

## Village Association News

### St. George's Day Dragon Competition

This year's Dragon Competition was held over 8-23rd April. After a slow start, due to very wet weather (dragons do not want their fiery breath doused by excessive rain), we had an impressive 26 dragons, 2 King Charles IIIs and 1 coronation chicken. Our judge, Linda Benton, commented on the effort put into making the displays and loved the variety. She particularly enjoyed the use of recycled everyday materials in construction.

First prize went to No. 5 Manor Close. The runner-up was No. 1 Main Street and the children's prize went to No. 6 York Road. The Village Association would like to thank everyone who took part. A complete set of 2023 dragons can be seen on the village website [www.westhagbourne.org](http://www.westhagbourne.org)

The St. George's teas were held at Woodleys on 23rd April. Luckily the weather was kinder to us and it was a lovely, sunny, sociable afternoon. Again, we would like to thank the residents who helped put up the marquee, served the teas and baked the cakes. These events would not be possible without you.



Winner: 5 Manor Close

The plant stall was very popular and the committee is hoping to make it an annual feature.

### Coronation of King Charles III Event

On the 6th May 2023, the coronation of King Charles III was celebrated with a village party held at York Farm, by kind permission of Mary Allen and her family. Sadly, the day was VERY WET which meant that many residents decided to stay warm and dry in front of their own TVs, but about 100 people attended and our "stiff upper lip" spirit shone through making the event a very enjoyable experience. The ceremony was watched live on two large screen TVs. We then enjoyed a hog-roast lunch followed by a Coronation Cake Competition - very tasty - a raffle and children's craft activities. Throughout the day the rain never eased, but apparently the last 2 coronations have been held on wet days so perhaps it added to the historic nature of the event.

The cake competition was won by No. 6 York Road. The cooks apparently spanned three generations. Congratulations for winning the "West Hagbourne Star Baker" apron.

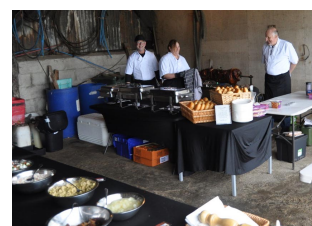
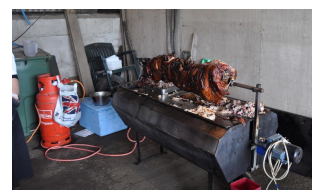


We would like to thank the West Hagbourne Parish Council for helping to fund this event (particularly so soon after the Jubilee Celebrations last year), the Allen family for donating the pig and the Lays family for donating a barrel of beer. I hope you are as proud as we were that Colin Gilby, the caterer, donated the leftover pork and salads to the charity Oxford Homeless, who, in turn, distributed it to people living on the streets of Oxford.

Thank you to the team of helpers who worked really hard to prepare/dismantle the party venue, made cakes, helped serve tea/coffee and ran the raffle and children's activities. A complete set of photographs



Runner-up: 1 Main Street



taken on the day can be seen on the village website [www.westhagbourne.org](http://www.westhagbourne.org)

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Children's prize: 6 York Road

# other news

## Village Association News

*Continued from front page*

### Madge Trophy

The annual Madge Trophy judging will be held on the afternoon of 7th July. All front gardens are automatically entered into this competition and judging will take place from the roadside. We are pleased to announce that Jenny Smith and Penny Barfoot from the East Hagbourne Gardening Club have agreed to be our judges this year. They'll be looking for attractive designs and creative

planting amongst your hanging baskets, pots and borders. Good Luck.

### Summer Village Walk

The summer walk will be on the 9th July this year. Walkers should meet at the bus stop for 2.30pm. We will take a circular walk to the edge of Didcot, returning via the Embankment. We may stop for drinks at the Fleur de Lys, East Hagbourne, if everyone is agreeable.

*Rosey Gardiner (Chair)*

## Parish Council

The first meeting of the new Parish Council was held on 10th May 2013. Four members of the previous council had agreed to stand for the new council as nobody else in the village had indicated a willingness to stand. Oliver Doogue of the previous council had already given notice of his intention to resign after being a member for several years and we are grateful for his help. Michael Butler agreed to be Chair again and Hugh Lewis agreed to be his deputy again.

The Annual Parish meeting was held on 24th May. Twelve members of the public attended. The Horse and Harrow was discussed. The Chair indicated that in the likely event of an appeal against the decision of the District Council to refuse the

planning application to close the pub and change the building to a residence, the Parish Council would negotiate with CAMRA regarding its response. This may involve the use of an expert to give evidence on the viability of a pub.

The Chair indicated that the Parish Council wanted the fifth member of the Parish Council to be a female to provide balance. This remains the case but any volunteers of either gender should indicate their willingness to stand to the Clerk or to any member of the Council.

Any villagers who would like the Council to provide a general purpose skip should advise the Clerk. The number of people who would like a skip will affect whether one is provided.

*Michael Butler (Chair)*

## Planning

Amendment to the plans for Hagbourne Hill Farm:

<https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P23/S1743/FUL>

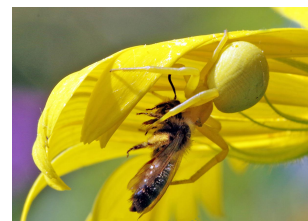
Revised application for retirement flats on the old Georgetown petrol station site. Increased from 28 units to 33 on four storeys:

<https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P23/S1398/FUL>

## Nature's Eye

I have seen only a few swallows and house martins in the village this spring and not a single swift. As usual the first bee flies and damselflies appeared in my garden in early May, but it was in late May that I saw something rather different – a female Crab Spider, *Misumena vatia*, one of several species of Crab Spider to be found in the UK. The female is about 10 mm across, but the male only 4 mm. The female is usually either white or yellow but can change colour according to her surroundings. This particular one was on the flowerhead of a *Doronicum*, which is bright yellow. Unlike the majority of spiders, Crab Spiders do not construct webs. When hunting they stand motionless on a flowerhead waiting for the prey to come within range and then pounce.

If you walk down Moor Lane in May, on the right you will see that the dominant wildflower is Garlic Mustard. This is one of the food plants of the caterpillars of the Orange Tip butterfly. The females usually lay their eggs singly just below a



*Crab spider with prey*



*Orange tip egg*

flower. They are greenish-white when first laid, turning to yellow, then orange. Although they are only approximately 1.5mm long they are easy to spot once they have reached the yellow stage. I have not found any eggs yet, but there is still time, as they can be laid until the end of June. To attract Orange Tips to my garden I have planted Garlic Mustard seed. It is easy to grow but soon becomes a pernicious weed!

*Malcolm Brownsword*

## Water everywhere

The recent drier weather means that we have seen less of Thames Water here in the village this month. A persistent problem outside Wycherts, with water bubbling up through the tarmac, seemed to take some time to resolve and then there was the emergency closure of Main Street by Blissetts as the hole dug filled with water overnight. This has been followed by the tanker being parked on Main Street emptying the sewage system which has been overwhelmed by run off water leaking in during the wet winter. Longer term residents of



West Hagbourne will know that this is a fairly regular occurrence which suggests that all is not well with the capacity of the system for the present numbers of properties and might provide an argument against further housing development.



## HUGS Update

### Natural corridors

Seen from above by drone or on Google Earth, our parish consists of big blocks of fields plus smaller blocks and lines of housing. How much room there is for nature here depends on the owner. The farmer for the field and the homeowner or tenant for the garden. However, linking and dividing the fields and houses are natural corridors; the streams, hedgerows, foot paths and road side verges.



Natural corridors are vital for wildlife. Bats navigate using hedgerows, birds nest and feed from hedgerows. Hedgerows are a fantastic habitat for insects. However, hedgerows with gaps in are much less helpful to nature. Grasses, wildflowers and insects rely on verges which provide a continuous string of habitats and food sources.

When you look at the verges along our lanes going out to Coscote, Upton and between the Hagbournes, they are full of cow parsley and other wildflowers through May and June. If we continue this abundance through our villages and up to the long verges of

Didcot, we would connect each verge for plants and insects alike. Insects in turn, feed birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Insects are a key part of the food chain and they need plants to survive.

Long grass is home to butterfly eggs, grasshoppers, ladybirds and many other small insects and their larvae. Wildflowers provide nectar for our beleaguered pollinators. Many of our insects are reliant on certain plants for their survival. Butterfly and moth species tend to rely on one type of plant to lay their eggs on, their caterpillars feeding on them. Without these plants, the insects will disappear.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if all the verges in our village could be lush and long with wildflowers and grasses? Alive with the sound of bees feeding on flowers.

*Caroline Hunt & Ian Leishman*

## Fly Tipping

Whilst the increase in regulations about how domestic waste is dealt with is important, one undesirable outcome is the increase in fly-tipping. A recent example to blight West Hagbourne has been the dumping of multiple empty paint containers in the ditch behind Manor Close. Apart from being an eyesore, these materials may leach into the watercourse and do untold damage to local wildlife. If you see anyone dumping materials around the village, please take as many details as possible and let SODC know via their website.



# 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)

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 lunch club 2023 launched successfully with a meeting at the George & Dragon, Upton on February 24th. Since then the landlord has left, and we are waiting to hear who might be taking over the G&D and whether they will offer food. The Fleur de Lys has been suggested as an alternative and options are being explored.

If you are on the Village WhatsApp group or the lunch club emailing list, you will be updated when there is news.

*Sue Totterdell,  
Meadow's Edge*



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

### 2023

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

19 September:

17 October: George Orwell - Richard Blair

If you have a query please email [bulletin@didcotu3a.org](mailto: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](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.

### Didcot Farmers' Market

This is held in the Orchard Centre on the second Saturday of each month from 8.30am - 1.30pm.

### Hagbourne Garden Club

Meetings are held in East Hagbourne Pavilion. For further information email [sally.barksfield@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:totterdells@btinternet.com) 01235 850080