

Village Association News

Outdoor Games Afternoon

The Garden Games afternoon, held on the 2nd September at Manor Farm, was a great success. We had a total of 46 adults and children attend the event. The children thoroughly enjoyed the climbing frame and trampoline and some of them even played Boules. The adults were suitably competitive during the Boules Competition which was ultimately won by Paul Ryman in a closely fought final with his wife Patsy.



Outdoor games afternoon at Manor Farm

The weather was very kind to us as we sat in the sun enjoying each other's company and tucking into sandwiches – what a wonderful way to end the summer.

Thanks to Sue and Chris Lay for their generosity.

Autumn Village Walk

This year the autumn village walk is scheduled for the 5th November at 2 o'clock. Walkers should meet at the bus shelter. The route is not yet finalized but it will not exceed 4-5K. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Remembrance Sunday

There will be a short ceremony on the 12th November at 2pm to remember those from West Hagbourne who lost their lives whilst serving our country during WWI and WWII.

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

West Hagbourne Village Association AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday 13th November 7.30pm at Rowan, York Road, West Hagbourne. Please come along and present any ideas that you may have about the future of the WHVA. Suggestions for 2024 events would be received enthusiastically. There will be a complimentary drink to welcome you to the meeting.

New Marquee

The WHVA would like to thank the West Hagbourne Parish Council for their generosity in funding the purchase of a new 6x10 meter marquee. If you attended the Macmillan Coffee morning on the 30th September you will have already seen it in action. If not, we hope that you will have an opportunity to enjoy its shelter during the 2024 season of WHVA events.



The new marquee

Macmillan Coffee Morning

The new marquee got its first outing for a highly successful Macmillan coffee morning. There was an excellent turn out to do justice to the splendid array of cakes and biscuits.

For a full report please see the December edition of this newsletter.

Rosey Gardiner (Chair)



Raising funds for Macmillan's

Parish Council

At the meeting of the Parish Council on 6th September, there was a good attendance of villagers who are not councillors. A number of matters were discussed, some of which have been put to our County Councillor.

There have been some complaints about hedges blocking footpaths and villagers are asked to check their hedges and take any action necessary.

In early October representatives

of the Parish Council are meeting with somebody from Highways to discuss options to improve things for walkers on the the portion of Main Street where there is no footpath up to the junction with York Road.

We are still one councillor short and are waiting for somebody to volunteer to sit on the Parish Council. The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Wednesday 1st November at Hagbourne Village Hall. It would be nice to have a full Council by then.

Michael Butler (Chair)

other news

Twinning

Dave and I recently travelled to visit our German twin town. Planegg lies close to Munich and, like Didcot, is a centre for science excellence. During our three days, we had a picnic dinner at a Biergarten, visited a brewery and tasted their beers (including a delicious alcohol-free weissbier) and visited the chapel at Planegg castle. We were also proudly shown the town's major infrastructure project, guaranteeing that the Munich U-bahn reaches Planegg. To ensure this, the town has had to pay for (with some grants from regional government) a kilometre of track to be laid, a station to be constructed and to contribute

towards the cost of one train. Local government is very different in Germany!

Our other twin town is Meylan, which lies just to the east of Grenoble. If you are interested in finding out more about twinning in the Didcot area, check out our [didcotwinning](http://didcotwinning.com) website.

Sue Totterdell



Planegg visit



U-Bahn visit



Brewery visit

Falls prevention

If you're worried about your balance, or have experienced a fall, Stay Strong and Steady can help you regain confidence and stability. Stay Strong and Steady, supported by Age UK, is a free introductory exercise and information programme designed specifically for older adults who are concerned about their balance.

Accessible in person at community-based classes, online via Zoom or through an at-home programme, Stay Strong and Steady will help to reduce the risk of falls, make everyday tasks easier and support you to remain independent.

Opportunities to continue to maintain progress and activity levels can be provided by us or countywide physical activity programme Move Together. Call 01235 849 403 or active@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk

POWER CUT? CALL 105

105 is the new free national three-digit number that people can ring to report or find out information about power cuts. It will connect you to Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks, the local Distribution Operator. You can also use this number for any welfare concerns related to a power cut, or if you are worried about the safety of electricity cables.

To report and track power cuts online go to their website: <https://powertrack.ssen.co.uk/powertrack>

Nature's Eye

The results for Butterfly Conservation's annual Big Butterfly Count were recently announced. In the 13th year of the event, over 1.5 million butterflies and day-flying moths were counted by over 95,000 members of B.C. during 136,000 fifteen minute counts between 14 July and 6 August. There was a 25% increase in the total number of butterflies seen compared to that in 2022. Dr. Zoe Randle, Senior Surveys Officer at B.C. said 'The mixed

weather this year has helped, as there has been an abundance of green food plants available for caterpillars and plenty of nectar-rich flowers for adult butterflies. However, while the number of butterflies recorded this summer has been the highest since 2019, the long-term trends show worrying declines for some of the UK's most common butterfly species.'

The most-seen species this year was the Red Admiral (248,077 recorded, an increase of 338% on the 2022 number). This is the first time that this species has taken the top spot. Gatekeeper was next (222,896, down 28%), followed by Large White (216,666) then Small White (190,506), both moderate increases. Next, Holly Blue had another good year (particularly in my garden), up by 41%. Species seeing a decline included Brimstone, Ringlet, Common Blue, and Speckled Wood (see image), also Meadow Brown, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell. I did not see a single Painted Lady this year,

but the national count was 11,893, an increase of 113%!

Butterfly populations have always fluctuated, and the ultimate effects of such phenomena as habitat loss, increased summer rain and global warming are difficult to predict. On the bright side, in the last few years, several species from mainland Europe have been recorded in the UK, notably the Short-tailed Blue, one of which was photographed at the Aston Rowant National Nature reserve in the Chilterns recently.

Malcolm Brownsword

Planning

So far there is no decision on the application for six houses on the field by Lizard Bank. The other applications for the Nursery and the Pub are also ongoing. There has been a small amendment to the Pub application.



Speckled Wood

HUGS Update

Supporting biodiversity in Wilcher Close

In September it was great to meet the Board of Soha at Wilcher Close. HUGS have been working with Soha and The Poet's Trail in East Hagbourne. At Rymans Crescent we planted wildflower turf last autumn which has had a fantastic first flowering season this year.

At Wilcher Close, we explored together with residents proposals to make two areas of mown grass more attractive to nature (and humans too!). Planting took place in March and April. This included; semi-dwarf fruit trees, edible hedging, native shrubs, perennial wildflowers and native bulbs.

As the planting matures it should provide shelter and food source for a range of wildlife across the year. In Spring, early wildflowers such as dandelions and blossom from fruit trees and hedging provide vital nectar to pollinators. Hedging is a place of shelter for birds and insects. Flower nectar in summer helps feed butterflies, moths, hoverflies, bees, wasps and other insects. Supporting insects means supporting other wildlife higher up the food chain such as birds and bats. The leaves of some plants also provide food for caterpillars of butterflies and moths. Longer grass itself feeds crickets and



Painted lectern in Wilcher Close

grasshoppers and gives home to insect life.

In autumn and winter, the seed heads of flowers are left to feed birds. Fallen fruit on the ground will be enjoyed by birds, insects as well as any passing mammals such as hedgehogs. Some longer grass and the shelter from hedging and trees also helps create habitat for insect life through the colder months. Two beautifully painted lecterns made from recycled plastic have now been installed at Wilcher Close. These have been illustrated by Linda Benton from The Poet's Trail.

Is there a location in West Hagbourne that might be suitable for a similar wilding process? Caroline and Ian would be delighted to receive suggestions from WH residents.

Caroline Hunt & Ian Leishman



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

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

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

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 is due to relaunch on Friday 29 September at the George and Dragon, Upton successfully with a meeting at the George & Dragon, Upton with the new landlord. A total of 18 people will be trying out the new menu, and the new chef. Village lunches are normally scheduled for the third Friday of the month so the next one should be on Friday 20 October.

If you are on the Village WhatsApp group or the lunch club emailing list, you will be updated on future plans. Get in touch to add your name to either list.

*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

17 October: *George Orwell* - Richard Blair

21 November: *Felicia Skene: Oxford writer, prison reformer* - Liz Woolley

19 December: 12:00-3:00 pm Christmas Event: Magic Show with Ian Keable

(at The Barn, Foxhall Road, Didcot OX11 7AD)

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 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

other news

Marquees for hire

If you are planning a long-awaited party or reunion with family and friends this summer, don't forget that the Association has 2 marquees and a number of tables and chairs that are available for villagers to hire. More details and who to contact if you'd like to book any of the equipment are on the back page of the newsletter. All monies received go towards the maintenance and replacement of equipment and future community events.

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

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?
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Mental Health Concerns?
I AM DONNA, a Senior Mental Health Practitioner offering a range of bespoke mental health services designed to help improve your mental health and overall well-being. My consultations are held either on Zoom or at clinics at West Hagbourne or Headington, whichever you prefer. **If you have any mental health concerns, call me on 07541 556039 or visit mentalhealthrelease.com.**

**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

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