

## Village Association News

### MADGE TROPHY FRONT GARDENS COMPETITION

The Madge Trophy competition took place on 10th July. This year's judges, Caroline and Laurie Hunt from East Hagbourne, enjoyed walking round the village and commented on its community feel and communal planting that benefits villagers and pollinators alike! Caroline is a member of the HUGS committee and her daughter Laurie is currently studying wildlife conservation at university. It was a pleasure escorting the judges around the village and seeing many



Lilley Cottage

gardens in their colourful, summer splendour. The result and report is as follows:

Many of the gardens were prettily planted. For the Madge Trophy this year we were looking for a balance of garden design as well as wildlife friendliness. Wildlife Friendliness includes providing shelter, food and water for wildlife. It also involves sympathetic gardening such as composting and using water butts as well as avoiding chemicals (such as slug pellets). We noticed the diversity of wildflowers in lawns around the village. We particularly liked the lawn of No 4 Manor Close which was rich in species diversity. The corner verge of Crossways on York Road was a nice mix of native and cultivated plants, offering both shelter and food for invertebrates.

Our winner is Lilley Cottage. The front garden was a charming mix of colourful flowers and shrubs, in a soft naturalist, sympathetic design. Good mix of shelter and food for wildlife (especially pollinators).

Highly commended gardens are Green Thatch with a beautiful



mix of planting, shelter and food for wildlife with wildflowers in the longer grass on the verge. No 1 Manor Close's productive garden with a nice range of garden plants and good use of water butts as well as composting. Also Ivy Barn's vibrant, rich mix of wildflowers along the verge of the property and Woodleys for its attractive mix of shelter and food sources for wildlife along with a rich diversity of wildflowers growing in the lawn providing food for pollinators.

### SUMMER VILLAGE WALK

Eight villagers gathered on Sunday 4th July for a relaxed walk through the fields via Upton to Blewbury. Although rain showers threatened, the walkers remained dry and were able to enjoy some welcome refreshments at the Style Acre Tearoom at Savages, before heading home again along Coffin Way. Total distance travelled, 4 miles. Details for the autumn walk in October will be in the next newsletter.

### MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

We are very much looking forward to holding our 4th annual coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer care, the charity that provides support for those affected by cancer. Please come along to York Farm, on Saturday, 25th September between 10:30am and 12:30pm, bring your family and friends

with you and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee served up with some delicious homemade cake. If you would like to help us on the morning please get in touch via the contact details below, and we would also be grateful for donations of home-baked cakes and/or raffle prizes. You can deliver them to one of the following committee members Julie Freeland, 1 Main Street, June Little, Lenton, York Road or Margaret Leishman, Chapel Hayes, Main Street, beforehand, or bring them along on the morning. We are very grateful to Mary Allen for kindly providing the farmyard, once again, for our use.

*Margaret Leishman (Chair)*

## VILLAGE PARTY!



By now you should have had your invitation to the Village Party being held on Saturday 14 August (12-4pm) at Lay's Farm by kind invitation of Chris and Sue Lay. If you want to take advantage of the free food and a drink, courtesy of the Parish Council, please contact Lillie on 07712 429811 as this offer is restricted to the first 100 village residents who sign up.

If you like baking, please bring along a cake or dessert.

There will be a stage: if you would like to perform, get in touch.

*Lillie Jamieson*

## Parish Council

Rapid plant growth at the present means that there is a risk of hedges and other vegetation extending over pavements and footpaths, as well as obstructing road signs. Could villagers please check outside their properties and cut back vegetation if necessary. This is a task for property owners. If anything is reported to Highways, via Fix My Street, they will contact the property owners.

The vehicle activated road sign on Main Street has been

blocked and Highways have taken this up with the owner of the neighbouring field.

Boxes of unwanted books and toys have been placed in the bus shelter. This is an inappropriate means of dealing with unwanted items. If anybody has an alternative suggestion for how to deal with such items please let the council know.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Wednesday 1st September at 19:30 in Hagbourne Hall.

*Michael Butler (Chair)*

# other news

## Richard James Allen

4th April 1926 – 30th June 2021



Born at York Farm, the youngest of five children of Ernest William Allen and Phoebe Susannah Allen (nee Townsend), Richard was educated at Hagbourne Church of England Primary School and Wallingford Grammar School. Leaving at the age of 16, and already serving in the ATC and the Home Guard, he embarked on his farming career with his parents and siblings. In 1948 he formed a partnership with his brother David and together they modernised, mechanised and embraced the changes in agriculture that were required to feed the nation after the shortages of WW2.

In 1949 Richard married Gladys Mary Lay from Steventon and between 1950 and 1957 two boys and two girls completed their family. However, in 1968 the eldest son James William aged 18 years lost his life, whilst working on a farm in Denmark.

The existing small herd of dairy cows at York Farm was developed and reached its capacity in the 1980's of 130 head and sustained until 2007 when the herd was dispersed as

expansion was not an option due to the location within the village and market forces. This was the end of milk production in West Hagbourne and many of the surrounding villages.

Other enterprises were developed with his brother. Pigs at Zulu Farm, Harwell and later at Blewbury and North Stoke, Wallingford. A flock of 450 ewes was kept and the arable crops included quality milling wheat, malting barley, oats, feed beans, rape for oil, peas and carrots for the Samor canning factory in Park Road in the 1960's and more recently soya and sunflowers. They farmed a mixture of light downland chalk, greensand and a heavier loam soil at Sheencroft, all requiring different farming methods which they learned about and embraced and which was key to their farming success.

He served on the West Hagbourne parish council for many years and was a mine of information on water courses, where pipes were laid and footpaths. Also a keen supporter of the local Farming Club, he attended meetings, socials and

always entered the farm competitions. His farming life spanned nine decades, from the horse drawn plough and steam threshing machines to satellite mapped fields and driverless tractors, from 1ton to the acre to 5ton to the acre. It was his willingness to embrace change and adopt new methods and support the next generation in their changes that added to the success of what is now a successful sustainable agriculturally based business.

Very much the family man, in his younger days he holidayed in Weymouth, Hastings and Bournemouth and later travelled the world visiting 26 countries.

He enjoyed the company of his beloved wife Mary, three children, their partners, nine grand children, their partners and four great grand children, countless relations and many many friends. He hosted parties, functions and celebrations at York Farm house for his family and his beloved village of West Hagbourne.

His passing has brought to an end the 102 year occupancy of York Farm house by the Allen male line and so begins another chapter for the history of this iconic building built in the 1500's in the centre of West Hagbourne.

*Jane Drewe*

## HUGS Update

### Wildlife Garden Competition

Thanks for all your fantastic entries! Pictures of your amazing wildlife friendly gardens can be viewed on the HUGS website blog section – [www.hugsustainability.org/blog](http://www.hugsustainability.org/blog)

### Verges

A recent study by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology in Crowmarsh calls for the country's roadside verges to be managed for nature. Nationwide, verges represent an area the size of Dorset. Given that an area of grass with just dandelions can support 93 species of insect, that represents a huge potential to support biodiversity. Verges are key for pollinators, who in turn feed birds and other animals.

Since the 1930s we've lost 97% of our wildflower meadows in the UK. Verges could help towards reversing that trend. According to Trevor Dines of Plantlife, if all our verges were managed for nature there would be an incredible 418,99 billion more wildflowers in the country, that's 6,300 per person. How amazing would that be?!

Around our villages we do see some wildflowers in our long, grassy verges and it would be fantastic to enhance that with further planting and appropriate management, and to be able to bring those beneficial nature networks further into our villages too.

As long as road safely isn't compromised, harmful plants such as Hemlock and Ragwort are controlled, and pavements are still clear, letting our verges grow and flourish is great for supporting biodiversity. There's also the benefit to the planet of reduced use of petrol mowers and strimmers. How about putting a sign up outside your house to ask for 'no strimming please'?!

### Owl Project

Owl boxes have been going up in each of the villages, and the Barn Owl monitoring season is now here. Lu is busy checking the nest boxes for activity. Busy and exciting times for the owls and for Lu!

Enjoy your summer and time outdoors in nature. Don't forget to use our Wild Walk route and seasonal guides

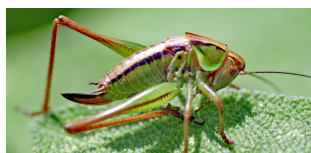
Thanks from the HUGS team  
<https://www.hugsustainability.org/>

*Caroline Hunt*



## Nature's Eye

On 18 July I witnessed the return to my garden of a female Rousels's Bush Cricket (short-winged form). After the dearth of insects in my garden over the past two years, it was good to see this spectacular insect. Another welcome return, two days earlier, was that of a male Common Darter, probably the commonest British dragonfly. We walked to the lake on the Great Western development on 16 July via the track at the end of York Road (now overgrown with nettles and other vegetation) in the hope of seeing dragonflies and saw a couple of Southern Hawkers and a Broad-bodied Chaser. Butterfly species that have



*Rousels's Bush Cricket*



*Common Darter*

recently made their first appearance in my garden this year include Painted Lady, Small Skipper, Ringlet, Marbled White and Gatekeeper.

*Malcolm Brownsword*

## Congratulations!



Best wishes to Becky Lay and Scott Ford whose COVID-delayed wedding finally took place on 6th July at Polhawn Fort, Rame Head, Cornwall. We wish them much happiness.

# Parish Council

## Clerk

Andrew Wise  
[parishclerk@westhagbourne.org](mailto:parishclerk@westhagbourne.org)

## Councillors

Mike Butler (Chair) 850523  
[mike.butler@westhagbourne.org](mailto:mike.butler@westhagbourne.org)

Hugh Lewis 851113  
[hugh.lewis@westhagbourne.org](mailto:hugh.lewis@westhagbourne.org)

Mike Telford 851236  
[mike.telford@westhagbourne.org](mailto:mike.telford@westhagbourne.org)

Oliver Doogue 851156  
[oliver.doogue@westhagbourne.org](mailto:oliver.doogue@westhagbourne.org)

Tony Baldasera 07411919718  
[tony.baldasera@westhagbourne.org](mailto:tony.baldasera@westhagbourne.org)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:parishclerk@westhagbourne.org)

## District Councillors

Anne-Marie Simpson  
[Anne-Marie.Simpson@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:Anne-Marie.Simpson@southoxon.gov.uk)

Jane Murphy  
[jane.murphy@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:jane.murphy@southoxon.gov.uk)

## 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](http://fixmystreet.com)

Or:  
[highwaysenquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:highwaysenquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Telephone: 08453101111

Web site:  
[www.westhagbourne.org/noticeboard.htm#potholes](http://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>

## County Councillor

Simon Clarke  
[simon.clarke@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://www.westhagbourne.org/pc_minutes.htm)

*Keep up to date*

**[www.westhagbourne.org](http://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

On Friday July 16th, six people enjoyed the first Village Lunch at the Horse and Harrow since March 2020. The next lunch club will be on Friday 20 August at the Horse and Harrow. Please let me know if you are planning to come.

Sue Totterdell (850080)



### Village Shop & PO

Opening hours from 9th July

Shop:

Monday to Friday  
9am – 4pm;

Saturday 9am – 12.30pm.

PO:

Monday to Saturday  
9am – 12.30pm

### Didcot Farmers' Market

Saturday 14th August from 08.30 at the Orchard Centre. Seasonal vegetables, fresh meat and fish etc. Support your local suppliers.

### 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 0BS. Tel: 01235 813187 (answerphone) or email [office@didcotbaptist.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:editors@westhagbourne.org)

**NEED A PLUMBER FOR THE SMALL JOBS?**  
**07526 304050**  
[taps-toilets.co.uk](http://taps-toilets.co.uk) ★★★★★  
**5 STAR SERVICE**

**Mary Ann Le May**  
 GARDEN DESIGNS  
 Blissetts Main Street West Hagbourne  
 Oxfordshire OX11 0ND  
 01235 850523  
[www.maryannndesign.co.uk](http://www.maryannndesign.co.uk)

**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**

**Specialist Transport & Companion Service**

- ☀ Accessible holidays, outings & tours
- ☀ Health & welfare appointments
- ☀ Family celebrations & everyday trips
- ☀ Companionship at home or out & about

07308 475 489 | [drivingmissdaisydidcot.co.uk](http://drivingmissdaisydidcot.co.uk) Driving Miss Daisy®

**SCOTLANDS ASH GARAGE SERVICES**  
 Oxfordshire's Leading Independent Garage

MOT testing from 6am  
 Diagnostic Fault Finding and Servicing on all types of vehicles  
 Air Conditioning Exhausts  
 Body Repairs Tyres

**FREE COURTESY CAR**

**01235 850 707**  
[www.scotlandsashgarage.co.uk](http://www.scotlandsashgarage.co.uk)  
 Main Street, West Hagbourne OX11 0NA

**Bare Essentials**  
 BEAUTY & SKIN CARE CLINIC

**Tailored skin plans at reasonable prices**

Our treatments include:

- \* HIFU
- \* Fat Freezing
- \* Chemical Peels
- \* Treatment Facials
- \* Body Contouring
- \* Microneedling
- \* Dermaplaning
- \* Cavitation
- \* Botox & Fillers

Contact us:  
 01235 851863 | 07870 849351  
[bare-essentials@mail.com](mailto:bare-essentials@mail.com)  
[www.bare-essentials.info](http://www.bare-essentials.info)

Ask us about our special Introductory Offer

**dronemotion.co.uk**  
 DRONE FILMING & ROOF SURVEYS

**house to rent in France**  
 Noirmoutier Island, west of Nantes - sleeps 7

just minutes from a quiet family beach, great biking and sailing, two bedrooms, dishwasher, washing machine, TV

600€/week June + September  
 750€/week July

for more information and photos  
[contact.totterdells@btinternet.com](mailto:contact.totterdells@btinternet.com) 01235 850080