

West Hagbourne news

October 2013 ISSUE 111

the Post Office

Terry, our good friend and subpostmaster, plans to retire at the end of February 2014 and we are looking for a part-time person to replace him.

East Hagbourne Sub Post Office is in the Community Shop, next to Passey's garage in New Road. Anyone interested can obtain a full job description and find out more from:

John Jones (tel. 813326; jajones@dsl.pipex.com).

Craft Fair

Sunday 24th November 2013
11am – 3.30pm Hagbourne School,
Around 60 stalls selling high-quality, handcrafted goods including children's books and toys, toiletries, including the Body Shop, home accessories, silver and lampwork handmade jewellery, prints and cards, knitwear, textiles and hair accessories, fudge and sweets, handbags and leather goods, and Christmas decorations.
Tasty baguettes, hot food, teas and cakes available throughout the day.
For further information contact:
Clare Downing 07847 448 894

Allotments

There are currently some plots available at Butts Piece (top of Harwood Road) and the annual costs are in the region of £26 (around 33p per square metre). Anyone interested should contact EHPC Clerk, Robin Parsley in the first instance at :-
rp.ehpc@btinternet.com

Baby-sitting ?

Is anyone is interested in joining a babysitting circle? please contact Rachel Margolis: on 850 185 or e-mail: rachelmargoils@gmail.com



Macmillan

Saturday September 28th saw villagers invited to join Keith and Val Walton for coffee, part of the Biggest Coffee Morning fundraising initiative. Visitors were offered a range of drinks and a selection of delicious home-made cakes as well as an opportunity to buy raffle tickets.

The weather stayed dry although sadly there was little sun but this did not stop people going out into the garden where they were able to admire the sunflowers, standing like parading guardsmen along the wall. Sharing a coffee and catching up on village events meant time passed very quickly and all too soon it was time to leave. Val and Keith Walton wish to thank everyone who supported the event.

They are so grateful for your generous contributions. Val said "An amazing grand total of £500 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Support. Keith and I hope that you all enjoyed the occasion as much as we did".

Lunch Club

This event continues to be popular. Fifteen residents enjoyed lunch together at the Horse & Harrow on Friday 20th September.

The next lunch club meeting will be on Friday 18th October. Please let Sue Totterdell (850 080) or Marion Judd (850 143) know in advance if you intend to come along as the pub needs numbers in advance.

Sale of land

The field behind Rose Cottage, Hakkas Brook and Brook Furlong is about to be put up for auction by Thames Water. At present it is not known whether the land is being offered for development. More information will be circulated once it becomes available.

The Green Deal

The Green Deal is a new Government scheme to help with energy saving improvements to your home such as loft insulation, double glazing and solar panels. The scheme lets you make these improvements without having to pay up-front. Instead, you take out a loan which is repaid through the savings on your energy bills. Like any credit arrangement, the Green Deal is a serious financial commitment, so you need to think carefully about whether it's right for you.



The loan is attached to properties, not people, so if you move house then repayments will pass to the next owner or tenant. You'll have to let them know that loan is attached to the property before they agree to buy.

The scheme is designed so that savings always outstrip repayments. But this isn't a guarantee, so taking out a Green Deal loan may mean that your bills increase. If you're on an electricity meter repayments will be taken off your credit in small amounts several times a day, so you may find that your credit is used up faster.

To get advice about the Green Deal, the Energy Company Obligation and other ways to get help to save energy in your home from the Energy Savings Advice Service on 0300 123 1234

Harrow coffee

Helen Hughes, the landlady at the Harrow reports their MacMillan Coffee morning made £69.

Water main

The starlings and the sparrows might not be too delighted, but the residents of York Road were pleased to see Thames Water repairing the third mains leak in the road this year.

The delay of over three months from it being first reported was caused by them waiting to get a traffic order to close the road, despite it being perfectly possible to access all the houses in York Road during the few hours it took to fix. One resident was heard to say, how stupid can you be?

Saving energy

Is it worth the hassle refurbishing an older home to make it much more energy efficient? Here are 10 reasons why it may feel like the healthy option: Other people's fuel bills go up, yours go down. So you don't dread those winter bills.

Your house value is increased, so you are financially better off.

Your home is future-proofed against increasingly scarce energy supply, so you get peace of mind.

- Mould growth is reduced or eliminated, so you breathe better.
- Draught stripping and double glazing insulate you against external noise, so your home is more peaceful.
- Double glazing increases your security.
- Draughts are reduced, so you feel warmer and more comfortable.
- Your home stays warm 24/7, reducing chances of illness. And because all the rooms are warm, you can use all your home.
- Your home produces less environmentally damaging emissions, helping protect the planet and your kids.

Your home is insulated against summer sun, so it need no longer overheat. Happy days! To find out more about refurbishing an older home, visit www.superhomes.org.uk

News

NHS updates

Since October 2012, the NHS in Oxfordshire has restricted NHS prescriptions for gluten free foods to flour and bread. All other gluten-free foods were a low priority for NHS funding. A survey has been commissioned to find out how these changes have affected adults and children in Oxfordshire, diagnosed with coeliac disease or a gluten intolerance, who must adhere to a gluten free diet. This survey is for people diagnosed before October 2012 and who are registered with a doctor's surgery in Oxfordshire. To participate in this survey, <https://consult.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/consult.ti/glutenfreereview/consultationHome>

Outcomes Based Commissioning for mental health services:

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) aims to secure improved outcomes and value for money for patients and the public. In particular, it will encourage service providers to deliver those outcomes that matter most both clinically and to patients rather than paying them for how much work they do. OCCG have been engaging with people in Oxfordshire on this since January and have now identified these high level outcomes, why they are important to people and how they will be measured. We would like your views on this. The survey will be launched on 6th August, so please keep an eye on [Talking Health](#).

Get involved with your local patient

participation group: We are encouraging people to join their local patient participation group in the GP surgery. PPGs are coming together to have a wider say on how health services are developed in the county. If you are part of a PPG and want to find out more about what is going on in your area of Oxfordshire, please email julia.stackhouse@nhs.net

Patient Experience Survey: The purpose of this survey is to capture real time patient experience stories. Information that you give will help shape and improve the care in Oxfordshire. For more information and to access the survey please <http://www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/get-involved/patient-experience-survey/>.

OCCG would like to reassure patients and the public regarding our local NHS 111 service in the light of recent publicity relating to difficulties within privately-provided services in other areas of the country. Our local NHS 111 service is provided by South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SCAS) and therefore any future withdrawal of NHS Direct as a 111 service provider should not affect Oxfordshire's services directly.

Healthwatch

Healthwatch Oxfordshire is the successor organisation to Oxfordshire LINK and is being set up to give communities a stronger voice in how their health and social care services are delivered.

Healthwatch Oxfordshire is independent of the NHS and the Local Authority and is a statutory requirement under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Its role is to ensure that the voices of consumers and those who use services reach the ears of the decision makers. To get involved visit

<http://www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk> or call 01865 520521

Thief caught

In September an opportunist burglary occurred in York Road; and less than three weeks later Thames Valley Police arrested a suspect who has subsequently admitted the break in.

Please be vigilant and keep your sheds secure and remember to lock up when you are out.

Consumers

Consumer Empowerment Partnerships (CEPs) – to give them their full title – are a new feature of the consumer landscape, supported by Citizens Advice's social policy and campaigns teams. You may also come across the national Citizens Advice Consumer Service, whose helpline (08454 040506) took over from Consumer Direct last year. In Oxfordshire there is a project to educate consumers, generally to make them more empowered. More details of this project can be found at www.caqx.org.uk/consumer

UBA October

Didcot and District University of the Third Age meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 2pm at Didcot Civic Hall. Visitors are welcome to come to one meeting as a taster before joining. At the next meeting on 15th October there will be a talk on desert island pictures.



Cornerstone

October brings a host of performances including the opportunity to see three fantastic contemporary theatrical adaptations starting with the hilarious *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* from the Reduced Shakespeare Company. *The Duchess of Malfi*, Webster's stupendous Jacobean masterpiece comes to Cornerstone on 12 October and its themes are just as relevant today as they were in the 17th century. Finally Shakespeare's well-loved *As You Like It* is suitable for ages 12 and over and family tickets are available.

Younger members of the family are well catered for too. There's comedy with *Little Howard's Big Show*, a super adaptation of *Pinocchio* from hiccup theatre, written by the popular Michael Rosen and on 27 October we have *The War of the Buttons*, a delightful show suitable for both deaf and hearing audiences. There is also a workshop before the show.

For October half-term there are lots of exciting activities lined up for under 16s, some of which are suitable for all ages and free of charge.

Details of all the above and more can be found in the attached abbreviated listings and in more detail on the Cornerstone website <http://www.cornerstone-arts.org>

Slow Down!

A number of vehicles keep driving through the village at excessive speeds. With so many young children now living in the village it seems extraordinary that the some of the worst offenders who speed along York Road are driving people carriers and minibuses with young children inside! Please drive more carefully through the village and be vigilant for cyclists and pedestrians as well as young children and the elderly!



4G & your TV

Mobile phone operators are starting to offer 4G mobile services in Oxfordshire in September and they are being introduced at a new frequency: 800 MHz. Some Freeview services operate close to this 800 MHz frequency and because of this, 4G signals might cause problems with receiving Freeview services. This could include blocky or pixelated images, loss of sound, or a 'no signal' message on the screen. Only those who watch Freeview may be affected; cable or satellite service are unlikely to experience disruption.

In most cases, problems with Freeview services can be solved by fitting an at800 approved filter behind your TV (not in the roof). The filters are easy to plug-in and 'block' 4G signals at 800 MHz and enable you to carry on watching Freeview as normal.

If there is any chance your Freeview service may be affected by the rollout of 4G at 800 MHz, you will receive a postcard and possibly a free at800 filter with instructions on how to fit it. If you, a friend or a family member are unable to fit the filter, call at800's contact centre and they will be able to help. Contact them by Freephone 0808 13 13 800 www.at800.tv

They can send a member of their home visit team, commissioned through the local voluntary and community sector, to fit a filter if you are either:

- 75 years of age and older, or
- registered for certain disability allowances, or if you are
- registered blind or partially sighted

Next Edition!

The newsletter is written and edited by Sue Totterdell and Marion Judd every two months.

Contributions are welcome especially for local events.

The deadline is the 30th day of the month before publication.
Next Edition - December
Deadline 30 November
February Edition
Deadline 30 January



Book Sale

The next North Moreton Book Sale will take place at the Village Hall on 19th October, from 10am to 3pm. Thousands of books will be on sale, with the proceeds going towards the hall and the village church. Light refreshments will be on sale.

Donations of books will be very welcome: please email northmoretonbooks@gmail.com

or ring 07934 104555 if you have any spare books that you would like to donate and the organisers will be glad to collect them from you.

the Countryside

After a year like 2012 we didn't know what weather to expect. With a wet spring everything was behind and has remained so all summer.

The season on the farm has been running about two weeks late all through, but what a glorious summer we have had, even though it seemed to come to rather an abrupt end.

A typical English summer and harvest went well and the yields and quality were good generally in this area except for the poppies, although variable in other parts of the country.

Many of you may have seen the article in both local and national papers about the poppies grown for morphine. Chris has been trying to keep the media straight on this controversial subject. Due to the misinformation printed, especially in Hampshire, people think we are growing the same opium variety as that in Afghanistan which is illegally used to produce heroin. This is not the case, and the variety we grow is strictly controlled and under license to the Home Office. The company we

are contracted to is the only one licensed in the country.

Poppies are an excellent break crop – rotation crops grown instead of leaving fallow. We didn't produce a good crop this year as there were a lot of rogue weeds. However, I think they will be back somewhere next year!

We have spread manure on approx 10% of the land and ploughed it in. Planting is underway with all the Oilseed rape in and the winter wheat being done now. Rain is forecast which will help the seed grow above the height to be plagued by slugs, a major problem. Once planting is finished there will be seasonal spraying, hedge trimming and woodland management.

This has been an excellent season for the fruit growers, with an abundance of produce.

The birds around the farm have had a successful breeding season. A few of the house martins and swallows have been left behind still feeding their third batch of chicks, but they'll soon catch up with the rest who are on their way back to Africa.

The usual two young kestrels were raised in the box again. They were very amusing when trying to learn to fly, beating their wings fast and shouting at mum, who was just coasting along slightly above them. Once proficient at their task they all disappear, until next year.

In the evening in early summer a large group of swifts screamed around the village, only ever landing to incubate their eggs as the rest of their lives are spent airborne.

Hedgehogs are apparently 20% down in numbers, many drowning in pools and ponds. Chris watched one tiptoeing around the edge of the pond one night so he waited to make sure it didn't fall in!

The gardens around the village are all so pretty and not dried out. Looking forward to a lovely autumn.

Sue Lay



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
eve.setch@westhagbourne.org
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

Meetings

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

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>

1.Highways proposals

At a meeting hosted by Oxfordshire County Council, various proposals were discussed regarding improvements along the A417 corridor. The one that most affects West Hagbourne is that when the Harwell link road is constructed, there is a wish for a good route to the Harwell campus for traffic turning left on to the A417.

This would involve some upgrading to the road up Hagbourne Hill and down to Chilton, and possibly the junction with the A417. Subsequently, Chilton Parish Council hosted a meeting for parishes affected by this proposal and the consensus was that upgrading should be restricted to safety measures and should not be aimed at increasing the speed of traffic flow. At the same meeting it transpired that there was a proposal to upgrade the junction on the A34 at Chilton, to make it bi-directional so that people travelling south on the A34 could leave at Chilton to access the Harwell Campus. Chilton objected to this proposal but the other villages were in support. The views are being made known to Oxfordshire County Council.

2. Path to East Hagbourne

There have been some complaints about the state of the path leading from the end of Foxglove Lane to East Hagbourne, which can get covered in mud. We have set a provisional date of Saturday 16 November for clearing any parts of the path necessary and will be looking for volunteers. We shall be checking the path as autumn progresses and the leaves fall, and we will finalise a plan of action at the next meeting of the Parish Council on 6 November. An email will be circulated with the final plans.

3.Field behind the Horse and Harrow

This field is up for sale and a question is whether a new owner would try to build on the land. The field itself is in the village of Upton, whose district council is Vale of White Horse rather than South Oxfordshire, and the Parish Council does not receive notices of planning applications automatically. We are endeavouring to reach an understanding with the Vale or with Upton so that we are notified of any planning applications affecting this land or any other land that borders on our boundaries.

Unwanted

If you have items you are prepared to give away, send us a short advertisement with the details for inclusion (free of charge) in the next newsletter.

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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wanted

Bissel Carpet sweeper
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Bookcase
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wanted

Pressure treated planks of wood to place along the front of the planted area to the left of the bus shelter. Now that this area has been cleared for re-planting we need something to stop the soil spilling over onto the pavement. If you can help, please get in touch with Dave Totterdell 850 080



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