

Yet more houses risk our Green Gap



It is apparent that there is yet a real threat of another major planning application being prepared this time from Catesby Estates that is aimed at building 135 houses in the green gap off Park Road between Didcot and Coscote.

This is despite assurances being given by 'the planners' that a buffer will be maintained between the town and the Hagbourne's.

You may have seen exploratory archaeological test pits being dug recently in the field (which is in the Parish of East Hagbourne).

The developers are asking for people's views find more details of the housing planned and the mix at

<http://didcotconsultation.co.uk/>

Watch this space for any further details of this new development.

Eleanor Tims

We are very sad to report that Eleanor Tims died on Wednesday 17th May after a long illness.

Eleanor was a teacher all her life. She had many talents and interests including a degree in modern languages. Painting was one of her many hobbies. She was passionate about sailing and completed a single handed crossing of the Atlantic. She was also a violinist, playing in a number of orchestras, a dedicated gardener and devoted to her pets.

Drainage

Work is currently under way to sort out the drainage issues in York Road. Problems came to light in recent years when, after heavy rain, a large puddle of water would spread across the width of York Road before eventually overflowing into the other arm of York Road towards York Farm. It seems that the drains in this section of the village did not actually discharge into any drainage system but relied on a soakway, which was no longer working. There has been some traffic disruption during the work but hopefully the works will put an end to the road flooding in future.

The workmen even breached the water main which affected several homes in York Road for a day or so.



Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 10 May and was well attended, with over twenty people present. Due to a double booking of the small hall the caretaker moved us to the meeting room, so it was somewhat cramped.

The most significant part of the Chairman's report was that although we had been advised in March that there was a question mark over the Section 106 funding to carry out traffic mitigation measures in the village, in late April we heard that the funding had been confirmed. There will be a further site meeting in the village to confirm what will be done.

A plan is being considered to provide safer pedestrian access along Main Street from the pond to the west, and to ensure that traffic is aware that this is a single lane stretch of road.

There was a mixed response when those present were asked whether the parish council should provide a skip again. The council will be deciding on this at the September meeting and any views would be welcome. We received a report on the activities of the Village Association from Val Walton. This and other reports are available with the minutes of the meeting, which will be posted on the website.



Village Bus services

There are problems with the continuing provision of the 94/94A bus service. The Parish Council will be getting together with East Hagbourne and Blewbury, also served by this route, to discuss this with all the parties involved.

The service is currently losing £30,000 a year and the Oxford Bus Company / Thames Travel have said they will discuss their plans with the Parish Council when they know whether they will be the preferred bidder.

The bus service provides an important lifeline for those who do not drive and it would be a shame to lose it.

other news

General Election

Voting takes place on Thursday 8th June. Our polling station, at Hagbourne Village Hall, will be open from 07h00 until 22h00. You do not have to have a polling card in order to vote although you do need to be registered.

If anyone needs a lift to the polling station in order to vote please contact Marion on 850143.

Take this opportunity to exercise your democratic rights.



Be considerate

With the arrival of the better weather and light nights, we are more likely to be outside in the evenings. Please keep in mind that neighbours may go to bed earlier than you, and keep the noise down. Warning your neighbours in advance of parties and loud music will always be appreciated.

Be aware that both family pets and nearby farm animals can be badly frightened by fireworks.

Village Lunch

The next lunch will be held at the Horse & Harrow - Friday June 16th. If you would like to come along, just let Marion or Sue know, or contact Helen at the pub directly.

Open Gardens

Gardens open in Blewbury under the National Garden Scheme on Saturday 18 June from 2pm - 6 pm. will include Blewbury Manor, Brooks End, Green Bushes, Hall Barn and The Stocks. Combined admission will be £5 (children free).

Teas will be served at Blewbury Manor and at St Michael's Church.

Village Tidy-up

I would like to thank the 16 people who turned up to help with the Village litter pick on Saturday 8th April. This was a record turnout and it was a good thing that Margaret had her own yellow jacket because I had only got equipment for 15 people. I will obviously have to increase this next year. It was a lovely sunny, warm day which probably contributed to the turnout. We were able to cover the whole village and collected a lot of rubbish. Thanks also to the people who collected litter on their own at other times. I hope to see you all next year.

Val Brownsword



WHVA events

Summer Walk - will take place on Sunday, 9th July at 2pm, starting from The Square - all welcome.

Madge Trophy - front garden displays competition - first week in September.

Macmillan Coffee Morning - Saturday, 30th September, 10.30-12.30, at York Farm by kind permission of Richard & Mary Allen.

Autumn Walk - Sunday, 8th October at 2pm from The Square.



Dragons + tea

The Village Association would like to thank all those who took part in the St George's Day events and helped to make this year's celebration such a big success.

The fantastic displays attracted many visitors to our lovely village and this year's judge, Mrs Jayne Taboda, expressed how much she enjoyed the amazing dragons which residents had made. She was impressed with the clever use of so many different materials, the variety of interesting dragons and the brilliant St George!

The purple dragon resided in the front garden of Woodleys at The Square this year, by kind permission of Mike Parker and Rob Griffiths.

On St George's Day, and blessed by sunny weather, 15 walkers set off on an enjoyable springtime walk via Upton, dragon-spotting on the return, and finished at Chapel Hayes to join the 60 or so other villagers and visitors, who had gathered for tea and delicious homemade cakes on the back lawn.

During the afternoon, the prize-winners were announced as follows:

1st - **Suffolk Lodge**

2nd - **5 Manor Close**

Children's prize - **Wycherts**

Also, everyone was entertained by Malcolm Brownsword's wonderful audio-visual presentation of the dragons.

See photos of the other dragons and the winners as well as other news on the village website.

U3A

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.

20 June **The Foundling Hospital** - speaker John Caldicott

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. For more information phone 01235 211291 or 01235 510048 email secretary@didcotu3a.org http://u3asites.org.uk/di

Earth Trust

Bats of the Clumps - Friday 16th June, 7pm-8.30pm

Take a peek into the mysterious world of these amazing animals. Meet some bats and enjoy an informative talk by Dave Endacott of Oxfordshire Bat Group. £8 per adults £4 per child; booking essential: Beginners Wildlife Photography - Saturday 17th June, 10am-3pm Professional photographer Andrew Walmsley will help you get to grips with your camera and provide guidance on capturing images of wildlife. There are a series of workshops running throughout the next few months.

Intermediate Wildlife Photography - Sunday 18th June, 10am-3pm

This workshop will cover cataloguing and pressing.

Book one or more as a course for a discount: first workshop £80, subsequent workshops 15% off. For additional information please call 01865 407792 or email admin@earthtrust.org.uk.

keep up to date

www.westhagbourne.org

The website carries all sorts of Information, contact details and copies of minutes of all organisations

Tour de Vale

Buckinghamshire's biggest and best charity bike ride is back with three glorious routes (25km, 60km, 100km) starting and finishing at Stoke Mandeville Stadium. This year's ride takes place on Sunday 11 June.

Touring the scenic countryside, each route offers water stops and is equipped with marshals, first aid and support vehicles for your safety.

With the 2,000 capacity expected to sell out, cyclists are urged to enter early to avoid disappointment.

Email for more info:
info@wheelpower.org.uk

Road racing

Many of you will have heard the disturbances at the roundabout at the bottom of Hagbourne Hill during night hours caused by cars speeding along the A417 and repeatedly circling the roundabout. The parish council has been notified.

Please inform the police if you become concerned so they can log the number of incidents. Also, please inform the police if you see or hear cars racing through the village at night.



Hagbourne Fete

The annual Hagbourne fete will take place on **Saturday June 10th**, at the Recreation Ground and Pavilion. There will be all the usual stalls, to which contributions are always welcome, along with a fancy dress procession, dog show, penalty shoot out, coconut shy and bouncy castle.

The theme this year is Fairy Tales, so put on your thinking cap and see how you can participate.

Milestone

Up on the north side of the A417 is the only listed milestone in the parish of West Hagbourne. It's been there since the 18th Century.

It's a listed monument and since 2016 after yet again having been hit by a grass cutter, it has been left abandoned, lying on its side for over a year. **At last it has been righted** and hopefully a plan will be put in place to keep it safe in the future.

Somewhat rarely, it is Triangular in form with convex curved sides to left and right. Curved edges face the road its inscribed "Reading 17, Wantage 7".

Roundabouts

Work is progressing on the roundabout near the Kingswell Hotel. An impressive amount of earth has been brought in to bring the surrounding land up to a level with the A417 and the line of the road is now clearly visible back to the B4493 Harwell Road. The rash of new roundabouts in the area (particularly in Chilton) are clearly designed to keep traffic moving as the numbers of Didcot residents increases. We hope that the new route from Great Western Park heading south to Harwell Site and the A34 will alleviate the increased traffic through West Hagbourne.

Parish Council

Clerk

Andrew Wise
parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

Councillors

Mike Butler Chair 850 523

mike.butler@westhagbourne.org

Valerie Brownsword 850 668

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District Councillors

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jane.murphy@southoxon.gov.uk

South Oxfordshire District Council
01491 823000

County Councillor

Simon Clarke

simon.clarke@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Oxfordshire County Council

Council Meetings

are held in Hagbourne Village Hall
The next meeting will be held on
Wednesday 5 July at 7:30 pm

- see website for future dates

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

From now on, shortly before each meeting of the Parish Council the agenda will be circulated by email to all those on the list.

To comply with legal requirements, a physical copy of the agenda will still be posted on the Parish Council notice board.

Parish Email List

Many items of possible interest to parishioners are circulated by email to addresses on a list which is maintained by the Parish Clerk. If you wish to be placed on this list, or wish to check that your entry is correct, please send an email to the Clerk at parishclerk@westhagbourne.org.

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
0845 310 1111

or by writing to: Southern Area Office Oxfordshire County Council, Milton Road Drayton OX14 4EZ or go to www.westhagbourne.org/noticeboard.htm#potholes.

Fibre update

The latest update on the new high speed fibre cabinet installation in the village due at the end of York Road suggests it is ahead of schedule and may appear by July.

Once installed the village should then be able to access high speed internet.

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 16th June

Future dates will be circulated via the mailing list.

Hagbourne Fete

Sat 10th June

Hagbourne Recreation Ground.

Save the date for this important event

Village Walk

Sun 9th July

2 pm from the Square. All welcome.

Macmillan Coffee

Sat 30th Sept

10h30-12h30 at York Farm.

Didcot's Farmers' Market

is held every second Saturday of the month from 8.30am to 1.30pm

Didcot Film Club

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

It shows the sort of films you probably won't see in mainstream cinemas.

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

Can you help?

We are always keen to hear from you about news you have, or events you think other residents would like to know about.

If you have something to sell, give away or tell others about, listings are free if you live in West Hagbourne.

If you would like to contribute, help to distribute the newsletter or if you could help find additional advertisers we would love to hear from you. Get in touch:

editors@westhagbourne.org

Chilli Plant

Very large (over 1m high) productive chilli plant needs a new home. It will provide a continuous supply of chillis all year round with the right care. Free to a good home. Care instructions provided.

Contact Marion Judd, 850143



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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 **Robert Griffiths** (Woodleys)
rob.griff@yahoo.co.uk
All donations go towards our village funds.

Next edition



please e-mail copy for inclusion
in the next issue by **July 30th 2017**

about Hagbourne News

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

contact

editors@westhagbourne.org

Apologies

This edition of the newsletter has been somewhat delayed by the simultaneous failure of the computers of both editors followed by broadband failure.

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in the event of an emergency call 999

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for more information
and photos

contact totterdells@btinternet.com 01235 850080

www.westhagbourne.org