

West Hagbourne news

February 2016 ISSUE 125



already full of water which is likely to flow down towards the village and then along the track leading to Coscote (see photo below), from where it flows down the side of Brook Lane to Hakka's Brook. Here the drainage ditches are already congested if not damaged.

It is to be hoped that, once the ditch work is complete, the footpath will be restored, or even upgraded, since it forms an important route between West Hagbourne and Didcot.

A417 roadworks

Work continues at the junction of Main Street with the A417. Now that traffic is controlled by lights, there have been reports of traffic build up at peak times. The introduction of a 30 mph speed limit through the roadworks certainly benefits villagers who are turning off the A417. It is interesting to see that quite a large area is being taken up for the construction of the roundabout at the bottom of Hagbourne Hill, close to the Tyrell Trust's land. Some progress has been made though, and it is a relief that the route through from Upton to Chilton is open again, saving a considerable diversion through Rowstock to reach the A34 southbound. The road narrowing scheme at the south of Upton on this route might be something to consider for West Hagbourne.

Winter storms

The morning of Christmas Eve proved rather more exciting for one resident of West Hagbourne than he might have wanted. Peter Mitchell, who lives at Appledore, York Road, opened his kitchen curtains to be confronted by a fallen tree almost touching the window. The strong winds the night before had brought down one of the trees from the other side of Main Street, falling into his garden and blocking the main route through the village.

The road was closed for a couple of hours while the tree was cut into manageable sections, which were then lined up along the verge near Lizard Bank until being dealt with a couple of weeks later. There was no significant damage to property but Peter was aware that he had had a lucky escape. Since this event, more work has been done on the trees in question, with excess branches having been pruned.



Clearing drains

South Oxfordshire District Council are still apparently having problems resolving the drainage issues in York Road, where a large puddle, covering half the road width, forms after heavy rain.

Despite several visits from their contractors, and extensive underground surveys using remote cameras, it appears that they cannot trace the routes of some of the drainage pipes in the village. This then impacts on their ability to clear out those pipes to ensure better flow from road drains. The problem is compounded by the lack of maps of underground pipe networks.

Ensuring good drainage in the village may become more important in the future as more houses, with their associated roads and hard landscaping, are built to the south of Didcot.

The extensive ditching that is currently being carried out along the edge of the footpath leading from the north end of York Road, heading towards Didcot, seems to be a part of the drainage scheme for the new houses there, as does the work from Downs Farm.

With the recent extended spell of wet weather, these ditches are



The lack of SODC road sweeping in the village yet again is continuing to prevent the gully system on the roads through the village from working properly. Debris on pavements and the roadway are making it very slippery underfoot. Blocked gulleys leave water on the highways, which if left to freeze then forms a further potential hazard to all road users and pedestrians alike.



Delivery help?

Are you able to help every other month with putting the Newsletter through some doors near you? If you can help deliver in your part of the village it would make a real difference.

To help please get in touch with Hugh Lewis.

Pond Update

Water levels in the village pond are now high, and the pond is looking good. The reinforcements to the edges, particularly on the roadsides, look good and as spring arrives there are plans to replant the soft banks, to stabilise them and to encourage wildlife. It will be great to watch this expanse of water become a focal point of the village again.

News

Summer Jubilee

This summer sees the celebration of the 60th Birthday of Queen Elizabeth II. There will be a service of Thanksgiving in St Paul's Cathedral and the weekend of 11/12 June has been designated for various celebratory events. In the past, West Hagbourne has marked such occasions in some way, usually under the auspices of the Village Association.

If anyone has any ideas of what the village might do this time, or who is prepared to take on a role in organisation, please get in touch with Margaret Leishman (secretary of the Village Association) at Chapel Hayes, or with Marion or Sue, who will pass on any suggestions.

Village tidy up

As spring advances it will soon be time to rid the roadside verges around the village of the rubbish that accumulates there in such great quantities. Whilst it is clear that many villagers are constantly removing litter as they walk around the village, a concerted effort in Brook Lane and other road routes is usually necessary and many hands make light work. Watch this space for an announcement of the date.

Lunch club

The Christmas Lunch club at the Horse and Harrow was a sell-out and over 20 people enjoyed the festive meal, served by Helen and her staff.

Our thanks to them for their splendid efforts. There was no real drop off in January (no problems with diets here) when 17 people came along.

The February lunch will be on 19th and the March one on the 18th. To sign up or to be included on the mailing list, please just contact Marion or Sue.

Village gardens

The mild winter has brought on a lot of plants very early with primroses and daffodils in flower. The more recent cold snap will have set some of them back a little so we must wait and see when the bulbs in the planters come into bloom. A new venture has been to try to establish crocuses (corms kindly supplied by Mary Ann Butler) in the grass under the horse chestnut tree. We hope that they can get established and flower before mowing commences.



Broadband

Better Broadband for Oxfordshire (BBO) has been very successful at getting BT to improve broadband in the rural areas of Oxfordshire. West Hagbourne was not covered by their funding because we already had partial Infinity broadband; an FTTC cabinet in Upton as part of the "Race to Infinity" win in 2011. However because of BBO's success they are able to broaden their objectives and areas that have connections that are below 15Mb can now be helped. To my knowledge no one in West Hagbourne gets better than 15Mb so BBO are looking to fund BT to put a "Fibre to the Cabinet" cabinet into West Hagbourne. This is in the planning stage and may happen towards the end of the year. To make sure that BBO have an incentive to see this through, could you please send a supporting email to craig.bower@oxfordshire.gov.uk with a subject of "West Hagbourne Broadband" and copy to hugh.lewis@westhagbourne.org with details of your current product, speeds and your intent to move to a faster product when it becomes available.

Hugh Lewis

Health News

Free flu jabs for young children

The free annual nasal spray flu vaccine is available this year for children aged two, three and four, as well as for children in years one and two at school. This covers all children with a birthday on or after 1 September 2010 and on or before 31 August 2013. Contact your GP practice for more details

Signposting and child health

To help people use local NHS services more effectively we have developed some leaflets which you may find useful. To see the Signposting leaflet and the Child Health leaflet go to www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk.

The leaflets will be available at Locality forum meetings.

Oxford health's patient involvement consultation

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust is running a consultation to help them develop a new draft strategy on patient involvement and experience. To take part <http://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/news/we-want-your-views/>

U3A

Didcot & District University of the Third Age meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. February meeting on Tuesday 16th: Mike Payne; "The History of Pinewood Studios. March meeting on Tuesday 15th: Andy Robertshaw; 'Animals on the Western Front'.

Didcot & District U3A is a democratic, self funded and self-managed organisation which exists to provide educational and leisure activities at minimal cost. It draws upon the knowledge, experience, skills and enthusiasms of its members to organise interest groups in accordance with the wishes of the membership..

Tel: 07804159993 Email: didcotdistrictu3a@virginmedia.com
<http://u3asites.org.uk/didcot>



Gardening club

Hagbourne Garden Club welcomes members and visitors alike (£2,50 for visitors). Talks commence in Hagbourne Village Hall at 7.30 with refreshments served from 7.00 p.m. Further details available from Jane on 01235 816650

February 25th 'Waterlilies' by Rev. Charles Overton who recently helped replant the lily pond at Oxford University Botanic Gardens. Apparently you do not need a pond to grow and enjoy waterlilies!!

On Thursday 24th March, Hagbourne Garden Club invites you to a talk by Tim Butler from 'The Lavender Fields' at Alton. Refreshments are available from 7.00 p.m. and the informative talk on the history and growing of lavender.

Thursday 28th April and Spring is well underway! A talk by Rosi Rollings on 'Plants For Bees' Members and visitors are all most welcome.

Defib update

It hardly seems possible but this time last year we were in the middle of fundraising for the village defibrillator. Most of us probably hardly notice it sitting in the beautifully re-furbished telephone kiosk, itself now a valuable asset to the village centre. As said at the time of installation, the best defibrillator is one that is never used - so far so good. Our thanks should go to the small group of volunteers who undertook to make the necessary regular checks on the equipment. In another year it is recommended that some items (the pads) will need routine replacement and the council will need to budget accordingly.

94 Bus Service

The County Council has decided to withdraw all bus subsidies in the next budget. Although the decision is not finalised yet, they have to find more savings so this will be almost certainly be the case. At a meeting with Luke Marion, the Finance and Commercial Director of Thames Travel, on 19th Jan, including representatives from East Hagbourne, Upton & Blewbury, we had a wide-ranging discussion about the service and options for the future. There is a large gap between the cost of running the service and the revenue from passengers so without some support it will be difficult to keep the service running. The total running cost of the service is £130,000 a year; currently the County Council provides a subsidy of £88,000; income from fares is £47,000 of which £21,000 is from concessions (Thames Travel get 50 pence in the pound from the County for concessions). As about two thirds of passenger numbers are concessions or the deficit will be of the order of £80,000 when the subsidy is discontinued.

Thames Travel do not want to cancel services because this will make drivers redundant, but are unable to run services at a loss. Possibilities for raising money discussed included approaching GWR for a grant on the grounds that Thames Travel bring customers to the station. Any increase in fares would bring in only a small amount and could discourage people from using the bus. In addition the County Council has a statutory duty to provide free travel to school children who travel more than 3 miles to school. Currently the County Council does this by providing a dedicated school bus. One proposal is for the County Council to give the money that they spend on the school bus to Thames Travel instead and the 94 bus route is altered to take in the Girls' School and St. Birinus.

It was made clear that the County Council has a statutory duty to assess social need when considering disbanding a service. Some people

believe this has not been carried out in this case and there may be a legal challenge to this effect.

To summarise, things don't look good. The current bus driver contracts come to an end in June. Thames Travel have to give notice of 56 days to decommission a service so we can expect an announcement in April if the service is to be cancelled. Meanwhile communication between the Parish Council and Thames Travel will continue.

Val Brownsword

Village Association

The Village Association held its AGM on 6th November, 2015 at the Horse & Harrow. Those present looked back over the previous year's activities, highlighting the provision of refreshments at the meeting to discuss the provision of a defibrillator, the successful Dragon competition (Winner - Broomsticks), and the tea-party in May, when prizes were awarded, as well as the annual front garden competition, won this year by the Rymanes of number 10 Manor Close.

The main function of the year was a Garden Party, held in September. Sadly the weather was rather cold but the marquee again proved itself very useful and the attendees enjoyed their Pimms, Pate and Puddings.

The full minutes of the meeting will be made available on the village web site.

Recent Scams

Thames Valley Police warns residents to be on their guard for fraudsters contacting people by phone who claim to be a police officer, fraud investigator or bank employee. They persuade victims to withdraw cash by claiming they need the victim to work undercover to expose fraud or because their bank account has been compromised.

Police advice: never hand over money or your bank details to anyone who contacts you by phone.

Parish Council

Clerk

Andrew Wise
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	
Mike Telford	851 236
mike.telford@westhagbourne.org	
Oliver Doogue	851 156
oliver.doogue@westhagbourne.org	

District Councillors

Pat Dawe + Jane Murphy
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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 March
- 4th May
- 11th May Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of meetings of the Parish Council are available online.

If you cannot find them contact the clerk, 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

New Councillor

The Parish Council are pleased to confirm that Oliver Doogue was co-opted as a Parish Councillor at the January meeting.

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

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 then 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 telephone: 0845 310 1111

or by writing to: Southern Area Office Oxfordshire County Council Milton Road Drayton OX14 4EZ

www.westhagbourne.org/noticeboard.htm#potholes

Planning updates

If you want to be notified about planning applications that affect West Hagbourne, you can sign up for email alerts. This can be done directly on the SODC planning website, or you can ask the Parish Clerk to put your email address onto the village mailing list.

Contact Andrew Wise, Parish Clerk, parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

local events

If you have items you are prepared to give away, send us 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:

Wednesday March 2nd

19h30 Ordinary PC Meeting
Hagbourne Village Hall

Saturday March 19th

Abingdon & District Musical Society
Anniversary concert.
St Helen's & St Katherine's School 19h30
Rossini: The Thieving Magpie
Geoffrey Bushell: "Night Poem" for Choir
and Orchestra Op. 63
Elgar: The Music Makers & Schumann:
Symphony No. 3 (Rhenish)

Wednesday 4 May

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council,
Hagbourne Hall 19h30

Wednesday 11 May

19h30 Annual Parish Meeting

Next edition

please e-mail copy for
inclusion

in the April issue by **March 30**
parishclerk@westhagbourne.org




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Marquees

The Village Association has two Marquees.
£25 plus a returnable deposit of £50 to be paid on
commencement of the hire. The Association will not
be responsible for any claims for accidents that may
occur during the rental.

12metre x 5metre and **11metre x 4metre** marquees
must be returned in the storage boxes provided.

Tables and chairs are also available.
For advanced booking and details please contact
Keith Walton 01235 851089



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and photos

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