

Village Association News

DRAGONS!

The West Hagbourne dragons were out in force again this year with no fewer than 24 displays plus flags and bunting attracting many admiring visitors to the village. Our judge, Caroline Coles from Upton, toured the village on St George's Day and finally chose the appealing dragon that lurked in Sarnia's shrubbery, as best dragon. The runner-up prize went to Wycherts' cute dragon that was kept safely tethered at the roadside and the 2 dainty, little paper plate dragons that sat amongst the flowers next to the pavement at 18, York Road, won the children's prize

Caroline wrote: "I very much enjoyed walking around the village on the lookout for dragons. It was lovely to see so many fantastic entries, but this did make choosing a winner very hard! So, after much thought, the winning dragon was chosen because I really liked the creative way an ordinary everyday object was repurposed and made into something very entertaining. Who'd have thought that you could do something so imaginative with a

plant pot! All the dragons were very special in their own unique way, so well done to everyone who entered. I wonder what treats next year's competition will have for us?

All the displays can now be viewed on the village website and we are very grateful to Malcolm Brownsword (photographer) and John Baille (webmaster) for doing this for us.

Congratulations and a very big thank you to all who took part in this year's St George's Day competition event!

Madge Trophy and HUGS wildlife gardens competitions

As reported in the April edition of the newsletter, the Madge Trophy front gardens and HUGS wildlife garden competitions will be judged simultaneously during mid-July. As usual, all front gardens are automatically entered for the Madge Trophy, but if you wish to be included in the HUGS competition as well, you will need to enter in advance. Details on how to enter are on

their website at the address shown. The judges will be looking for attractive design, planting and colour amongst borders, planters and hanging baskets that show a mindful regard for the wildlife we share our gardens with. What a complete contrast this late spring has been compared to last year. With the recent rainfall has come abundant, lush growth, a rest for watering cans, and green fingers crossed, no more late frosts! The winner of the Madge Trophy will be presented with the perpetual cup, engraved with their name, and also a prize from HUGS. Winners of the competitions will be announced in the August edition of the newsletter and on the village website.

Summer Village Walk

After a long 18-month break, we are very pleased to announce that the next village walk will take place on Sunday, 4th July. Please meet at the Square (near the bus shelter) at 2pm for a relaxed, guided walk of approximately 4 miles, along local paths and tracks. Depending on the weather, sturdy footwear may be required! All are welcome including friends and family as

well as the 4-footed variety of course. What better way to spend a summer's afternoon than strolling through the beautiful countryside whilst enjoying a chat with fellow villagers along the way?

Village Party

We are also pleased to be supporting the Village Party that is due to be held in August. We look forward to welcoming you all, especially new residents in the village, to our stand during the event which will showcase the Association's community activities as we approach our 25th anniversary in 2022!

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We are planning to hold our popular coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care on Saturday, 25th September between 10:30am and 12:30pm at York Farm, by kind permission of Richard and Mary Allen. More details will follow in the August newsletter.



Please note that both the walk and coffee morning will take place providing that current government plans for the lifting of Covid-19 related restrictions remain.

Margaret Leishman (Chair)

Marquees for hire

If you are planning a long-awaited party or reunion with family and friends this summer, don't forget that the Association has 2 marquees and a number of tables and chairs that are available for villagers to hire. More details and who to contact if you'd like to book any of the equipment are on the back page of the newsletter. All monies received go towards the maintenance and replacement of equipment and future community events.

Parish Council

Sustrans track



The repair work for the furniture on the Sustrans track has been completed and we are paying the bill using money received

from the Community Infrastructure Levy.

The council has received a budget quote from the organisers of the village party to be held in August. We have agreed to meet this quote in full. This will be met from the Council's normal reserves as

CIL funds cannot be used for this purpose.

Next Meeting

The next Council meeting will be on Wednesday 7 July and is currently planned to be at Hagbourne Village Hall.

Michael Butler (Chair)



other news

William Tyrell Charity

Two new trustees have now been appointed so the complete set of trustees is now Valerie Brownsword, Michael Butler, Rachel Tozer and June Little. At a meeting of the trustees on 14 May 2021 it was resolved that the objects of the Charity should be changed from the existing object of providing relief to "poor persons resident in West Hagbourne" to more general wording covering people in West

Hagbourne. It now covers those suffering from ill health or disability; those in need by reason of financial hardship or other disadvantage (including emotional or social disadvantage); and providing grants to young people to be used by them to develop their skills, capabilities and/or capacities.

Michael Butler (Chair)

Nature's Eye

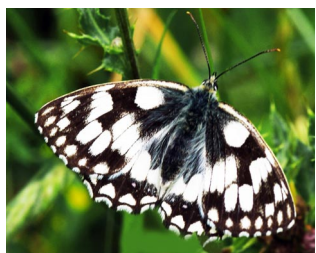
I planted a small triangular plot at the end of my garden as an orchard about 20 years ago and about six years ago decided to plant native flowering plants in the predominantly grassy area. There are now over fifteen species growing there, some well-established whilst others need re-enforcement via seed distribution each year. The greatest asset is the yellow rattle. It is an annual, so re-seeds itself each year. Being semi-parasitic on grass roots, it restricts the height of the predominant grasses, thus allowing more light to reach the leaves of shorter species. The most conspicuous plants in the spring are the cowslips, which seed themselves readily, and there are dozens of snake's head fritillaries. Unfortunately the latter were nibbled by unwelcome visitors this spring (almost definitely rabbits, which are now seen almost everyday). The wild carrot, teasel, bird's foot trefoil, wild chicory and kidney vetch are also doing well. Digressing, HUGS are currently running a wildlife garden competition, the closing date for which is 6 June. Details can be seen at:

www.hugsustainability.org.

I have seen few butterflies in the garden, mainly orange tips and



Female Holly Blue



Marbled White

brimstones, and only a single holly blue. Elsewhere, the small blue is on the wing now and do look out for the hundreds of marbled whites to be seen from mid-June until mid-August on the Sustrans former railway track.

Meanwhile, Margaret and Ian Leishman report that they have found a rare green winged orchid flowering in their meadow at Chapel Hayes.



Malcolm Brownsword

HUGS Update

Dark Skies

This month we're highlighting an issue where we can all make a difference:

- for the planet,
- for our pocket
- and for nature

That issue is light pollution. Light spill from our external lighting (as well as from streetlights) has a devastating effect on many different species; from birds, moths, amphibians to bats and other mammals. Artificial light at night affects animals' and birds' ability to function normally, from reproduction to hunting. It also makes them more vulnerable to predators.

We are also directly affected by bright light at night. Our sleep is disrupted which has a knock-on effect on our mental and physical health. What's more, it costs us and the planet to run these lights, adding to our energy use (and therefore our bills).

So, what can we all do to help?
- Consider how you can avoid light spill. Minimise the spread of light.

- Avoid lighting up trees that could be roosts or feeding sites for bats, owls and other nocturnal wildlife.

- Focus lights downwards – just on the objects you need to see.

- Avoid blue-rich lights - these pose the highest risk. If you need outside light, use low energy 'warm' light bulbs.

- Keep your garden dark: remove or switch off outside lights when not needed – and ask your workplace and your neighbours to do the same.

By turning off lights you save money, save energy use and help to save nature.

And the more darkness you can protect, the more stars you'll see from your garden!

Owl Boxes

We are looking for further sites in the village to place some owl boxes that have been funded by SODC. If anyone thinks they have a potential site in their garden or on their land, eg a tree next to or near open land or orchard, and are willing to have a box, please let us know.

Find out more from our latest Blog:

<https://www.hugsustainability.org/>

Caroline Hunt

East Hagbourne Open Gardens

Sunday 13 June 2-5 pm

Entry £5 (children free)
Teas & plants on sale

East Hagbourne holds this event every three years and this year 9 garden owners will be opening their gates post lockdown to support the National Garden Scheme. NGS's core beneficiaries, Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice Care and the Queens Nursing Institute have never needed more support, stretched to their limit by the current crisis.

The NGS made £3m in donations from funds raised at gardens in 2018.

UNLOCK PARTY!

We are excited to announce that we are throwing a West Hagbourne Community Party on 14th August from 1200 - 1600. Please save the date. Official invitations will be sent via the post in June.

Lillie Jamieson

Farming & Countryside

What a strange time we have all been going through, hopefully drawing to an end....

Life on the farm goes on as normal producing the food we need and also helping nature.

Last autumn was very wet: we planted what winter crops we could – wheat, barley and rape.

In the spring we planted oats, barley and peas. No potatoes after the disaster last year when the very wet season made it virtually impossible to lift them from the ground. It was then too late to replant and severe damage was done to the soil. We may grow poppies another year as a break crop, the UK are producing morphine again.

Most of the crops are grown under contract so that we know what our cost of production is.

The extremes in weather are making traditional farming difficult because conditions do not allow us to plant at the right time. We have had 140mm of rainfall in the past few weeks which has helped the crops and grass grow - it can stop now!! Hopefully we will have a dry harvest.

We are delighted to have the new corn store; harvest procedures are less hectic and don't get held up trying to dry wet corn. We use underfloor

heating (gas), stirrers and fans to circulate and dry the grain. We have also installed a weighbridge so that we can monitor every field and check lorry weights for more accurate quantities.

We are satellite mapping the soil to see what areas require fertiliser/minerals etc.

Everything in farming has to be much more precise.

Over the next few years we will be doing more greening and stewardship of the countryside.

The swifts and swallows are back! We are all just waiting for Summer to arrive!

The tree behind the farm that had the kestrel box on, fell down. The box has been reinstated but they didn't like the look of it this year unfortunately. We have various bird boxes around the farm, Barn Owl, Tawny Owl, Woodpecker and various small birds. There have been sightings of Barn Owls behind the farm and up on Hagbourne Hill.

My poultry enterprise at the back of the house has gained 5 young wild ducklings, Lily-Ella rescued and nurtured them until they were old enough to release, they seem to like life on the farm!

Sue Lay

Planning

Two storey extension at Broomsticks:

<https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/cm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P21/S1901/HH#exactline>

Three bed detached house plus garage on land opposite Horse and Harrow:

<https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/cm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P21/S1436/FUL#exactline>

However, consultation on this one is over.

Change of use from C3 to C2 at the Pumping Station:

<https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/cm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P21/S1558/FUL#exactline>

Parish Council

Clerk

Andrew Wise
parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

Councillors

Mike Butler (Chair) 850523
mike.butler@westhagbourne.org

Hugh Lewis 851113
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Tony Baldasera 07411919718
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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

Lunch Club

The next lunch club will be on Friday 18 June at the Horse and Harrow. Please let me know if you are planning to come.

Sue Totterdell (850080)

Village Shop & PO

Please note the new hours:

Shop:

Monday to Friday 9am – 4pm;
Saturday 9am – 12.30pm.

PO (new from 12th April):

Monday to Thursday, 9am to 12.30pm;

Saturday 9am to 12.30pm.

NB: **CLOSED FRIDAY.**

Can you help?

Over the past year or so many villagers may have had the opportunity for a clear out so perhaps you can help.

A villager is looking for the following items:

Light weight small garden fork and spade

Long handled trowel

A 6" or 8" loose bottomed cake tin?

Please contact Mandy at 3 Manor Close.

Didcot Emergency Food Bank

The bank, serving Didcot and the immediate surrounding villages, has a new home at The Didcot Baptist Church, 43 Wantage Road, Didcot OX11 OBS. Tel: 01235 813187 (answerphone) or email office@didcotbaptist.org.uk.

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

Welcome to New Residents

We hope you will soon be able to get to know your fellow villagers at a social event. We hope you enjoy living here.

other news

WhatsApp



If you would like to join the WhatsApp group, get in touch with Lillie Jamieson (07712 429811).

other news

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

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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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AED Emergency defibrillator

The West Hagbourne Emergency Defibrillator is located in the Telephone Box in the Square

In the event of an emergency call 999



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