

## Village Association News

### St George's Day Celebration Events

How nice it is to see all the welcome signs of spring around the village, and with Easter just around the corner the Village Association is also looking forward to celebrating with you, St George's Day.

This year, as mentioned in February's newsletter, the dragon competition will run between Sundays 10th and 24th April, and in this special jubilee year we have suggested that each display has a royal theme. Apart from that, we invite you to freely create, using materials of your choice, your own unique interpretation of England's mythical dragon and /or St George, our patron saint, to be exhibited in your front garden. Prizes will be awarded as follows: best display - £30.00, runner up - £20.00, best child's entry - 10.00. Our guest judge, Councillor Jane Murphy, will be touring the village during the

second week of the displays to find her favourite dragon.

The committee is pleased to announce that for the first time in three years we will be holding our popular dragon walk and teas afternoon on Sunday 24th April. The walk, which will depart from The Square at 2pm, will be a guided tour of the village taking in all the displays before finishing at Woodleys, where teas will be served between 2:30pm and 4:30pm. During the afternoon, Jane Murphy will present the prizes to the worthy winners. Prior to the walk there will be a short inauguration of the circular bench at The Square which has been placed there in memory of a much-loved late resident, Mary Wiley.

We look forward to seeing all the West Hagbourne dragons once again, blazing brightly and proudly around the village, for all to enjoy! We would be very grateful for donations of cakes for the teas. These can be handed in to Rob and Hazel at

Woodleys at any time before the event and if you also would like to help us serve teas, please get in touch with Margaret using the contact details below. We look forward to seeing you at the teas afternoon, your support is much appreciated.

### The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Village Party

We are very pleased to announce that the village party to celebrate this historic event will take place on Saturday 4th June, from 11:30am 'til 4:30pm at York Farm, by kind invitation of Mrs Mary Allen and family.

The party, to which everyone is invited and will be free of charge to all West Hagbourne residents, is being organised by the Village Association and financed by the Parish Council.



During the party, buffet lunch and afternoon tea will be served and in addition, ice cream and pop corn will be available. Throughout the afternoon there will be musical entertainment from vocal duo, The Songbirds, and keeping the children amused will be Dizzy Dean's magic and puppet shows.

Letters, which will be delivered to every household at the beginning of May, will provide more details and include an invitation for you to apply for your free tickets. Guest tickets costing £6.00 each will be available if you would like to bring along non-resident family and/or friends. The Committee is grateful to the Parish council for their support.

We hope to see you all there!

If you would like more information or have a query about the above events and/or would like to offer your help to the Village Association, please contact Margaret (Chairman) on 01235 851707 or email: [va@westhagbourne.org](mailto:va@westhagbourne.org).

Margaret Leishman (Chair)

## Parish Council

### 20 mph speed limit



A while back the Parish Council asked for York Road to be given a 20 mph speed limit. Last year a request was made to the County Council for the village to be given 20 mph signs, at the suggestion of our County Councillor. It will assist with consideration of these requests if we consult with residents. We are therefore asking residents to use the survey sheet accompanying this newsletter, to indicate whether you would support a 20 mph limit to be applied to the whole of the village; or to specific parts only; or not at all. Your

responses can be delivered to the letter box of the chair of the council, Michael Butler, at Blissetts, Main Street; or sent by email to the Parish Clerk. In the email you need only use the numbers given on the survey sheet to identify items concerned and then indicate your responses.

### Jubilee Village Party

At the last meeting, the Parish Council agreed to provide funds to match the budget provided for the Jubilee party.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Wednesday 4 May at 7:30 pm. The Annual Parish Meeting is on 11 May at 7:30 pm. Both meetings will be in Hagbourne Village Hall.

Michael Butler (Chair)

## Fuel Costs

Thousands of council taxpayers in South Oxfordshire will soon receive a £150 council tax 'rebate' to help with rising energy bills. Most households in council tax bands A-D eligible.

This 'rebate' will not be taken off people's council tax bills when they are issued but will be made as a separate payment as soon as possible.

If you pay by Direct Debit the £150 should be paid directly into your bank account from the end of April. If you do not pay by Direct Debit the council will need to write to you to confirm your bank details. This may take longer to process. If you are not on direct debit, you can still sign up now as this will help to

ensure that you'll receive the money as soon as possible.

Limited funding will also be made available for households in need who would not otherwise be eligible for this energy rebate. This will be a local discretionary scheme and details will be made available on the council's website in due course.

## Planning

### Planning Application P22/S0970/FUL

Change of use of land to equestrian, erection of menage, associated lighting and landscaping at Manor Farm.

# other news

## Jean Kearsley

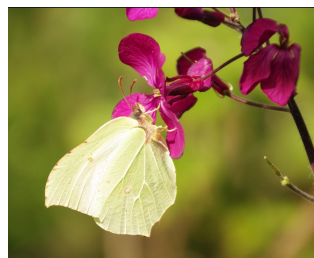
Jean Kearsley, who lived in West Hagbourne for many years, died in March 2022, aged 90. Long term residents may remember when Jean and her husband Hugh were active members of the village. They came to the area when they married in 1955, living first in East Hagbourne and then Abingdon, before buying a plot of land in West Hagbourne and having a house built. That house is Dormer Cottage. After spending three years in Holland for Hugh's work, they moved back to Dormer Cottage where Jean

raised her family of three boys, before starting working for antiquarian bookseller, John Lawson, in East Hagbourne. She loved her garden and was active in local groups, including spending many years on the Parish Council, only giving up when they downsized to a bungalow in Upton. During her time on the Parish council, Jean was involved in instigating the village clean up programme as well as entering West Hagbourne in the Best Kept Village competition. In later years, they moved to Gloucestershire be near their children. Hugh died in July 2020.

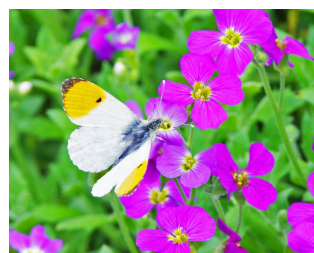
## Nature's Eye

The warm weather in March has meant that many butterflies have emerged a little earlier than average. I have already had many sightings of male Brimstones in my garden. After they have established territories by the end of March, I expect to see females. Their wings are much paler in colour than the males, being almost white. A few years ago they would be laying their eggs on the leaves of Buckthorn (or Alder Buckthorn in acidic soil areas) during May, but they could be laying in April this year if the warm weather persists. With global warming there is a possibility of a mis-match between the period of availability of a butterfly caterpillar's foodplant and the period in which the species is present as the caterpillar. Many research projects are currently working on this.

I have also seen a few Small Tortoiseshells recently. Look out for the first Orange Tips in April. Both of the butterfly images were taken in April, when the Honesty and Aubretia were in full flower.



*Brimstone butterfly*



*Orange Tip butterfly*

I see the same Grey Squirrel in my garden almost every day, on the bird feeders (perhaps we should call them squirrel feeders!). Other recent visitors are a Heron, seen on two occasions, and rabbits, which are becoming a serious problem in the north west corner of the village. Their favourite food in my garden is Day Lilies (*Heimerocallis*) when the shoots are 3-5 cm in height.

*Malcolm Brownsword*

## Ukraine

### The Council

SODC will help in any way they can, showing solidarity in public statements and actions such as flying the Ukrainian flag at the councils' offices at Milton Park as well as resettling refugees. They will work with partner councils to issue consistent communications to residents about how best to help.

### Residents

The best route to donate/support is via the Disasters Emergencies Committee which works with 15 charities including Oxfam, Christian Aid and Save the Children.

The Local Sponsorship Scheme for Ukraine will match people, charities, businesses and community groups to Ukrainians who do not have families in the country, so they are able to come to the UK. The councils' housing team (email [housing@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:housing@southandvale.gov.uk)) is recording all offers of housing and will respond in line with government advice.

### Village efforts

In addition to Council initiatives, Helen and her customers and friends at the Horse and Harrow are organising van loads of supplies to be delivered communities bordering Ukraine to help support the huge numbers of refugees arriving. Two deliveries have already been made. If you want more information about what is needed (clothing, food, medicines, cash for the journey costs), contact Helen on 850223.



## Oxfordshire Artweeks

Oxfordshire Artweeks is bigger and better this May due to many Covid restrictions being lifted.

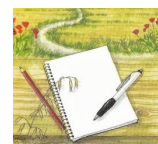
Linda Benton will have an exhibition of paintings and artist's prints, jigsaws, cards, and Poets' Trail books in Hagbourne Village Hall on 14th & 15th and 21st & 22nd May from 10:30 to 5:30 each day.

Linda will be showing her more recent work including illustrations from The Poets' Trail books, detailed artwork of Oxford, Woodstock and local villages which has been on jigsaws and pictures inspired by ancient oaks in the Didcot area

Call 01235 817891 or email [Linda.Benton@live.co.uk](mailto:Linda.Benton@live.co.uk) to request an Artweeks brochure, which lists all venues.



## The Poets' Trail



### East Hagbourne Spring Celebration

You are invited to an afternoon of words, music and refreshments on a Spring theme at: St Andrew's Church, East Hagbourne on Sunday 24th April starting at 2:30pm.

Donations for tea and cakes will support Church funds.

For further details, or if you wish to read/be involved with the music, please contact Linda Benton on 01235 817891 [Linda.Benton@live.co.uk](mailto:Linda.Benton@live.co.uk)

## HUGS Update

### ***Where's the buzz? Planting for bees and other pollinators this spring***

April is a great month to get out and start planning your garden. This year, plant a new pollinator patch or a new wildflower border so you can look forward to beautiful blooms through summer and hear the buzz of bees and other pollinators enjoying your garden as much as you do!

### ***Sowing from seed***

This is the cheapest way to create a new flower bed. You can use annuals for this summer or perennials to enjoy in the years to come. Choose from native and non-native flowers. Just clear your area and scatter the seeds, lightly rake over the surface and water the area. Then wait to see what comes up! Recommended annuals – corn flowers, corn marigold, poppies, wild carrot, cosmos and ammi.

### ***Planting plug plants***

If you want to get off to a faster start, choose plug plants. If you want native wildflowers then you could choose the species we have in our Hagbourne Cemetery Meadow and the Butts Piece Mini-meadow. Go for oxeye daises, common knapweed, lady's bedstraw, wild marjoram and field scabious. There are many online nurseries selling native species.

### ***Bigger plants***

If you're looking for bigger plants, why not stay local and go along in May to Hagbourne Garden Club's Plant Sale (afternoon of the 14th of May) and get advice on what will grow well locally. Choose from annuals, perennials and shrubs.

A mix of early to late flowering plants is key for pollinators: something already in flower, plus long-flowering plants (such as herbs, cat mint, lavender or others) and late-flowering plants (such as asters and sedums). Planting a range of flowers in different shape and sizes is also helpful for insects. Foxgloves are perfect for bumble bees to feed from as well as to shelter in during a down pour. Small open-headed flowers like achillea are perfect for hover flies and smaller pollinators.

### ***Night and day***

We enjoy sitting out on a summer's evening in the garden, so don't forget the night pollinating insects – moths! And do grow some jasmine, hesperis or evening primrose for them to enjoy too!

Finally, a plea for darkness - night pollinator lifecycles are severely affected by artificial light - so please remember to turn your outside lights off.

### ***Moor Lane Planting***

Those of you who regularly walk along Moor lane will have noticed that the bulbs planted last November are starting to emerge. The next stage of the refurbishment in April, once the soil warms up, will be to prepare the surface for sowing the mixed grass seed and selected wild flowers.

Further along the lane, towards the railway line, a programme of work has started to clear an area for planting wild flowers. This requires the removal of the nettles and hemlock, (which are flourishing after the recent rains).

Anyone who is interested in enhancing the environment in our village by helping with this work can contact us through the HUGS website.

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

Caroline Hunt

# 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)

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

Dan Tozer 07795 047934  
[daniel.tozer@westhagbourne.org](mailto:daniel.tozer@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)

## County Councillor

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

## 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)

## 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>

**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

The next lunch club would normally be on Friday 15 April at the Horse and Harrow. However this is Good Friday, so the it will be postponed until the following week - Friday 22 April. Please let me know if you are planning to come

Sue Totterdell (850080)

### Friday Bus Route Restored

10.05 from Didcot to Wallingford, arriving at 10.55.  
13.15 from Wallingford to Didcot arriving at 14.05. This route is supported by your Parish Council.



The Didcot & District u3a provides opportunities to learn a new language, gardening, natural history, family history, play an instrument or more. Meetings are held in the Didcot Civic Hall every third Tuesday of the month at 2:30pm. Upcoming topics are:  
19 April - Passports, Assassins, Traitors & Spies - Martin Lloyd  
17 May - AGM - Guest Speaker to be confirmed  
21 June - Four Generations at Fairmile - Ian Wheeler  
19 July - From Page to Stage - Jennifer Cowling  
For more details contact:  
Chair: [chairman@didcotu3a.org](mailto:chairman@didcotu3a.org)  
or Secretary: [secretary@didcotu3a.org](mailto:secretary@didcotu3a.org)

### 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

### 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 9th April 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](mailto:editors@westhagbourne.org)



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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](mailto:rob.griff@yahoo.co.uk)  
**All donations go towards our village funds**



**AED  
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defibrillator**

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[www.bare-essentials.info](http://www.bare-essentials.info)

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750€/week July

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