

West Hagbourne news

August 2017 ISSUE 134



Cormorant seen

A Cormorant dropped in to check out the pond in July and took much interest in the traffic queuing on the bend before deciding there were other places to visit.

Wycherts update

As you will have noticed over the past year or so, we have finally started properly renovating the outside of Wycherts (we spent our first 5 or 6 years on the inside, since we had to be able to live in it while we are repairing and restoring it!). This is an inevitably time consuming job as we are making sure that it is done properly, stripping off all the cement render that causes the wood frame to rot, repairing the frame where needed, using traditional building materials that will keep the frame from

further rotting into the future, and as many of you will know, we are doing a lot of the work on it ourselves having been on several courses to ensure we have the necessary craft skills, so it can largely only be done at weekends and during holidays. So firstly, an apology for the mess the house looks (and has looked for a number of years) while we do this – I'm afraid it will continue to look a bit of a mess for a while yet, while we work our way round the house. But, having almost finished the gable end on the road, you should be able to get a sense of how it will look once it is completed and after completion the maintenance should be quick in comparison! Secondly, we have increasingly, over the past few years, become concerned about the state of the cobb wall and the damage that traffic splashing is causing to it. You will notice that it has just had it's 10 -yearly re-thatch. We have consulted a historic building surveyor about the best approach and we have obtained conservation office approval to put a sacrificial coat of lime render and lime wash on the wall so that it is this lime covering that will deteriorate with the likely splashing from the traffic over the next few years, rather than the wall itself.

Good News: Bus Reprieve

The 94/94A bus service is to continue at least until the end of March 2018.

As many people know, we've been uncertain what would happen with the 94/94A following the one-year trial period that began last July. The DVTG (Downland Villages Transport Group) has had notice from Thames Travel that the 94/94A will be continuing to operate until at least the end of March 2018. Our goal now is to help the bus route become commercially viable, so that when the next review occurs, we again keep our service.

The DVTG would like to thank all the residents of our villages who use the buses - and also all who have attended meetings about our bus services, sent in their views on the buses, and/or written to local politicians: it's been great to hear how important the bus is in people's lives and to get a sense of our residents' commitment to keeping vital services available for everyone. Please do keep using the bus - and if you aren't already using it, try it out! Even if you only use it once a month, you're helping to maintain the service

Val Brownsword & Terry Pritchard

This will, of course, change the visual appearance of the wall (it will resemble the cobb walls that one sees in Blewbury with their lime-washed surfaces). Because it will change the appearance, we wanted to put this notice in the newsletter so that villagers are forewarned about the change that they will see happen to the wall (most likely in September or October). We appreciate how important a traditional and sympathetic restoration is to the village given the central location of Wycherts in the middle of our conservation area. If you've got any questions or are simply curious to know more than let us know

eve_setch@hotmail.com or
tombarker123@hotmail.com.

Eve, Tom and Edward

the Ridgeway

Oxford University will be on The Ridgeway with a drone this summer. They are studying how long distance trails can connect increasingly fragmented habitats. Have you noticed significant declines of particular plants or animals along The Ridgeway during your lifetime? Would you like to help talk to the public on the Trail whilst the drone is flying? If so, please email ridgeway@oxfordshire.gov.uk Update on Strategic Links Project – we have a grant to do work on links to 4 settlements in the western half of the Trail. The money will be used to enhance signposting and local information about access to the Ridgeway, recognised as Britain's oldest road. Summer Events include: Sun 23 July Guided walk from Ewelme Spot butterflies and yellow hammers. Nr Wallingford, Oxon (Chiltern Society) Discover Ewelme and an ancient Danish entrenchment.

Sun 27– Mon 28 Aug (Bank Holiday): The White Horse Show 2017, near Uffington. Music, dogs, planes, fun fair, working horses & more. Bill Bailey, the well-known comedian, is walking The Ridgeway this July to raise money for Stand Up to Cancer (SU2C). He is one of hundreds of people who fund-raise for good causes by walking or riding along The Ridgeway. Bill will be walking 100 miles in 6 days along the Icknield Way and the Ridgeway. Go online to sponsor him. Please also note 18th October for the Ridgeway's forum being held jointly with the North Wessex Downs AONB – the theme is The Great Outdoors and all our parish and town councils are welcome to attend. It is your chance to meet up, discuss, learn and shape the work on the Trail and the wider AONB...and eat a nice lunch!

Village Assoc.

Thankfully the searing heat of previous days abated slightly in time for 7 keen walkers and 1 dog to gather for our 3rd village walk. After setting off up Moor Lane we joined the railway line and walked towards Upton, enjoying the beautiful display of summer blooms and spotting a few Marbled White and Meadow Brown butterflies along the way. Once in Upton, we turned left by the church along the footpath to join Moor Lane again. We continued then, walking east along the lane until we met the Blewbury path, turning left to Fieldside in East Hagbourne. The shade from the overhanging trees along Parsonage Lane was very welcome, as was the cooling Brook for the dog to paddle in! Out onto Main Road, we turned left again, passed the Fleur, turned into Church Close by the cross, through the churchyard, and returned into the village along Church Path and Foxglove Lane, covering a total distance of 3.5 miles. You are welcome to join us for the autumn walk on Sunday, 8th Oct, meeting at The Square at 2pm.

other news

Reminders

Judging for the **Madge Trophy** front garden competition will take place during the first week in September. All front gardens are automatically entered.

Macmillan Coffee Morning - the Association will be hosting this charity event in the grounds of York Farm, by kind permission of Richard & Mary Allen, on Saturday 30th September - 10.30am-12.30pm. We would be very grateful to receive donations of homemade cakes, which can be handed to any member of the committee or brought along to York Farm on the morning of the event. We hope to see you there.

Appeal - following recent hirings of the Association's marquees and equipment, we have discovered that 4 tables and 4 chairs are missing. If you have, or know anybody who has, hired/borrowed the tables and chairs within the last 2 months, please check to make sure they have not been misplaced.

If you have any information regarding this equipment, please telephone Rob Griffiths on 851241 a.s.a.p. as we will be needing this vital equipment for forthcoming events. Thank you.

Village Lunch

The next village lunch will be at the Horse and Harrow on **Friday August 18th**. If you would like to come along, just let Marion or Sue know, or contact Helen at the pub directly

Deaths

We are sad to report the deaths of three long term residents of West Hagbourne. **Jean Warner** who lived at 7 Manor Close, died on Wednesday 28th June. She had been ill for some time and her husband Bill had been looking after her at home. However she was taken into hospital earlier in the week and died on the Wednesday. People who have lived in the village for some years will remember Jean and Bill's garden as the clear winner of the Front Garden competitions for many years.

We also report the sad death of **Ken Bishop** on 9th July. Born in 1927 he was almost 90.

Arriving on a horse and cart, Ken had been carried into 5 York Road as a babe-in-arms, a house he would live in for his whole life. Not a lot of people knew that he grew the biggest pumpkins in the village and gave them to his neighbours for Halloween. He also grew them for 'other' people and on more than one occasion he won 'several' of the places in the annual Pumpkin competition held at the Horse & Harrow.

In 1946 he had been 'called up' and joined the Royal Army Service Corps where he became a Driver serving in Greece until October 1948 when he was discharged into the Reserves. Ken went on to work up at the Atomic as a grounds man and tree surgeon - spending most of his life in the fresh air. In his spare time he had done all sorts of odd jobs around the village from digging out Moor Lane ditch by hand, to picking fruit, pruning apple trees and hay bale carting. Many of the gardens in the Hagbourne's relied on some level of help from Ken, whether it was keeping hedges under control or felling trees.

Air Quality

Some of you might have noticed a small plastic tube attached to the bus shelter for a couple of weeks last month. This was an air pollution monitor that I obtained from Friends of the Earth for the princely sum of £15. I sent it off for analysis at the end of the two weeks and have recently received the results. It is good news. The only thing that they measured were the levels of Nitrogen Dioxide and the result was 18.2 micrograms per cubic metre which is well below the level at which the annual legal limit is set. The European Union has set the legal limit for Nitrogen Dioxide pollution at an annual mean of 40 micrograms per cubic metre. This is a snapshot of the air pollution for the place & time we were monitoring. Lots of things affect pollution levels over the course of the year, such as variations in the weather. This means that the average results could look very different from the snapshot. We do know that most areas in the UK are currently failing to meet legal limits set by the EU. Short and long term exposure to Nitrogen Dioxide can have significant negative health effects.

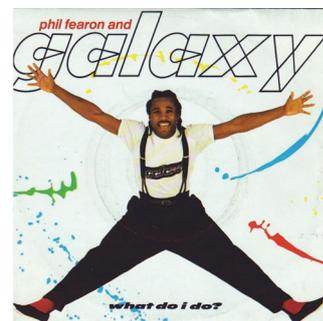
You can look at the results on the Friends of the Earth UK wide air pollution map.

Val Brownsword

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.

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



Harrowfest

This summer sees the first Harrowfest event at the Horse and Harrow pub. Put Saturday 2nd September in your diary now if you want to rewind to the 80's and jump into the 90's with DJ Stephanie Fearon (BBC1 Over the Rainbow) and eighties legend Phil Fearon & Galaxy along with Mizz Lyrikal. Buy your tickets from the Horse & Harrow, or on line, now to avoid disappointment.

VIP tickets £30 and Standard tickets £20 or an earlybird price of £15. From 2 pm until late, Local bands, live DJs, face painting, food and free parking. for more details email harrowfest@gmail.com

New Waste

An investment of £6.5 million pounds means a brand new fleet of waste and recycling trucks will provide new and improved collections to households across southern Oxfordshire. The trucks - due to hit the roads in the autumn - will replace the old vehicles which are becoming unreliable as they reach the end of their life. The new vehicles, managed by contractor Biffa, will carry out the waste, recycling and food recycling collection services for all 115,000 households across the districts. The current trucks are over seven years old and were due to be replaced in 2017. As they reach the end of their life, they have started to become unreliable with some unfortunately breaking down en-route. In recent weeks, this has started to cause some disruption to household collection services and we would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused to residents.

Ride and Stride Earth Trust

Oxfordshire Historic Church Trust organises an annual Ride and Stride sponsored event to raise essential funds to repair, restore and improve the county's churches. This year's event takes place on 9th September. Participants travel between our wonderful churches, enjoying their architecture and history which, let's face it, we often take for granted. The funds raised ensures their beauty can be appreciated by future generations.

So why not get on your bike, feet, horse, tractor or any form of transport you choose to search out and support all the finest church architecture Oxfordshire has to offer? Our churches are not only places of worship, they are community focal points, providing a venue for playgroups, events, celebrations, festivals as well as being a place of peace and sanctuary. Thanks to over 500 participants we raised £115,000 last year but that isn't enough to help our churches and communities in need.

Our 2017 target of £140,000. Over 500 churches in the county will open their doors to participants between 10am and 6pm. Age is no excuse, our youngest participant last year was just a few months old and our eldest ninety one!

keep up to date

www.westhagbourne.org

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

A variety of activities is on offer - see the website for full details.

Little Explorers: Thursday 10th August, 10am-11.30am Sensory buggy/sling walk for babies and toddlers. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free.

Discover and Play: Friday 11th August, 10am-12pm Forest School for the under-5s. £4 suggested donation per adults, accompanying adult(s) free.

Meteor Shower Walk: Friday 11th August, 8pm-10pm. Join us for a starlit walk around the Clumps and then settle down to enjoy the show that the annual Perseid meteor shower provides. Bring a flask of hot chocolate and a blanket! Appropriate for older children and adults. £6 adult, £3 child; booking essential: 01865 407792.

Night Safari: Tuesday 15th August, 8pm-10pm Join us for this night-time expedition to discover Mowbray Field's wildlife, who knows what you might find? On the evening, you'll also set up live traps ready for tomorrow's event. £7 adult, £4 child; booking essential: 01865 407792

Wildlife Wednesday at Mowbray Fields: Wednesday 16th August, 10am-12pm Our roving Wildlife Wednesday visits a different Earth Trust community nature reserve each school holiday. Come out and play and learn about your local wildlife! £2 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free.

Family Bushcraft: Thursday 17th August, 10am-4pm. Bring the whole family and go wild in the great outdoors! You'll explore the woods, build a waterproof shelter, and light fires by hand. £22 adult, £17 child; booking essential

Woodland Adventure: Wednesday 30th August, 10am-12pm An expedition for 5-8 year olds. Use your detective skills to explore, build and play in the woods! £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free.

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

Simon Clarke

simon.clarke@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Oxfordshire County Council

Council Meetings

are held in Hagbourne Village Hall

- 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 new cabinet has been installed at the end of York Road.

Once connected and functioning the village should then at last 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 18th August Future dates will be circulated via the mailing list.

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.

editors@westhagbourne.org

for sale

Chunky Oat Cookies made with all natural, locally sourced ingredients.

£3 for a pack of 8 cookies

Choose from Stem Ginger, Cranberry, Seed & Nutmeg, and Fruit & Spice

to order contact Mandy at 3 Manor Close.

wanted

Does anyone have any unwanted baking sheets? Mandy at 3 Manor Close would be pleased to hear from you.

www.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 **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

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in the event of an emergency call 999

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