

Village Association News

St George's Day Celebrations

The Village Association committee would like to thank everyone who took part in this year's St George's Day display competition. No fewer than 30 truly unique dragons blazed across the front gardens of the village, each one imaginatively created with skill and ingenuity, and worthy of commendation.

Well done to 5, Manor Close, the overall winner, whose St George was kept very busy fighting-off not one, but two dragons! Ash Farm, who displayed a most endearing dragon that showed its support for the nation's key workers, was the runner-up, and this year's children's prize winner was 6, York Road for their colourful

dragon who watched every passer-by from the garden wall.

The displays proved as popular as ever and were greatly appreciated. Many households demonstrated their support for the NHS through their displays and in recognition of this, the committee has donated, on behalf of the village, £5.00 for each dragon displayed, (total £150.00), to Oxford Hospitals Charity.

Photos of all the displays are available to view on the village website, so that if your friends and family were unable to come and see them this year, they can still enjoy them. Many thanks to Malcolm Brownsword the photographer, and John Baile the webmaster for organising this for us.



The Children's Prize went to 6 York Road

Madge Trophy front gardens competition

So far, it's been a difficult year for gardeners, especially with plant centres being closed and the challenge of late frosts and cold north-easterly winds. Despite this, some of the early perennials are already flowering and adding welcome colour to our gardens.

The judging of the front gardens competition will take place this month, although the exact date is not known at the time of print. Our

judge will be looking at layout, in particular planting schemes and colour, in beds, containers and hanging baskets.

As ever, we thank you for your support,

Margaret Leishman (Chair)

If you wish to get in touch with the Village Association, you can email: va@westhagbourne.org or you can telephone Margaret on 01235 851707.



Overall winner: 5 Manor Close



Runner up: Ash Farm, York Road

Parish Council

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was held on video conferencing on 13 May. Four councillors were able to attend together with the Clerk and a District councillor.

Michael Butler was re-elected as chairman and Hugh Lewis as re-elected as vice chairman.

A point had been raised about the status of the footpath to Didcot which is closed at present. The District councillor has since confirmed that the current temporary closure is in effect until 31 December 2020 or until the works that caused the closure are completed, whichever is the sooner. An officer at SODC is liaising with Taylor Wimpey and the path

must be provided in an undamaged and usable state

Minutes will be circulated in the normal way.

If there is still lockdown when the next parish council meeting is due we hope to make it open to members of the public who give us notice.

The Annual Parish Meeting has been postponed and we are looking to have one by video conferencing. Details of this will be provided. If any villagers have points they wish to discuss at an Annual Parish Meeting, could you please send them to the Parish Clerk as soon as possible.

Mike Butler (Chair)

other news

VE Day

When the email from SODC arrived suggesting ways we might like to celebrate VE Day, despite the lockdown, my first thought was that there was not enough time to organise anything. After all, it was already Wednesday 6th May. It seems not everyone was so unprepared. West Hagbourne celebrated with its usual invention and enthusiasm. Bunting and flags, many of them home-made, appeared in the front gardens and at 11 am on May 8th many villagers appeared in their front gardens to share a sociable coffee and cake moment with their neighbours. There was big band music and some dressing up but most of all a spirit of sharing the experience with neighbours, even while observing a safe 2m separation.



VE celebrations in York Road and Manor Close



Villagers observing the two minute silence on Friday 8th May

A small group of villagers met at the bus shelter, the village War Memorial, to observe the two-minute silence together and remember those from the village who had died in the two wars.

Shielding the Vulnerable

A dedicated phone line provides our extremely vulnerable residents with access to a central team who can offer advice on a range of issues.

It will be operational from 8:30am to 8:00pm Monday to Friday, and 9:00am - 5:00pm Saturday and Sunday.

If you or someone you know has been identified as extremely vulnerable by the NHS and have no support network, please contact the dedicated team

Call 01865 89 78 20 or email shield@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

For those residents not in a high risk category but still in need of support, visit Oxfordshire All In or Oxford Together for more information on community support near you.

In South Oxfordshire and Vale of

White Horse, anyone that is not considered high risk and does not have a support network around them to help, will be able to call their dedicated support line from 27 March at 9:00am on 01235 422600 or email communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

The County and District Councils in Oxfordshire are working to maintain frontline council services. For queries related to everyday council service please check out the County, or relevant District website.

For more advice and information on Covid-19, please visit Public Health England.

Symptoms

High temperature

This means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back

(you do not need to measure your temperature).

A new, continuous cough

This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

Loss of sense of smell or taste

Village Footpaths

There has been a significant increase in footfall on village footpaths since the restrictions on movement were put in place. In the main this has been a positive change and most people seem to have been observing safe distancing as much as possible. One downside, though, has been an increase in the number of abandoned 'dog poo' bags

along the busiest routes. It is hard to follow the logic of someone who will pick up the poo and carefully enclose it in a plastic bag, and then place the bag on a twig in the hedge or just alongside the footpath. If you see someone doing this, please point out to them that their bag is not going to biodegrade in the foreseeable future and it will have to be removed.

In the longer term, there seems to be a need for more bins for these bags. In particular, one would be useful where School Path runs alongside the stream (this is possibly in East Hagbourne) and where the footpath crosses from Moor Lane, near the horses and then up to Upton. This might be something to raise at the Annual Parish Meeting for the PC to discuss. If cost is an issue, it might be possible to raise the money with a village event once restrictions are lifted.

Hagbourne Parish Charities

Hagbourne Charities is a "Relief in Need" charity whose aim is to provide small-scale emergency financial assistance to residents of its benefit area – East and West Hagbourne and the Northbourne area of Didcot. It can respond quickly and without red tape by providing a small sum of money at a moment of especially urgent need, almost anything that is not available

from normal state or local authority provisions.

Funds are limited so grants can only be single payments unlikely to exceed £50.

In these difficult times if you know of a case in immediate need in our benefit area please call 07572401769 or email hagbourne.charities@gmail.com

Covid19 support group

A big thank you to the many residents who have been helping their neighbours through this period of restricted movement and social isolation. Of course, it is not over yet, so if you need to access this service please contact us via our dedicated email address: covid@westhagbourne.org or call Lillie (07894 343281) or Sue (850080).

How it works

Offers of help include local shopping, prescription collection, dog walking, taking post, or just being a round for a chat if you tire of your own four walls.

If you need a prescription to be collected, please try to let us know before 11am and we will

try to arrange collection the same day. If you require some shopping, please don't wait until the last minute as it may take a day or two to respond.

When someone gets in touch we will circulate the request round the list of volunteers to see who is available on the day. That person will then contact you directly to establish exactly what are your needs.

Stay in the know

The newsletter only comes out every two months and the situation changes rapidly. Check the village website for up to date information and if you are on-line, sign up to the Clerk's mailing list. Send him your contact details:

westhagbournepc@gmail.com

Village Garden

With summer here the planters would normally be filled with bedding plants to provide summer colour. This year is somewhat different as, with the closure of garden centres until very recently it was uncertain whether bedding plants would be available. Instead the decision was made to rely more heavily on perennial planting in the pots and troughs to provide season-long interest and colour.



This is already established in the garden plots on either side of the bus shelter which continue to flourish. It remains to be seen if this experiment is successful.

Parish Council

Clerk

Andrew Wise
parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

Councillors

Mike Butler (Chair) 850523
mike.butler@westhagbourne.org
Hugh Lewis 851113
hugh.lewis@westhagbourne.org
Mike Telford 851236
mike.telford@westhagbourne.org
Oliver Doogue 851156
oliver.doogue@westhagbourne.org
Louise Beaumont 07943 799472
louise.beaumont@westhagbourne.org

District Councillors

Pat Dawe and Jane Murphy
pat.dawe@southoxon.gov.uk
jane.murphy@southoxon.gov.uk

County Councillor

Simon Clarke
simon.clarke@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Council Meetings

These 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 sent to you.
www.westhagbourne.org/pc_minutes.htm

From now on, shortly before the meeting of the Parish Council, the agenda will be circulated to all those on the list. To comply with legal requirements, a copy of the agenda will also be posted on the PC noticeboard.

Planning updates

If you wish to be notified about planning applications that affect West Hagbourne you can sign up for email alerts.

Contact Andrew Wise:
parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

Parish email list

If you wish to be placed on this list, or with to check that your entry is correct, please send an email to the Clerk at parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

HGVs and Potholes

HGVs and potholes are a persistent issue on the roads in the village and beyond. If you can supply a photograph that gives some idea of the extent of a pothole this will help assess the urgency if its repair.

You can do this online at:
fixmystreet.com

Or:
highwaysenquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Telephone: 08453101111

Web site:
www.westhagbourne.org/noticeboard.htm#potholes

HGVs not delivering to an address in the village should be reported to Trading Standards. If possible, you should take a photograph but definitely write down a description and registration number as soon as possible. Reports can be made to:
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/trading-standards/weight-restriction-enforcement>

Keep up to date
www.westhagbourne.org

The website carries information, news and contact details as well as copies of the minutes of all village organisations

local news

Can you help the scientists?

The Oxford Vaccine Centre's COVID-19 vaccine trial is being run by the Jenner Institute and Oxford Vaccine Group. The team, who started work on developing a vaccine to prevent COVID-19 in January is led by Prof. Sarah Gilbert, Prof. Andrew Pollard, Prof. Teresa Lambe, Dr Sandy Douglas, Prof. Catherine Green and Prof. Adrian Hill.

The purpose of this new study is to test a new vaccine against COVID-19 in around 10,000 healthy volunteers. You have to be over 18 but older recruits are also being sought. Participation requires up to 12 visits to the testing centre in Oxford during the study year. For more information go to the study's website:

<https://covid19vaccintrial.co.uk/participate-oxford>



All U3A face to face meetings have been cancelled until further notice. However, many interest groups are now using platforms for virtual meetings as group members get to grips with the necessary technology.

If you are interested in joining one of the groups, go to the Didcot U3A website for details of the group leader and find out what they are offering: www.u3asites.org.uk/didcot

can you help?

We are always keen to hear from you about news you have or events you think might interest other residents.

If you would like to contribute, help to distribute the newsletter or if you could find other advertisers, we would love to hear from you.

editors@westhagbourne.org

local events

Horse & Harrow Village Lunch Club

Although the pub is closed and the village lunch cancelled until further notice, Helen and Tony would like to

help residents. Helen can make and deliver free of charge soups/stews/curries to those who are in extra special need such as being in isolation.

If you would like to check out this option, call her on 07875327260.



Little Acorns Nursery

Happy, family run day nursery and out of school care.

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Flexible sessions - am, pm, term time, school day.

For further information, to request a brochure or to arrange a visit please contact us

01235 851423 or email littleacornsnursery1@gmail.com

Main Street, West Hagbourne, Didcot



Mary Ann Le May GARDEN DESIGNS

Blissetts Main Street West Hagbourne Oxfordshire OX11 0ND

01235 850523

www.maryannndesign.co.uk

Marquees

The Village Association has two Marquees available for hire:

12x5 metres & 11x4 metres

at a cost of £50 each plus a returnable deposit of £75

Tables and/or chairs are also available at £50 plus a returnable deposit of £75

Please note that the Association will not be responsible for any claims for accidents that may occur during the rental.

For advance booking and details please contact **Robert Griffiths** (Woodleys)- rob.griff@yahoo.co.uk

All donations go towards our village funds

Next Edition

This newsletter is written and edited by Sue Totterdell every two months. Contributions are especially welcomed for local events. The deadline is the 15th of the month before publication. Please submit any contributions on line if possible.



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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