

Village Association News

Hagbourne Christmas Tree Festival and Carols in the Farmyard

Despite the rain, which fell right on cue when the carols began, West Hagbourne's festive Christmas gathering on Saturday 11th December was a successful occasion and well supported. Through donations received for refreshments, (which were served by members of the Village Association) and raffle ticket sales, £227 was raised towards the chosen charities, St Andrew's Church and Oxford Asylum Welcome. Thank you to Meryl and her choir vOx, who led the singing, all of you who braved the rain to come along, and to Sue and Chris Lay for hosting the event at Manor Farm.

New Year's Day Village Walk

Our programme of community events for 2022 kicked off with the New Year's Walk on Sunday, 16th January. With favourable weather and a good turnout of 13 enthusiastic walkers and 2 dogs, we made our way over to East Hagbourne via the railway embankment and Mowbray Field. From there we skirted Millennium Wood out onto New Road and returned along The Croft, Shoe Lane, through St

Andrew's churchyard and School Path. Mulled wine and warmed mince pies were waiting for us on our arrival at Chapel Hayes, where the barn made an ideal place to sit and chat. A very enjoyable afternoon and thank you to everyone who joined us. Our next village walk, which will be the Dragon Walk, will take place on Sunday 24th April. More details will follow.

Royal Dragons 2022!

This year's St George's Day dragon competition will run between Sundays 10th and 24th April. During this time we invite you to display in your front garden a dragon, a St George, (or even both!), in whatever shape or form you choose. As it's Jubilee year, we are suggesting that every dragon has a royal theme, maybe wearing a crown or robe. As usual there will be cash prizes for best dragon, runner-up and best children's entry. We are delighted to announce that our judge will be Councillor Jane Murphy, who has also agreed to present the prizes at the Dragon Teas which will take place at Woodleys, on Sunday, 24th April, 2:30-4:30pm. More details will follow in the April newsletter. Time to start planning your dragon now! If you would like



Walkers relaxing in the barn at Chapel Hayes with mulled wine and warm mince pies

more information about the St George's Day events, especially if you are new to the village, please telephone Margaret on 01235 851707 or email va@westhagbourne.org

Village Platinum Jubilee Celebration

Although in the early stages of planning, we will be holding the village jubilee celebration on Saturday, 4th June at York Farm by kind invitation of Mrs Mary Allen and family. More information will be provided in the April edition of the newsletter, but in the meantime, please reserve this date in your diary.

Margaret Leishman (Chair)

Thanks

As the year ends it is important to recognise all who help West Hagbourne thrive. Many do so behind the scenes and please forgive me if you are not on this list.

Thank you to the Parish Councillors and members of the Village Association for all their hardwork and support.

And thanks also to everyone else who:

- organised the wonderful Unlocking event
- helped by picking up litter, either with the Parish Council initiatives
- tidied up public village spaces, keeping verges and hedges cut so that the narrow pavements can be accessed
- protected and enriched our environment
- checked the defibrillator is in working condition
- contributed to this newsletter, writing, printing, distributing
- checked on neighbours needing support



Carols in the farmyard



other news

Parish Council Tyrrell Trust charity

At the meeting of the Council on 5th January 2022, Daniel Tozer was formally co-opted on to the council.

Highways at OCC has agreed to perform the following actions on Main Street where the road narrows: (a) to attend to the kerb which projects into the road and has caused damage to some car tyres; (b) to introduce some additional signs; and (c) to attend to the white lines and extend one in front of the entrance to Pippins.

The planning application for a development of 30 properties on land to the side of Main Street has been withdrawn. Before withdrawal we were approached by the developers to indicate what smaller development would be acceptable to the Council. We indicated that we objected to any size of development in this area.

We have been approached by a resident about the Platinum Jubilee tree planting initiative. The Council is not involved with this and has no land on which trees could be planted.

The next meeting of the Council will be on 2nd March 2022. It is currently at Hagbourne Hall but it may be altered to Zoom.

Michael Butler (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.

For those who are new to the village, and as a reminder to other residents, a charitable trust exists to help people in West Hagbourne with small donations. The Tyrrell Trust was founded by the will of William Tyrrell in 1662, to help the poor. The Trust's income is the rental from farmland beside Hagbourne Hill owned by the Trust. These days it is hard to identify 'the poor' as people are understandably unwilling to come forward and admit that they are struggling financially. Therefore the trustees have agreed new objectives which are:

1) To provide relief through the provision of grants, goods or services to those residents of West Hagbourne who are in

need by reason of ill-health or disability and to those past residents who by reason of ill-health or disability have moved from West Hagbourne to another location where they can receive care.

2) The relief of those residents who are in need by reason of financial hardship or other disadvantage (including emotional or social disadvantage).

3) To advance in life and help young people who are residents of West Hagbourne through grants of money to be used by them to develop their skills, capabilities and/or capacities.

Objective 3, for example, could cover young people wanting to take up musical, sporting,

educational or other initiatives who need to buy musical instruments, sports equipment etc. With the current rise in fuel prices there may be people who are struggling to pay bills. I stress that the charity exists to help those people as well.

We would like to encourage people to apply for small grants (typically £100 - £200) if it would help them. Applications can be made to or more information given by any of the trustees whose details are given below;

Mike Butler,
mike.butler@westhagbourne.org
Valerie Brownsword,
val.brownsword@gmail.com
June Little,
June.little236@btinternet.com
Rachel Tozer
rachel.tozer@googlegmail.com

Nature's Eye

In the thirty two years of living in West Hagbourne, I have always looked forward to seeing large numbers of Fieldfares, accompanied by an occasional Redwing, in the horse paddock next to my house. However, this is the second winter when I have not seen either in this location. The images here were taken about five years ago during a cold spell. These Scandinavian thrushes would not normally be seen in gardens in an average winter; it is only when they are desperate for food, mainly berries, that they feed in gardens. I attribute their absence in the paddock to increased traffic noise from the



Redwing

A417, as there is still plenty of food in the hedgerows.

On the brighter side, a few plants are beginning to come into flower. In my own garden small groups of snowdrops and winter aconites are the first to open. Elsewhere, in mid-February, I hope to return to the Sherborne Estate (National Trust) near Burford to see another British species, the Wild Daffodil, Narcissus



Fieldfare

pseudonarcissus which grows here in small numbers.

Malcolm Brownsword



Winter aconites

Planning

The extension at no.5 Manor Close has been approved. Building has commenced on the plot next to no.4 Manor Close.

The planning application P21/S4337/O for 30 houses on the field opposite the Horse & Harrow has been withdrawn on 14th January, prior to determination. There were numerous objections from

villagers concerned about density, access, safety, design, loss of greenfield space, loss of wildlife, flood risk, conflict with SODC local plan and inaccuracies in the application documentation.

HUGS Update

We have a number of local projects. HUGS' SODC-funded Owl Project provides funds for trees, hedges and wildflowers - making the area not just more owl friendly but encouraging more invertebrates, small mammals and pollinators. Meanwhile, mixed native hedge planting in Butts Piece in East Hagbourne connects with the Wilcher Close trees and the old hedge line. These linked areas are vital corridors for all sorts of insects, plus bats, birds and mammals to travel within, roost on and hunt for food. We are also planting wildflowers along at the Didcot end of the Sustrans line and in the Earth Trust flower meadow on Mowbray Field.

Trees and Hedges galore!

Silver Birch, Horse Chestnut and Field Maples are being planted in West Hagbourne by the Mitcham's of Yew Tree Farm. These amazing trees will mature and fruit by 2040.

Ongoing improvements to hedgerows in Moor Lane will provide more much-needed habitats. Here's what we're planting and why:

Hawthorn: food + shelter for small mammals and invertebrates, nest sites + food for birds + pollinators.

Blackthorn: bramble shelter for birds' nests – + bumblebees love the flowers;

Hazel: yellow catkins for early pollen for bees, its nuts feed insects + small mammals - including hazel dormice - rare and vulnerable to extinction.

Spindle: food for mice and birds and a food plant for magpie moths and spindle ermine moths, as well as the lovely holly blue butterfly.

Dog Rose: great protection for nests; winter food for birds and



Dormouse



Long eared owl

small mammals, summer nectar for insects and bees, and a food plant for moths and butterflies.

Guelder Rose: a true hedge beauty! Glorious snowball flowers in summer and red berries in autumn, it feeds all kinds of birds including Bullfinches.

Crab Apple: blackbirds, thrushes, crows, mice, voles and badgers just love this tree!

Alder: a food plant for moth caterpillars: Alder Kitten and Pebble Hook-tip. The lovely catkins are a source of early nectar and pollen for bees + seeds feed the Siskin, Redpoll and Goldfinch.

Come sow with us!

Our pollinator friendly spring planting includes Agrimony, Hedge Bedstraw, Meadow Cranes-Bill, Cowslip, Red Campion and Tufted Vetch along the West Hagbourne side of the railway line. Watch out for dates on our FB page: HUGS-Hagbournes-and-Upton-Group-f or-Sustainability or email for planting dates at hugsustainability@gmail.com

Find out more from our website: <https://www.hugsustainability.org/>

Caroline Hunt

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

Dan Tozer 07795 047934
daniel.tozer@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

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

District Councillors

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

Jane Murphy
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

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>

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

Keep up to date

www.westhagbourne.org

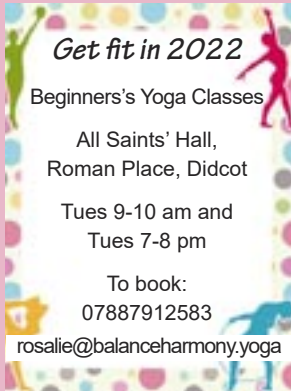
The website carries information, news and contact details as well as copies of the minutes of all village organisations

other news

Lunch Club

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

Sue Totterdell (850080)



Get fit in 2022
Beginners's Yoga Classes
All Saints' Hall,
Roman Place, Didcot
Tues 9-10 am and
Tues 7-8 pm
To book:
07887912583
rosalie@balanceharmony.yoga



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

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 Group

If you would like to join the group, get in touch with Lillie Jamieson (07712 429811). To be added to the Village email list, contact the Clerk.

other news

Didcot Farmers' Market

The Didcot Farmers' Market will be in the Orchard Centre on Saturday 12th February 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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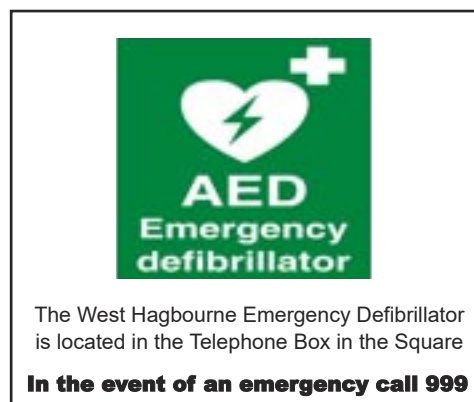
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Marquees

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.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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house to rent in France

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West Hagbourne news supplement

Margery (Marge) Coster

Memories of my mother by Jackie Coster

Throughout her 95 years, mum would have seen and dealt with things that some of us could not imagine. Her whole family moved for safety at the start of the 2nd world war from New Cross in London to Hagbourne because of the bombings close to their home. This meant she did not have the education she deserved but she certainly made the most of her many talents, including baking and knitting. Mum worked very hard throughout her life, at the COD in Didcot before having children, then cleaning for many people in the village whilst looking after her four children, then working in several retail stores in Didcot. She loved to tell the story of how, when the electronic tills broke down in the shop, they would call on her to do the calculations using pencil and paper, old school. She ran the local post office here in

Hagbourne both in the original building and what is now the Community shop, doing this skilfully well past retirement age.

Mum's special friendship with Jean Madge spread over many decades. They loved their many adventures and holidays together. They would regularly be seen out and about together, laughing, having fun. They also learnt new things together, such as pottery and flower arranging. There are many lovely photos of the two of them together and many stories told. Sadly Jean passed away just a few weeks before mum but both families can take comfort by them being re-united in spirit.

Mum was a real village stalwart having lived in the Manor Close since 1947. She always had plenty of stories to tell to those that were interested, especially recounting Hagbourne history. She enjoyed the monthly lunch club, attended the last

MacMillan coffee morning and loved to chat with the few villagers left of her generation.

When dad passed away in 2013 mum became even more independent and as she aged would regularly show her stubborn streak doing things she really shouldn't. She was generally fit and healthy, surviving breast and skin cancers, remaining cheerful throughout. She rarely complained about anything (but she did moan about wearing these masks) and loved to laugh. Myself and Laura, her granddaughter and personal shopper, both had phone calls with her on her last evening and she was laughing and joking which is how I will remember her. She loved to watch *Strictly*, and cookery shows (she recently found the Food channel on TV). She enjoyed being a member of the Knitwits group, and despite her failing eyesight continued knitting strips for blankets for the peace charity until the night before she passed away.

In all of the sympathy messages we have received she was always referred to as a very lovely lady, kind-hearted and caring, liked by all she met, which is a great comfort to us all. A very special mum, nan, great nan and great great nan. Although we will never have her loving hugs again she will remain in our hearts forever.

Jackie Coster

Jackie adds:

Thank you to all who attended the Church service at St Andrews Church on 04 January 2022 for our dear mum and nan.

It was lovely to see so many people there and we are sorry we could not speak to all of you.

Thank you also for the many messages of sympathy that we received, it was a great comfort to all of us. I would love to hear any stories of your time with mum if you are able to spare the time to compose them.

Kind regards

Jackie and all the family

Shirley Beechey

My good neighbour by Marion Judd

Shirley moved into 5 Grove Terrace in the late 1950s and lived there until her death last year. She and her husband Bill brought up their four children there, working hard to make ends meet and to buy their house. They were great gardeners, always maintaining a lovely garden full of vegetables and flowers which Shirley loved. I moved into 4 Grove Terrace in 2009. Before that I had never met Shirley as she had been too busy for years to socialise much in the village. A few months after I moved in Shirley lost her husband of many years. After that we gradually got to know each other and over time became good friends.

Shirley put up with a lot with me as her neighbour, firstly with building works and then with a noisy heat pump which blew cold air into her back door. A few months after my arrival, we both decided to get water meters, but the installer set them up on a shared water pipe which meant I was paying for both of us: that took a bit of unravelling. When noxious weeds appeared in my garden and crept under the fence to her's they took a lot of eradicating. My beautiful big lavender bush overhung our shared front path and I suspect she trimmed it from time to time, as I didn't have the heart to do. Despite all the inconveniences of having me as a neighbour she was endlessly kind, a fount of information about gardening

matters and always willing to sit with my dog if I had to be out. I learned such a lot from Shirley about gardening, how village life had been in the past, the old names of the fields and much more. She was always there with good advice when needed.

My dog Stanley was favourite of Shirley's. After his demise, I acquired a cat and another dog, Bella. My cat made great friends with hers, despite regularly sneaking through her cat door and stealing her cat's left over food. We were both amused at their close friendship and how they hunted together in Moor Lane.

Shirley and I did a lot together over the years we were neighbours. We shopped together twice weekly which forced me into a more orderly ways of buying necessities. We

went to the village lunch together where Shirley enjoyed meeting people, especially some of the older residents she had known but not seen for a long time. Occasionally we'd visit garden centres, which she loved. After years of hard work it was great to see her enjoying new things such as going on holidays for the first time with friends, playing Bingo and seeing more of the Oxfordshire countryside.

In May 2019 I moved to London to be near to my family. It took me 6 months to find a flat and my good neighbour and friend Shirley stepped into the breach, looking after my cat for all of that time. I will never forget her kindness and generosity of spirit. She is much missed by her family and friends.

Marion Judd