

# West Hagbourne news

October 2014 ISSUE 117

## Tour of Britain

On a Friday morning in September there was a buzz in the air. For cycling enthusiasts and for those whose interest stemmed from the 2012 Olympics, the chance to see their heroes come within the Parish Boundary was a real treat.

As the leading group and then the main peleton swept down from the Kingswell and along the A417 towards Upton, hardly noticing the climb, it was difficult to identify individual cyclists but for a few minutes there was a genuine feel of excitement and involvement. Stage 6, taking the riders from Bath to Hemel Hempstead, was won by Alex Dowsett who headed up a breakaway group. The ultimate race winner was Dylan van Baarle.



## Rain Again

It seems the weather truly is becoming more extreme. On Friday 19th September around an inch and a half of rain fell in about 30 minutes. Gutters overflowed, water swept down the roads and then gathered in the usual low spots; Brook Lane, York Road by York Farm and on Main Street by Green Thatch.

A broken down car by Appledore caused some traffic chaos, and vehicles soon reverted to their winter flooding route of taking the 'village only' diversion in York Road. However, Chris Lay and Dave Carter were soon on the scene clearing out

the culverts and drains to allow this water to drain and a police car turned up to help divert the traffic and then push the car out of the flood.

The flooding in York Road caused problems for the children coming home on the school bus as they were stranded on the bus shelter side but needed to get further up York Road. Luckily Dickie Allen came to the rescue and drove through the water to collect the four children and then ferried them across in his car. The next day more remedial work was carried out in York Road to try to ensure that the water drains away better in future. Luckily there was no flooding of property.



York Road flooded from end to end and the newly cleared ditch

## Macmillan events

The Pimms, Prosecco and Puds event held on August 30th by Sue & Dave Totterdell raised **£450** for the Macmillan Cancer Support charity. Thanks to all those who attended and made this a success.

Further evidence of the charitable efforts of West Hagbourne is the success, only a month later, of Val Walton's Biggest Coffee Morning event which raised **£665**. Val and Keith thank everyone who came along for their generous support.



## Village garden...

Autumn is well underway but there is still some colour in the bus shelter garden, largely courtesy of the salvia family. Over the past couple of weeks, daffodil bulbs (Tete a tete, a sturdy low-growing variety) have been planted among the perennial plants to provide early spring colour. For the moment, the planters under the tree have chrysanthemums in them, but soon these too will be replaced by daffodil bulbs, ready for spring. More work will be carried out on the beds over winter to ensure continuity of colour throughout the year.

Sue and Dave would like to acknowledge the important contributions made to their gardening efforts by Hugh and Tracy at The Square (water and brown bin access), Robert at Woodleys (mowing, cutting back, watering, sweeping and general maintenance), and Jackie and Barry (Witchaven) and Michael (Thatch Cottage) for their tireless efforts to sweep up the straw. Thanks too to Mary Ann (Blissetts) for tending the planter by the pond. Many people contribute unseen to the benefit of the village, so thanks to them too.

## Defibrillator

There are around 60,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests in the UK every year. Acting quickly when someone is in cardiac arrest and fighting for their life is crucially important. According to the NHS sudden cardiac death kills **100,000** people every year in the UK.

Lots of people feel this is a good idea and after an initial flurry of activity, we now need to focus on how we will raise the remaining money to put an **Automated External Defibrillator** in the telephone box.

There has been some discussion about how useful this might be and the need to have trained volunteers to make use of it in an emergency yet there is support for project from the local Ambulance Services.

The unit would only be unlocked by a code given by the 999 operator in an emergency and a voice system talks the user through each stage of the process.



In addition to the cost of the defibrillator, it will be necessary to find an annual sum for maintenance costs.

The Parish Council has already agreed to contribute and to provide a banking service for any funds raised.

We have already received several generous donations from individuals, but we need lots more and hope that everyone will contribute what they can.

### Your donations are needed NOW!

Cheques should be made payable to "West Hagbourne Parish Council" and can be sent to either Sue Totterdell at Meadow's Edge, or sent directly to the Parish Clerk, Lucy Dalby. Please write on your cheques that they are for the Defibrillator fund.

If you want to contribute, know a business that will make a donation, have an idea for a fundraising event, or just want to help please get in touch.

# News

## the Countryside

We have had a beautiful English summer. The wheat harvest has been really good with high yields, although corn prices are depressed because the UK has a three million tonnes surplus and everywhere globally has had a good harvest. The rape was average and the poppies excellent with a high morphine content.

We have planted next year's rape, and it is all showing which is great. The first wheats have all been planted and when the drill comes back from Wallingford (we share it with a neighbour) we will carry on planting the second wheats. Planting conditions are excellent.

When the cultivations were in progress, over at Blewbury I counted 27 Red Kites and loads of Seagulls following behind, an amazing sight.

The trees along next to the stream at the east side of the farm yard have been cut down ready for cleaning out the stream with an excavator. Hopefully this will aid flood water to escape should we have another wet winter again.

A pair of Kingfishers have been residing along the back stream behind the farm; now it is cleared I do hope they will come back. We found a Crested Newt in one of the ponds but not a sign of the Water Voles - I think they have gone. Kestrels nested in the box and the Buzzard settled in the large trees at the back. A smaller group of Swifts were around our end of the village this year. I love to see them and hear them screech across the sky in the evenings. They were gone in early August. The Swallows and House Martins have now left. I think some of them managed to rear a third brood so hopefully more will return from Africa next summer!

Just as a point of interest, we were in Cookham, Bucks at the weekend and we saw a small flock of green parrots.

I personally didn't realise that they had colonised quite so near to us so if anyone else has seen any I would be interested to know...

Sue Lay



## Tony Pickup

Bridget Pickup and her family are sad to announce that Tony died on Wednesday October 1st. The funeral will be held on Friday 10th October at 11.30am in the Catholic Parish Church of St. Mary in East Hendred.

## Lunch Club

The village lunch club continues to meet on the third Friday of each month at the Horse and Harrow. In September it was deferred by a week as Helen was on holiday but in October the date is set for 17th. If you want to be added to the mailing list for updates on this, please let Marion or Sue know.

## U3A

Didcot and District **University of the Third Age** meetings are held on the third Tuesday each month at 2pm at Didcot Civic Hall.

Visitors are welcome to come to a meeting as a taster before joining.



The October meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st October 2014 at 2pm at Didcot Civil Hall when Heather Shoot will talk about Medical Detection Dogs and on Tuesday 18th November James Mitchell & Graham O'Connor will entertain us with 'Flanders and Swann.' 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 email: didcotdistrictU3A@virginmedia.com Website: <http://u3asites.org.uk/didcot>

## Craft Fair

Hagbourne School Christmas Craft Fair on Sunday 23rd November from 11am - 3.30 pm. As always there will be Unique, Quality Handcrafted Gifts and Toys for all the family. These will include Bespoke silver jewellery, Delicious foods, Children's books, Handbags, Indulgent toiletries, Candles, Linens, Individual Cookware and much, much more. For the children Santa will be in his Grotto and there will be Candy Floss and a Kids Arts and Crafts Table. Entry is £1 and children are free. The perfect way to start your Christmas shopping.

## CAB-broadband

If your broadband connection is really slow and unreliable and you've contacted your provider who has said you'll need to pay more than £100 to cancel the contract. Is there anything you can do about this? Our advice:

One of the main ways that you can get yourself a better broadband service is to switch supplier. It's become much easier to switch broadband providers in recent years, which in turn has led to better deals for consumers. Some companies, however, charge cancellation fees that can go into hundreds of pounds.

Most broadband contracts operate for a fixed term (12 or 18 months), and users can be charged for prematurely ending the contract. It is therefore important to check the terms of your contract before entering the switching process. If you are looking to move to another company because you are having problems with your broadband service, make sure you tell them about the problems. Record dates and times of the issues you have had, so you have evidence that shows why you're ending the contract and switching. If you have already complained about these problems it is worth reminding the firm of that fact.

Anyone who has come up against poor quality service or unfair charges from your broadband provider or any other business, can get in touch with our Consumer Service helpline on 03454 04 05 06 or come and see us at Didcot Citizens Advice Bureau.

## Hare coursing

With the introduction of the Hunting Act 2004 in February 2005, all forms of hare coursing are banned in the UK.

Hare coursing is a seasonal crime and usually begins as soon as crops are harvested. With an early harvest this year there have already been several reported incidents in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse.

Hares are in decline and their destruction is a concern. But with hare coursing there is also associated criminal damage - to fencing and hedging to gain access, and to the land with the indiscriminate use of vehicles. It is also not unusual for hare coursers to intimidate landowners and other users of the land, such as ramblers.



### How to recognise hare coursing

Hare coursers tend to travel in groups, usually in 4x4 vehicles (the Subaru is often the vehicle of choice), with dogs, which are generally lurchers. You might see them parked up by a field, gathering in a field, or walking in a line abreast across a field.

If you believe hare coursing is taking place call the police (999) from a safe location tell them what you have seen give them the location of the incident - try to be as precise as possible using land marks or road junctions say how many people are involved and give a good description, if you can describe any vehicles you have seen if possible, state how many dogs are involved if the suspects leave, try to determine their direction of travel do NOT approach the offenders yourself or put yourself at any risk. Thames Valley Police take hare coursing very seriously and will respond to any incident.

## Health Matters

### Flu jabs

It's time to book your annual flu jab appointment. Those most 'at risk' include people aged over 65, pregnant women, anyone with a long term condition like asthma, diabetes, heart disease, chronic kidney and liver disease, neurological disease or with a weakened immune system. GP practices across Oxfordshire will be holding seasonal flu vaccination clinics from October, and 'at risk' patients are advised to contact their practice and book an appointment for a jab.

### Are you a Carer?

Carers Oxfordshire which is funded by Oxfordshire County Council, discovered almost 3,000 unknown carers in the county thanks to a series of activities during Carers Week in June and a month long pharmacy campaign run in partnership with OCCG.

OCCG 'Caring Matters' conference is being held on National Carers Rights Day, Friday 28th November 2014. Tickets are now available online at <http://caringmatters2014.eventbrite.co.uk>. The conference is free for carers who are registered with 'Carers Oxfordshire'.

### Patient survey

Have you used NHS Services in the last 2 years? Why not tell us about your experience? A new patient experience survey has been set up so you can share your stories of the local NHS with us. Please take the time to share your story with us, here.

## Bus Review

The only Bus serving West Hagbourne is the 94/95 Circular service which links us to Didcot. It is at risk as tenders come under scrutiny by Oxfordshire County Council.

Every year the subsidy costs £79,591 but only an average of 151 passenger journey happen each day.

The transport Officers' commented that early morning and later evening journeys are little used.

Continuation of these facilities may be prove unsustainable and some changes to the service may be necessary, particularly if tender prices for these routes increase.

## Activities

The following events will take place at the Earth Trust, Little Wittenham, OX14 4QZ, unless otherwise stated.



### Heritage Skills Taster Session

Saturday 11th October, 1pm-4pm  
Learn the basics of Natural Dyeing at Riverside Meadows, Wallingford, using plants commonly found in gardens and hedgerows. A free taster session – drop in any time and have a go at learning this traditional skill.

### Family Bushcraft

Monday 27th October, 10am-4pm  
Bring the whole family and go wild in the great outdoors this half term! Explore the woods, make shelters, learn how to make a fire and use a knife safely. Cooking on the fire but bring a packed lunch too. £20 adults, £15 children; booking essential.

### Woodland Adventure

Wednesday 29th October, 10am-12pm  
An expedition for 5-8 year olds. Use your detective skills to discover our secret destination where we will explore, build and play! Drop in, no need to book; £3 per child, free for accompanying adult(s).

### Discover and Play

Friday 31st October, 10am-12pm  
Forest School for pre-school children. Come to the Earth Trust for a morning of play and discovery in our woodlands. Drop in no need to book; £3 per child, free for accompanying adult(s) more information can be found at [www.earthtrust.org.uk](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk).



There is a public meeting to discuss affected bus routes on **Monday 13th October**, 13h30- 15h30 at the Civic Hall in Didcot (does that coincide with a bus from the village to get there?)

<https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consultations/Busreview2014/consultationHome>

# 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)

## 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

## Council Meetings

are held in Hagbourne Village Hall

- 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](http://www.westhagbourne.org/pc_minutes.htm)

## Council vacancy

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**



## 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](mailto: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.

## LATE EDITION

### Parish Councillor

**As a result of moving from the village Michele Thornhill has resigned as a parish councillor. We are grateful for Michele's contributions and wish her luck for the future. The resignation of Michele leaves a further vacancy and the parish council is looking for another parishioner to fill the vacancy. Any volunteer should contact one of the councillors or the clerk. Roger Sweet has offered to fill the previous vacancy and the parish council has accepted his kind offer, which will take effect from 5 November.**

### Proposal for roundabout on the A417

**The proposals involve the prevention of a right turn on to the A417, when leaving the village.**

**Anybody wishing to go west on the A417 will need to turn left and go round the roundabout. The parish council has received a couple of objections to this.**

**If anybody else has comments on this or any other details of the scheme, please pass them on to the clerk. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting of the council on 5 November.**

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## events

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

**Friday 17 October**  
Village Lunch, Horse and Harrow  
12h30

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

**Wednesday 29 October**  
Didcot Film Club (Under the Skin, 2014)  
Cornerstone, 8pm

**Wednesday 5 November**  
Parish Council meeting  
7.30pm Hagbourne Village Hall

**Friday 21 November**  
Village Lunch, Horse and Harrow  
12h30

**Sunday 24 November**  
Christmas Craft Fair, Hagbourne school

**Wednesday 26 November**  
Didcot Film Club (Carnage, 2011)  
Cornerstone, 8pm



## Need A Local Plumber?

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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.

**FREE ITEMS**

- Approximately 2.5 square metres of ceramic tiles, 10cm square, stone effect. Suitable for kitchen splash-back.
- Single folding bed, ideal for visiting child.

Contact Dave Totterdell 850080



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