

West Hagbourne news



December 2013 ISSUE 112

Church path

On a cold Saturday morning in late November a small group of volunteers assembled, with their spades and wheelbarrows at the end of Foxglove Lane. After brief discussions of what was needed, they fanned out along the path to East Hagbourne and began to clear the accumulations of mud and leaves. In the first section, they also increased the width of the path by removing the long-overgrown edges. After a couple of hours of hard work they had made quite a difference, with clearing taking place all the way to the edge of the Parish boundary. There is more to do and inevitably leaves and mud will continue to build up over the winter.

Future working parties will be widely advertised and your help will be much appreciated.



Lunch Club

The lunch club meets at the Horse and Harrow throughout the year on the third Friday of every month. The Christmas lunch, previously advertised for Friday 6th December, will now be on **Friday 20th December** at 12.30. If you want to come to the Christmas lunch, please tell Sue Totterdell (850 080) or Marion Judd (850 143) in advance, as the pub needs to know numbers for catering. All are welcome!



Village garden

Those of you who have been watching the progress of the gardens beside the bus shelter will have noticed that they are now ready for replanting in the spring. After the appeal for treated timber in the last issue of this newsletter, it was heartening to receive offers of wood from four different residents.

Our thanks to all of them. The first offer was made by Mr Allen, of York Farm, and it was thus by his generosity that a low barrier has been constructed to hold the soil in place at the front of the border. Once the framework of shrubs has been planted, in the spring, a selection of perennials and bulbs will be added to try to provide year-round colour.



Thank you

Marge Coster would like to thank all friends and neighbours for all cards and messages of condolence, after the death of her husband Ernie.

Thank you all, so much.

Didcot A?

At a recent Cafe Scientifique the audience learned a bit more about what is going to happen when the power station begins to be demolished. Representatives of Coleman and Co., the company that won the demolition contract, first gave the audience a few details of previous jobs they had done and showed how to find engineering solutions to the constraints that most big demolitions involve, including working near residential premises, alongside railway lines and even in a station that had to remain open to 140,000 commuters a day throughout the contract. They do not underestimate the challenge at Didcot A. Over a period of around three years they will demolish the cooling towers, chimney, the turbine hall and the boiler house. The height of the towers (98m) and the chimney (200m - one of the tallest in the UK) mean that explosive demolition is considered appropriate. In addition to these loud bangs, explosions will also be used to bring down parts of the turbine hall and boiler house.

A question was asked about who would 'press the button' The contractors explained that it has to be their explosives expert although it is possible that RWE Npower will use the event to raise money for one of its charities. It is unlikely that anyone will have to be evacuated from their homes as the exclusion zone is generally calculated as three times the height of the structure to be demolished. However, the timing of passing trains on the West country mainline will have to be taken into consideration. Demolition will probably take place on a Sunday. There was also concern about the number of lorry journeys taking away the waste (almost all of which will be recycled). The boiler house alone will produce around

40,000 tonnes of steel. It seems that all concrete will be crushed on site and used locally. The possibility of using the loop line, originally used to bring in coal by train, to take away other waste is being explored. Heavy plant, such as the massive cranes that will be required, will be brought in from the A34, probably overnight.

If you are interested in following the progress of this massive engineering project, we are promised that regular updates and photos will be posted on the company's website: <http://www.coleman-co.com>

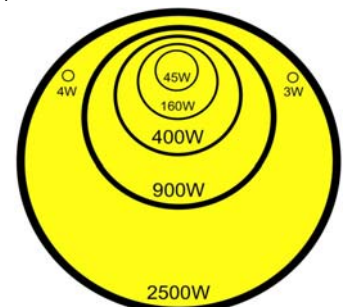
Watts up doc?

Energy price hikes are back with a vengeance. But are we any more in tune with our electricity use? Here's a quick quiz to find out.

Simply take the power in Watts from the graphic and match it to the right appliance.

- a) microwave
- b) Nintendo DS
- c) PC with monitor
- d) Kettle
- e) iPod
- f) Big old Plasma TV
- g) laptop

The answers might surprise you, especially if you take a poor view of headphones and gaming. These figures are fairly typical for the listed appliances. Are yours the same?



Answers: a) 900W b) 4W c) 160W d) 45W e) 3W f) 400W g) 2500W

News



U3A

On Tuesday 19th November, U3A members learned about the many roles played by volunteers at Sobell House Hospice, where people with life-limiting illnesses receive treatment and care. Volunteers give help in a wide variety of ways, such as taking round the drinks trolley, helping people to eat, offering a friendly ear to people who want a chat and many other roles as required. Some help in the day care centre, the bereavement centre, the hospice shops or in the Charity office which leads fundraising for the hospice.

Members also heard from a current patient about the various services the hospice offers for patients. These include short admissions for symptom control before returning home; end of life care, day care and any other types of support individuals may need, such as physical, psychological, social and spiritual care to those facing life threatening illness, death and bereavement. The focus is on quality of life, respecting the uniqueness of each person, and respect for the dignity of all users of the service.

The hospice, located on the Churchill Hospital site in Oxford, welcomes new volunteers – they can always do with more help to provide their valuable services for their patients. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, or if you want to find out more about fundraising events, visit the Hospice website to find out more. <http://www.sobellhospicecharity.org.uk/> or call/email them 01865 857007 Email: mail@sobellhospice.org

Didcot & District U3A meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2pm at Didcot Civic Hall. Please arrive 15 minutes before the start time to ensure you are all seated for the 2pm start. Membership is £20 per annum plus £1 per meeting. Visitors are welcome to come to one meeting as a taster before

joining. Visit the website to find out more about membership:

<http://u3asites.org.uk/code/u3asite.php?site=535&page=1>

The next meeting of the Didcot U3A is on Tuesday 17th December with lunch at 12:30 and Christmas entertainment starting at 2:00. The cost of this month's event is £7.50 to include lunch - however, it must be booked by 1st December by contacting any committee member. If you don't want to attend the lunch, you are welcome to join us at 2:00 for the entertainment. We look forward to seeing you there.

Power switch

Collective purchasing and switching is when consumers get together to negotiate a group deal with their gas and electricity suppliers.

Collective **switching** is where the third party actively negotiates a better tariff on behalf of the group.

Collective **purchasing** is where the third party or group buys a commodity (eg energy efficiency solutions) from a gas or electricity supplier, with a view to then supplying that commodity to a number of consumers.

For more information, visit <https://www.gov.uk/collective-switching-and-purchasing>

Merry Christmas

We wish all villagers a Happy Christmas and prosperous and peaceful New Year. We hope you will continue to read and enjoy the newsletter and look forward to hearing from you in 2014.

Marion Judd, Sue Totterdell, Phil Taylor & Hugh Lewis:
The Editorial & Production Team.

Deadline for the February edition of the newsletter is January 30th 2014



CAB - your child

"My son has been diagnosed with autism but, despite having Special Educational Needs, my local authority is refusing to accept our medical evidence and to provide the support he needs. I want to appeal against the council's decision but don't think I can afford to pay for legal advice. However I understand that since April 2013 changes to legal aid mean I might not get financial support - what can I do?"

The government has made large cuts to the civil legal aid budget and, since April, civil legal aid is no longer available for many types of problems including divorce, as well as particular debt, housing and welfare benefit issues. It is still available if there is a risk of domestic violence or child abuse; if your home is at risk, or in some other cases. Fortunately, if you meet the financial conditions, legal aid is still available for people appealing against Special Educational Needs assessments decisions by councils, although not always free. [For more information about when legal aid is available click here](#) Whether or not you are eligible for legal aid, there are organisations you can contact for free advice about SEN appeals. You can find a list of organisations on their website or call 0845404 05 06

To apply for legal aid for a Special Educational Needs problem, you must use the telephone gateway service run by Civil Legal Advice on 0845 345 4345, open 9am to 8.00pm (Monday to Friday) and 9am to 12.30pm (Saturday). Calls cost no more than 4p a minute from a BT landline. Calls from mobiles are usually more. If you're worried about the cost of the phone-call, you can ask an adviser to call you back. You can text 'legalaid' and your name to 80010 and an adviser will call you back within 24 hours.

Please note **the links** shown in the newsletter can be accessed directly via the PDF which is available at:

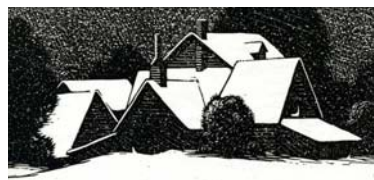
www.westhagbourne.org/newsletters

Consultations

A consultation to get feedback on the Household Waste Recycling Centres in Oxfordshire runs until 30 March 2014. <https://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/HWRC.survey/consultationHome>

A consultation on Home-School transport ends on 20 December 2103 - so act now if you want to comment <https://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/transport2015/consultationHome>

A community governance review will open to consultation in 2014. This covers the proposal to move areas of West Hagbourne Parish that are within Great Western Park into Didcot parish. Follow this link for more information: <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/local-democracy/town-and-parish-councils/local-government-and-public-involvement>



Villages website

See Roger Sweet's beautiful photographic record of all of Oxfordshire villages, on his website: www.oxfordshirevillages.co.uk

More about his work on this ambitious project in the next Newsletter.

CAB - used cars

A study by Citizen's advice shows that half of faulty used cars display problems within a month of being bought. The findings come as launch a new campaign to help steer people away from buying a dodgy used car. A new month-long campaign, organised by Citizens Advice, and National Trading Standards Institute, urges people buying a used car to 'check it, don't regret it'.

Top tips for buying a used car:

- Check MOT certificate – indicates if car is roadworthy
- Check service history – shows if car has been maintained
- Check V5 registration document – shows if car is stolen
- Check if car is a write off – helps you know what you are buying
- Check finance history – ensures car doesn't have an outstanding hire purchase agreement
- Test drive and walk around check – for signs the car isn't what it seems
- Get engineer's check – shows condition of car and any hidden dangers
- Check price value guide – indicates reasonable price to pay
- Check car is not recalled – shows if car was recalled for safety reasons by manufacturer
- If you bought a second hand car from a dealer, the car must:
- Match the description provided by the seller, including any written description in an advertisement.
- Be of satisfactory quality, i.e. in reasonable condition, considering its age and make, its past history and the price paid.
- Be fit for its purpose. If you request a vehicle capable of towing a large caravan, it must be capable of doing the job.
- Be roadworthy. It is a criminal offence to sell an unroadworthy car. A car is not roadworthy if its

brakes, tyres, steering, or construction make it unfit for the road. An MOT certificate doesn't necessarily mean a car is roadworthy.

If you have a problem with a second hand car, you can get help from the Citizens Advice consumer service on 08454 04 05 06 or visit www.adviceguide.org.uk or contact Didcot CAB at Dales, 9-15 High Street, Didcot OX11 8EQ or 08444 111 444.

report 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 tradingstandards@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

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>

Parish Council

Clerk

Lucy Dalby 817 464
parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

Councillors

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mike.butler@westhagbourne.org

Valerie Brownsword 850 668

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South Oxfordshire District Council

01491 823000

County Councillor

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Oxfordshire County Council

01865 792422

Meetings

8th January 2014 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>

Solar Farm proposals

Green Energy UK Direct have plans for a Solar Farm at Manor Farm.

The company is arranging for one of their Directors to meet with the Parish Council to discuss their proposals.

Its early days but the company says it likes to ensure they involve the local community from the start, and they want like to arrange a public consultation at the village hall as early as possible. The proposed site is within the Parish of West Hagbourne.

small ads

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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Maybe useful for storage in garage or workshop. Contact Marion Judd, mjudd449@btinternet.com or 850 143.

help with computing

If you have a new computer and are not sure how to set it up or a smart phone you are not using to the full or maybe you need some personal tuition - call Mat on 07786 055039

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