

Village Association News

St George's Day Charitable Donation

We have received a thank you card from the Oxford Hospitals Charity in response to the donation of £150.00 we sent, on behalf of the village, following our very successful St George's Day competition in April. It reads, "Your donation will make a real difference to where the hospitals need it most".

Madge Trophy Front Gardens Competition

Judging took place on 10th June, when this year's judges, Jenny and Penny from East Hagbourne, were guided around the village by one of our committee members, Bridget. They were delighted to have been invited, and had a most enjoyable afternoon. The results of the competition and the judges report is as follows:

In a difficult year, many people have made a big effort and we commend everyone on the neatness of their gardens.

Winner:

Green Thatch, Main Street

Colourful pots and hanging baskets highlight a beautiful garden with a lot of evergreen structure. The area with ornamental grasses is particularly attractive.



Green Thatch, Main Street

Highly commended:

5, Grove Terrace

A very neat and colourful garden, obviously belonging to someone who loves it. Just the right scale for the house.

1, Main Street

Well tended, and will soon be colourful when the small bedding plants come into their own.

Enard Cottage, Moor Lane

The thyme bed at the front is at its peak, as are the roses. A tidy garden.

Congratulations to you all!

Macmillan Coffee Morning cancelled

Sadly, another one of the village's popular community events, our Macmillan coffee morning, will not be taking place this year due to the restrictions on social gatherings. However, this does not mean we cannot support the wonderful work this charity does, and the World's Biggest Coffee Morning is still going ahead on Friday, 25th September, albeit in a different way, enjoying a cup of coffee at home with their family or whilst sitting in the garden with a friend or two. So if you are planning on taking part, you can donate money on-line, or if you prefer, write a cheque (no cash,



5 Grove Terrace

please), and deliver it in a sealed envelope to one of the following committee members:

June Little, Lenton, York Road.

Margaret Leishman, Chapel Hayes, Main Street.

Julie, 1. Main Street.

Cheques made payable to Macmillan Cancer Support can be handed in between 15th and 30th September, please. They will be paid in for you by our Treasurer.

On-line donations can be made at www.macmillan.org.uk

As ever, we thank you for your support,

Margaret Leishman (Chair)



1 Main Street

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

Parish Council

Following the resignation of Louise Beaumont as a councillor, the Parish Council needs to co-opt someone to the Council so that we have the required number of councillors. Anybody willing to fill the position is requested to advise the Clerk, the Chair or any other councillor. This is an important position and it is essential that we have a volunteer.

The issue of overhanging foliage on both the footpath and the road in Main Street was raised at the last Council meeting following representations from a

concerned resident. The Parish Council would like to remind all residents and not just those in Main Street that it is their responsibility to cut back overhanging foliage to keep footpaths clear for pedestrians and roads clear for vehicles including high sided farm vehicles transporting straw which may get knocked off by overhanging foliage in Main Street.

The Chair has contacted Highways about the outstanding work to be done in the village, and is in discussions with them. He has also reported the most recent car crash adjacent the pond.

Mike Butler (Chair)

other news

Mike Duck (1936-2020)



Mike Duck with Planegg twinning friend, Wolfgang Hölzel

It is with much sadness that we report the death of longterm West Hagbourne resident, Mike Duck. Mike and his wife Penny moved into York Road in 1975, raising their family there. Below is an edited version of the eulogy by Stephen Duck given at his funeral on 16th July at Cholsey Church.

"The task of condensing a life into a few thousand words is not an easy one, particularly when that life was as rich as my Dad's. So how do you go about it? Oscar Wilde said that you can 'judge a man by the effect he has over his friends'. Reading through your memories of him has been a big comfort, and

highlighted a number his characteristics.

Firstly, Dad loved people

Born in Bristol, in November of 1936 the only child of Doris and Harry, an RAF officer. When Mike was three, the family moved to Tilehurst in Reading. His stable, nurturing childhood made him the kind of person that made and retained close friendships at every step of his journey through life. He encouraged his friends to meet each other, creating new links. I recall a great many parties during my childhood at the house in Hagbourne. He was a cooker of curries, a brewer of elderflower wine and beer.

Despite his socialising activities, and his numerous clubs, he was always a family man – always there for Mum, Richard and I when we needed him. When we lost Mum to cancer in 2008, the family was knocked for six but Dad kept us together.

Secondly, he made things happen

Dad was captain of the Didcot Chess club for decades. Even as late as this year, in quite ill health, he launched the online 'Corona' tournament. Similarly at Harwell Croquet club, he encouraged new players, including teaching my daughter Maggie to play by setting up shots that could not fail. Dad and mum also enjoyed long weekends with friends in exciting European destinations, enlivened by a high likelihood that he would lose his wallet, his glasses or both.

Many activities involved a pub - the monthly lunch club at the 'Horse and Harrow', boat trips along the Thames, walks with friends and family. Despite encountering barbed wire, bulls, and mud the pub was finally reached.

Thirdly, life-long learning,

Dad graduated from Reading University in 1958 with a degree in Chemistry, which was to be his life long passion. His special coating for the solar panels,

fired into space on the French Ariane rocket, is apparently still orbiting the earth. Later, he gained a PhD in the Theory of Colour and Goethe's rejection of Newton's 'Opticks', being invited to speak all over the world.

Where Mike excelled intellectually, he was perhaps less practical. His car was speckled with bumps, scratches, or dents, often remedied with duct tape and paint that never quite matched the rest of the bodywork. He also appeared not to possess an iron. In fact clothes in general were not dad's strong point. You could say he sported the classic Harwell Scientist look.

Fourthly, some mild obsessions

This included Nuclear power, Royal Berkshire, Brexit, Germany (especially Munich), Classical music, Great military battles, how everyone should play Bridge, how all children should learn chess. You may know some others.

He will be loved, missed and remembered by us all because of these wonderful attributes that only he had. So it with a heavy heart that I have to say Goodbye Dad, God Bless, and 'Auf Wiedersehen, mein Freund'.

The full version is available on the village website.

Accident at the Pond

Once again damage has been caused to the fencing beside the pond, this time by a car crashing into it on the night of July 15th. The police attended the scene. It is likely that the repairs to the posts and chain link fence will have to wait until the end of harvest time during which time the edge of the pond will be unprotected.



Hagbourne vintage

It seems that climate change is making grape cultivation more profitable at the Yew Tree Vineyard in south Oxfordshire. The initial planting of vines at Coscote corner seems to have doubled in size this spring and provides a contrast to the usual cereal crops. We look forward to the first Hagbourne Fête des Vins.



Covid19 support group

A big thank you to all volunteers. You have made a difference.

The group continues to provide support for those people who have been advised to continue to shield members of their families and those reluctant to risk the wider environment. Up to this week the group of 26 volunteers has dealt with at least 15 requests for help with shopping and more than 30 prescription collections. The group also dealt with a couple of visits to the post office and

circulated information about two cats.

For more information contact covid@westhagbourne.org or call Lillie (07894 343281) or Sue (850080).

The Community Hub (SODC) remains in place and residents who need help can still contact them on 01235 422600 or communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk but from 1 August, only during normal office hours.

HGV's

There has long been a problem with HGVs trying to negotiate their way through the village. Residents have been encouraged to report vehicles, with supporting photographs to Trading Standards.

Earlier this year details of such a vehicle were passed to Trading Standards for investigation. The outcome was disappointing and highlights a problem that we need to resolve. The HGV driver successfully argued that, having joined Park Road from Queensway, he did not see a weight limit sign until Coscote by which time it was too late to find somewhere to turn. He was let off. Trading Standards suggest that a weight limit sign installed as Park Road leaves Didcot's built up area, opposite Larch Drive would resolve this for future cases.

The matter has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council and our County Councillor. However it could be useful, if you feel strongly about this issue, for individual villagers to contact councillors directly. With the continuing development around Didcot, there should still be money that could be allocated to this essential new signage.

Village Garden

The somewhat unusual gardening year continues. The flower beds provide colour, in particular the hydrangeas to the left of the bus shelter and the perennial geraniums under the noticeboard. The Philadelphus (Mock orange), with its delicious scent, flowered for several weeks next to the bench but was finally invaded by blackfly and has now been pruned. The dahlias in the pots have striking dark foliage and bright orange and red flowers while the chrysanthemums in the planters under the horse chestnut tree are now coming into flower. An unexpected recycling success.

Planning

Work has started on the houses being built between the pub and the garage. They seem to have progressed rapidly. Although these were originally listed as self-build plots, it does look as though they are all being built by the same developer.

Building has also started on a bungalow in Manor Close. In addition, there are consultations on the Didcot Gateway development, near the station

(<http://didcotgateway.co.uk>).

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

District Councillors

Anne-Marie Simpson
Anne-Marie.Simpson@southoxon.gov.uk

Jane Murphy
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 wish 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](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/trading-standards/weight-restriction-enforcement)

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

Horse & Harrow Village Lunch Club

Now that restrictions on pub openings have been lifted, I have been asked by some members of the lunch club whether we have plans to restart our monthly lunches at the Horse and Harrow. It would be useful to hear from our usual diners, and from villagers who might like to join us in the future, whether they feel the time is right to reinstate this activity. Would they feel happier if we could be accommodated at a table outside, at least during the summer?

The original plan was to support our local pub and it does seem that they need this support more than ever at the moment.



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



School's out for summer!

If you have teenagers (14+) at home who love theatre & are looking for some way to

express themselves then look into Stand By Online

@StandByTC

featuring interactive activities & a free online show to watch for inspiration

<https://cornerstone-arts.org/whats/stand-online>

Little Acorns Nursery

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

01235 851423 or email littleacornnursery1@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.griffith@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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