

## Village Association News

### Macmillan Coffee Morning

The Village Association reported in the October issue of the West Hagbourne News that the MacMillan Coffee Morning had been a very enjoyable and successful occasion. At the time we were unaware of quite how successful this fundraising event had been. Over £2000 was donated on the day. Our thanks to everyone who attended the event and demonstrated such exceptional generosity.

### Autumn Village Walk

The Autumn walk was held on the 5th November. Seven people and two dogs headed west out of West Hagbourne towards Harwell. The paths across the fields were very muddy and by the time we reached the Harwell Link Road the heavens opened and we got soaked. At this point we changed our plans. Instead of going on to have a drink in the Harwellian before returning home we took Wantage Road into Didcot before cutting through the Great Western Park south back to our village. A total of five people finished the walk.



Don't worry. A lift was arranged for the others.

### Remembrance Sunday

A short service was held at the War Memorial on the 12th November. It was very well attended. A new poppy wreath was hung and a two-minute silence observed as a mark of respect to those villagers who lost their lives in WWI and WWII.

### AGM

The West Hagbourne Village Association held their AGM on the 13th November. The Chairman's report, summarising the association's activities over the past year and the Treasurer's report, detailing our financial standing, can be found on the village website.

The committee would like to thank Sheila Taylor who is standing down this year from her role as secretary. Her many years of service have been invaluable to the association. We are also very happy to welcome June Little back onto the committee. Her previous experience will make her a productive and effective member of our group. The rest of the committee remains unchanged and we are all looking forward to the upcoming village events.

### The Village Christmas Tree

A 4ft Christmas tree has been purchased by the Village Association and we would like to invite the children/grandchildren of West Hagbourne to decorate it. This is the second year we have held this event and we hope to make it bigger! The tree will be located in the Square, near the bus shelter, under the horse chestnut tree. Children should bring their decorations on Saturday 9th December between 11am - 12pm. A laminator will be available to waterproof any paper decorations.

Come on kids – let's make your Christmas Tree spectacular!

### Carols in the farmyard

St Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival will be running from 8-16th December this year. One of the events planned is "Carols in the Farmyard" at Manor Farm West Hagbourne by invitation of Sue and Chris Lay. The event is on Sunday 10th December and will start at 3.30pm.

Meryl and her singers have, once again, agreed to lead the carol singing. Mince pies and mulled wine will be served by members of the Village Association for which donations will be gratefully received. Festival raffle tickets will be on sale at £1.00 each with many prizes, from luxury hampers to vouchers for meals out. All proceeds from this year's event will be split between St.

CHRISTMAS COMES TO WEST HAGBOURNE

**CAROLS IN THE FARMYARD**

3:30PM SUNDAY 10TH DEC

MANOR FARM, WEST HAGBOURNE

ENJOY WONDERFUL CAROL SINGING BY MEMBERS OF THE VOX CHOIR OF OXFORD

In support of the church & Helen & Douglas House

Mulled wine and mince pies for all!

Andrew's Church and Helen and Douglas House.

This is a cash only event!

### Christmas Wish

Finally, I would like to wish West Hagbourne residents a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year from all the members of the Village Association.

### Future Event 2024

In the August edition of the West Hagbourne News we announced our intention to hold a Garden Open Day during the summer of 2024. Preliminary planning for this event is now underway and we are confident that we can deliver a very enjoyable experience. The committee, however, would like to secure another 2-3 gardens to ensure a full afternoon's entertainment. Would you be willing to open your garden to the villagers/visitors of West Hagbourne? If so, please contact Rosey Gardiner on 07542 923328. We would be very grateful. Thank you.

Rosey Gardiner (Chair)



2 minute silence observed on Remembrance Sunday



# other news

## Christmas celebrations



The St. Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival starts on 8th December with Carols in the Close outside the church followed by the big switch on of all the trees inside. The band strikes up at 6:30 so come along for hot drink, mice pies and join in all your favourite carols.

If you miss it, why not join members of the vOX choir for Carols in the Farmyard, kindly hosted again by Sue and Chris Lay at Manor Farm, Sunday 10th at 3:30pm. The festival runs all week, see the full programme at <https://tinyurl.com/mtw3kh6s> or scan the QR code below.



## Parish Council

The last council meeting was on 2nd November 2023. It was well attended by members of the public. One of our councillors was unable to attend for reasons of ill health. As we are one councillor short we were down to the minimum of three councillors. This is a reminder that we need a volunteer to be another councillor.

The village will have a Community Speed Watch system. A team of volunteers will be needed and Margaret Leishman kindly agreed to help arrange a team of people.

## Eco-friendly Christmas Market

The spirit of giving doesn't have to cost the earth. The environmental charity Earth Trust is holding an artisan Christmas market on 9th December, 10am-3pm, in its Fison Barn, at the Earth Trust Centre, to showcase eco-friendly gift ideas and sustainable living. The Christmas season generates a lot of waste from packaging and unsustainable shopping habits. This event brings people together to celebrate in a way reflecting shared values of caring for the planet whilst bringing people closer to nature. Visitors can soak up the charm of Christmas within the cosy embrace of the 19th-century Fison Barn, at the foot of Wittenham Clumps. Shoppers can discover unique gifts like Love Heartwood's hand-carved wooden toys, sourced from local sustainable timber and nature-inspired jewellery made from recycled silver from The Pine in the Valley. Barbury Hill's gift boxes of small-batch artisanal British foods and wild-foraged

ales by Michelin-trained brewer Alex Lewis of Earth Ale will be on offer. And Oxfordshire-based Earthwise Girls will have their sustainable body care, and eco-friendly home products. Simple changes to your shopping and celebrations can really add up. Shopping small and local, and gifting eco-consciously can reduce our environmental impact. Entry is free of charge and there is free on site car parking. For more information, go to:

[earthtrust.org.uk/whats-on/](http://earthtrust.org.uk/whats-on/)



## Family Carol Concert

Sunday 17 December 4pm at The Abbey Cinema, Abingdon  
Prokofiev: Peter and the Wolf & Coates: Three Bears Phantasy narrated by Neal Foster  
Live Orchestra and Choir - come and join in with the well-known carols  
Adults £13 Children £3 from [www.theabbey.ac](http://www.theabbey.ac)



Bring your Teddy Bear

## Is your child 3 or 4 years old?

If your child was born on or between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 you need to apply for a primary school place now.

You must still apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school.

You can apply online at: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primary-admissions](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primary-admissions)

Didcot Library offers free wifi access.



For help or information email [admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk) or telephone 03452412487

## Planning

The application for six houses on the field by Lizard Bank is still under consideration.

The application for the Nursery development (5 houses) has been approved.

A revised document has been submitted for the development at the Pub (mainly concerned with the siting of bicycle storage). The rejection of the original application is under Appeal.

Remember that if you comment on planning applications that your comments will be made public on the Planning website. Also that the Planning department are only allowed to take into account what are called 'Material Planning Considerations' so you need to consider carefully the basis for your response.

We discussed the possibilities for applying to have the designation of Moor Lane changed to a Restricted Byway to prevent motorised vehicles using it. We have been in touch with the County Council and have invited someone to come and inspect the state of the track.

We are looking at possibilities for installing signage to warn motorists of pedestrians on Main Street between the end of the footpath and York Road.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 3rd January 2024.

Michael Butler (Chair)

## HUGS Update

### *Nature in Deep Trouble*

When 16% of UK monitored species are in danger of extinction you are in deep trouble, says naturalist and TV presenter Chris Packham.

The new State of Nature report, led by the RSPB and supported by more than 60 conservation and research organisations,

19% average decline in British wildlife species in the UK.

30% decline in species providing pest control, creating a vicious cycle for farmers' yields.

50% of fish stocks are not sustainably harvested

0% of the seafloor is in good condition due to damage from fishing gear.

93% of woodlands & 75% of peatlands are in a poor ecological state. These habitats are crucial for carbon storage, and can be harnessed to help fight climate change.

Although the UK leads the world in biodiversity monitoring, it has experience massive declines.

The solutions needed are well understood. Large scale restorative work to bring degraded habitats to life needs to be replicated and expanded. Farming must shift to regenerative models, developers must build nature in as we plan our homes and infrastructure while polluters must pay. Behaviour change is required in every corner of society and every inch of the economy - says Richard Benwell, chief executive of the Wildlife and Countryside Link. The Government has committed itself to protecting 30% of the UK's natural environment by 2030 with an Environmental Improvement Plan to create and

restore at least 500,000 hectares of new wildlife habitats.

At a local level we can all help nature - in our gardens, along our roads, in our ponds, in the decisions we take to protect nature.

As Chris Packham says "this is our time. So, it doesn't matter whether you're into bats, bumblebees, butterflies, birds, bugs or badgers – ultimately, we need to come together."

*Caroline Hunt & Ian Leishman*



## Thanks

It is that time of year again when we recognise that the good things we have in West Hagbourne depend on dedicated people, some of whom keep a low profile. So this is an attempt to share out some good wishes. Thanks to: the Parish Council, the Village Association, the defibrillator checkers, the village litter pickers, those who contribute to this village newsletter. Thanks to people who host events (large and small), the gardeners (public and private) who make this a pretty place to live, everyone who takes the trouble to respond to planning applications and other feedback opportunities, who make sure their neighbours are OK. To those dog walkers who clean up as they go and to everyone with a friendly smile and a greeting. And to everyone I have forgotten.

Merry Christmas, and more of the same next year, please.

*thank you!*

# 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

Ben Manning  
[ben.manning@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:ben.manning@southoxon.gov.uk)

Anne-Marie Simpson  
[Anne-Marie.Simpson@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:Anne-Marie.Simpson@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)

## District Councillors

Ben Manning  
[ben.manning@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:ben.manning@southoxon.gov.uk)

Anne-Marie Simpson  
[Anne-Marie.Simpson@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:Anne-Marie.Simpson@southoxon.gov.uk)

## County Councillor

Jane Murphy  
[jane.murphy@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:jane.murphy@southoxon.gov.uk)

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[www.westhagbourne.org/pc\\_minutes.htm](http://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](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 has had two successful meetings at the George and Dragon in Upton. Currently there are plans for a Christmas Lunch on Friday 15 December but the recent departure of the chef from the pub has thrown this into uncertainty. I will use the usual mailing and WhatsApp lists to stay in touch.

*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)

### 2024

16 January 2024: Joys and perils of being an author - Colin Wade

20 February: How to be a Gardener in the 21st Century - Timothy Walker

19 March: Curiosities in the Cotswolds' Part 1 - Alan Copeland

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

### 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](mailto:editors@westhagbourne.org)

**NEED A PLUMBER FOR THE SMALL JOBS?**  
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[taps-toilets.co.uk](http://taps-toilets.co.uk) 5 STAR SERVICE

**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](http://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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[contact.totterdells@btinternet.com](mailto:contact.totterdells@btinternet.com) 01235 850080