

# West Hagbourne news



August 2016 ISSUE 128

## Bus Service

Despite the reports in the press, West Hagbourne's bus service seems to be as good, if not a little better, than before the revisions. An important change is that buses will follow the Didcot, East Hagbourne, Upton, Blewbury, East Hagbourne, Didcot route in that direction only. Services will run at 06.47, 07.37 (school days, to Blewbury only), 0757 (to Didcot, in school holidays), 09.02, 10.02, 11.02, 12.42, 13.42, 14.42, 17.19, 18.32 and 19.37. These buses arrive at Didcot Parkway about 30 minutes later.

Between 1400 and 1600 services vary depending on whether it is a school day or not, with differences between Fridays and the rest of the week to reflect different finishing times for the schools.

All these times are available on the timetable at the bus shelter and on the village web site.

## Recycling

Early warning that SODC will no longer be allowing black bin bags to be put into the green recycling bins. This is because people are mixing some non-recyclable items in black bags and such items cannot be easily seen and separated. Clear plastic bags will be allowed. However, since recyclable materials are usually dry and clean, the recommended practice is to put them into the green bins as they are.

## Ring Road

Construction of the new route (heralded by Harwell as its bypass) is now about to start.

Another new roundabout will appear this side of the Kingswell and the relief road will run parallel and south of the A34 down to a new junction with the Wantage Road by the Driftway.

## Milestone

Yet again the County grass cutting service has hit and damaged the Milestone on the A417.

Our milestone is inscribed 'Reading 17, Wantage 7' is eighteenth century and described as being triangular with convex curved sides to left and right. Its curved edge faces to road.

Hopefully it will be righted soon and protected for the future.



## Broadband

You may have read recently in the press that the first stage of Oxfordshire's rural broadband initiative has been completed ahead of time and under budget. This prompted some of us to wonder when West Hagbourne will finally get access to 21st century internet connection speeds. Well the good news seems to be that we are in the programme, recognising that fibre to the cabinet in Upton does not constitute a superfast connection for West Hagbourne. However, it seems that it will not be our turn until December 2017 and even then we do not know that both stages (fibre optic to a cabinet in the village, plus improvements to the copper connections to individual properties) will be carried out at that time. In the meantime, the increased numbers of devices in the village means that some evenings it is almost impossible to avoid long buffering periods when using the broadband connection.



## New Local Plan

SODC continues to work on a new Local Plan which will set out how development will be delivered across South Oxfordshire until 2032. It is time to give your views on the latest Preferred Options, which will be used to decide planning applications. Work began on the this new Local Plan in 2014 and there have already been two consultations. Local knowledge and an appreciation of what residents and local businesses want is important in plan making, so your views count. You can contribute your comments before 19th August by going on line to [www.southoxon.gov.uk/newlocalplan](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/newlocalplan)

Residents of West Hagbourne are likely to be interested in any further expansion of Didcot towards the village. It is not easy to sort out from the proposed 15,750 new homes for the District those already built (in GWP), and those already allocated to sites in and around Didcot. The plan suggests developers should build 750 homes per year but reports that in the 5 years from 2011 to 2016 only 2,600 were built. The newly-designated Didcot Garden City has 15,050 provides homes (mostly already allocated to sites), and since it spans both SODC and the Vale it is likely that this 'super' development refers to Valley Park (in the Vale) and GWP.

In the Settlement Hierarchy the village of West Hagbourne falls into a category for which no development is planned, aside from possible in-fill sites.

Make sure you take a look and have your say on the future of this area.

## New Baby

Congratulations to Becky Lay and Scott Ford on the safe arrival of son, Freddie Ford, born June 25th. A brother for Lily Ella and a grandson for Chris and Sue Lay

If you have a family event that you would like to include in this newsletter, please get in touch with Marion Judd or Sue Totterdell

## Back to normal ?

After months of disruption, life in West Hagbourne is beginning to return to normal with the completion of work on the new roundabout on the A417 and the re-opening of Hagbourne Hill. The need to turn left out of the village and go round the roundabout, if heading west, makes the junction feel safer.

The size of the roundabout, however, and its urban-style lighting seem a little excessive for a junction with a minor rural road, suggesting that the Highways Department of OCC are expecting an increase of traffic using this route. Harder to understand is the provision of a footpath around the roundabout when there are no linking footpaths in the vicinity.

In the next few months it will be interesting to see if more traffic uses the route through the village to access the Harwell site. Given the 8 week road closures through Harwell Village, an obvious route from Didcot to Harwell Campus is through the village. Peak hours traffic flow is already increased as a result

## B.O.A.T.

There has also been another, less heralded re-opening. The barriers at the start of Moor Lane have been removed, suggesting that this by-way open to all traffic is considered to have had sufficient time to recover from the damage to its surface.

# Obituaries

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## Keith J. Walton

30 August 1936 – 29 June 2016

Keith was born Keith John Walton in Poole, Dorset in 1936, but his family soon moved to Eltham in south east London where he spent his youth.

He took up an apprenticeship in engineering at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich and later joined the Merchant Navy, rising to chief engineer. In 1956, at the age of 20, and on his first tour of duty aboard the P&O ship Strathnaver, Keith was working down in the engine room whilst on a deck above I was a young girl emigrating to Australia with my family. Little did either of us know that one day we would both find our way to West Hagbourne. We only discovered the link between us a couple of years ago and Keith gave me an archival photograph of the good ship Strathnaver which I will always treasure. (On reading of this coincidence, Marion Judd was reminded that her uncle, Charles Mayne, formerly of Broomsticks was at one time captain of the Strathnaver but she is not sure if the dates overlap with Sheila's voyage and Keith's time on board).

## Margaret Strange

1945-2016

Margaret Strange of Appletrees on Main Street, West Hagbourne, who died on 15th May this year, will be best known to those villagers who attended Hagbourne Church, where she was a regular worshipper.

Born in Birmingham, she and her husband and children moved to the village in the early 1980's.

Keith met Val whilst on leave and they married in 1962. They had two sons Andrew and Stephen and in 1984 they moved from Didcot into Fairview in York Road. Keith worked at Harwell before becoming a research technician in aerodynamics at Oxford University. Keith was a very community-spirited man and he was one of the founding members of the West Hagbourne Village Association in 1997. He was treasurer from its inception right up until he became too ill to continue in early 2016. He was instrumental in the purchasing of a marquee for the village in the absence of a meeting place.

He took responsibility for hiring, repair and maintenance of the marquee as well as supervising its erection and the subsequent purchase of a second, even larger marquee.

Together with the late Tony Pickup he drew up a successful lottery bid to buy much-needed tables and chairs for village events.

Keith was a very active man with many hobbies and interests. He used his diverse skills to serve many communities. He was passionate about table tennis and played to a high standard with

After working in a variety of places, including as a PA at Harwell, she enjoyed a happy retirement with her husband, Barrie, until his death in 2009.

Her lifelong enthusiasm for sport (playing badminton, throwing the javelin and shot) resulted in her qualifying as a judge and referee and led to long hours officiating at athletics meetings.

the Didcot Table Tennis Association. He obtained a coaching qualification so that he could teach table tennis to young people; something which gave him enormous pleasure. When he retired he volunteered at Milton Park Multiple Sclerosis Centre, using his engineering skills to operate the oxygen chambers used in treating many illnesses. Keith was a keen cyclist and became a Sustrans ranger on the cycling route between Upton and Clifton Hampden. A favourite pastime was the old English board game shove ha'penny and Keith made several boards himself. Shove ha'penny was always a feature at village open days.

From 2002 Keith suffered several bouts of cancer which he bore with great fortitude. Eventually the cancer meant the loss of most of his tongue and difficulty in speaking but he remained undaunted and persisted with learning to speak again. Keith was an active member of the Didcot Baptist Church and he was frustrated to have to give up his work as an outreach deacon but he remained active and positive right until the end of his life.

Contributed by Sheila Taylor,  
Village History Group

Margaret and Barrie contributed more than 50 years each to the support of County Athletics and Margaret was a Life Vice President of the County Athletics Association.

Her funeral took place in St Andrew's Church in East Hagbourne on May 25th.

# news

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## Village website

The village website is a useful place to find information about West Hagbourne, including minutes of Parish Council meetings, details of your Parish Councillors, the latest bus timetables, news of forthcoming village events and links to other useful websites. You can also get your own village events publicised on its noticeboard.

Make our website your first port of call when seeking information about the village. This service is provided and kept up to date by Roger Sweet and John Baile - our thanks to them both.

## Madge Trophy

For those new to West Hagbourne, judging for the Madge Trophy, awarded for the best front garden displays, takes place in a different month each year so that gardens which have their main period of interest in spring, or autumn, get a chance to shine to the judges.

This year judging will take place during August so it is time to get out and remove those weeds, mow that lawn and make sure your garden is at its best this month.

## Village Skip

As agreed at the Annual Parish Meeting, a skip will be provided for general waste but not garden waste or building rubble.

The skip will be sited in the yard of Ash Farm, York Road, with the kind permission of Jeff Powell.

It will be delivered on 15th September and will be available for several days.

## Lunch club

The July lunch club was one of our smaller ones so far with six residents meeting at the Horse & Harrow.



The next dates are Fridays 19th August and 16th September. To sign up or to be included on the mailing list, please contact Marion or Sue.

## Broadway closed

Be aware that in addition to sewerage works affecting Wantage Road in Harwell and through parts of Sutton Courtenay, work in Didcot on the Lower Broadway between Rich's Sidings and the roundabout will cause the road to be closed from August 22nd for three weeks whilst essential work is carried out to the Sewer system.

## Pond

In the past few weeks we have added a water lily to the village pond. Now that the water level seems likely to stay reasonably deep throughout the year, this stands a chance of surviving, although it is clear that the water birds on the pond find it quite tasty. It is hoped that in the long term this will help with the nutrient balance in the water and prevent the build up of pondweed that we have seen this year.



## Bike Night

As usual, the annual 'British Bike Night,' held at the 'Horse and Harrow' in July, attracted a large number of visitors. Unfortunately, the heavy rain from about 8.15 pm sent large numbers of visitors home early. There was a demonstration of trials-riding skills by younger members of the North Berkshire Motorcycle Club and several trade exhibition stands. Large numbers of vintage machines (including cars) were on display as well as many interesting current models, both British and foreign. My personal favourites were an 'Indian' V-twin from the USA and Allen Millyard's amazing 'special' which returned for a second visit. It is powered by two cylinders taken from a 9-cylinder Pratt and Whitney radial aero engine dated from the 1930s which Allen purchased for the princely sum of £100!



Proceeds from this event will contribute towards the cost of the village pensioners' Christmas lunch at the 'Horse and Harrow.'

# Parish Council

## Clerk

Andrew Wise  
[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)

Mike Telford 851 236

[mike.telford@westhagbourne.org](mailto:mike.telford@westhagbourne.org)

Oliver Doogue 851 156

[oliver.doogue@westhagbourne.org](mailto:oliver.doogue@westhagbourne.org)

## District Councillors

Pat Dawe + Jane Murphy

[pat.dawe@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:pat.dawe@southoxon.gov.uk)

[jane.murphy@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:jane.murphy@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

21st September 7.30 pm

2nd November 7.30pm

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

## HGV's & potholes

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](http://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](http://www.westhagbourne.org/noticeboard.htm#potholes)

## Planning updates

The appeal to build a workshop/outbuilding in the front garden of Limecroft was refused

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  
[parishclerk@westhagbourne.org](mailto:parishclerk@westhagbourne.org)

The SODC plan for 2032 is at one of its stages of consultation. This version of the plan does not envisage any further housing in Didcot above that already earmarked for development. However, when SODC has decided on how it will proceed in Didcot in the light of its Garden Town status, there may be some further information.

West Hagbourne is a "small village" and the maximum housing increase is likely to be up to 5%, but currently this would be by way of infill. We know from the refusal of planning permission from the plot adjacent Scotland's Ash that they do not favour any large development on the outskirts of the village (and SODC have confirmed that the Vale are likely to take the same attitude to development behind the Horse and Harrow).

Mike Butler (Chair)

## 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.

### Friday Lunch Club

At the Horse & Harrow 12.30pm  
19th August and 16th September

### Didcot Film Club

The club meets at Cornerstone in Didcot at 8 pm. Annual membership costs £5.

Film tickets can be bought via the Cornerstone site or in person.

31 August **High Rise** (2015)

A thriller. Directed by Ben Wheatley, starring Tom Hiddlestone, Jeremy Irons and Sienna Miller.

28th September (2015) **The Dressmaker**

An Austrian film - a revenge comedy-drama. Director Jocelyn Moorhouse, starring Kate Winslet.

26th October **The Man Who Knew Infinity**

2015 A biographical drama. Directed by Matt Brown, starring Dev Patel and Jeremy Irons.

## Next edition

please e-mail copy for inclusion in the September issue by **August 30th**

## About us

This newsletter is funded by its advertisements, edited by Marion Judd and Sue Totterdell, formatted by Phil Taylor and printed by Hugh Lewis.

editors@westhagbourne.org.uk



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## Marquees

The Village Association has two Marquees.  
£25 plus a returnable deposit of £50  
The Association will not be responsible for any claims for accidents that may occur during the rental.  
**12 x 5 metre and 11 x 4 metre**  
Tables and chairs are also available.

For advanced booking and details please contact **Rob Robert Griffiths (Woodleys)**  
rob.griff@yahoo.co.uk  
All donations go towards our village funds.

## Free

Large inflatable paddling pool, Play Tent,  
Inflatable dolphin pool toy,  
child's bicycle (around age 10).  
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Dave Totterdell 850080

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