of West Hagbourne manorial families in their original colours.

Two archaeological surveys with the Berkshire Archaeology Research Group in 2004 and 2007 to confirm the site of West Hagbourne's medieval chapel in the paddock at Chapel Hayes.

A new millennium project in 2001 to capture an accurate picture of West Hagbourne at the very beginning of the 21st century. This involved a questionnaire to all households and the photographing of every house and building in the village.

A very successful village archive day to display the Group's collection of historic memorabilia at York Farm on 25th September 2011. This was a joint

effort with the Village Association which provided refreshments.

The History Group maintains an archive of photographs, maps, documents, census returns, sale notices and personal memoirs. We have created photo albums, folders and scrap books illustrating village events including the Jubilees, the millennium celebrations and much more. All this material is currently being catalogued and prepared for transfer to an appropriate depository.

It is hoped that one day in the future another history group may be formed to continue where we have left off.

Sheila Taylor

## Neglected again

Sadly for the second year running Moor Lane is continuing to look unloved and ignored with weeds and grass standing over a metre in height.

Despite huge amounts of money released by an environmental grant to improve the lane, last years digging out of the ditch took little account of all the bulb planting and re-seeding of the bank which had just started to establish itself. The grass verge hasn't been cut, the lower lane is overgrown and the area is looking very neglected.

If you'd be prepared to give a few hours to form a working party to tidy part of the lane between the village and down towards the railway bridge please contact the Clerk.



# 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

## 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

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)

## Planning Applications

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>

## HGV & potholes

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](mailto:trading_standards@oxfordshire.gov.uk) Their dedicated Road Traffic Enforcement Team will investigate.

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. [highwaysenquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:highwaysenquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

by telephone: 0845 310 1111  
or by writing to:  
Southern Area Office  
Oxfordshire County Council  
Milton Road  
Drayton OX14 4EZ  
All of this information and the relevant links are available on the village web site. Go to Noticeboard: <http://www.westhagbourne.org/noticeboard.htm#potholes>



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