

West Hagbourne news

August 2014 ISSUE 116

Bike night

The attendance at this year's annual John Walker British Bike Night was even higher than the previous year's. The excellent weather doubtless played its part. In addition to the display of vintage British motorcycles many relatively-modern machines from Europe and the USA were on display. There were also many trade stands, racing bikes, live music and vintage cars. Junior members of the North Berkshire Motor Cycle Club entertained us with demonstrations of their trials-riding skills over impossible-looking obstacles such as large rocks, old cars and rubbish skips. Of particular interest was the V twin 'special,' hand-made by Allen Millyard, which is based on two cylinders of a nine-cylinder Pratt and Whitney radial aero engine. Allen even cast the aluminium crankcase for this latest of his 'specials.' There was also an extremely rare Burney from the mid-1920s. For a short period, some of their engines were manufactured in Reading (see Wikipedia for further information).

More familiar marques displayed included Velocette, Norton (including a 16H with a label 'ridden not hidden'), Levis, BSA, Matchless, Douglas, DMW, New Imperial, Triumph and Peugeot. The latter company manufactured cycles, then motorcycles before producing cars. Although the land next to the Horse and Harrow was sold earlier this year, there will definitely be a 2015 British Bike Night, but at present there is no guarantee beyond next year.

Malcolm Brownsword

Garden club

Hagbourne Garden Club begins its exciting Autumn programme on Thursday 25th September with a talk on 'Beautiful Bulbs' by John Negus. With advice on summer flowering bulbs for pots, beds and borders, the talk will start at Hagbourne Village Hall at 19h30. Refreshments are served from 19h00. Visitors welcome. A small charge is payable. For further information call Jane on 01235 813350.

Future meetings:

Thursday 23 October
Wisley-trained Ray Broughton will talk about 'Pruning Shrubs'.

Thursday 20th November
Pam Seymour will demonstrate 'Christmas Wreaths and Table Decorations'



Fred Robinson's grand-daughter on her 80cc bike and the scene outside the Horse & Harrow.

Madge Trophy

The judging of the front gardens of West Hagbourne took place on 24th July. Helen Hughes, the landlady of the Horse and Harrow, who kindly agreed to be the judge, was very impressed with the variety of plants and shrubs in the gardens. She enjoyed the colour and layout of the gardens of 14 and 16 York Rod, Downsview and 14, Manor Close. Highly commended were: 5, Grove Terrace, Uplands in Main Street, Woodleys and Chiaro in York Road. The winner was 1, Main Street belonging to Julie Hornsby and Mike Freeland. Helen felt that a lot of effort had been put into this colourful and attractive garden. Congratulations to all the winners.

Helen also commented on the lovely gardens around the bus shelter. Thanks to Dave and Sue Totterdell who plant and care for this beautiful garden.

Val Walton

Demolition

Where were you at 5 am on Sunday July 27th? Were you one of the thousands of people who gathered to watch the demolition of the first three cooling towers from Didcot A power station? Taking heed of safety issues, lots of people opted to view the event from afar and many realised that one of the best views was to be had from Hagbourne Hill. I am not sure that anyone understood quite how many cars and people would make their way to this viewpoint at 3 am but the crowd was good natured as cars edged their way along the track to Hagbourne Hill Farm. They were also patient as the promised demolition did not happen until 5 am - but it was worth the wait. At that time, instead of peering into darkness, we had just enough light to see the flashes of ignition and then the stately fall of these landmark structures followed by the loud explosions. The much advertised 'live streaming' turned out to be several minutes behind the event, which bizarrely meant that your mobile phone still showed intact towers, when your eyes told you they were gone. Will there be as much interest in the following demolitions? See a video taken from Hagbourne Hill on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0sa1bxHQe14>

What next?

Following the item in the last edition of the newsletter, there seems to be considerable support for the idea of a defibrillator being installed in the old telephone kiosk. Lots of other villages have done this, the unit is unlocked by a code given when you call 999 so it could help anyone close enough to the Square. It would make a great resource and might save a life. Some residents have already offered donations and others have suggested fund-raising events. Will you help too?

This interest has been passed on to the Parish council with a request that they determine the exact sum of money that would need to be raised and to ask if they could act as bankers to receive any donations.



Macmillan

As part of the Macmillan "Biggest Coffee Morning" there are two fund-raising initiatives being held:

SATURDAY 30 AUGUST, 2-5 pm
PIMM'S PROSECCO & PUDS at Meadow's Edge, York Road.

Join Sue and Dave Totterdell for drinks and a selection of puddings (bring a pudding if you like). Suggested donation £10 per person.

RSVP to totterdells@btinternet.com or 01235 850080

SATURDAY 27 SEPT 10-12 noon
COFFEE MORNING at Fairview, York Road hosted by Val and Keith Walton, Come and enjoy coffee or tea and delicious cake and have a chat and laugh with friends and neighbours. All money raised will go to Macmillan Cancer Support. Last year £560 was raised for this worthwhile cause. Please help achieve this amount this year by coming to our coffee morning and making a donation.



News

Clean-up

Sadly the village tidy-up on June 21st was not well attended. Due to flooding earlier in the year, this tidy up was carried out later than normal which meant the process was more difficult due to heavy growth of plants and hedgerows. It is therefore proposed that a second tidy-up is scheduled in late September/early October. The date will be announced nearer the time but please try to take time to help, particularly if you enjoy the lovely walks and scenery around the village.



Michele Thornhill

Editorial Note:

Volunteering in the village.

West Hagbourne is a close and co-operative community, relying on residents volunteering to help keep the village looking attractive and tidy. Unasked, a number have helped with these tasks over many years, largely unseen and unacknowledged. From time to time residents are invited to join working parties for tidying up jobs.

In June a working party was called together to pick up litter from the verges around the village. On this occasion, only 3 people turned up; they managed to fill 3 bags of rubbish plus dealing with fly tipped material between the village and Coscote corner. Sadly, due to physical capacity and time constraints, two thirds of the village was not touched. For example, the stretch between the Horse & Harrow and the A417, which yields many sacks of rubbish every year, was not cleared.

A small village operates very differently from an urban environment. Even clearing overgrown hedging is done largely by volunteers. Complaints about overgrown vegetation and litter tend to attract little sympathy: it is so easy to chop off the odd blackberry or nettle frond if they impede a track, or to pick up offending objects dropped beside paths. However, if all the work currently done by volunteers were done by contractors, council taxes would have to increase. In light of the village's ongoing reliance on volunteers, we urge capable villagers to join future working groups whenever possible or even to pick up rubbish or cut an annoying plant down when they see it. West Hagbourne is such an attractive place to live and should be kept that way for everyone's enjoyment.

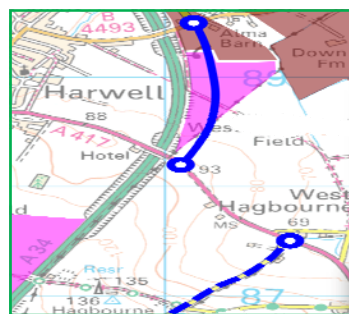
Marion & Sue

Local schemes

Contributed by Val Brownsword. Many of you will have attended the exhibition of proposed transport schemes that was held in Upton Village Hall on Monday 7th July. In particular we are all interested in the new Link Road and improvements to Hagbourne Hill. Every house in the village received a circular outlining what the proposals are. By the time this Newsletter is distributed it will be too late to respond to the proposals but I hope that people did give their views. At the time of writing this the Parish Council has yet to formulate their response: I am giving my views here.

I am in favour of the plans. I think that any alternative route from Didcot to the Chilton/A34 interchange should be welcomed by West Hagbourne as currently the only route is through our village. We all know that there will be more traffic in the area as a result of the Great Western Park development and Valley Park. The link road seems to me to provide the best way for traffic from the West side of Didcot to access the Chilton/A34 interchange and the Harwell/Rutherford site. Traffic from Central and Eastern Didcot (and perhaps the new development to the north? - Ed) will probably use our village as they do already. If I lived in Park Road, I would come this way but I don't see why this traffic should increase. Of course the new houses at the Southern end of Great Western Park (the Greenway) that adjoin Park Road will want to come this way. The current proposal is that they will have no access to Park Road. Maybe it is naive to assume this will continue but no amount of road planning will prevent them coming through the village in that case.

I don't see why the improvement of Hagbourne Hill will cause more traffic through the village. In fact it might alleviate the problem of overlarge lorries coming off the A34 at Chilton, down Hagbourne Hill and through the village directed this way by their sat-navs. By the time the driver realises that



he shouldn't come through the village because of the weight restriction he doesn't know any other way to go and so comes through the village anyway. With the new system he should be clearly directed to Didcot along the A417 and right onto the new Link Road. So it is very important that the signposting directs traffic that way. You might think that the changes to the Chilton/A34 interchange to allow access to and from the North will cause more traffic but if you are travelling from or to Didcot it will still be much easier to use the Milton interchange. In fact it will benefit the villagers of Chilton, West Hagbourne, Upton & Blewbury because we won't have to go to Milton. You might wonder why the change is being proposed, if it only benefits us but on reflection I can see that it is a distinct advantage to have people travelling from Abingdon say who work at the Rutherford/Harwell site coming off at the Chilton rather than Milton interchange because it avoids congestion at Rowstock roundabout. In fact all of the proposed changes are actually designed to alleviate congestion at Rowstock roundabout and I think that they manage that without making our situation worse. As I said, I am speaking for myself and not necessarily giving the views of the Parish Council.

Editorial Note:

In fact the new houses at the Greenway will access directly onto Park Road, as will a limited number of other houses that will be built as part of the GWP development. Vehicular access from the remainder of the main site out onto Portway accessing Park Road, is supposed to be limited by the implementation of bus only gates.

The new road linking Valley Park and its possible extension poses a real threat to the village as it opens up further land to the Vale for development that already has land options taken; and this is before SODC puts forward its plans for this side of the road.

The proposed 2,000 houses beside the Chilton Interchange would use the village road as their route to secondary schools, shops and amenities. Without other significant measures of dissuasion the flow of traffic through the village will continue to grow exponentially.

The loss of the Tyrrell Trust land and the positioning of the roundabout does nothing to benefit the residents of the parish; whilst it does further erode an ancient legacy in return for greatly increased traffic going up and down Hagbourne Hill.

Tell us what YOU think - contact editors@westhagbourne.org

Lunch Club

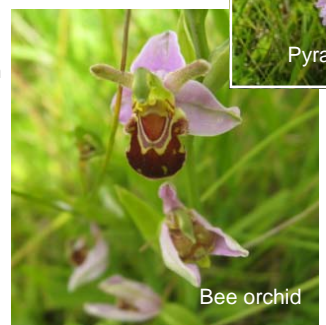
The village lunch club continues to meet on the third Friday of each month at the Horse and Harrow and in July 12 people turned up. If you plan to come, please let Marion (850143) or Sue (850080) know by the Wednesday before or call in at the pub and tell Helen. Next lunch will be on Friday, 15th August.

Orchids

Many of us walk around the village and the disused railway line provides an important link between existing footpaths. I wonder how many of the walkers this year noticed new additions to the flora in the form of two species of wild orchid. On the access paths where Moor Lane and Church Path link to the Sustrans route, two bee orchids and one pyramidal orchid were photographed in bloom in June. The pyramidal orchid had also been seen in 2013, but the bee orchids would seem to be newly arrived. Please look out for them next summer and remember that they are protected by law, so if you see anyone damaging the plants, stop them.



Pyramidal



Bee orchid

Rogue traders

Rogue traders and specifically doorstep criminals will be the focus of National Consumer week In November 2014. More information can be found at www.caox.org.uk/consumer

Insulation

Older rural homes with solid walls are often draughty and expensive to keep warm in winter. The Green Deal Home Improvement Fund will pay up to 75% of the cost of installing solid wall insulation (up to £6,000). However, a common objection, aside from the cost and disruption, is that wall insulation might spoil the looks of a property. One solution is to insulate internally at the front and externally to the rear. That way your home's façade stays unchanged. Although 10cm of depth may be lost from your front room, you gain deeper window sills and increased comfort. A more breathable insulation like wood fibre or mineral wool, used internally, will reduce any risk of condensation forming inside the wall. Using polystyrene will speed up external wall insulation, being easy to cut to accommodate external pipe work, prior to rendering.

Is it all worth it? If many early adopters are to be believed, solid wall insulation is key to achieving 5 star comfort in an older home. You can quiz a private homeowner on the pros and cons at a free SuperHome Open Day in Sep/Mar. Book now at www.superhomes.org.uk.

Tyrrell Trust

New Trustee Required

The William Tyrrell Trust was founded in 1662 by William Tyrrell for the benefit of the poor in West Hagbourne. Since its foundation, the Trust continues to be administered by three West Hagbourne residents appointed by the Parish Council as Trustees for a fixed term of office. The Trust offers small grants to residents under the Trust's criteria and residents are kept informed about its activities each year at the Annual Parish meeting. Currently there is a vacancy for a new Trustee.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Trust or in becoming a Trustee, please contact Mike Butler (Chair of the Parish Council) for more information on 850 523 or mike.butler@westhagbourne.org or from the Village Website: www.westhagbourne.org/tyrrell.htm

HGV's & 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 directly to Trading Standards <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/weight-restriction-orders> or by phone (0845 051 0845) or email trading_standards@oxfordshire.gov.uk Report potholes direct to Oxfordshire Highways. If you can supply a photograph that gives some idea of the extent of the pothole(s) this will help assess the urgency of its repair. You can do this online at <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/contact-highway-enquiries-team> by telephone: 0845 310 1111 All of this information and the relevant links are available on the village web site.

U3A

Didcot & District University of the Third Age meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month starting 2pm at Didcot Civic Hall. Visitors are welcome to come to a meeting as a taster before joining. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 19 August and the guest speaker will be Keith Jansz, a mouth artist who will display some of his work. On Tuesday 16th September, Derek Pooley will talk about 'Clocks, Heavenly Clocks and Calendars' D&D U3A is a self-help, self-managed lifelong learning co-operative for older people no longer in full time work, providing opportunities for its members to share learning experiences in a wide range of interest groups and to pursue learning for fun, not qualifications. *There are over 25 interest groups with something for everyone!* Tel: 07804 159993 or Email: didcotdistrictU3A@virginmedia.com Website: <http://u3asites.org.uk/didcot>

Council vacancy

Eve Setch has resigned from the Parish Council and we thank her for her contribution over the last few years. We are looking to co-opt a volunteer who would be willing to become a Parish Councillor until the next election. Anybody willing to help should contact any of the remaining councillors.

Michael Butler.

Parish Council

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parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

Councillors

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mike.butler@westhagbourne.org
Valerie Brownsword 850 668
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Hugh Lewis 851 113
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Michele Thornhill 850 489
michele.thornhill@westhagbourne.org

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South Oxfordshire District Council
01491 823000

County Councillor

Patrick Greene 813 396
patrick.greene@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Oxfordshire County Council
01865 792422

Council Meetings

are held in Hagbourne Village Hall

- 3rd September
- 5th November

Minutes of meetings of the Parish Council are available online. If you cannot find them contact the clerk or 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

SODC Local Plan 2031

SODC has started phase 1 of its new plan to take housing development through until 2031. This phase is in respect of "Issues and Scope". There are no specific proposals for additional housing in Didcot but that is amongst a number of possibilities they are considering, including the construction of a completely new town somewhere else in South Oxfordshire, or building adjacent other centres such as Oxford or Reading. The Parish Council was represented at a meeting at SODC to explain the need for the new Local Plan.

It was explained that they had to develop a plan which accounted for the predicted housing requirements up to 2031. A number of people contested the need for such housing but it was made quite clear that SODC were going to produce a Local Plan to deal with the numbers that they had been given.

Comments were due by 23 July 2014 and a response was submitted on behalf of the Parish Council, stating that whatever proposals SODC came up with, they should not involve the expansion of Didcot towards West Hagbourne. We used arguments similar to those we used when we were successful in persuading the Boundaries Commission to change its views on including us in a district council ward with South Didcot. We pointed out that SODC's current Core Strategy states: "We intend to maintain and strengthen the communities in the villages. We also intend to ensure that their character and distinctiveness is maintained". We said that whilst the proposals for the Local Plan 2031 aim to accommodate considerably more housing in South Oxfordshire, this should not involve a departure from the need to keep the distinctive character of West Hagbourne. The text of the full response will be available on the village website.

Flooding

Following an intervention by our County Councillor, on 15 July a representative of the Parish Council met with a County Council engineer for drainage to discuss issues about flooding. The major issue with drainage from the village was seen to be the conditions of the brooks and ditches, and particularly the brook behind Manor Farm. The engineer was of the opinion that the responsibility for the ditches and brooks lay with the landowners and the Parish Council is looking into what is being done by the landowners.

Highways Plans

The proposed changes to the junction at the bottom of Hagbourne Hill is in line with what the Parish Council already knew but the details are still to be settled. A major part of the land which is needed for the project is owned by the Tyrrell Trust, and there is a tenant farmer. The Trust has advised the County Council that it is interested in a land swap scheme by way of compensation and the County Council is negotiating to purchase an adjacent plot of land which is owned by Thames Water. The tenant farmer of the Trust land is making representations about County Council proposals.

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events

If you have an event you want to publicise, please get in touch

Friday 15 August
Village Lunch, Horse & Harrow, 12h30

Tuesday 19th August
U3A Keith Jansz, Artist. Civic Hall, 2 pm

Saturday 30 August
Pimm's Prosecco & Puds
at Meadows Edge, 2 - 5 pm (for Macmillan).

Tuesday 16 September
U3A Clocks, Heavenly Clocks & Calendars
Didcot Civic Hall, 2pm

Friday 19 September
Village Lunch, Horse & Harrow, 12h30

Thursday 25 September
Hagbourne Garden Club, Beautiful Bulbs,
Hagbourne Village Hall, 19h00 for 19h30

Saturday 27 September
Coffee morning at Fairview,
10-12 noon for Macmillan

Thursday 23 October
Hagbourne Garden Club 'Pruning'
Hagbourne Village Hall, 19h00 for 19h30

Sunday 24 November
Christmas Craft Fair, Hagbourne school



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Marquee for hire

Residents of West Hagbourne are welcome to borrow the Village Association's marquee for a fee of £25. You need to find your own site and put it up yourselves (advice is available).

Anyone borrowing and erecting the marquee does so at their own risk - there is no insurance provided to cover any damage to the tent or anyone using it.




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