

West Hagbourne news

April 2015

ISSUE 120

Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th May, at 7.30pm in Hagbourne Village Hall.

The purpose of this meeting is to enable residents of West Hagbourne to hear what the Parish Council has done on their behalf over the past year, and for residents to discuss any matters they consider to be important for the Parish. With so many new developments taking place that will impact on quality of lives in the Parish, it is hoped that as many residents as possible will be able to attend.

Defib update

We are delighted to be able to announce that the Public Access Defibrillator unit has now been installed in the newly-refurbished telephone kiosk in the middle of the village. That this has happened so quickly is down to the energy and commitment of Phil Taylor who has driven the project tirelessly, and successfully applied for a number of additional grants.

The defibrillator is now listed by South Central Ambulance Service allowing them to direct any 999 caller that might benefit from it's use.

Most important, however, has been the generosity of villagers who together have contributed more than £2000 towards the total cost. Donations from the Parish Council and Village Association, together with grants from a number of bodies mean we have achieved our target.

Overall costs for the refurbishment of the phone box have been kept to a minimum due to the hard work of a small number of volunteers, most notably, Paul Ryman and Robert Griffiths who took the kiosk to pieces and also to Dave Totterdell who cleaned all the glass panels. Thanks to all of them, and also to Malcolm Brownsword for his photographic record of this project.

In addition thanks in advance to our volunteers who will monitor the equipment and make sure that it is in working order.

See photos on page 3.

Village Tidy Up

The next village tidy up is on April 18th at 2.00pm initially meeting at the Bus Shelter. Please note the change from the usual morning start. Several people have expressed a preference for the afternoon. You don't need to bring anything except maybe a pair of gloves. Pickers, yellow jackets and rubbish sacks will be provided. Please make an effort to help if you can. The more people we have the less each person will have to do.

Lunch club

There was an excellent turnout for lunch at the Horse & Harrow on Friday 20th March. The next village lunch is on Friday 17th April at 12.30. Please let Sue or Marion know by Wednesday 15th April whether you can come along as the pub needs numbers in advance.



Village garden

The village garden is transformed with daffodils, irises in the pots and primroses in flower, thanks to the work and vision of Dave and Sue Totterdell. The fir tree next to the bus shelter has been removed to allow access for maintenance to the back of the bus shelter. The garden is cleared, tidied, and filled with varied and imaginative planting that will cover the ground once it has matured.

There's something there for every season to make sure the centre of our village looks good at all times of the year. Along with the phone box renovations the area has been transformed with a newly planted bed under the map.

Also the salt box has been re-sited and the water butt has a good solid base installed. Thank you Dave and Sue!

Madge Trophy

Judging for the Annual Madge Trophy Garden Competition will take place this year on the 2nd of July.

ESA

No one knows when an accident or ill-health could have a dramatic impact on their life. If sickness or disability prevents you from working, then you could be entitled to Employment Support Allowance (ESA) to help you manage your day to day living costs. The Work Capability Assessment (WCA) process, which has come under fire for lengthy and unfair decisions since it was introduced in 2008, will now include an extra step before sick and disabled people can access financial support through ESA.

Since October last year, the Government introduced a new 'mandatory reconsideration' phase to ESA. This extra step in the process comes after you receive a decision on your initial application for support and you can't lodge an appeal until it is completed. It is supposed to take about two weeks to go through the reconsideration period but it may take much longer. You won't be able to claim ESA during the reconsideration phase but you can apply for Jobseekers Allowance. If you find this difficult and are left without financial support you should go to your local Citizens Advice Bureau in Didcot for help on how to manage your finances and make sure your application is dealt with fairly and promptly.

For the most up-to-date version of this information, please visit the Advice guide website at www.adviceguide.org.uk.

Further information is available from Didcot CAB at Dales, 9-15 High Street, Didcot OX11 8EQ or 08444 111 444.

Road closures

Although Hagbourne Hill has been closed and there have been roadworks in Park Road, residents of Main Street have noticed an increase in traffic lately. We must hope that the re-opening of this route to the Harwell/Rutherford site does not worsen the situation. People are being woken in the early hours, and a few vehicles that do not comply with the weight limit are using the route. To report incidents of overweight vehicles see elsewhere in this newsletter.



Dragons

Reminder: bring out your dragons: 18th April – 2nd May.

Tea Party

On Saturday 2nd May, the Village Association is holding a tea party and children's fancy dress competition, 2.30 – 4.30 pm at Chapel Hayes, Main Street. Winners of the Dragon and Fancy Dress competitions will be announced, and prizes awarded at 4pm on the day. All welcome

High heating bills?

The Oxfordshire Affordable Warmth Network is pleased to be accessing ECO grants in partnership with British Gas to offer free replacement boilers to homeowners and private renting tenants whose boilers are rated D or below and are in receipt of certain benefits. An easy way to check your eligibility and to discover how else we can assist you is via our freephone helpline: 0800 107 0044

Or email us: awn@nef.org.uk
Funding is only available for a limited time, so please don't delay.

News

Garden Club

This club is open to all residents of the Hagbournes. Meetings commence in Hagbourne Village Hall at 7.30 - refreshments available from 7.00 p.m.. Members and visitors most welcome. For more info contact Jane on 01235 813350.

The next meeting is on Thursday 23rd April: 'Trees and People' by John Tyler.



Textile Art

There is a new venue for Helen Winthorpe Kendrick's textile art during ARTWEEKS this year.

It will be at (De Vere) Milton Hill House Hotel, Milton Hill, near Stevenston, OX13 6AF.

Opening times are 10.00am-5.00pm Saturday 23rd May- Monday 25th May.

Donations given will be going towards Style Acre. Style Acre supports adults with learning disabilities in Oxfordshire through supported living, providing day services, work experience, and volunteer opportunities.

Workshops

There are two workshops taking place: Cutwork on Tuesday 26th May and Plaited Rugs on Wednesday 27th May 10.00am - 3.30pm in All Saints' Youth and Community Hall, Roman

Place, Didcot, OX11 7ER. Please telephone to book your place on 07745434933. The cost is £50 per workshop.



Marquees

West Hagbourne Village Association has two large marquees and every resident of the village is automatically a member.

The charge remains the same as in previous years at £25 plus a returnable deposit of £50 paid on commencement of the hire.

West Hagbourne residents wishing to use the marquees do so at their own risk.

The West Hagbourne Village Association committee will not be responsible for any claims for accidents that may occur during the rental period.

The 12metre x 5metre and the 11metre x 4metre marquees must be returned in the storage boxes provided at the end of the hire.

For advanced booking and details contact Keith Walton 01235 851089

Please note - should you require tables and chairs contact Keith on the number above.

If you do use them a returnable deposit is required and a donation which would go towards our village funds.

U3A

DIDCOT & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE meets 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. On Tuesday 21st April 2015 the group will hold their AGM (Speaker to be announced).

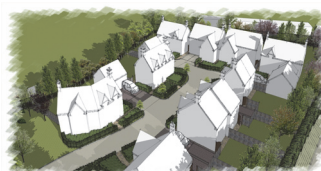
D&D U3A is a self-help, self-managed lifelong learning co-operative for older people no longer in full time work, providing opportunities for its members to share learning experiences in a wide range of interest groups and to pursue learning for fun, not qualifications. There are over 25 interest groups with something for everyone! Tel: 07804159993

Email: didcotdistrictU3A@virginmedia.com
Website: <http://u3asites.org.uk/didcot>

Fly Tipping

People continue to fly tip in the environs of the village from time to time. This is a crime and liable for a fine of £5000.

Oxfordshire Waste Partnership also advises checking the person who removes your waste is a registered waste carrier. If you see fly tipped rubbish around the village, please contact South Oxfordshire District Council on 03000 610 610



Housing - ROAR

"The right houses, for the right people, in the right place" ...

Rural towns, villages and hamlets all over Britain are under constant attack from unwanted and unwelcome outline planning requests, as are our parish and town councils.

National statistics show that more land than ever is now "banked", yet our house builders are delivering fewer new houses than ever. Combine this with the release on to the free market of thousands of redeveloped social houses whilst failing to deliver the agreed plan of one affordable house built to one social house sold, and house prices are bound to stay high. The reality is that for every 5 social houses released, we have the unacceptable replacement with only one affordable home.

ROAR are an independent group of Oxfordshire residents, local councillors and action groups convened to discuss and to resist, in all possible ways, the continuing and relentless threat of rampant development encouraged by the national government's abandonment of 'localism' as a principle informing its policy on planning.

For further information contact us at info@roartoday.co.uk
Visit our website at www.roartoday.co.uk or www.facebook.com/roartoday

Moor Lane

Many of you will have noticed that the vegetation in Moor Lane has recently been cut back. This work was arranged by Chris and Sue Lay and should give much better access to this right of way. At the moment, the surface of the track is quite badly rutted by the machinery that was used but eventually the aim is to provide an all-weather surface, probably laid along the middle, to prevent it being destroyed by any motor vehicles using this route.

As well as facilitating access to maintain the ditch, the clearance should allow much more light to reach the water, encouraging wildlife. At the same time, removal of some of the more aggressive plant species allows a chance to encourage a more diverse habitat. It might be possible in the future to trim some areas once or twice a year to allow some grassland species to establish.

Moor Lane is a BOAT (byway open to all traffic, so it is not possible to restrict access by motor vehicles).

Tour de Vale

On Sunday 7 June WheelPower are organising our annual Mix96 Tour de Vale, a charity fundraising bike ride which attracts up to 2,000 cyclists from Oxfordshire and surrounding areas.

As you may know, WheelPower is a charity based at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, and the bike ride is a fundraiser to help transform the lives of disabled children and adults through sport. For more information see www.wheelpower.org.uk/WPower/



The kiosk

The old and rather neglected telephone box has now been made completely watertight, the wooden framed door replaced, the metalwork completely repainted in BT Currant Red, its glazing has all been resealed and new LED lighting installed.

New signage has been applied in the original style and the royal crests have been picked out. The kiosk now houses a secure 999 activated cabinet which protects the latest portable defibrillator unit that will give you step by step instructions as and when it is needed in an emergency.



Costs		£
cPAD View Semi Automatic Defib+Mild Steel Cabinet (from Community Heartbeat Trust)		1750
Electrical Installation + bolt to Kiosk	light + electrician	180
replacement signage - allowance	defibrillator etc	218
Hire of Hall for Introduction Session (post install)		50
phone box refurbishment	door parts	375
	sand blast	400
<i>Costs in italics are provisional</i>	paint	450
	sundries	100
TOTAL		3523

Income		
Residents' contributions		2050
grants (county/district)		900
grants (local)		850
TOTAL		3800

This leaves £277 towards running costs. It should cover around 5 years.
local grants from the Parish Council, Village Association and Hagbourne Village Fund
county/district grants from South & Vale and Oxfordshire Community Foundation



Parish Council

Clerk

Barry Gill 850 435
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
Jackie Bannister 850 435
jackie.bannister@westhagbourne.org

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 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 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. <http://www.westhagbourne.org/noticeboard.htm#potholes>

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

Elections

nominations for Parish councillors close on April 9th ahead of local elections.

On **Thursday 7 May** people over the age of 18 in South Oxfordshire will be able to vote in parliamentary, district council and parish council elections.

Find more details of how to register to vote or apply for postal ballot go to: www.southoxon.gov.uk/elections-o

Council Meetings

are held in Hagbourne Village Hall
• 1st April 2015
• 13th May 2015

Annual Parish Meeting

- Wednesday 20th May at 7.30pm

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

Council vacancy

We are still looking to co-opt another volunteer who would be willing to become a Parish Councillor until the May elections. Anybody willing to help should contact any of the remaining councillors.

Michael Butler

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and photos

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local events

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

Friday 17th April
Horse & Harrow, 12h30
Village lunch

Saturday 18th April
Bus Shelter 14h00
Village Tidy up

18th April - 2nd May
Village Dragons

Tuesday 21st April
Civic Hall, Didcot, 14h00
AGM

Thursday 23rd April
Hagbourne Village Hall, 19h30
Trees and People' by John Tyler.

Saturday 2nd May
Chapel Hayes 14h30-16h30
tea and activities all welcome.

Saturday 16th May
Limetree House, High St, Harwell, 2pm
Plant Sale for Didcot Twinning Association

Wednesday 20th May
Hagbourne Village Hall, 19h30,
Annual Parish Meeting

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been cared for by 89 year old costumier Alex
Graham for 50 years, though the Collection
originated just after the First World War. It
consists of 6,500 costumes plus accessories
many original and dating from the 1930's
onwards. Sadly this amazing resource is at risk
because it desperately needs a new home.

Although the Collection currently occupies
3,000 square feet we accept downsizing is
inevitable.

Do you or anybody you know have barns,
stable-buildings, light commercial space or
unused shop space available for free or low
rent? The Oxfordshire Drama Wardrobe
Collection is a not for profit organisation
loaning our amazing costumes to local
amateur dramatic societies and vintage
events.

If you can help please contact
Emma O'Driscoll on 01455 884838 (7-3)
or ekahlon@hotmail.co.uk



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