

Death of Queen Elizabeth II



The death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was marked in West Hagbourne by the lowering of flags in the village to half-mast. In addition, around 50 residents joined to observe the national one-minute silence on Sunday night. They met at Ash Farm yard where they fell silent at 8pm, and then raised a toast to the Queen and to the new King before joining to sing 'God Save the King'.



We are therefore appealing to those residents who think they can bring fresh ideas for social events, drive and enthusiasm to the Association, and who want to see it continue. Without YOU there may be no Village Association in 2023. You will be made most welcome at our meeting and a complimentary drink will be offered to all those who attend. Thank you.

For further information please contact Margaret (Chairman) on 01235 851707 or email: va@westhagbourne.org.

Margaret Leishman (Chair)

Parish Council

Village Association News

Macmillan Coffee Morning

This year the Macmillan Coffee Morning will be held at York farm on 1st October. Information leaflets about this year's coffee morning have been delivered to all households. The Association thanks everyone for their continued support for this most worthy cause and a full report on the coffee morning will appear in the next issue of the newsletter.

Village Walk

On 24th July seven intrepid villagers set off to Harwell village on an extremely hot day. We walked to the Harwellian, in the recreation ground where we had a very welcome drink or ice cream!

The Autumn village walk will be on 23rd October leaving at 14.30 from the bus stop.



Remembrance Sunday 13th November 2pm

Please come and join us at the village war memorial (bus stop) at The Square for a short ceremony as we remember those from West Hagbourne who lost their lives whilst serving our country during WWI & II.

A new poppy wreath will be hung, a prayer said and a 2 minutes silence will be observed as a mark of respect. Everyone is welcome.

A village tree for Celebration and Memorial

The Association will be planting a tree during November to mark the celebration of her late majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee and also now in her memory. Thank you to Liz and Andy Wimshurst for the donation of a horse chestnut tree which will be planted on the verge at the entrance to the village near Foxglove Lane. We hope that in years to come, our tree will help to form part of the Queen's Green Canopy, which was initiated to increase and

protect the country's native tree cover and to mark her majesty's 70 years on the throne.

Madge Trophy

The judging for the Madge Trophy for the best front garden took place on Tuesday 2nd August and was judged by Sue Mantell. Her report follows on the next page.

Is there a future for the Village Association?

The Association's Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday, 7th November at the Horse & Harrow at 7pm. This year, a number of members have indicated that they will be stepping down from the committee after long and commendable service. In order to survive, the Association will require new committee members who are able to take the Association into the future so that it can cater for the changing social desires and interests of residents. There is no doubt that, with the lack of community facilities and consequently the opportunity for villagers to come together, the Association has a vital role to play and is an asset to the village.

The Council has been advised by Highways that the works, including vehicle activated signs, will be completed by the end of September. A full report will be issued once we know how it all works.

It can be dangerous walking on our narrow pavements, especially if vehicles with wide mirrors drive close to the edge of the road or vehicles drive along the pavement. This is made worse if there are hedges or other plants which narrow the usable pavement. Villagers are asked to ensure that plants are cut back if necessary.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 2nd November at 7.30pm in the Hagbourne Village Hall.

Michael Butler (Chair)

Fireworks

It will soon be the season for fires and fireworks. Please think about the effects on pets, livestock and wildlife.



other news

Madge Trophy



Judging took place on Tuesday 2nd August.

Thank you for inviting me to spend time walking around your village looking at your front

gardens. I have lived in Park Road, Didcot for over 30 years, so have passed through often on my running route and by car further afield. I've seen several of your front gardens change through the years.

I am a member of the U3A Garden Group, was trained in gardening from a young age by my father, who was himself a qualified gardener, and also hold an RHS horticultural certificate myself. So it was a pleasure to visit with permission!

I chose the following criteria:

- 1) Sustainability - of plant material and garden wildlife
- 2) Environmental issues - a move towards plants that can withstand heat and drought
- 3) Interest level - those who

after a quick glimpse might cause you to step back and have a second look

4) General level of design - which showed thought in planting and the need for maintenance.

My final order is:

First: 12 Manor Close which showed variety and sustainability and planning for maintenance

Joint second:

Meadows Edge, York Road which showed interesting groupings of planting within a cool colour palette, and included the need for parking in the design.

Fermain, York Road which used hard landscaping in an imaginative way, allowing for parking within plant groups.

A special mention goes to Woodleys as an acknowledgement of the fact that the position of the garden is tricky within the road system and outlook, the design allows the village a view of greenery whilst offering privacy for the occupants.

Sue Mantell



12 Manor Close



Meadow's Edge



Fermain

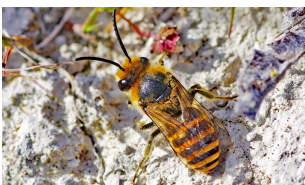
Nature's Eye

.During July and August there have been few signs of wildlife in my garden. I have seen only a few swallows, house martins and swifts this summer and very small numbers of dragonflies and damsel flies, and what has happened to the ladybirds? The only highlight has been the regular visits of a family of green woodpeckers feeding on ants on my front and rear lawns. Not so welcome are the rabbits tunnelling into my vegetable patch on the north side! However, I frequently walk along the 'Sustrans' dis-used railway track between West and East Hagbourne and there is always

something of interest there. In June I saw the usual pyramidal and bee orchids and in July large numbers of marbled white butterflies were present, some of them having a few harmless easily-visible red Trombidium breii mites on them. These mites are commonly found on several other species of chalk grassland butterfly species too.

The track is a good place to find wasp spiders in the late summer and autumn. These black and yellow arachnids are becoming increasingly common in southern England. Now is the time to look for Ivy Bees on the ramp leading down to Upton. They first arrived here about 4 years ago. They are about the size of a honey bee and of

similar appearance, and burrow into the very friable sandy embankment, laying eggs in the resulting tunnel. The larvae hatch out and feed on ivy pollen



Ivy bee



Marbled white butterfly

and nectar gathered by the parents in September, before pupating and then tunnelling out in early September the next year. They are easy to spot on a warm, sunny afternoon, as they tend to fly in large numbers (many hundreds!) close to the ground.

Malcolm Brownsword

Charles Keevil

We note the death in September of Charles Keevil, a long term resident of York Road West Hagbourne.

HUGS Update

False autumn

Because of the extreme heat and drought this summer, we've had a false autumn. It's hard to miss how many trees shed leaves in July and August. And how early fruits such as blackberries have been this year. This is bad news for wildlife relying on these and other autumn fruits. Much will have gone by the time we get into the real autumn and the colder weather that comes with it.

How can we help

Birds and mammals will need more food this autumn to make up for what has already been and gone. Also, spare a thought for nature in your autumn gardening. Leave plants uncut so remaining seed heads can be food for birds and stems used as habitat by invertebrates. This is the year to be untidy in your garden. Many species have been hit hard by this summer. Compacted soil made it hard for hedgehogs, badgers, blackbirds and thrushes were unable to dig to find earthworms. Caterpillars of many butterfly and moth species struggled to survive on their food plants in the heat. Bumblebees, designed for cooler temperatures, and with many other species were unable to fly and feed in such heat. Leaving more wild areas in the garden and longer grass,

together with providing food and water, will help beleaguered nature recover on your patch.

See our Wildlife Gardening page for more ideas of how to help:

<https://www.hugsustainability.org/wildlifegardening>

You can also help by planting more native hedging and trees in your garden /on your land. Many young trees won't have survived the heat and drought and your garden may now have gaps. Why not have a look at our community tree order which will open in October:

<https://www.hugsustainability.org/trees-1>

The bigger picture

We don't have long now to reduce our carbon emissions and avoid all our future summers being just like this summer, or worse... We can all make a difference to our impact on the planet and there are many ways to start. Whether that is by walking or cycling instead of short car journeys. Or eating seasonal, local food. Avoiding food waste. Insulating your home. Conserving energy. Avoiding flying. Rethinking shopping choices and buying second hand. There are many ways we can tackle the climate emergency together. See our Sustainability page for more ideas:

<https://www.hugsustainability.org/sustainability>

Caroline Hunt & Ian Leishman

Good News, Bad News!

The Bad News: winter is coming

The Good News: TreeFest is coming too!

The planning for **St Andrews Christmas Tree Festival** is underway.

Save the Dates:

Festival week - 9th-17th Dec

Carols in the Close - 9th December

Carols in the Farmyard - 11th December

Big Wassail - 16th December



Parish Council

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parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

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Jane Murphy
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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

I am sorry to announce that Helen and Tony will be leaving the Horse and Harrow some time after Christmas after being hosts there for nearly 11 years. They have decided they want to spend more time with their granddaughter and will be moving north to be nearer her.

In the meantime, the next lunch club should be on be on Friday 28 October at the Horse and Harrow. Let me know if you are planning to come along and I will check with Helen closer to the time if food will be available.

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:

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

The group has helped in the generous sharing of excess garden produce this summer. Our thanks to all who have donated fruit and vegetables.

other news

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

A417 Road Closure

The A417 will be closed at Upton on 18th/19th November from 19.00-06.00. Diversion via East Hagbourne and Blewbury.

NEED A PLUMBER FOR THE SMALL JOBS?
07526 304050
taps-toilets.co.uk ★★★★★
5 STAR SERVICE

Marquees

The Village Association has two Marquees available for hire:
12 x 5 metres & 11 x 4 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.griffith@yahoo.co.uk
All donations go towards our village funds

**AED
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