

West Hagbourne news

August 2015

ISSUE 122

School Minibus

Oxfordshire County Council are cancelling the minibus that takes West Hagbourne children to and from school because they've reassessed the walking route between the two villages as being safe.

The parents of children in the village and West Hagbourne Parish Council are appealing against this decision on the basis of concerns about both the safety and the accessibility of the route (e.g. children having to cross a busy main road and regular flooding on the path across the fields).

If you have any evidence or anecdotes that support these arguments or could help our appeal in any way, we would be very grateful!

Please email Rachel Margolis at racheljmargolis@gmail.com



Macmillan event

If you would like to support this year's Biggest Coffee Morning Ever event, drop in at the Horse & Harrow from 10 am where the landlady, Helen, will be serving coffee and cake as part of this fundraising initiative.

And if you are inspired by the latest Bake Off series, why not donate your signature cake for people to buy to eat with their coffee? **Donations of cakes can be dropped off at Meadows Edge or taken directly to the pub.**

All money raised will be donated to Macmillan Cancer Charity.

Sadly, Val Walton will not be holding her usual coffee morning, so this is likely to be the only event in the village



Photos: Malcolm Brownsword

Bike night

The annual John Wheeler British Bike Night event was held as usual at the Horse & Harrow on Tuesday 14th July.

Unfortunately the weather forecast was accurate and the expected rain fell for about half of the evening. As a consequence the attendance was significantly lower than average. Nevertheless, many interesting machines were on view, two of which (a Levis and a Triumph) were manufactured almost a century ago. Amongst the machines present, particularly interesting from an engineering point of view were a Silk (water-cooled two stroke), a late Ariel Square Four, an AJS 7R (chain-driven overhead cam) and an ex-police LE Velocette (water-cooled horizontally-opposed twin). There were many competition machines on show from road-racing (including a Manx Norton and a Velocette Venom Thruxton), trials, moto-cross and long track speedway.

Amongst the memorabilia on show was Simon Wigg's framed 1985 certificate for the World log-track speedway championship.



The BMW Club had a display of BMW motorcycles old and new. Of particular interest here was a combination from the late 1950s or early 1960s. There were trade stands from KTM and others and some interesting vintage cars, including a Daimler Dart.

Young members of the North Berks Motorcycle Club gave trials demonstrations and their President, John Lightfoot was the MC for the evening. The co-organisers were the AJS and Matchless Owners' Club. Each year the event raises money for the pensioners' Christmas party.

The next NBMCC public event is their 'Berks Bonanza Supertrial' at Seymour's Arena, Aston Tirrold on 8/9 August, when the country's top riders will be competing.

Malcolm Brownsword

Madge Trophy

Judging for the annual Madge Trophy took place on 2nd July. Many thanks to Bridget and Hazel who accompanied this year's judge, Anne Berry, around the village. The results were as follows:

Trophy winner - 10, Manor Close

Highly commended Uplands, Main Street, Fermain, York Road, 14 York Road, Chapel Hayes, Main Street 4 Grove Terrace and 14 Manor Close

Bus (94) Services

There is currently a consultation taking place about these services. OCC has to save approx. 6.3 million pounds a year from the transport budget. They have already identified 3.7 million in savings leaving a further 2.6 million to be found. These savings will be found by reducing the bus subsidies and Dial-a-Ride budget. Their plan is to reduce some bus subsidies but, where possible, to protect services for older and disabled passengers.

However they may have to withdraw bus subsidies altogether, depending on future budget reductions from central government. This will affect our 94 bus service through the village linking West Hagbourne to Upton, Blewbury and Didcot. This service is wholly subsidised and is identified as being at medium risk. It is not just West Hagbourne that is at risk, every village in the county is likely to have its bus service reduced or withdrawn completely.

OCC will also no longer be able to fund Dial-a-Ride as a council service. They will work with voluntary groups to encourage them to run schemes which can meet similar needs. The Council is very keen to have feedback from people telling them how they use the buses i.e. whether you use it for shopping during the day or for going to work on a regular basis. They want to know which to prioritise, off-peak or peak times. You can read a consultation document and complete the feedback form by visiting www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/stconsultation.

The consultation documents are also available in libraries. There are a few copies of the feedback form available from your Parish Councillors. There is a very real risk that we may lose our 94 bus service and I would urge anyone who uses the bus or has used the bus in the past to provide feedback. Even people who don't use the bus can reply to one of the questions.

The deadline for responding to the consultation is 14th September 2015.

Val Brownsword



News

Late summer party

The Village Association is holding a "Pimms, Pate & Puddings" event in the grounds of Chapel Hayes on Sunday 13th September from 12.30pm onwards. Tickets cost £10 for adults, £4.00 for children, with a family ticket (2 adults, 2 children) available for £25.00.

During the afternoon there will be activities for children.

Tickets will be on sale from 17th August from Margaret Leishman, Chapel Hayes, Main St, phone 851707 and June Little at Lenton, York Rd, phone 850094. All welcome!

Lunch club

The monthly lunch club at the Horse & Harrow continues to attract a good turnout. It takes place on the third Friday of the month and if you want to be on the mailing list for reminders, please let Sue or Marion know your email address.

The next two lunches will be on Friday 21 August and Friday 18 September. All welcome.

Fire averted

Prompt action by a neighbour saved the day when the thatch of Thatched Cottage, on the corner of Main Street and Moor Lane, caught fire. When the owner of Brookmead walked into her garden she noticed smoke coming from the roof of the house across the lane. She immediately alerted the owner, Michael Field, who was unaware of the problem, and then called the emergency services. Michael aimed the garden hose at the source of the smoke while awaiting the arrival of fire engines from Didcot just four minutes later.

The neighbour's early alert and Michael's prompt action, together with the rapid arrival of the fire brigade meant that damage was limited. The roof has now been repaired.



Village clean-up

Mark Watson from the South and Vale Waste team tell us that the District Council are continuing their project 'The Big Clean Up' visiting each Parish across South Oxfordshire. They will be coming to West Hagbourne in the third week of August and will be litter picking, sweeping and removing weeds and moss on pavements.

They will not spray weeds, cut grass or vegetation or remove weeds and moss that is on roads and we only clear land to which the public is permitted access and that is under the direct control of the district council.

Moor Lane

After all the hooah of our last issue, is Moor Lane closed or not? There are certainly no physical barriers to it being used and no notices to inform walkers and riders that they should find an alternative route. Does anyone know what is happening?

Pumping Stations

Thames Water is searching for privately owned sewage pumping stations that would become its responsibility next year.

"Some customers may not have made us aware of their pumping station so we are trying to raise awareness. Other water companies have had success in identifying the unknown pumps through the help of Parish Councils".

A sewer pumping station is likely to be 'adopted' by Thames Water if it was in use before July 2011 (and) serve a single property, and is outside the property boundary (or) serves two or more properties

Anyone with a pump should visit the website:

www.thameswater.co.uk/pumphunt.

Garden waste

If you have a brown bin, on Thursday 15th October, the equivalent of two garden waste bins can be put out for collection. You can place any extra garden waste in a clear plastic bag or cardboard box.

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. At our meeting on 18th August will we learn about "The Gambia Experience" with John Paine and on 15th September we will learn about Apple Farming with Gillian Franklin.

Invitation to a Picnic from the Didcot Philosophy Group. What has philosophy got to do with me? Have you got opinions? Do you enjoy discussions?

Do big questions excite you? Are you open to possibilities?

Do you want to find out how philosophy relates to everyday life? Or do you just like picnics? Whatever your reason you are welcome to come and join the Philosophy for Fun Picnic on the 11th August 2015 at 12.00 Noon.

Meet at Millets Farm Shop and bring something to eat and share.

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. Why not come along to the next meeting of the Didcot & District U3A and find out what we are all about. A member of our committee will be on hand to make you welcome.

Tel: 07802 237963 Email:

didcotdistrictU3A@virginmedia.com

Website: <http://u3asites.org.uk/didcot>

OCCG

A pilot scheme to help people gain better access primary care services commenced in July.

For more information about the project, visit <http://www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Prime-Ministers-Challenge-Fund-Newsletter-June-2015.pdf>

The next OCCG Governing Body meeting will take place on Thursday, 30 July 2015 from 9am to 12.45pm at Main Hall, Town Hall Buildings, Banbury OX16 5QB. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Large Vehicles

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. Go to Noticeboard: e.g. <http://www.westhagbourne.org/noticeboard.htm#potholes>

Unused Medication Diabetes Patients

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.

An invitation has been issued to participate in the Diabetes Patient Information Survey consultation by the consultation manager, Julia Stackhouse.

This consultation is open from 28 Jul 2015 at 14:00 to 28 Aug 2015 at 23:59. We are interested in hearing from people who have Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes or if you care for someone with Diabetes.

Please take the time to complete this short survey, so that we can help improve services in Oxfordshire. If you would like to share this survey with friends or family, or are involved in a network that supports people with Diabetes, please use the following link: <https://consult.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/consult.ti/Diabetes/consultationHome> Thank you.



Orchids back

It was a great pleasure to see that the orchids on the banks of the disused railway line were in flower again this year. If they can survive and multiply it will bring additional interest to this area. Walkers and cyclists along this route will have enjoyed the diverse flora typical of rough chalk grassland, including scabious, knapweed, lady's bedstraw, plantains and a host of interesting grasses, all of which attract a variety of insects. The wild cherry trees provided a tasty snack until the birds stripped the branches, and there is a promise of an excellent blackberry harvest in the next few weeks.



Photos: Malcolm Brownword

Village Garden

The village garden is getting back to normal after the recent rain. During the prolonged dry spell it was necessary to water the flower beds as well as the planters. This was only possible due to the kind offers of water from many of the residents in The Square, in particular from Tracy and Hugh. The colourful display in the planters has continued due to the daily watering by Robert Griffiths. A donation of two new planters means that we can now try to further improve the appearance of the area around the salt box.

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

- 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

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Applications are invited for the position of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to West Hagbourne Parish Council.

The Clerk's duties will include the post of Responsible Financial Officer & servicing the Council meetings. The successful candidate will need a strong level of personal commitment, accurate administrative and financial skills, an enthusiasm for community life, good communication skills and an ability to deal with a range of issues.

This is a part-time position between 15 and 20 hours per month, working from home and to include some evening meetings. The salary is negotiable.

Interested candidates should in the first instance contact the chair of the council, Michael Butler or another member of the council.

local events

If you have items you are prepared to give away, send up a short advertisement with the details for inclusion (free of charge) in the next newsletter.

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

Tuesday 11 August

Didcot U3A Philosophy Group picnic
Millett's Farm, 12 noon

Friday 21 August

Horse & Harrow, 12.30pm
Village lunch

Sunday 13th September

Village Association Garden Party
Chapel Hayes 12.30pm

Friday 18 September

Horse & Harrow, 12.30pm
Village lunch

Thursday 15 October

Extra large garden waste collection

Next edition

please e-mail copy for inclusion



in the October issue by 30 September

parishclerk@westhagbourne.org



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Marquees

The Village Association has two Marquees which can be used by residents. There is a small charge of £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 and the Association 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. Tables and chairs are also available.

For advanced booking and details please contact Keith Walton 01235 851089

All donations go towards our village funds.

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for more information
and photos

contact totterdells@btinternet.com 01235 850080