

Village Association News

The Madge Trophy

The Madge Trophy was judged on Friday 7th July. A big thank you to Jenny Smith and Penny Barfoot for their knowledge and input. Taking into account planting, colour and general maintenance they awarded first place to York Farm, York Road: "The small front garden was well planted and the farm entrance so neat and colourful with pastel antirrhinums"

Second place went to Green Thatch, Main Street: "Beautiful tubs and baskets and the structure of clipped box so well maintained"

Highly commended were:

Blissetts, Main Street: "Well coordinated colour on the street



York Farm, York Road



Green Thatch, Main Street

side and a neat parterre within sight from the gate"

The Laurels, 1 York Road: "Well-groomed with luxurious hanging baskets"

1 Main Street: "Colourful bedding on the street side and neatly kept lawn, herbaceous plants and shrubs"

3 Grove Terrace: "An attractive street-side border and colourful pots"

1 Manor Close: "Well kept, productive vegetable garden"

In addition, Jenny and Penny admired the neat verges throughout the village, the footpath from Main Street to Moor Lane and planting in the ground and in flowering containers throughout the village. Since the judging, the area around the bus shelter has been tidied up by a team from Biffa which sets off the gardens and troughs in this area.

Summer Village Walk

The summer village walk took place on the 9th July this year. Eleven villagers headed north along the footpath at the end of York Road, past the vineyards to the outskirts of Didcot. We turned right, crossed Park Road and continued along the back of Loyd Road, through Mowbray Fields, along Butts Piece and Croft Road to the Fleur de Lys. After a timely libation, we followed School Lane back to West Hagbourne.



Intrepid walkers at the bus stop

Dry weather, good walking, pleasant company and an afternoon spent in a local pub. What better way to spend a summer afternoon? Why not join us for the Autumn Village Walk on the 5th November?

Outdoor Games afternoon

The Village Association is very pleased to announce a Garden Games event on the 2nd September at Manor Farm from 3pm onwards. The event will have a light-hearted Boules competition at its centre (Don't know how to play? Don't worry. We'll find out together). Other games available will include Croquet, Ping Pong, Giant Jenga, Archery and Darts (both child friendly) and Shove Halfpenny. Chris and Sue Lay are also opening their Climbing Frame and Trampoline to children who must be accompanied by an adult at all times when using this equipment. As the afternoon proceeds, the Lays will be lighting their fire pit so that we can continue to socialize into the early evening. Sandwiches and crisps will be provided during the afternoon but you should bring your own beverages/unbreakable glasses. The event is free to West Hagbourne residents. If you wish to invite extended family and/or friends, a nominal charge of £3.00 per head, to cover food costs, will apply. Children under 11 years are free. We look forward to seeing you all at this FUN event.



Steam engine, East Hagbourne

Macmillan Coffee Morning



This year the Macmillan coffee morning will be held on the 30th September from 10.30-12.30pm at York Farm, York Road. The Village Association would like to encourage every resident to support this very worthy charity. We all know someone who has benefited from Macmillan cancer support. As always, donations of cakes/biscuits will be gratefully received. Thank you.

Garden Open Day 2024

The Village Association would like to give advanced notice that it is hoping to organise a Garden Open Day in June 2024. We aim to create a special day when people will meet as they walk around the village admiring the design of each garden and perhaps asking questions about the planting. Maybe you'll stop to have a burger/hot dog in one garden, tea and cake in another, ice cream in a third. Let's hope for a fine, sunny day when the gardens will look at their best. To hold this event, the Village Association will need 10-12 owners willing to open their gardens to the public. If you are willing, please contact Rosey Gardiner on 07542 923328 asap. We can then make a decision about the viability of this event. Thank you.

Rosey Gardiner (Chair)



R & R at the Fleur de Lys

other news

Parish Council

The last meeting of the Council was on 5th July and was attended by several members of the village who made valuable contributions. The steps on the path to Upton have been provided with a handrail. Steps have been taken to have discussions about improving the access for pedestrians along the West part of Main Street. We are grateful for the number of objections made by villagers to the planning application made in respect of houses on the field facing Main Street. A fresh application has been made in respect of changing the pub to a residential property. This will be objected to and we are in

discussions with CAMRA. There has been no appeal so far on the refusal of the original application. The next meeting of the Council will be on 6th September. We are still short of one councillor and would be grateful if anybody could volunteer.

Michael Butler (Chair)

Donna Moore

Many long-term village residents will remember Donna Moore, who lived in West Hagbourne as a child and sadly died on April 8th. There will be a memorial service for her on Saturday 5th August at St Andrew's Church, East Hagbourne, at 1pm to which you are all invited.

Archaeology Festival



An archaeological dig at Wittenham Clumps has

uncovered the 1,800 year-old remains of a tiny Roman dog. At just 20 cm (7.8 inches) tall at the shoulder, researchers say that the ancient pooch is one of the five smallest Roman dogs ever discovered in the UK, and that its unusually small size means it is likely to have been a much-loved pet.

The little dog, which is thought to have been female with bowed legs, would probably have had a similar stature to a dachshund, but been closer in size to a

chihuahua. The animal's remains were unearthed during an archaeological dig at the headquarters of environmental charity Earth Trust in Oxfordshire by a team of archaeologists from DigVentures.

If you are interested in local archaeology please join the team for their fun-filled family Festival as they explore this plus much-more fascinating finds.

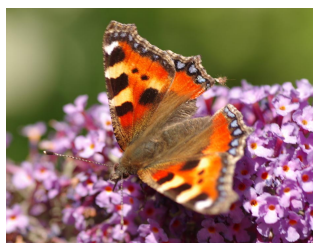
Dates: Saturday 5 August & Sunday 6 August

Time: 10am-1pm & 2-5pm

Price: £5 per person (under 2s free). Booking fees apply.

Nature's Eye

The inclement early-July weather had precluded my wildlife observations, so it was nice to have some sunny weather in the middle of the month and see some butterflies in my garden. Several of the commoner species in the top ten of Butterfly Conservation's 2022 Big Butterfly count appear to be doing well this year, at least in my garden. Red Admirals were by far the most numerous (about 20) on my two Buddleia bushes. There were



Small tortoiseshell

also several Peacocks, Small Tortoiseshells, a Comma and two Gatekeepers.

Now is the time for a reminder that in the last few days of August, a thousand or more Ivy

Bees should be emerging from their tunnels on the Upton ramp of the Sustrans track and will remain on the wing until November. The Didcot Newbury and Southampton Railway was built in the 1890s and very chalky fine soil was brought in from elsewhere to form the ramp leading down towards Upton. This fine soil is an ideal medium for the female Ivy Bees to dig their deep tunnels in which to lay their eggs. These will hatch into larvae before metamorphosing into pupae which eventually hatch into the mature insect in early September the next year. These bees resemble Honeybees, but their yellow and black bands are slightly broader. They also have characteristic ginger hairs on the thorax. Their tunnels are always close to ivy, whose pollen is readily available in the autumn. The grass in the tunnelled area has grown considerably in the past year. It is possible that this will interfere with the bees' activity. They are known to prefer clearer areas.

Malcolm Brownsword



Volunteers working on the ramp

Ticket Office Closures

Great Western Railway are consulting on proposals to move ticket office staff into other areas of the station where they can help more customers, as transactions from ticket offices drop below 15%. Train companies have extended the time available to respond to the consultation by an extra five and a half weeks to give as many people a chance to take part. Passengers now have until Friday 1 September 2023 to have their say. In Didcot, all ticket windows would close although staff would be available elsewhere in the station for about the same working hours as the ticket offices are currently manned.

For contact details for your comments on these proposals: please email:

TicketOffice.GWR@transportfocus.org.uk

Freepost: RTEH-XAGE-BYKZ, Transport Focus, PO Box 5594, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 9PZ

HUGS Update

Only some like it hot



The Met Office has forecast a 5% chance that this summer will be cool and a 45% chance that it will be hot. June has already been hot and May saw the highest sea-surface temperatures around the UK ever recorded since 1850. We know more heatwaves are possible, because they're already happening around the world. Last year's heatwave of over 40C was for record-breaking for the UK. This heat is dangerous to human life (over 65s in particular) as we don't get to recover from daytime heat when the night-time temperature stays above 20C.

We've also had extremes of drought last summer and long spells of frost over a cold winter. If you love your garden, it's already been a tough year. And it's been even tougher for the wildlife in our gardens and beyond. If you want a better balance of life in your garden and work for yourself, read Alys Fowler's article in the Guardian and consider no digging, forgetting fertiliser, listening to what your weeds tell you about your soil and make your own compost.

Having sorted out your garden, any extra help for wildlife would

also be great. Leave out water for the wildlife in your garden. And if you have nesting birds in your trees, hedges or the eaves of your house, let them be. Avoid hedge cutting between April and September, leave any necessary tree work until autumn and delay building and DIY projects if they risk disturbing nesting birds. Continue to leave wilder areas in your garden so that insect and other life has a chance to survive too.

And as for being ready for the next heatwave, we know the UK government is woefully behind where it should be on both leading the reduction of carbon emissions and planning for climate adaptation. But we can still prepare ourselves for more extreme heat. Trees and vegetation reduce air and surface temperatures by as much as 25C. They do this via shading and evapo-transpiration. So, if our houses become too hot to be in during the next heatwaves, hopefully our gardens are full of shade and cool in comparison, because they are full of plants. If these plants are native to the UK (trees, shrubs, hedging and wildflowers) they will better support biodiversity too.

Caroline Hunt & Ian Leishman



Planning

In addition to the revised application for houses (currently 6, see P23/S2094/O) in the field between Lizard Bank and the

pub, there is a revised application for the pub and adjacent land for another five (see P23/S2135/FUL). **Comments on the latter must be made by 23rd August.** The application is for 1x 3-bed, 3x 4-bed and 1x 5-bed homes.

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

Dan Tozer 07795 047934
daniel.tozer@westhagbourne.org

District Councillors

Ben Manning
ben.manning@southoxon.gov.uk

Anne-Marie Simpson
Anne-Marie.Simpson@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

Currently out of action awaiting the re-starting of a food service locally updated when there is news.

*Sue Totterdell,
Meadow's Edge*

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.

Hagbourne Garden Club

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



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

2023

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

19 September:

17 October: George Orwell - Richard Blair

21 November:

19 December: Christmas Event: Magic Show with Ian Keable

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

Local Charities

Hagbourne Charities is a "Relief in Need" charity whose aim is to provide small-scale emergency financial assistance to residents of its benefit area – East and West Hagbourne and the Northbourne area of Didcot. We can respond quickly and without red tape to cases that are brought to our attention by providing a small sum of money at a moment of especially urgent need, almost anything that is not available from normal state or local authority provisions. Our funds are limited so grants can only be single payments unlikely to exceed £100.

other news

In these difficult times if you know of a case in immediate need in our benefit area please call the Charity's Clerk on 01235 812493 or email hagbourne.charities@gmail.com

For updated contact details for the Fun-Run sponsored Hagbourne Village fund email: hagbournevillagefund@gmail.com or phone 07711 802887

Didcot Farmers' Market



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

other news

Community Watch Magazine

You can read the Thames Valley Community Watch magazine with interesting advice to car buyers, getting the best deal for holiday car hire and how to avoid being taken in by fraud on line at: <https://www.flipsnack.com/CE959EC8B7A/community-watch-thames-valley-august-2023.html>

If you have any news or photos or know of events you think might interest other residents, please contact the editor.

editors@westhagbourne.org

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

SCOTLANDS ASH GARAGE SERVICES
Oxfordshire's Leading Independent Garage

MOT testing from 6am
Diagnostic Fault Finding and Servicing on all types of vehicles
Air Conditioning Exhausts
Body Repairs Tyres

FREE COURTESY CAR

 **01235 850 707**
www.scotlandsashgarage.co.uk
Main Street, West Hagbourne OX11 0NA

**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