

Village Association News

As a new committee, the Village Association is excited to announce that the 2023 calendar of events is about to start. We hope each event will promote community spirit and help to make our village a very special place to live.

Dragon Competition



St. George's Day is rapidly approaching and we hope as many of you as possible will join in the

Dragon Competition. As mentioned in the February Newsletter, this event will run from 8th -23rd April. Last year, we had 28 dragons displayed in people's front gardens. Let's see if we can exceed that number. The theme this year is 'The Coronation' and we hope to inspire diversity both in the form of your dragon display and in the construction material you use. HAVE FUN!!!

As usual, there will be cash prizes for the Best Display (£30), the Runner Up (£20) and the Best Child's Entry (£10). We are pleased that local artist, Linda Benton, has agreed to

judge this event. She will be touring the village during the second week of the display to find her favourite dragons.

The celebrations on the 23rd April will start at 2.00pm with the Dragon Walk. Walkers will meet at the gates of Woodleys, The Square, for a guided tour of the village. They will then return to join friends and neighbours in the garden of Woodleys for afternoon tea and cakes served from 2.30pm. Gazebos will be erected just in case it's not a fine and sunny day! The event will end with the coveted prize distribution.

The committee would be very grateful for cake donations.



Last year's winning dragon

These can be handed in to Rob and Hazel at Woodleys any time on the day of the event.

We are also planning to run a plant stall to raise money for future Village Association events. There will be a wide range of bedding plants available to buy - grown in the village - but, if you have any unwanted plants at home, we would gratefully accept donations. Once again, these can be handed in at Woodleys any time before the event.

The Coronation of King Charles III

By now, residents of West Hagbourne and Coscote will have received a leaflet about the Coronation event. These additional scheduling details might be useful when organising your day.

10.00 am Screening of the ceremony will begin.

12.30 onwards Lunch will be served.

1.00 pm Start of activities for children.

2.00 pm Judging of the cake competition - followed by afternoon tea and cake.

2.30 pm Drawing of the raffle.

3.00 pm The event will end with the singing of the National Anthem.



York Farm, venue for the Coronation event

Please, return your booking slips as soon as possible. This will help us plan the day efficiently and deliver your tickets to your homes before the event.

Entries for the cake competition should be delivered to York Farm on the day of the coronation. Even if you are not entering the competition, donations of cakes will be gratefully received by the committee - we have a lot of people to feed!

The committee hopes that everyone will enjoy the day.

Rosey Gardiner (Chair)

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR TICKETS ON THE DAY!

Parish Council

At the meeting on 1st March a number of matters were discussed, one of which was the footpath to Upton. It has been noted that the portion of the footpath concerned is after the bridge over the stream. That stream is the boundary between West Hagbourne and Upton and so the sloping portion of the path which needs attention is in the parish of Upton. The Clerk is seeking tenders for the work but has contacted the clerk for

Upton parish council to explain the situation so that we can work together on this project.

The next parish council meeting will take place on Wednesday 10th May after the new council has been appointed. The Annual Parish Meeting will be on 24th May and more information will be provided nearer the date.

Michael Butler has been appointed Chair of the Cemetery Committee for East and West Hagbourne Cemetery.

Michael Butler (Chair)



Photo ID

The government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at a polling station at some elections. This will apply for the first time in England at the local elections on Thursday 4th May 2023. Accepted forms of photo ID will include, but are not limited to, passport, driving licence (including provisional licence), disabled parking blue

badge, certain concessionary travel cards and identity cards with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme). Anyone who doesn't have accepted photo ID can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate. The deadline to apply for ID for the local elections is 25 April.

For more information, visit electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID or call the Electoral Commission helpline on 0800 328 0280.



other news

HUGS Update

Dramatic decline of native British wildflowers

'The loss of habitats is an unmitigated disaster for wildflowers and all the species that depend on them including insects, bats and birds.'

*Craig Bennett, Chief Executive
The Wildlife Trusts*

Over half of Britain and Ireland's native plants have declined over the past 20 years (Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland). We are losing on average one species per year per county (Plantlife).

Why we should worry

Fewer of these plants means fewer pollinators.

Species at risk

Heathers and Harebells have been particularly badly affected. Corn marigold, brought to Britain by Iron Age farmers and once common in our fields, have declined by over 60%.

Why this has happened

Research pins the decline on changes in farming since the 1950s, habitat degradation and changes in grazing. Land



Flower meadow

drainage has led to declines in damp loving wild plants, including Devil's-bit scabious – a nectar-rich flower used by many pollinating insects.

What next

Government environment schemes promise to reverse these declines, protect local wildlife sites and protect and enhance biodiversity and the natural environment. We can all help by getting to know our wildflowers better, and cherishing them.

So get sowing this Spring, plant wildflowers in your garden, and come along to help HUGS plant more wildflowers around the villages !

https://plantlife.love-wildflowers.org.uk/wildflower_garden/grow_in_the_garden

Caroline Hunt

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 possible mis-match between the period of availability of a butterfly caterpillar's food plant



Brimstone on honesty



Male orange tip

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.

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 twice, 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 (Hemerocallis) when the shoots are 3-5 cm in height.

Malcolm Brownsword

Twinning visit to Planegg

The visit this year takes place from Thursday 7th - Sunday 10th September. Those travelling are expected to pay for their own flights (around £200 pp) but on arrival everyone is hosted by a local family and all joint activities are paid for by Planegg. You do not have to be a member of the twinning association in order to join this visit, just interested in finding out about life in our twin town. If you would like to find out more, please look at our website (www.didcottwinning.org.uk) or get in touch with Sue Totterdell.

Didcot and surrounding villages, including West Hagbourne, are twinned with Meylan in France and with Planegg in Germany. Exchanges usually take place in alternate years, although things have been pretty quiet over the past few years. This year, however, we are invited to join a visit to Planegg. This charming town, located to the south-west of Munich, has similarities to Didcot in that it is the focus of international research facilities but its surrounding countryside, with forests and lakes, is very different.

New Emergency Alerts service

Emergency Alerts will be used very rarely – only being sent where there is an immediate risk to people's lives – so people may not receive an alert for months, or even years. Their initial use will focus on the most serious severe weather-related incidents, including severe flooding.

A UK-wide alerts test will take place in the early evening of 23rd April which will see you receive a test alert message on your mobile phone. You'll hear a loud, siren-like sound and a

message on your screen will tell you about the emergency as well as how best to respond. You'll be able to check an alert is genuine at gov.uk/alerts.



Farming & Countryside

Wildlife surveys, drainage and archaeology reports, management plans and planning permission – at long last the riding arena/menage is finished. Although functioning, the website is still being worked on where the main advertising will be. For quite a while it did just look like a muddy pile of earth (the weather has been against us), but it has gradually taken shape and evolved. Once the grass has grown and the wildflowers are planted it should be a lovely place to exercise and train a horse. This area should also be a lovely place to listen to the skylarks as they love the spring crops and grass fields.

The kestrels haven't appeared yet. They didn't use the box last year, but maybe it will be desirable this season: we will see. Hopefully the owl boxes will be occupied too. We have installed more nesting boxes around the grounds and for swifts and swallows on the older buildings.

Unfortunately, due to an invasion of the flea beetle, the rape crop has failed so we will have to replant with peas mid-April. The milling wheat and spring malting barley are being planted.

Regenerative farming is very much at the forefront where less chemicals and fertiliser are being used with minimum cultivation to keep the carbon in the ground.

The water table remains low even in the reservoirs, another hose pipe ban this year no doubt.

The spring flowers are beginning to show themselves just a few more sunny days and we will all be smiling again!

Sue Lay

Temporary Road Closure

Temporary Road Closure and "No Waiting" restriction at West Hagbourne, Brook Lane

The temporary closure will operate from 25th May 2023 up to and including 26th May 2023 between 04:00 and 20:00. See the map for details. The restriction is to facilitate surface dressing works.

Access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles.

Further information regarding the works may be obtained by contacting Tim Belton at Milestone Infrastructure, Oxfordshire County Council on 0345 310 11 11.

Ref T11644/AC



Planning

None currently consulting in West Hagbourne

P23/V0247/FUL & P23/V0248/LB.

Application submitted to VWH for the Kingswell Hotel: change of use to 19 apartments.

The next edition of this newsletter (June) will be distributed 7-10 days later than usual.

Parish Council

Clerk

Andrew Wise
parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

Councillors

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

Hugh Lewis 851113
hugh.lewis@westhagbourne.org

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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 lunch club 2023 launched with a meeting at the George & Dragon, Upton on February 24th and was attended by 23 people. The next one will be on April 28th (the fourth Friday in the month) at 12h30. Get in touch via the website if you want to be added to the mailing group. .

Sue Totterdell,
Meadow's Edge (850080)



Monthly Meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday in the month at Didcot Civic Hall, starting at 2:30 pm .

2023

18 April: Chrissie's Owls - a non-profit organisation committed to the care and conservation of Owls based in Oxfordshire.

16 May: AGM to be held at Great Western Park District Community Centre, Gentian Mews OX11 6GR (opp Costa)

20 June: Oxfordshire on Canvas - Marie Louisa.

18 July: Inside the world of a TV & Film Extra - Peter Hague

15 August: Sue Ryder – A Life lived for Others - Joanna Bogle

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.

Didcot Farmers' Market

This will be held in the Orchard Centre on Saturday 18th April from 8.30am - 1.30pm.

Hagbourne Garden Club

Meetings are held in East Hagbourne Pavilion. For further information email sally.barksfield@gmail.com

other news



Village Shop & PO

Shop:
Mon: 9am - 5pm
Tues/Wed: 9am - 4pm
Thurs: 9am - 5pm
Fri: 9am - 4pm
Sat: 9am - 12.30pm

PO:
Mon: 9am - 12.30pm; 1 - 5pm
Tues/Wed: 9am - 12.30pm
Thurs: 9am - 12.30pm; 1-5pm
Fri/Sat: 9am - 12.30pm

other news

East & West Hagbourne Village Fund

The annual Hagbourne Fun Run raises money for cancer research and for the Fund itself. This is available to support local good causes.

The Tyrrell Trust

The Tyrrell Trust (William Tyrrell Charity) is a charity which helps people in West Hagbourne who are in need.

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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**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

dronemotion.co.uk
DRONE FILMING & ROOF SURVEYS

Marquees

The Village Association has two Marquees available for hire:
12 x 5 metres & 11 x 4 metres
at a cost of £50 each or £75 for two plus a returnable deposit of £75
Tables and/or chairs are included in the price

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 **Robin Wilkes** at va@westhagbourne.org

All fees go towards the Association's funds

house to rent in France

Noirmoutier Island, west of Nantes - sleeps 7

just minutes from a quiet family beach, great biking and sailing, two bedrooms, dishwasher, washing machine, TV

600€/week June + September
750€/week July

for more information and photos
contact totterdells@btinternet.com 01235 850080