

Village Association News

St George's Day Celebration Events

Thank you to all those who supported this year's St George's Day celebrations. With 28 dragons on display, plus flags and bunting, many of which had a royal jubilee theme, our judge, Councillor Jane Murphy enjoyed her guided tour



First prize: 9 York Road

of the village to view them all. She wrote: 'After a lovely walk around the village, I was astounded to see such fantastic dragons. What an amazing effort by everyone and it was a pleasure to be asked to choose the best. Well, what a challenge! Congratulations to No. 9 York Road - Great job!' Jane also chose the wonderful display at 5, Manor Close as runner-up, while the children's prize went to the colourful display at 6, York Road. The prizes were awarded at the Dragon teas which were held in the beautiful garden at Woodleys on the afternoon of 24th April, with thanks to Rob and Hazel.

Prior to the teas, Sheila Taylor held a short inauguration of the circular bench placed at The Square in memory of Mary Wiley. Julie then led a walk around the village to spot all the dragons before joining other villagers and visitors at Woodleys for refreshments.



Children's prize: 6 York Road

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Village Party

At the time of writing, the Association committee has finalised the plans for this momentous event on Saturday 4th June. We are delighted to have received 150 requests for tickets and we look forward to welcoming residents, their families and friends to the party. Thank you again to Mary Allen and her family for letting us hold the event at York Farm.

Summer Village Walk

This will take place on Sunday, 24th July when we will be walking along the Driftway bridleway across the fields to Harwell village. There, we will be calling in at the Harwellian Club, situated on the recreation field, where refreshments can be purchased. We will use the same route for the return journey, however, transport can be provided back to West

Hagbourne for anyone wishing to do the single journey only.

Madge Trophy

This year's front gardens competition will take place during the first week in August. Our judge this year, Sue Mantell, who is a member of the U3A garden club, will be looking for attractive design, planting and colour amongst borders, planters and hanging baskets. She will also be focusing on evidence of wildlife-friendly gardening methods. All front gardens are automatically entered in the competition.

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.

Margaret Leishman (Chair)

Village Litter Pick

Many thanks to all the people who took part in this year's litter pick on Saturday 9th April and also to the people who collected litter on the Sunday. We had a good number of people this year including a few new faces so thank you to them and I hope that you will become regular helpers. The more people we have the less work each person has to do.

Val Brownsword



Second prize: 5 Manor Close



Dragon teas at Woodleys



Inauguration of the bench in memory of Mary Wiley

other news

Parish Council



20 mph speed limit

There were forty responses to the speed limit survey. All forty agreed to a 20 mph limit for York Road and Manor Close. Thirty-five responses were in favour of a 20 mph limit for the whole village. These results have been passed on to Highways. We are confident that at least part of the village will be provided with a 20 mph limit.

The Clerk, the Chair and the Vice Chair of the Council have had a site meeting with a representative from Highways to discuss the problems with the narrow, single track, section of Main Street. It was agreed that the two road narrows signs were insufficient to alert drivers to the

stretch of road being single track only. We believe that a different system will be installed. One possibility being investigated by Highways involves vehicle activated signs at either end which are linked so that if a vehicle enters one end a warning will be given at the other end. We shall be interested to see what Highways eventually come up with.

On another point, in the budget of the Council there is a provision for paying for a rubbish skip. If anybody believes that such a skip would be useful, they should notify the clerk. Any responses will be considered at the next meeting of the Council.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 6th July at 7.30pm in the Hagbourne Village Hall.

Michael Butler (Chair)

HUGS Update

Garden centres will no longer be allowed to sell peat-based compost from 2024 onwards but gardeners can take action immediately! We went along to Sustainable Didcot's Wild Café on May the 14th and they had a wide range of peat-free options out to look at and squeeze!

Sometimes peat-free compost retains water differently to how peat composts did. However, the range available is enormous and each compost is different.

We really liked Dalesfoot Wool compost. It comes from Lake District sheep wool and has a good structure to it for holding water and nutrients. You can pick it up from Winterbrook Garden Nurseries in Brightwell cum Sotwell. The nursery grows all its plants in peat-free compost. They also grow their

own stock onsite from seed or cutting without importing plants. They don't use pesticides. They use harvested rainwater and it is one of the first nurseries in the UK to send plants out in cardboard Posipots so that plastic pots don't go out into the UK waste chain.

Find out more about the Didcot Wild Café in our latest blog.

Caroline Hunt & Ian Leishman

Missing dog found

Many thanks to all the village WhatsApp group members who actively shared news about the dog that went missing in the village. Thankfully he turned up safe and well a couple of days later.

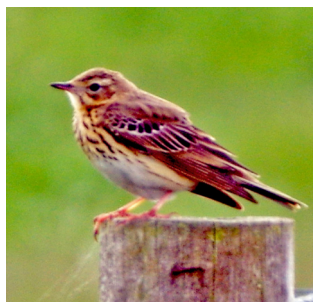
If you would like to join the Village WhatsApp group, see details on the back page.

Nature's Eye

I have just seen my first Painted Lady butterfly in the village. Let's hope there will many more early arrivals so that they can start to reproduce to boost the summer population of this very welcome visitor from Europe



Heron



Tree pipit

and Africa. There have been plenty of sightings of Holly Blue in my garden. There could be a single one seen many times, but I think not, as all sightings over the past month have been in almost pristine condition, their wings showing no sign of 'wear and tear.' They lay their eggs on holly or ivy, depending on whether they are laid in spring or summer. In April a heron visited my garden on at least three occasions. The cds dangling over my garden pond

seem to have been doing their job, as there are still plenty of fish remaining. I have already seen my first Azure damselfly and Large Red damselfly of the year alongside the pond.

During the winter months I often see Meadow Pipits in the horse paddock on the west side of my garden. These are downland birds which retreat to lower ground in cold weather. They are the size of a sparrow and their flight pattern is usually described as undulating. Although common on the downs it is not often that I have a close view of them. This image was taken in early May on Aston Upthorpe Downs using a 300mm lens. The rather similar Corn Bunting, closely related to the yellowhammer, was frequently seen here ten years ago, but their population has decreased all over the country recently.

Malcolm Brownsword

Library books to your door

If you or someone you know are finding it difficult to get to the library, the Home Library Service can help! Run by Oxfordshire County Council, this free service delivers books and other library materials to hundreds of people across the county. Friendly volunteers choose items you like and visit every three weeks to deliver and collect them.

The service is open to people who struggle to physically visit a library. It's also available on a short-term basis after illness or hospitalisation, and to people with caring responsibilities.

Registering is easy, call your local library or the Home Library Service on 01865 810259 or email homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

East Hagbourne Scarecrow trail

**Saturday 28 May until
Sunday 19 June**

This year's theme is "70 Glorious Years". Maps for the trail are available from the Community Shop or the Fleur de Lys for £1. Follow the trail and vote for your favourite. There will be a cup for the winning scarecrow.

Profits go to St Anne's Hospital, Lulifi in Tanzania.



Neighbourhood Watch

About 60% of British adults have been targeted by fraud at least once in their lifetime. Telltale signs of a typical scam include:

- You're being approached by someone you've never actually spoken to or met in person
- They open with a request: "I need your help"

•They emphasise the urgency of the situation or apply time pressure

•Poor grammar, spelling and spacing

•They ask you to click on a link, or send money directly

For more information see ourwatch.org.uk.

Health centre news



Oak Tree Health Centre in Didcot is to receive almost £40,000 to help expand its premises to accommodate new patients. South Oxfordshire District Council has allocated funds raised from local developers as part of their permission to build new homes

in the Ladygrove area of Didcot served by the practice. These will help pay for the GP practice to build an extra consultation room, four workstations for clinics, dressings and mass vaccination programmes. Work on the new space is expected to start soon.

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

Jane Murphy
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

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 would normally be on Friday 17th June at the Horse and Harrow. Please let me know if you are planning to come

Sue Totterdell (850080)



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:

21 June: Four Generations at Fairmile – Ian Wheeler

19 July: From Page to Stage – Jennifer Cowling

16 August: Wilts and Bucks Canal continued – Martin Buckland

20 September: Violet Jessop's Escape from the Titanic – Jane Glennie

18 October: 66 men of Grandpoint 1914-1918 – Liz Woolley. Looking at the lives of some of the men named on the Grandpoint war memorial

15 November: Birth of Hoaxes in the C18 – Ian Keable

20 December: Christmas event – Didcot Divas

if you have a query please email

bulletin@didcotu3a.org

Marian Nicholls,
Bulletin Coordinator

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 11th June 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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5 STAR SERVICE

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

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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