

Village Association News

Annual Report 2021

Thankfully this year, my Chairperson's annual report contains an account of events in which the village has been able to gather as a community again. Furthermore, it has been possible for the committee to hold the Association's AGM in person during which we took time to reflect on the past year's events.

The dragons that came out in force in April did not disappoint the many admiring passers-by, and congratulations to everyone who entered into the spirit of St George's Day to put West Hagbourne on the map once more.

After a long break, we were able to resume our very enjoyable village walks in July and in October. Both times it seems, all paths lead to the Style Acre Cafe in Blewbury for a welcome cup of tea!

This year's Madge Trophy and the HUGS wildlife garden competitions took place in July when our judges commented on the beneficial community planting and wildlife friendly features in many of the gardens. In August, we were pleased to be able to contribute to the village community party, held at Manor Farm. We welcomed many new, existing and past residents to our stand.

The popular fundraising Macmillan Coffee morning in September raised a record £1100.80. Thank you to all of you who donated money and gave up their time to help make this our most successful year yet.

A small group of villagers gathered at the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday where a new poppy wreath was hung below the names of those men from West Hagbourne who lost their lives in service during WW1 & 2. The Village Association is proud to support the ongoing work of the Royal British Legion.

My full report, which gives more information about the Association's activities during 2021, is available to view on the village website

Hagbourne Christmas Tree Festival

This will take place between 10th and 19th December with Carols in the Farmyard & Mummings at the Horse & Harrow.

Thanks to everyone in the village who signed up for a garden tree in support of this year's fundraising event. As I write, an amazing 28 trees will be brightening our village with their twinkling lights during the



Macmillan Coffee Morning at York Farm

darkest part of winter! The full schedule of festival events has been posted on the village website and noticeboards. Two events that are to be especially noted are the Carols in the Farmyard, at Manor Farm, on Saturday 11th December at 3:45pm by kind invitation of Sue and Chris Lay, and a short, traditional Yuletide Mummings play which will be performed by the Hagbourne Mummings at the Horse & Harrow on Thursday, 16th December at 8:30pm. The carols will be led by members of vOx, an Oxford choir, during which, mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies will be served by members of the Association for which donations towards this year's chosen charities, Hagbourne Church and Asylum Welcome, Oxford, will be gratefully received.

Your support at these events will be most appreciated. Don't forget that there will also be scores of trees to view around East Hagbourne including the sponsored trees inside the church and churchyard.

New Year's Day Village Walk

The next village walk will take place on Sunday 16th January at 1:30pm starting from The Square. This will be a short walk along local paths finishing in the barn at Chapel Hayes for warming refreshments of mince



Remembrance Day poppy wreath displayed in the bus shelter in West Hagbourne

pies, mulled wine, hot chocolate, tea or coffee, for donations to the Village Association funds. As usual, everyone is welcome to join us.

There are many people who willingly give their time and effort to support the Association in its endeavour to provide social events for the community to enjoy. A big thank you to you all and we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Margaret Leishman (Chair)



Enjoying tea and cake at the Style Acre cafe after the autumn village walk

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ALL WEST HAGBOURNE RESIDENTS



other news

Jean Madge

My memories of Jean Madge and family by Jane Drewe.

Jean Madge passed away on 12th November 2021 whilst staying with her eldest son Christopher in Derbyshire.

Jean came to Cornerways, West Hagbourne in the 1965 when her husband Cliff (both originally from Devon) secured the job of herdsman with my father Richard Allen at York Farm. Cliff and Jean with their four sons were a big part of village life from 1965 to 1989 when Jean left the village.

Besides spending many hours working with the dairy cows, Cliff and three of the boys, Christopher, Philip and Gary, also found time to help many villagers with their gardens, grass and hedge cutting, building ponds and laying paths; most of the gardens on the site of Lime Tree Farm were landscaped by this formidable

team. Cliff himself was a wonderful gardener and kept his family and many others well stocked with fresh vegetables throughout the year.

Their youngest son Jonathan was born in 1969, but this did not stop Jean holding down several cleaning jobs including for my mother at York Farm, Mrs. Warmsley, Mrs. Hedger, Mrs. Timms, Mrs. Scott and latterly me at Coscote. My children well remember her wonderful sense of fun and how she was always up for a laugh if they wanted to ride on the vacuum cleaner from room to room.

Jean's beloved Cliff passed away in 1976 and in his memory the Madge Trophy was donated to the village: it is awarded annually as a gardening prize. Jean moved from Cornerways to 13 York Road and remained in the village, continuing to work locally and bring up her family.

In 1989 she moved to Sutton Courtenay where her son Philip

and his wife ran a butcher's shop. This was perfect for Jean: with her outgoing personality she loved working in the shop interacting with all the customers. In 2010 Philip and his family moved to Devon but Jean remained in Sutton Courtenay and frequently returned to West Hagbourne to visit her good friend Margie Coster. However, when the restrictions from the Covid Pandemic were relaxed, she too returned to Devon to live with Philip and wife Della.

The boys have all left the village and married and made their lives in various parts of the country. Their children, Jean's grandchildren, gave her much pleasure. They will all miss her terribly, but what wonderful memories the family left those of us who knew her, Cliff and the boys in West Hagbourne.

Jean's funeral is on Wednesday 1st December 2pm at St. Mary the blessed Virgin Church, Exbourne, Devon EX20 3RX

Jane Drewe (nee Allen)

Parish Council

There was a very well attended parish council meeting on 3rd November, where people discussed an application for 30 houses on Main Street. Jane Murphy, our County Councillor and a District Councillor, attended and we are grateful for the useful contributions she made. Many villagers have lodged their own objections (42 households have commented to this application) and we are grateful for the efforts made by villagers. The Parish Council has lodged its objections.

A replacement has volunteered to join the council, to bring us up to full number of 5 councillors. He is Dan Tozer, from Broomsticks. We are currently going through the procedures to co-opt him to the council.

Michael Butler (Chair)



A poppy wreath from the village was laid on the East Hagbourne Memorial Cross

Nature's Eye

The total number of butterfly species seen in my garden this year was slightly higher than average. However, Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly count in July 2021 revealed that in the country as a whole, the situation has deteriorated. After two poor years in succession, the position is still rather worrying, as 2021 gave the lowest counts in the 12-year history of the event. The top five species were, in descending order, Small White, Large White, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Red Admiral, all of which did quite well in my own garden. The last butterfly I saw there was a pristine Red Admiral on 10 November.

Despite the poor results from the count, all is not lost. Butterflies are particularly

sensitive to weather conditions in all of the stages of development, and some, such as the Holly Blue are more vulnerable to parasites in some years, resulting in an 'up and down' population over a period of time. This species was locally common in 2020, but I only saw 2 in my garden last summer.

Global warming may well bring more species to the UK and with warmer winters over the last few years, some species are moving northwards. What will be the overall result? Only time will tell.

Malcolm Brownsword



Peacock butterfly on wild carrot

Marge Coster

We note with sadness the death of Marge Coster on 25th November.

CAROLS IN THE VILLAGE

Saturday 11 December at 3.45 pm
Led by members of vOx, an Oxford choir

In the Farmyard, at Manor Farm, by kind invitation of Sue & Chris Lay

Mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies will be served by members of the Village Association (donations towards this year's chosen charities)

A short, traditional Yuletide Mummings play will be performed by the Hagbourne Mummings at the Horse & Harrow on Thursday, 16th December at 8:30pm.



HUGS Update

COP 26

This was a historic meeting where 196 countries from around the world agreed to reduce emissions to help keep global temperatures as low as possible. Crucially, with key countries missing from these pledges, there will be another COP in November 2022 so nations can return to the table with updated nationally determined contributions. All pledges are voluntary, e.g. ending deforestation by 2030, so we also need governments worldwide to deliver their promises.

As many of us in rich, developed nations continue our lives of over-consumption and pollution, it is the poorest in the world who pay the price, their lives devastated by drought, famine, floods, storm, extreme heat and sea level rise. Sadly, COP26 failed to agree on compensation for them. So, we need more pressure on governments. Meanwhile, we can do more as individuals, families and communities. Walking or cycling instead of short car journeys could make us healthier while avoiding food waste, buying less goods, repairing rather than replacing, buying second hand could save us money. See our sustainability page for more ideas.

1. Switch to a renewable energy tariff, removing fossil fuels from your energy mix
2. Check your investments and decarbonise your portfolio
3. Campaign against all new licences for fossil fuel extraction

Not convinced yet about making changes? Have a look at the BBC's Shop Well for the Planet series to see how different

families saved money and reduced their carbon footprint.

HUGS Tree Programme

Our second Tree Programme has gone well this year, with nearly 400 bare root native trees, shrubs and hedging plants ordered. They are due to arrive soon and be planted locally this winter.

As a reminder to live a greener life and support nature, HUGS will also have a tree in St Andrew's Church in East Hagbourne as part of the church Christmas Tree festival.

Thanks from HUGS

All that's left to say is a big thank you to all those who have supported HUGS over the last year; everyone supporting the tree programme, everyone who took part in the wildlife garden competition, everyone who has hosted or bought an owl box, to all who helped us in tasks over the year. We wish you a very happy, green Christmas!

lu@britishowlproject.co.uk
<https://www.hugsustainability.org>

Caroline Hunt

Moor Lane Update 2021

Several years after the ditch alongside Moor Lane was cleared to aid drainage in main street, the waste soil left behind has been removed, thanks to parish council funding.

A few volunteers carried out further clearing along the ditch and the intention is to plant spring bulbs and sow a suitable wildflower grass seed mix next spring.

A temporary barrier will be installed between the track and the verge until the grass has established.

Ian Leishman

Parish Council

Clerk

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parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

Councillors

Mike Butler (Chair) 850523
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Jane Murphy
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County Councillor

Simon Clarke
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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 17th December at the Horse and Harrow when we will be meeting for our Christmas Lunch. Please let me know if you are planning to come.

Sue Totterdell (850080)

HAMS:

Now the Fun begins!

The chosen work is Bright Young Things by Georgia Christou. Rehearsals will be every Thursday in the Village Hall from November 4th until next March.

Performances will be staged on Wednesday 9th March 2022, until Saturday 12th March.

Reserve these dates in your diary now – full details for booking will be available in the New Year.

www.thehams.co.uk
email: info@thehams.co.uk

Planning

Not an application as such (you cannot comment) but one which seeks to rectify the situation with regard to Lizard Bank. When this was first built the council gave planning permission on the basis that it would be occupied by someone employed in agriculture. This clearly has not been the case for some years and probably won't be if the property is sold.

<https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/cc/m/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P21/S4621/LDE>

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

WhatsApp



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

other news

Didcot Farmers' Market

The Didcot Farmers' Market will be in the Orchard Centre on Saturday 11th December from 8.30am - 1.30pm.

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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