

West Hagbourne news

June 2015

ISSUE 121

Moor Lane

A big thank you to everyone (Malcolm, Valerie, Emma, Rob, Margaret, Ian, and Steve) who worked for almost 3 hours to tidy up the path and verges in Moor lane on Saturday 9th. A huge pile of branches, rubble and other debris has been removed to improve the surface for walkers and equestrians before it is closed for refurbishment by the council on 18th June.

It is now time to think about what might be done to manage this important footpath in the future. Sue Lay (see her article) tells us the plan is improve the hedgerow. Other suggestions include trying to make more of the small stream that runs on the south side for much of the year. If the vegetation in Moor Lane were kept low (by strimming a couple of times a year) in some places this stream would be more visible and encouraging grassy areas might allow some grassland flowers to flourish and introduce some new animal species. At the same time the other side of the path could be left to regrow, although perhaps with some control of the more rampant plants such as the brambles and the hemlock, to provide safe nesting sites for our birds. Perhaps at the beginning of the lane proper, by the small wooden bridge, the vegetation could be left uncontrolled, in order to dissuade future use by larger vehicles. By increasing the diversity of habitats along this route, with the appropriate management, we could encourage more wildlife diversity.

The deep ruts along this path have been brought to the attention of OCC's Countryside service by Steve Templeton from Enard Cottage. As a result the county council has agreed to place a temporary closure on this route from June 18th for twelve months to allow works to be carried out and for the route to regenerate and settle. Motorised vehicles will be restricted for the full 12 month closure: it will be open for pedestrians and equestrians after the first 6 months. See map below.



Fly Tipping

Illegal, Environmentally Harmful Unsightly.

Fly-tipping or 'the illegal deposit of any waste onto land, or any waste dumped or tipped on a site with no licence to accept waste' is a criminal offense, can be potentially harmful to the environment and watercourses, and is generally unsightly to us all.

Thankfully in West Hagbourne, fly-tipping is a fairly rare occurrence and we all endeavour to keep the village tidy. However, tyres have been found dumped on the side of the road towards Coscote, and recently garden waste has been left in Moor Lane.

While disposing of garden waste on banks and next to tracks seems harmless as it eventually degrades, it can cause potential issues – wind and rain can wash it into ditches (causing a possible flood risk) and across footpaths, affecting ease of access. If you have garden waste, please use your brown bin, compost it at home or take it to the waste recycling centre. (To order a brown bin, follow this link: <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/household-collections/garden-waste>).

If you see anyone fly-tipping, please report to SODC: telephone 03000 610 610 or email admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk People found guilty of fly-tipping can face unlimited fines or a prison sentence.

Madge Trophy

A reminder that judging for the Annual Madge Trophy Garden Competition will take place on 2nd July.

So there is plenty of time to make sure that your front garden is looking its best by then.



Dragons 2015

Once again West Hagbourne attracted many visitors to admire the dragons displayed around the village. Many thanks to everyone who participated in the dragon competition. A popular attraction to people passing through the village was the enormous colourful dragon in the pond. Special thanks go to Mike Parker and family and helpers. The judge, Mrs. Carol Hackett from Didcot, had a difficult task. She was impressed with the variety of materials used in amazing ways to construct so many different dragons. Her final decision was:

1st Prize Broomsticks, pink & purple dragons
2nd Prize 1, Manor Close, the 2 knitted dragons

Highly Commended: 4, Manor Close, dragon made from driftwood and shells

Cornerways: the flying dragon
Children's Prize: the dragon peering over the wall of the Horse and Harrow.

On Saturday, 2nd May the prizes were presented at the tea party which was held at Chapel Hayes by kind invitation from Mr. and Mrs. Leishman. Prizes were also awarded to all children in fancy dress including the winner and runner up, and the 'People's Favourite' dragon competition won by Lenton. Entertainment was provided by Malcolm Brownsword's fantastic photos and audio visual presentation of the history of St. George and the music group who sang a song on this theme. The afternoon was enjoyed by all including some visitors from New Zealand who were tracing their ancestors from the village! Many thanks to all who helped to make this an enjoyable occasion.

Val Walton

West Hagbourne Village Association



News

Lunch club

There was an excellent turnout for lunch at the Horse & Harrow on Friday 15th May.

The next village lunch is on Friday 19th June at 12.30. Please let Sue or Marion know by Wednesday 17th June whether you can come along as the pub needs numbers in advance so that they can set enough places together.

Edward Kendrick

Ted Kendrick was a man of many talents and contributed a great deal to the life of our community. He was a great supporter and friend of the West Hagbourne Village History Group from its earliest days. Following his retirement Ted became a keen family historian and during his forays to the Bodleian Library in search of his Kendrick ancestors he would also do research on behalf of the History Group. His findings, always neatly typed, enabled us to gain a clearer picture of the village, particularly during the medieval period.

Once Ted had more time, he formally joined the Group, attending meetings and offering helpful suggestions for the way forward after the publication of the history book. One project which he made his own was the creation of an interactive database of every house in the village incorporating a photo of each house, its brief history and an index to every house and street. It was typical of Ted to quietly embark on such a challenging task, using his technical know-how and tenacious spirit to create a lasting legacy for future village historians.

Together with Betty, his wife, Ted was a constant presence at village events and supported all our fund-raising events for the publication of the history book as well as projects in aid of the village community. In 2012 Ted became a member of the Village Association which he enthusiastically supported using his computing and photographic skills. He was a great help when the Association organised the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations at York Farm. As a committee we valued Ted's contributions which were quietly offered after much thought and consideration. We all loved Ted, a respected gentleman, who will be greatly missed. He is irreplaceable and we are glad to have enjoyed his dry wit and unassuming advice and encouragement.

West Hagbourne Village History Group and Village Association Committee.

Village Tidy Up

This was a great success this year with 14 people turning up to help. This meant that we were able to collect all the rubbish in the village so that it looked tidy in time for visitors coming to view the dragons. Many thanks to the people who came to help.

Val Brownsword

Free compost

Come along with your own box, bag or container to fill up with local compost! The events will take place for all South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse residents on....

Saturday 13 June 9.30am - 12.30pm at Rye Farm car park, Culham Road, Abingdon, OX14 3NN

Sunday 14 June between 9.30am – 12.30pm at the old SODC car park, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8ED

On hand to advise you will be Master Composters to answer your gardening and composting questions, Love Food Hate Waste advisors to help reduce your food waste & save money, and the Waste and Recycling team to answer any recycling queries or questions.

Grab yourself some recycling goodies, compost bins (£10 cash!) and replacement kitchen caddies and buckets (all while stocks last).

Road closures

THIS MAY AFFECT YOUR JOURNEY

A34/M4 Junction 13 (Chieveley) – Weekend Closures/Restrictions

As part of the ongoing works to refurbish the bridges at Chieveley and Welford, the construction programme needs to demolish and replace the bridge beams at Junction 13. Due to the specialist working methods and equipment required, including large cranes which will need to sit across all three lanes of the motorway, the Motorway/A34 will suffer from a series of closures and restrictions.

See the web site for details of the many weekends during June July and August. For more information visit www.highways.gov.uk/m4chieveley

Fete & Gardens

On Saturday 13th June St Andrew's Church Fete will take place at Hagbourne School. Gates open at 14h15 and the theme is "All things bright and beautiful".

On Sunday, 14th June, between 2-6 pm, 8 gardens will be open in East Hagbourne through the National Garden Scheme. Admission to all the gardens: £5. Teas available.

Defibrillator - Live

Our defibrillator has gone live and is in good working order after a magnificent effort by everyone involved. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

The entire project was driven through in record time, principally by Phil Taylor who did the research, organised the meetings and was successful in applying for various grants (South & Vale and Oxfordshire Community Foundation). He was supported by an expert team who repaired and renovated the phone box, making it safe, watertight and sound enough to last for many more years.

Apart from all those very generous people and organisations who contributed toward the defibrillator (including the Parish Council, the Hagbourne Village Fund and West Hagbourne Village Association) special thanks must go to Paul Ryman, Dave Totterdell and Robert Griffiths who got the phone box into ship shape condition again; and to Sue Totterdell who collated all the donations.

A rota of volunteers is now in place to monitor and provide essential weekly and monthly checks and reports for the ambulance service. So, a very big thank you to everyone who played a part in this achievement. And finally, now that we have our own live and functioning defibrillator we must hope and pray that we never need to use it!

If you ever do need to use it, **you must dial 999 first** to call for an ambulance first and receive basic instructions including the code to access the defibrillator cabinet.

Farm & Country

This year on the farm we are growing oil seed rape, feed wheat, milling wheat for Warburtons, spring barley for malting and poppies for morphine. It has been a very good growing season and the crops are potentially looking well, this late spring rain has been a godsend.

We are busy spraying for general disease, straw shortener, and applying the last fertiliser to boost the protein in the milling wheat. Harvest will be here before we know it!

We have been attending to the horse paddocks, chain harrowing and fertilising, clearing the dung heaps and mending stables and fences.

You may have noticed whilst walking the country footpaths that a lot of work has been done next to the streams and hedgerows. At Hacca's Brook at the back of the farm we have cut down all the poplar saplings, cut back the brambles and cleaned out the ditch. In the autumn we will re-plant a proper hedge at the edge of the small grass field and re-plant a couple of trees on the Upton side.

Moor lane has had quite a spring clean, members of the village have tidied all the rubbish and we have cut the hedge down and replanted in the spaces where it was dead. This will make a lovely hedgerow eventually and we intend to do further planting in the autumn. There is also more work to be done - one step at a time.

For the first time in possibly ten years, the kestrels have not come back to their nesting box at the back of the farm, I am really sad about this as I love watching the various stages of their nesting time there. We are intending to put up some more boxes around the farm for various birds. It's good to encourage them.

The weather seems to have turned colder but with a drop of well needed rain, many bird species have migrated back and it is lovely to hear the swallows and swifts around the village.

Chris, Archie (the dog) and I have just returned from a brief trip to Suffolk, where we did some lovely long walks in the countryside. The RSPB reserves are extremely interesting at this early part of summer. We noticed the prominence of the Cuckoo, rarely heard around here anymore - don't be taken in by the collared doves and pigeons as they can sometimes sound similar! Also, in the mid-afternoon Nightingales were singing to their heart's content. So beautifully rural.

Sue Lay

Garden Club

Hagbourne Garden Club is pleased to announce the following 'Summer Visits' for 2015:

Thursday 21st May, visit to The Arboretum, Nuneham Courtenay. Admission £4.50 or £3 for senior citizens with I.D.

Thursday 26th June, visit to Greenfield Farm, Christmas Common. A traditional 10 acre Chiltern wild flower meadow, in a beautiful peaceful setting with 100 species of perennial wild flowers, grasses and orchids. Donation to charity for Entry. Meet in the Village Hall car park at 18h20 to share cars.

Sunday 5th July, visit to "Copse Side" and 'Ridgeway', Lincombe Lane, Boars



Hill, Oxford. Copse Side is a recently designed 2.5 acre garden situated on a downward slope with woodland terrain. Ridgeway is an exceptional garden on sandy soil with some rare shrubs and plants. Home made teas. Combined admission £5. Meet in the Village Hall car park at 13h30 to share cars or at the venue at 14h00.

The Garden 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.

next edition

Copy for inclusion in the August edition of the newsletter should be sent to editors@westhagbourne.org by 30th July 2015

U3A

DIDCOT 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.

At our meeting on 16th June we will learn about "The Growth of popular Music in 20th Century" with Ken Fitt and on 21st July Malcolm Nelson will talk about "40 Years of Smugglers." The University of the Third Age offers the opportunity to share your knowledge, experience and talents with others and learn from them in friendly surroundings.

Tel: 07802 237963 or email didcotdistrictU3A@virginmedia.com www.u3asites.org.uk/didcot

Heresay meetings

On Saturday 20th June Healthwatch Oxfordshire, the county's independent health and social care watchdog, is organising events to help OCC continue to deliver improvements to their services based on your feedback. You are invited to visit the King's Centre, Oxford between 13h30 and 16h30 to comment directly to senior staff from OCC, the Oxford Clinical

Commissioning group and the Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet Member involved with Adult Health and Social Care. The event is free and transport can be provided by OCC if you select YES on the booking form. To attend, book on line, by phoning 01865 520520 or emailing hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk If you cannot attend but would like to share your comments visit <http://healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk/content/speak-out>

Unused Medication

Did you know that if you usually take your unused/unwanted medications back to the Pharmacy they are automatically destroyed. But if you have any unopened medication in its original package, still in date, you can take it to Didcot Health Centre who will send it on to Africa where it can be used to help people who need it.

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
Mike Telford 851 236
mike.telford@westhagbourne.org

District Councillors

Pat Dawe + Jane Murphy
pat.dawe@southoxon.gov.uk
jane.murphy@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

Council Meetings

are held in Hagbourne Village Hall

- 1st July 2015
- 2nd September 2015
- 4th November 2015

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

Elections

On **Thursday 7 May** there were only nominations for five Parish Councillors and so no formal election was required.

Annual Parish Meeting

About 30 villagers attended the recent APM held on 20th May. Thanks were given to everyone who supported the defibrillator project; the unit is now in full working order and being checked weekly.

The B.O.A.T. (byway open to all traffic) from the end of Moor Lane will be closed from mid-June for ~6 months for drainage and repair work. While some drainage work has been carried out in the village over the past year, it will be an ongoing task – the banks of the ditch in Moor Lane are starting to fall back and the pipes down Brook Lane need clearing.

The village grass-cutting budget from OCC has been halved, but the Parish Council will cover the costs to ensure common areas continue to be cut once a month (April-September). Please contact the Parish Clerk if you already cut public grassy areas. The village is going to 'skip' the skip-hire this year, saving funds for grass cutting.

Dog owners are encouraged to use existing litter bins to dispose of bagged dog waste (as separate bins aren't provided for this).

The Lay family have offered to rent a small piece of land along Moor Lane to the village for a minimal amount for a playground or similar. Some interest was expressed but more information is needed before decisions can be made.

Concerns continue about: traffic in the village, plans for the roundabout on the A417 by Hagbourne Hill, the Harwell Bypass and the planning application for Valley Park, which will extend from Didcot down to the A417 along our Parish Boundary.

Please see the noticeboards and website for more information and contact the Parish Clerk to join the village e-mail newsgroup for latest news alerts.

HGV's & potholes

Details of how to report Heavy vehicles and potholes is available on the village web site.
<http://www.westhagbourne.org/noticeboard.htm#potholes>

local events

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

Saturday 6 June

Chilton Festival, 1pm-5pm, followed by a service at the Harwell Stone war memorial (near Diamond) 6-7pm.

Saturday 6 June

Abingdon & District Music Society
A Night at the Opera,
St Helen's & St Katherine's school,
Abingdon, 7.30pm Tickets £10 pp
in advance from Sue Totterdell

Wednesday 10 June

ROH, La Bohème, Cineworld,
Didcot, 7.30pm

Saturday 13 June

St Andrew's Church Fete,
Hagbourne School, 2.15pm

Sunday 14 June

East Hagbourne Open Gardens, 2-6pm
£5 entry to all gardens. Teas available.

Friday 19th June

Horse & Harrow, 12.30pm Village lunch

Wednesday 1 July

ENO Carmen,
Cineworld Didcot, 7.30pm

Friday 17 July

Horse & Harrow, 12.30pm Village lunch



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Marquees

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.

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for more information
and photos

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