

Village Association News



The Dragons are coming!

After 2 years of royal themes we are excited to announce that our dragons will be enjoying a 2 week holiday by the beach this year. Yes! Our theme is 'Dragons by the seaside'. The competition will run from 15th-28th April and we hope that you will display your dragon(s) in the front garden so that they can be seen from the roadside. As always, there will be cash prizes for the best display (£30), the runner-up (£20) and the best children's entry (£10).

This year the competition will be judged by Nicky Dobson and Callum McKenzie from The Hagbourne Primary School. They will tour the village during the second week of the display. The annual Dragon Walk will leave The Square at 2.00pm on the 28th April. If you haven't seen the dragons by then, this will be a great opportunity. Tea and cake will be served from 2.30-4.30pm at Woodleys on the same day. We are grateful to Robert and Hazel for allowing us to use their garden. Prizes will be awarded during the afternoon.

The committee would be very grateful for cake donations, handed in to Woodleys on the day of the event. Once again, the village association is planning to run a plant stall to raise money for future events. A wide range of annuals and perennials will be available to buy.

Please note this is a Cash Only event.



Garden Open Day

On the 14th July 2024, thirteen West Hagbourne gardens will be open to the public from 12.00 – 16.00. With good weather, we hope you will have a pleasant afternoon walking around the village admiring some of our most beautiful gardens. Full details of this event will be published in the June issue of this newsletter. The village association would like to thank all the garden owners for their participation.

Margaret and Ian (Chapel Hayes) have offered the use of their carport as an exhibition centre on the day of the event. We invite West Hagbourne residents to display examples of their art and craft skills. The invitation is open to all ages – we would love the children of the village to get involved.

Rosey Gardiner (Chair)

Dragons feature in the Poets' Trail Book



The latest Poets' Trail book, "Green Theme" features a picture of the DRAGONS, and a mention of the wonderful dragons that go on display in West Hagbourne around St. George's Day.

The book is an anthology of

poems, on a green theme, written by local people and illustrated by Linda Benton. Books are available for sale at the East Hagbourne Post Office Shop or Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot Only £5 each.

Linda Benton

Parish Council

We had a well attended and busy Parish Council (PC) meeting on 13 March. The main areas of discussion were:

Flooding

We discussed the impact of this winter's flooding on the village, the ways in which we can seek to mitigate the risk of a repeat and also the resources available to help those affected. Ian Leishman has kindly agreed to put together a map of the watercourses around the village to help inform actions. The PC will be purchasing a supply of sandbags to be stored in the village for easy emergency access, and we are pressing Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) to clear our drains annually rather than once every four years, as per their current policy. Please can all those with

ditches, streams, culverts or any other form of drainage facilities on their property do everything they can to keep them clear. If you're struggling to do this, please ask for help. It's in all of our interests to do what we can to allow water entering the village to exit it quickly.

Moor Lane

We have been in regular contact with OCC about the state of the Moor Lane byway east of the old overhead railway bridge. We understand that OCC plan to place concrete bollards to close this section of the byway to vehicles for a period to allow "improvement works" (this may already have happened by time of printing, and the tarmac section adjoining Main Street will be unaffected), following which an assessment will be undertaken of the suitability of this section for the various user groups. We will remain in contact with OCC on this.

PC membership

Julie Freeland took her place on the PC as a new co-opted member. Mike Telford has now stepped down from the PC after 9 years' service, and Mike Butler has stepped down as Chair (he will remain on the PC for the time being). Both Mikes will be present at the annual PC meeting on 8 May (see below), where we'll have the chance to thank them properly for their contribution to the village. Another couple of residents have kindly volunteered to join the PC - Andy Wimshurst and Margaret Leishman - they will formally join the PC at our next meeting. Finally, I've picked up the baton as Chair from Mike.

PC regular bi-monthly meeting Wednesday 1 May, and annual PC meeting Wednesday 8 May. Both will be at 7.30pm at Hagbourne Village Hall.

Dan Tozer (Chair)

other news

HUGS Update

No mow May

Help Mother nature - make your garden matter.

We can all make a real difference by doing simple things to support nature in our back gardens. Private UK gardens cover over 400,000 hectares - more than all national nature reserves. In the UK, 1 in 6 species is at risk of extinction.

You can help recovery by:

Cutting the grass less often or leaving wild patches to be cut just once or twice a year - leaving dandelions, daisies and other wildflowers to support pollinating insects

Not being too tidy - leaving homes for nature



Weeding beds and borders less often - allowing wildflowers and the insect life they support into your garden

Avoiding pesticides and other chemicals in the garden - building a more natural balance between 'garden pests' and their predators

For more ideas see our wildlife gardening page:

<https://www.hugsustainability.org/wildlifegardening>

To take part in No Mow May see

<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/>

Caroline Hunt & Ian Leishman

Accident

On Saturday 23rd March a car failed to negotiate the corner by the pond, crashed through the barriers and ended up with its nose hanging over the water - our local version of the Italian Job. The police attended the accident but nobody was reported to have been hurt.



Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue is a local charity dedicated to saving injured, sick and orphaned UK wildlife.

We are organising a fun event on 28th April 2024 (10am-4pm) at Didcot Town Football Club (OX11 7GA)

Roger Sweet

1st June 1943–
26th January 2024

Dad was born in 1943, the eldest son of Jack & Marjorie Sweet. His brother Roland was born in 1949. In his youth he enjoyed cycling, going on long cycle rides with friends. He even cycled to Woburn and met the Duke of Bedford. He followed in his father's footsteps by becoming a scout and went on scouting holidays including one to Switzerland. Dad later became a Scout leader himself with his friend Barry and often took the boys on scout camps on the train.

He met his late wife Margaret, our Mum, at the grammar school in Harrow, Middlesex they both attended. They married on 4 September 1965, however, tragically, our Mum passed away from a brain tumour at the age of 30 on September 5, 1974, just one day after their 9th wedding anniversary. After Mum

died, Dad looked after his three young children in West Drayton with Whisky the cat. We remember nice Christmases, being read bedtime stories at night, and being taken on adventurous camping holidays to Northumberland. Parenthood did not come easy to Dad, especially as we got older.

In 1988, when the children were grown up, Dad and Karen relocated to the bungalow Uplands, which he bought from Mr and Mrs Kimber. Soon after moving to Oxfordshire, Dad helped form the West Hagbourne Village Association and was a member of the Association's committee for some time. He was appointed Parish Clerk twice and held the post for several years. He also helped to create and was co-founder of the village website with John Baile.

Dad enjoyed living in the countryside and appreciated the changing of the seasons. He was a passionate gardener and took delight in seeing the first

signs of Spring and the arrival of the cowslips. Dad enjoyed DIY and decorating, whistling while he worked. When Karen eventually bought her own house, he was a great help with his practical skills. Driving was another passion and he enjoyed outings to the south coast. He also enjoyed watching Six Nations Rugby on television and he would often be heard shouting at the screen. He also dabbled in painting landscapes, inspired by TV artist, Bob Ross. In 2005, using computer skills learned in the 1990s, while working at the London Borough of Hillingdon, he created a unique website named 'Oxfordshire Villages'. This project involved him visiting every village in the county, capturing their essence through photographs, and conducting extensive research to write about each one. It inspired enquiries from individuals around the world.

Dad retired in 2004, and enjoyed a relaxing and happy retirement with Rosie the cat to

keep him company. Throughout his retirement he was able to spend time on his passions whilst tending to his website and his garden, and participating in activities such as reconnecting with old school friends at meet-ups in country pubs.

Unfortunately, Dad's later years were overshadowed by health issues, particularly in the last five years. His declining health was a source of frustration, especially when it hindered his ability to walk and engage in various activities. Despite this and his frailty, Dad maintained his dignity until the very end.

Dad celebrated his 80th birthday in June 2023.

After spending 4 months in hospital Dad died peacefully at home, which is where he wanted to be, with his 3 children around him on 26th January 2024, which was also his father's birthday.

This tribute was written by Roger's 3 children.

Bill Warner

9th December 1926 –
2nd December 2024

William (Bill) Warner passed away peacefully at home on 22nd December aged 97. He was born on 9th December 1926 in a cottage in Moor Lane, the eldest son of Henry and Winifred Warner and lived his entire life in West Hagbourne.

Leaving school aged 14 he started work as a 'Greaser' on the railway, working his way up to 'fireman' shovelling coal on the trains which at that time were carrying troops and weaponry across the country.

In the late 40's he met Jean and together they decide to build their own house in Manor Close helped by his dad Henry. Bill and Jean were married on 6 August 1949 and set up home along with their daughter Sally in the house they'd carefully planned. They were married for 68 years until Jean sadly passed away.

Sally Matthews

Bill's mum and dad lived at the Old Post Office in The Square and ran the shop. After his time on the railway, along with his brother Stan, Bill set up a greengrocery business there. They went around all the local villages selling their goods from vans. When Henry sadly passed away in 1972 the business had to close. Bill then decided to set up his own building business. He quickly built up an excellent reputation for being hard working and reliable and was always in demand.

When not working he would be in his favourite place - his garden, growing vegetables as well as flowers. Every summer his beds would be full of beautiful bedding plants grown from seed in his greenhouse. He was really proud to win the Madge Cup on several occasions.

He wanted to be able to end his long and eventful life in his own home and thanks to his friends and family, kind carers and excellent neighbours he was able to do that.

Planning

Application at Cairnwell on Main Street - demolish conservatory and build extension but the consultation ended on 6th March and target decision date is 9th April.

<https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/cc/m/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P24/S0484/HH>

The Horse & Harrow

Many villagers will be aware that planning permission has been granted for the conversion of the Horse and Harrow into a pair of semi-detached homes and for the construction of a further three houses on the site. With

this decision West Hagbourne loses its only public meeting place and an important historic building.

The route to this decision has at times been hard to follow. The first application for this development was refused by SODC and the developers took this refusal to an Appeal. In the interim, the developers submitted an almost identical revised application. On March 16th this revised application was also refused by SODC. It was quite unexpected therefore that, on March 17th, we learned that the Appeal had been granted by the Planning Inspectorate, and the development would go ahead. If anyone out there understands how local planning works, please get in touch!

Parish Council

Clerk

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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 landlord at the George and Dragon assures me that they will still be in place for next month's lunch so if you want to join us at the pub on Friday 19 April, please get in touch. Any updates will be circulated to the Lunch group mailing list and via the village WhatsApp group.

*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.

Didcot Farmers' Market

This is held in the Market Place 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

Newsletter delivery

Delivery of your newsletter depends on a network of volunteers, each of whom delivers between 10 and 20 newsletters, every two months. Is this something you could do? New volunteers are needed so that some of the current team can 'retire'. Please get in touch with me via editors@westhagbourne.org

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



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

You are invited to the Annual General Meeting of Didcot & District u3a at 2.30 pm on Tuesday 21 May at Didcot Civic Hall. New Committee members are needed in order to ensure the future of Didcot & District u3a. If you are wondering what being on your Committee entails, then get in touch with me on 07468459380 or mariannicholls26@gmail.com to arrange an informal chat with a current member of the Committee.

other news

2024

16 April: Coaches & Coach horns, from the Golden Age to the Present Day - Colin Pawson

21 May: AGM. Talk from the Prostate Cancer Charity

18 June: Wildlife Wanderings – David Bailey

If you have a query please email bulletin@didcotu3a.org

*Marian Nicholls
Bulletin Coordinator*

other news

Marquees for hire

If you are planning a party the Association has 2 marquees, tables and chairs that are available to hire. For further details please contact Robin Wilkes at va@westhagbourne.org

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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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