

Village Association News

Firstly, the committee wishes you a Happy New Year and a warm welcome to all the new residents in the village. Hopefully before too long, we will have the opportunity to meet you at one of our social events.

Dragons 2021!

This year the St George's Day competition event will run from Sundays, 11th to 25th April, during which time you are invited to create a St George and/or Dragon themed display in your front garden. Again, we have left the scope for the

displays open because we know that villagers have very wide-ranging, creative and expressive ideas that produce the most varied exhibits. We look forward to seeing all your wonderful dragons, etc. blazing around the village! Sadly, it looks likely that we will not be able to hold the teas or village walk events again this year due to social restrictions, however, we do know from the reaction of visitors taking their daily exercise around the village, that the displays were very much appreciated last year. More

details regarding prizes and judging will be given in the April edition.

If you are one of our new residents and would like to know more about the competition, please get in touch.

Committee vacancies.

We currently have 3 vacancies on the committee so, if you would like to join us, we would love to hear from you. We usually hold 4 meetings per year, including our AGM in November, and run several community events throughout the year. The saying "more hands make light work" especially applies to the Village Association, so we would also like to hear from you if you could spare a little time, a few times a year to help us set up and clear away marquees and other equipment or serve teas during the community events. Contact details va@westhagbourne.org or call 851707.

Thank you.

Margaret Leishman, Chair



Parish Council

We have been informed that repair work on the furniture along the Sustrans route from Upton to East Hagbourne will commence in April. We are currently in discussions with the County Council about work to the footpath between West and East Hagbourne. It is in a poor state and we also wish it to be made suitable as a cycle track throughout.

The Parish Council has received notification of a proposed single storey extension to a house in York Road. Under new planning laws the parish council is not able to comment on the extension and any matters must be raised by neighbours themselves.

The next council meeting will be on Zoom on Wednesday 3 March. If you have any matters you wish to raise please notify the Clerk by 17 February.

Mike Butler, WHPC Chair

East Hagbourne Shop



EHCS Fund – 'Giving Back to the Community' are delighted to announce the winners of the East Hagbourne Community Shop Fund! Congratulations to Style Acre Tea Room, who garnered the most Customer votes, winning the top donation of £500! Style Acre Tea Room plans to use the funds for outdoor gear to help continue operations during inclement weather.



Support your local shop. Volunteers needed.

Post Office hours:

Monday - Thursday, 9am - 12pm; Saturday 9am - 12:30pm. **CLOSED FRIDAYS**

Shop:

Monday to Friday 9-4pm, Saturdays 9-12:30pm.

COVID Support Group

In response to a recent question, yes the COVID support group is still functioning. Requests for help dried up in the summer as people made arrangements with family, friends and specific neighbours but we are still here to help if required. Just call Sue (850080) or Lillie (07712 429811).

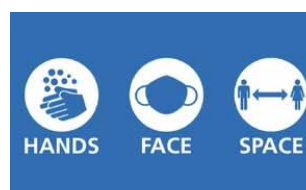
COVID vaccinations

As older people in the village are vaccinated against the COVID virus, it will be tempting to let down our guards, seeking a rapid return to normal. The key to holding on to this hard-won advance in dealing with the pandemic, though, needs us to resist this.

No vaccine is 100% effective: as with the flu vaccine, given every year to the older community, it is possible to become infected despite being vaccinated although the resulting illness is usually less severe.

It is anticipated that the vaccine will need to be adapted each year to provide protection against the most likely variants of the virus that will be circulating that winter,

It is not yet known whether people who have been vaccinated can still carry the virus (without becoming ill themselves) and pass it on to others. This question will only be



answered with time, as more people have been vaccinated.

If COVID19 is still circulating widely in the community we run the risk of more mutations, which could lead to more infectious variants of the virus.

So, even once lockdown is over, continue to keep your distance, wash your hands, wear a mask (to protect you and the people you meet), meet outdoors or in a well ventilated room and self-isolate/test if you think you have symptoms.

other news

HUGS Brown bin advice

As the pandemic affects our council garden waste collection, we thought we'd share some tips on composting with you. A good, lockdown half-day project in the garden, whatever the weather!

There are many benefits to home composting; it's greener than having it taken away, it's great to have a free source of mulch/compost to use in the garden and you're helping wildlife too.

So, how to get started? First, choose where to do your composting. A shady /semi-shady area is good – perhaps a corner of the garden? Then, what to compost in? Wildlife, including owls, would be very happy with an open compost heap somewhere they can access it. If this isn't an option

and you're short of space, there are many options including building your own with recycled wood or buy a kit made from recycled plastic or FSC wood.

Next, if you can, place the compost bin on bare earth and then ideally add quite a lot of material in one go to get it started. From there, try to layer in green waste (leaves / grass) with brown layers (brush wood /cardboard). Check that air can get into the heap and not too much rain gets in at the top. Then once a month turn everything over, being very careful not to disturb any wildlife you find. And depending on the size of the heap, six months later, you may be ready to use your compost as a fantastic mulch for your garden.

Caroline Hunt

Nature's eye

On 17 January I spotted a female Sparrowhawk flying over my front gate. Although I was unable to photograph it, I thought readers might like to see this image taken on my front lawn in March 2018. This is of a female. I managed to get three video clips of it while it devoured about half of its prey, an unfortunate collared dove. It then flew over the hedge, returning ten minutes later to pose for a minute or so enabling me to photograph it.

You may recall seeing my image of a Little Egret in the newsletter about a year ago. A few days

ago I was told that another one has been seen close to the church, so look out for it in damp areas.

We then walked to Nuthatch End (our daughter Helen lives there) Great Western Park this afternoon after hearing that the footpath from West Hagbourne was now open. It's a little muddy, but easily passable. At the north end, to your right, contractors are preparing the allotment area and a line parallel to the 1st line of houses ready for tree planting.

Malcolm Brownsword



A snowy scene in January



There have been a couple of power cuts in recent months and the most recent one affected the whole village. The village WhatsApp group allowed those signed up to see how widespread the power outage was and to be reassured that supply was reconnected to the whole village at the same time. WhatsApp is particularly useful in power cuts as it does not rely on a working wi-fi connection. If you would like to join the WhatsApp group, get in touch with Lillie Jamieson (07712 429811).

Village appearance

It is lovely to see that some of the lights and Christmas trees put up in the village in December have been left to brighten the dark winter nights. The display of trees from the St Andrews Christmas Tree Festival was particularly impressive. As we move into February we should see the emergence of the first spring flowers, the yellow aconites and white snowdrops, to be followed by crocuses, daffodils and primulas - all encouraging signs that the winter is passing. To keep the village looking good we can all help by picking up litter near our homes and cutting back overhanging plants where necessary.

Planning

Current planning applications for West Hagbourne:

P20/S2401/FUL: approval for 4 bed in garden of number 4 Manor Close.

P20/S3612/HH: Tiny amendment to add bat boxes at the Pumping Station project.

P20/S0122/PDH: Flat roof single storey extension for full width of the existing property at Fermain, York Road

Meryl Davies

Chilton Road & A417 London Road (Upton) Proposed Traffic Management & Toucan Crossing:

Oxfordshire County Council proposes additional measures to allow for the safe use of Chilton Road for walking, cycling and wheeling. Specifically: a) extend the existing 30mph limit on Chilton Road to cover its entire length, b) ban turning movements from Hagbourne Hill into Chilton Road, c) a traffic calming chicane (to accommodate non-standard cycles & wheelchairs) where the Chilton Road joins Hagbourne Hill, with a gate feature further east, d) a Toucan (for use by pedestrians & cyclists) crossing on London Road between the junctions of Chilton & Station Road, and e) raised table traffic calming features on Chilton Road & Station Road.

Any objections/representations should be lodged by Friday 19 February by logging on to:

<https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult/ti/ChiltonRoadTrafficCrossing/consultationHome>



SODC News

COVID

SODC asks residents to continue to stay at home, avoid mixing with other households, and abide by the lockdown rules to help curb the rapid spread of COVID-19. In January rates across the whole of Oxfordshire were much higher than before Christmas. There is some evidence that infection rates in South Oxfordshire have started to fall - from a peak of 580 people per 100,000* population on January 4th to 304 per 100,000, as of January 20. Up to January 8th, 152 residents of South Oxfordshire have died out of 4,600 confirmed cases of COVID. Extreme care is still needed and minimising contact is the best way to avoid infection.

* data from OCC COVID-19 dashboard.

COVID Compliance Marshals continue to visit towns to help support local businesses to operate in a COVID secure manner and to keep the public safe. Their role is to engage, explain and encourage businesses and members of the public to adhere to the latest guidelines to help keep everyone safe, including advising on social distancing and wearing masks. With non-essential shops, pubs and restaurants currently closed, the marshals have shifted their focus to takeaways where they provide advice and answer questions. As you will be aware from the national press, the Government have asked Police Forces across the Country to increase enforcement action in relation to persistent COVID breaches.

Winter Support Grant Scheme

A new grant scheme is available to help residents affected by the pandemic to buy food and keep

their homes warm this winter. Of the £1.4M received from Government, OCC has allocated around £1M to provide free school meals. The remaining money is shared across the districts, with South Oxfordshire receiving £76,006.

Citizen's Advice (South and Vale) can support people with supermarket vouchers for food and fuel vouchers to top up prepayment meters or with paying a heating bill. This will be alongside their usual package of advice and support. If a resident has received a food voucher from a previous scheme, or indeed support via free meals or any other route, they can still apply for a Winter Support Grant. This funding must be spent by 31 March 2021. Those in immediate and urgent need should, as always, contact our Community Hub on 01235 422600.

Green waste collection

The collection of brown garden waste bins was suspended in January due to reduced staffing levels. The situation was due for review at the end of January with hopes of restarting soon.

SODC wishes to reassure those who pay for this additional service that they expect to be able to deliver the 20 collections covered by the annual payment by increasing frequency during the summer.

GWR service alterations

Trains serving Didcot Parkway are operating on a new timetable. Please check your journey details.



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

Tony Baldasera 07411919718
tony.baldasera@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. 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.

www.westhagbourne.org/pc_minutes.htm

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 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

other news

Oil Syndicate

If you heat your home using oil you may be interested to know about the Oil buying Syndicate that covers the local villages. Joining the syndicate costs £5 per year. Five times a year you will be invited to add your oil requirements to the bulk purchase. Because a large quantity is ordered, it is possible to negotiate a good price for the whole order. Deliveries are then made to individual addresses as usual and each person receives an individual bill for the volume they purchased.

If you are interested in joining this scheme, please contact editor@westhagbourne.org

STOP PRESS

The HUGS group is delighted to announce that they have been awarded funding for their project to make our area more owl-friendly, increase biodiversity and to monitor our local owl populations.



Caroline Hunt

Advertising

This newsletter is entirely funded by income from the advertisements in it. It is edited by Sue Totterdell, with contributions from a number of villagers, designed by Mary Ann Le May, printed by Hugh Lewis and distributed by a group of volunteers. To ensure that it will be able to continue in its present form we would welcome new advertisers. If you have a business you would like to advertise to residents, please get in touch: editors@westhagbourne.org.

other news

Spring Clean

Free to a good home. Meadows Edge or call 850080

Pine 5-shelf bookcase - fair condition

other news

Two uplighters (one black one metallic) can be seen working but no PAT certificate.

can you help?

If you have any news or photos or know of events you think might interest other residents, please contact the editor.

editors@westhagbourne.org



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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:

12 x 5 metres & 11 x 4 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



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In the event of an emergency call 999



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