

West Hagbourne news

October 2016 ISSUE 129

Link Road

It is reported that work is due to start on the new Harwell Link Road in October. This is part of the new infrastructure being provided to integrate the Great Western Park development into the area. One of the earliest projects is due to be the construction of a (yet another) roundabout on the A417, on the West Hagbourne side of the A34 bridge near the Kingswell. The new road will link the B4493 (Wantage Road, near the UTC lights), running parallel to the A34 to reach the A417. This new road is expected to relieve traffic through Harwell Village but is unlikely to have any beneficial impact on cars using the route through West Hagbourne.

Weather

The recent torrential rain came at the end of a brief period of hot weather. Despite being forecast, it still managed to result in quite a lot of disruption. Those trying to commute by train to Oxford or London were frustrated by not being able to access the platforms at Didcot station, despite the fact that trains were still running along tracks that are well above the flooded forecourt, booking hall and underpass.

Traffic passing through West Hagbourne encountered its own problems as the Main Street was flooded in several places. Many drivers found a solution by taking York Road and although this is understandable in difficult times, it is not something to be encouraged as the volume of traffic is entirely unsuited to a residential area with no pavements. There was also evidence of serious damage to verges and to a set of steps.

Chaos in Didcot was compounded by an accident on Station Road which was closed between the Cow Lane lights and the entrance to Sainsburys, diverting all traffic via Broadway. Luckily the village did not lose its electricity supply as it had done some weeks earlier.

the Comet

A new bookable service has been introduced for those who cannot access suitable public transport.

This is a not for profit service, created to allow people without suitable access to public transport to make the journeys they want. The Oxfordshire Comet can be booked for any type of trip. Whether it is to meet friends in town, travel across the county, attend an appointment or pop to the shops.

The service is available 10.15 am to 2.30 pm Monday to Friday (not Bank Holidays).

It is easy to book with a pre-paid account that can be set up on the phone. Tel: 01865 792422



Rags to Rugs

The health benefits of creative crafts are long documented, and reusing what you no longer need can only add to the satisfaction. Helen Winthorpe Kendrick and Alison Garnett are offering the chance to do your bit and make useful and beautiful things out of your old clothes and household linens. From crochet bags to plaited rugs, no prior experience is needed, with all the help on hand for an enjoyable and satisfying day. The workshop in Didcot's All Saints Hall is on Saturday 29th October, 10am-4pm, costing £50. To book, email helen@visionsinthread.com or phone 01491 836148

Madge Trophy

The Judge this year was Angela Phillips. She writes:

Thanks so much for inviting me to judge the front gardens of West Hagbourne. I really enjoyed walking round and seeing some of the lovely historic houses.

The weather has unfortunately done us no favours as after a cold wet spring and non stop rain in June, we have now had a really dry July with some very hot spells which has burnt the grass and shrivelled many of the herbaceous plants early in the season. Well done to those who have kept up the tradition of lovely colourful hanging baskets and pots of flowers. I know how much work goes into keeping them going.

It was extremely difficult to pick out one garden above the others but I have eventually selected 10, Manor Close, Paul Ryman, and 14, Manor Close, Malcolm Brownsword, as joint winners. 16 York Road is also deserving of a mention for its colourful display.

Keep up the good work as that little (or large) patch of garden at the front of the house gives untold pleasure to many of us as we pass by and makes our villages as attractive as they are. Setting out the garden with traditional bedding may have gone out of fashion but you never know...



Craft Fair

Hagbourne School will be holding their Christmas Craft Fair on Sunday 20 November 11h00 - 15h30 in the school and the Village Hall. If you would like to book a stall at this popular event, at a cost of £24 for a single and £43 for a double, please contact Eve Setch on 07890214237 or on eve.setch@hotmail.com

Garden Club

Thursday 27 October at 19h30. A talk by Ray Broughton on "Science in the Garden"

Friday 25 November at 19h30. A talk by John Negus "An Apple a Day", about growing all types of fruit.

Talks are in Hagbourne Village Hall and refreshments are served from 19h00. Visitors are welcome.

Further details are available from Jane on 01235 813350



Oktoberfest

The second annual Didcot German Beer festival will take place on Saturday October 15th. Once again there will be a range of quality German beers on tap (as well as some local brews) and typically German food to accompany the beer. Music will be provided by local bands, with Crimps headlining. Come on down to Didcot Civic Hall between the hours of 1 pm and 10 pm to get a taste of Munich without having to leave South Oxfordshire. Advance tickets from the Civic Hall £4 or £5 on the door.

Funds raised in this event will be donated to the Didcot and District Twinning Association. For more details about twinning, go to www.didcottwinning.org.uk

news

Maternity & Childrens' services

The NHS in Oxfordshire is redesigning a wide range of healthcare services, including maternity, obstetrics and paediatric services to ensure women and children receive the right care from the right professional in the right place.

We would like to have a detailed discussion with mums/dads/carers who have experienced these services in the last two years; and groups and organisations that represent people who use these services.

We are setting up three focus groups in October to look at Midwife Led Units, obstetric care for all women across Oxfordshire and countywide paediatric services.

To find out more and to register your interest in being involved, please go to <https://consult.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/consult.ti>

Bus Shelter Garden

The garden by the Bus Shelter is looking beautiful this summer, with a great variety of attractive and imaginative planting.

Many thanks to Dave and Sue Totterdell for their hard work in keeping such a lovely display throughout the seasons in the centre of the village. And many thanks to Mary Ann Butler for looking after the planter by the pond, and to the others involved in maintaining these displays, particularly with help in watering and keeping the area tidy.

Marion Judd



Didcot

Didcot & District U3A meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2:00 pm in the Didcot Civic Hall. Please arrive 15 minutes before the start time to ensure you are all seated for the 2pm start.

Tuesday 18th October

Dr Michael Keith-Lucas will give a talk entitled Plants in Forensic Science

For more information phone 01235 211291 or 01235 510048 email

secretary@didcotu3a.org



Village Lunch

Another successful 'outing' in September with 10 people lunching on Friday 16th, where the conversation was much focused on the overnight storms.

The next lunch dates are Friday October 21st and Friday 18th November. Sue will be away for the November date so please let Marion Judd know if you plan to come along on the 18th.

Farming and the Countryside

Because it was very wet and cold in the springtime when the crops were flowering, the harvest yields have been very up and down. The Oils Seed Rape was very poor, the Spring Barley however was a good average and quality.

The Wheats were variable with a problem with the weed 'Black Grass'.

We grow a lot of wheat for Warburtons which fortunately has reached the high standard that they require, so at least the quality was present. As of todays date (August 20th) we have not harvested the Poppies.

Harvest in general has gone well because of the long dry, warm spell of weather we have had. No drying costs which has also taken the pressure off.

When having to dry the crop to bring it down to a safe storing moisture level, it puts a lot of pressure onto the running of the corn store, with loads coming in off the field and the volume mounting and backing up. This year it was dry enough to go straight into the store.

Many loads have already left the farm.

We have started planting the Oil Seed Rape for next year

No kestrels nesting in the box this year which is a shame. We have had a nice large group of Swifts around the village though, they have left now. Still a few Swallows around.

Good to see so many ducklings on the pond, not that the mothers managed to keep the broods large though they seemed to diminish very quickly down to twos and threes. We have been unsuccessful in getting rid of the nasty green weed on the surface.

One last plea, please can anyone with a hedge next to the road way, cut them hard back so that the tractors coming through don't break their wing mirrors and the straw doesn't catch the branches and leave such a mess all though the village. This needs to be considered every summer.

Enjoy the rest of the summer while it lasts.

Sue Lay





Hagbourne links with Meylan

The recent visit by a party from Meylan (a town near Grenoble which is twinned with Didcot & surrounding villages) served to cement their relations with West Hagbourne. Firstly the committee member responsible for twinning between Meylan and Didcot, Jean -Yves Delacoux, stayed in West Hagbourne, hosted by Peter Mitchell. More importantly, though, was M. Delacoux's visit to local schools, aimed at supporting links between them and their counterparts in Meylan. In addition to the interactions between DGS and SBS with Collèges in France, M. Delacoux also visited Hagbourne Primary school, which is in contact with a primary school in Monbonnot near Meylan. Although taking this younger age-group to visit their partner school can be difficult to organise, modern electronic communications allow meaningful contacts between children. M. Delacoux was impressed by the level of computer access in Hagbourne's classrooms.

The visit also included the opportunity to see both ancient and modern technologies that have shaped this part of the UK, with time spend looking round the Diamond Light Source and Didcot Railway centre. The visiting group of 17 people were lodged with families from Didcot and the surrounding villages and the weekend concluded with a gala dinner at Drayton Golf Course.

AGM

West Hagbourne Village Association is holding its AGM on Monday 14th November at 7.15pm, at the Horse & Harrow.

All villagers are invited to attend, either with suggestions for future village events, to offer help at events and/or to join the committee- new members will be made most welcome.



Mobile Library CLOSED

As a result of the need to save money, Oxfordshire County Council has closed their mobile library service. OCC plans to work with users of the service to find alternatives via the network of libraries, online library services and the Home Library service.

The Home Library Service is a free service, run in conjunction with Age UK and the Royal Voluntary Service, and brings books, DVDs, music CDs and audio books to people of any age who are housebound and cannot access a library due to disability, illness or full time caring responsibilities.

Details are available on line or by calling 01235 519201

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

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 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

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
parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

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 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

Parishioners are reminded that waste put into the recycling bins must not be placed in black or other opaque bags. Any waste to be placed in a bag for recycling must be in a clear plastic bag. Guidance on what is permissible and what is not permissible is available on the SODC website.

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/household-collections/recycling/what-can-i-recycle>

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/recycling/what-can-i-recycle/what-cant-be-recycled>

Farm vehicles traveling through the village carrying straw have caused problems because of the large amount thrown off onto the road. This has clogged drains, which was a problem when the water from the recent flash flood had to be drained away though clogged drains. We will be looking into how to prevent the same problem next year at around harvest time.



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
Friday 21st October
and
Friday 18th November

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.

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

A biographical drama. 2015

Directed by Matt Brown, starring Dev Patel and Jeremy Irons.

Village Association AGM

7.15pm, at the Horse & Harrow
Monday 14th November

Next edition



please e-mail copy for inclusion in the next issue by **November 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

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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.



The West Hagbourne Emergency Defibrillator is located in the Telephone Box in the Square
in the event of an emergency call 999

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for more information and photos

contact totterdells@btinternet.com 01235 850080