

Village Association News

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Village Party

A big thank you to everyone who came to the village party on Saturday, 4th June and helped to make it such a memorable occasion. We hope you all had an enjoyable time. As always, we are very grateful for the vital support we received from those of you who helped erect marquees and gazebos, set out tables and chairs, strung bunting, manned the gate, baked cakes, etc. which made it all possible. Also, a huge thank

you to Mary Allen and her family who willingly let us take over York Farm for the day and the Parish Council for their financial backing. A real team effort!

Madge Trophy

As previously reported in the June newsletter, the front gardens competition will take place during the first week of August. All front gardens are automatically entered in the competition, with hanging baskets and pots being judged alongside planted borders.

Our judge this year, Sue Mantell from the U3A's gardening club, will be taking into account, the extremely hot, dry weather conditions that continue to be a challenge for gardeners. The winner of the trophy will be contacted personally and the result posted on the village website.

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)



other news

Parish Council

The meeting of the parish council on 6th July was held partly on Zoom as the Clerk had Covid and could not attend in person.

It was agreed to make a repair to the bench around the tree on Main Street. It was also agreed to carry out a full overhaul of the memorial bench to the side of Manor Farm.

Villagers are also reminded to have regard for others at this time of year, concerning for example foliage and hedges extending from gardens over pavements and also restricting rural footpaths.

There can also be problems for neighbours by cockerels crowing too early in the morning.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 7th September at 7.30pm in the Hagbourne Village Hall.

Michael Butler (Chair)

Road closure

A section of Main Street will be closed from 22 August up to and including 27 August 2022 whilst essential footway improvements works are carried out. This is a 24 hour road closure of Main Street between the pond (access to Hagbourne Farm retained) and the junction with York Road beside Appledore/Lizard Bank). There will be access for properties within the closure points. The alternative route (to head South) is via Brook Lane, Park Road, Wantage Road, the Harwell Link Road and A417. Further information regarding the works may be obtained by contacting Paul Brassill on 07917 837860 or email nicola.douglas@odsgroup.co.uk.

John Timms

We note with sadness the recent death of John Timms, a long-term resident of West Hagbourne, at Summerhill, York Road. Whilst his wife Eleanor, who pre-deceased him, is remembered for her love of sailing, John will be principally remembered for his love of music.

IT Support

It seems that several people in the village would like to join the village WhatsApp group but do not have mobile phones. I understand that it is possible to use WhatsApp on your computer without having a mobile number but that it is a little complicated to set it up, particularly if you are not confident using IT. Is there anyone in the village who could help in this instance? More generally, is there anyone who has either Microsoft or Apple experience who might be prepared to give a little free help and advice to the less-confident villagers?

Nature's Eye

I am typing this in front of a large fan on 19 July at 10.30 am and the temperature outside is already 32 Celsius and forecast to reach perhaps 40!

Collared doves are frequently seen in my garden, particularly on the front drive. A couple of weeks ago I discovered that a collared dove was nesting on one of the beams on the pergola, on the rear patio. Please excuse the poor photograph, but it was taken in shadow through a double-glazed window. Although it seems that it was only a few

Macmillan coffee morning

The Village Association are holding our 5th annual Coffee Morning in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support on Saturday 1st October between 10.30am and 12.30pm at York Farm.

You are invited to come along with family and friends and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee or squash and delicious homemade cakes. Any donations to MacMillan will help

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to support this worthwhile cause.

We would be grateful for any offers of help and donations of cakes and/or raffle prizes .

The above donations can be brought to York Farm on the morning of the event or given to the following committee members:

Julie Freeland, 1 Main Street
June Little, Lenton, York Road
Margaret Leishman, Chapel Hayes, Main Street

Many thanks to Mary Allen who once again has provided the use of York Farm.

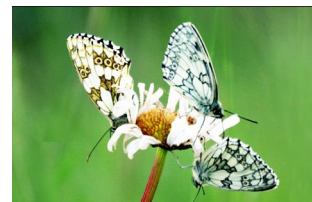
Val Walton committee member

days ago that the two eggs were laid, there are now two rapidly growing chicks present. Like other doves and pigeons, collared doves are able to suck water into their throats without throwing their heads backwards to facilitate swallowing. Also their young are unable to digest seeds, so their parents produce 'pigeon milk,' or 'crop milk,' regurgitated from their throats in order to nourish them. The rapid growth of the chicks indicates that they are doing well at the moment, despite the high temperature. The main threat is from magpies, large numbers of which are present at the moment. Although they lay only two eggs in a clutch, collared doves usually produce several clutches per year. This explains how they could expand their range from Asia, westwards to the UK in the 1950s and subsequently further west to the USA.

The marbled white butterfly period on the Sustrans dis-used



Collared dove



Marbled white butterfly

railway track is almost over at the time of writing, but a couple of weeks ago I did manage to photograph a trio roosting at about 7.30 pm.

Please note that the image in the last edition was of a meadow pipit, as stated in the text, and not a tree pipit, as stated in the title.

Malcolm Brownsword

HUGS Update

Activities

Join us on our summer work party on Saturday 6 August from 10-12 for some local conservation work (email hugsustainability@gmail.com for more info).

We have our Wild Walk route to follow using our summer seasonal wildlife guide – see how many of our top ten birds, butterflies, moths and plants you can spot!

This year SODC and East Hagbourne Parish Council are organising a *Litter Bugs Trail* along the route. Find out more about how to take part in this, and the wild walk, on our website www.hugsustainability.org.

Make a mini-meadow

If you want to create a mini-meadow in an area of your garden, the Hagbourne Cemetery Wildflower Meadow was cut in July and this cut material is full of flower seeds that are likely to do well in the local area. Do get in touch if you'd like to arrange to pick up some 'green hay' from us at hugsustainability@gmail.com.

At home just mow and remove grass cuttings then rake the ground to clear thatch and expose more bare soil ready to lay down the green hay.

Summer in the garden

If you're enjoying time in the garden, how about some wildlife gardening? Moths and

butterflies need our help. Check how many plants you have in your garden that provide nectar and food for caterpillars (visit www.butterfly-conservation.org)

From 15th July to 7th August why not take part in the *Big Butterfly Count*? For more information visit: <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org>

Bats in the village

The warm, dry July evenings produced a bonanza of insect life to feed local bat populations, with this year's youngsters now also taking to the wing (and sometimes mistakenly entering living areas!). Bats are an important indicator of the state of the ecology in the area. We are very lucky in West Hagbourne to still have a good number of buildings and trees, plus a low level of night lighting in most areas, that can provide suitable roosts and habitat for them.

On a recent visit to one location, approximately 35 pipistrelle bats were recorded emerging from a single building.

Bright lighting, particularly 'daylight white' floodlights, disrupts the bat's foraging pathways and also leaves them open to predation. So, if you want to help the bat population, see them in your garden and around the village, point your floodlights downwards and link them to timed motion sensors, or turn them off when not needed at night. For more information visit <https://bats.org.uk>

Caroline Hunt & Ian Leishman



Common Pipistrelle bat



Parish Council

Clerk

Andrew Wise
parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

Councillors

Mike Butler (Chair) 850523
mike.butler@westhagbourne.org

Hugh Lewis 851113
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Dan Tozer 07795 047934
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District Councillors

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

Jane Murphy
jane.murphy@southoxon.gov.uk

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

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 would normally be on Friday 19th August at the Horse and Harrow. Please let me know if you are planning to come

Sue Totterdell (850080)



Monthly Meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday in the month at Didcot Civic Hall, starting at 2:30 pm (except for the August meeting which will be at the GWP District Neighbourhood Community Centre, opposite Asda).

Dates for Your Diary:

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 13th August 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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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.griffiths@yahoo.co.uk

All donations go towards our village funds

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