

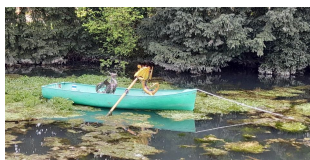
Village Association News

Dragons

This year's Dragon Display decorated our village from 15th-27th April. The number of dragons was fewer than last year – 23 compared to 26 in 2023 – but that did not reduce the impact of this event. The theme "Dragons by the sea" seems to have inspired you. The quality of the displays, the interpretation of the theme and the level of humour were all great. There were plenty of buckets and spades, sand and sea. I even saw a dragon wearing a knotted handkerchief hat – that took me back to my childhood. Wasn't it lovely to see dragons on the village pond again?

Thank you to Callum McKenzie and Nicky Dobson for being our judges. First prize in the adult section went to Tall Trees, Foxglove Lane. The runner-up was Rowan, York Road and the children's prize went to No.6 York Road.

The Dragon Teas were held at Woodleys on Sunday 28th April. Thanks to Robert and Hazel for letting us use their garden. The forecast for the day was very



Dragons back on the pond!

poor, but we were confident that we would stay dry under our brand new 4x10 marquee. However, just after 2.00pm the rain stopped and the sky cleared to give us intermittent sunshine. We had a lovely, sociable afternoon talking to our neighbours, drinking tea/coffee and eating cake. Brilliant!

Garden Open Day

The West Hagbourne Garden Open Day will be held on Sunday 14th July 2024. In all,

13 gardens will open to the public on the day. The event will run from 12.00-4.00pm. We plan to sell programs/tickets from York Farm, York Road priced at £3 per adult. Children are free. Car parking facilities and public toilets will also be located at York Farm. The programs will include a map of the village with the open gardens highlighted. Refreshments including BBQ, afternoon teas and ice-creams will be available throughout the day.

Art Exhibition

As part of the Garden Open day we are planning to display the artwork/crafts of West Hagbourne residents. Margaret and Ian have offered the car port at Chapel Hayes for the exhibition, so your pieces will be protected from both the rain and the sun. There is no theme. Bring your pictures or craft

pieces on the morning of 14th July and we will display them. We would be delighted if adults and children get involved.

Summer Village Walk

The summer walk will be on the 7th July, meeting at the bus stop for 2.30pm. The route will be decided closer to the time, but, be assured, there will be a stop over for refreshments.

The Madge Trophy

We hope that the annual Madge Trophy will be judged on Wednesday 14th August, depending on the weather. We are grateful that Sue Quinton of the Harwell Gardener's Club has agreed to be our judge this year. She will admire our front gardens from the roadside and consider the planting of borders and containers. Good luck!

Rosey Gardiner (Chair)

Parish Council

Changing of the guard:

Mike Butler has now stepped down from the PC completely, as has Hugh Lewis. They have each been very valued members (and Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively) of the PC over the last decade, and the PC is very grateful for their service to the village. Stepping up to join the PC, we welcomed Andy Wimshurst, Margaret Leishman (as Vice-Chair) and Robin Wilkes, who join me and Julie Freeland as your five Parish Councillors until 2027. Andrew Wise continues as our Parish Clerk. Please see contact details and headshots of each of us at the end of the newsletter.

Flooding

We are working on a flood alleviation strategy for the village, looking at: (1) ways in which we can mitigate water entering the village; (2) how we can ensure that water can drain from the village as fast as

possible (for example, keeping ditches and drains clear); and (3) the assistance which can be provided to residents suffering from flooding (for example, a stock of sandbags has been purchased and is stored at York Farm with the Village Association furniture - many thanks to Jane Drewe for allowing this space; if you need access to the sandbags, please contact me or a Village Association member).

Emergency Plan

The PC will be putting together a plan to help us deal with emergencies that affect the village. Further details to follow after the next meeting.

Traffic

Traffic volume and speed throughout the village remain major concerns for the PC. Margaret is leading the Speedwatch initiative and the monitoring sessions will start soon.

Moor Lane

This lane is now blocked by concrete barriers (after the end

of the tarmac section adjoining Main Street), which are likely to remain in place for six months. The PC remains in contact with Oxfordshire County Council on future plans for access.

Earlier this month we also had our annual Parish Meeting on 8th May, which was well attended by village residents. We thanked Mike Butler, Mike Telford and Hugh Lewis properly for their time on the PC, and took the opportunity to set out a reminder of the role of the PC, and how it interacts with the County and District Councils. We reflected on the main areas of PC work in the last 12 months, and the focus areas for the next year.

Residents also had the opportunity to try out the Speedwatch equipment. The Councillors and Clerk then enjoyed a drink with those who attended.

Next meeting: Wednesday 3rd July at 7.30pm in the East Hagbourne Village Hall.

Dan Tozer (Chair)



Adult winner: Tall Trees



Child winner: 6 York Road

other news

Nature news

The warm weather in March meant that many butterflies emerged a little earlier than average. I have already had many sightings of male Brimstones in my garden. After they have established territories by the end of March, I expect to see females. Their wings are much paler in colour than the males, being almost white. A few years ago they would be laying their eggs on the leaves of Buckthorn (or Alder Buckthorn in acidic soil areas) during May, but they could have laid in April this year. With global warming there is a possibility of a mis-match between the period of availability of a butterfly caterpillar's food plant and the period in which the species is present as the caterpillar. Many research projects are currently working on this.

I have also seen a few Small Tortoiseshells recently. The first Orange Tips might appear in April. Both of the butterfly images were taken in April, when the Honesty and Aubretia were in full flower.

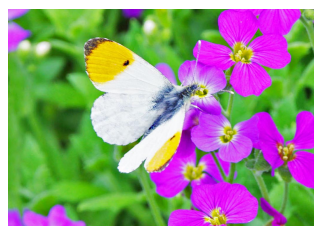
I see the same Grey Squirrel in my garden almost every day, on



the bird feeders (perhaps we should call them squirrel feeders!). Other recent visitors are a Heron, seen on two occasions, and rabbits, which are becoming a serious problem in the north west corner of the village. Their favourite food in my garden is Day Lilies (Hemerocallis) when the shoots are 3-5 cm in height.



Brimstone on Honesty



Male Orange Tip

Speedwatch & Road Safety

The Speedwatch group, now made up of 12 residents, is in possession of all the necessary equipment to start speed monitoring. We will be carrying out our sessions on various days of the week and times of day, at any one of 7 approved sites within the 20mph zone throughout the village.

As part of the Parish Council's continuing efforts to improve safety on our roads and other rights of way in the parish, I would be grateful if you could notify me via email, of any traffic related incidents you are involved in or are a witness to, especially where your or

someone else's safety is put at risk. These incidents can be anything from vehicles being driven along pavements, collisions (including near misses), to careless and antisocial driving. Please include any damage done to public or private property. I will be compiling this information to detect trends and accrue evidence which may be useful in the future. Please include date, time of day, type of vehicle, and a brief description of the incident. Thank you.

Margaret Leishman (Vice Chair)



Daphne Jones

There were many facets to Daphne. She was the loving mother and grandmother whose family spent many happy Christmases and summers with her and Glyn at West Hagbourne. She was a musician and gardener, and worked as a secretary, PA and administrator throughout her life, whilst also bringing up her two sons, David and Philip.

Daphne was born and grew up in the small village of Everleigh on Salisbury plain. The second of four children (an older brother Gordon, a younger brother Terry, who died aged 18 months, and a younger sister, Jane). She and Jane spent summers at Glebe farm, Somerset with their grandparents, where she remembered tasting drops from the cider barrel.

Daphne remained a country girl throughout her life, loving nature and retaining a detailed knowledge of plants. In later life

she and Glyn managed a large and beautiful garden in West Hagbourne, where they lived for 41 years. She was especially fond of her camellias.

Daphne learned the piano, and sang in the Everleigh church choir. She was a naturally beautiful young woman and Glyn first saw her when she was keeping the score at a cricket match in Everleigh. He was working in a lab nearby as part of his national service and was watching the match. They married in 1952 in Collingbourne Ducis, honeymooned in North Devon, and moved to Bristol where they both worked at Filton aeroplane factory. David was born in 1954 in Bristol and Philip in Abingdon in 1957. Glyn spent the rest of his working life at AERE Harwell.

After 10 years living in Woodley, Daphne and Glyn made West Hagbourne their final home in 1977 and Daphne joined Esso in Rowstock, working there until her retirement. They hugely

valued their neighbours and enjoyed their company, joining the bowls club with Bob and Marion. Daphne also sang with the Didcot Choral Society for many years.

When she retired at 60, she volunteered as Head of the Didcot Contact Centre that provided a safe and welcoming space for estranged parents to spend time with their children - a huge responsibility, that she took very seriously.

As she became unwell with Alzheimer's Daphne was cared for at Sotwell Hill House, and then Watlington District Nursing Home, both with wonderful gardens and views of the Chilterns.

We are grateful for their excellent care. We hugely respect and admire the way she coped with her illness and maintained her philosophy - put on a brave face, stay positive and keep smiling.

Her funeral took place on May 2nd at St Andrew's Church.

HUGS Update Flooding

Secrets of Healthy Soil

Soil or dirt? Often, we use these words interchangeably but in fact they are very different things. Dirt is a pale and lifeless medium; healthy soil on the other hand is dark chocolatey brown, full of organic matter and living beings which make up the soil food web.

Why should we care about the health of our soils? Plants grown in dirt are weak and prone to disease; plants grown in healthy soil are lush and rich in nutrients. As gardeners and growers, we want our plants to be healthy with a minimal need for costly interventions. As consumers we need healthy plants because we are what we eat; we benefit from nutrients and a healthy gut microbiome that we can only get from plants raised in healthy soil.

healthy soil = healthy plants =
healthy food = healthy people

You can find out more about the soil food web and the secrets of healthy soil in our blog, on our webpage:

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

Caroline Hunt & Ian Leishman

The Parish Council are putting together a plan to tackle the flooding issues we now face. To help us build up a complete picture across the village, please contact robin.wilkes@westhagbourne.org with your address describing any flooding issues you've faced.

Open Gardens

Seven beautiful gardens will open in East Hagbourne on Sunday 9 June 1pm-4pm. Refreshments available from St Andrew's Church, Fieldside and the Fleur. Ice creams from the village shop.. Plant sale at 5 Higgs Close. Tickets are £5 for entry to all 7 gardens. Tickets can be booked online or bought on the day. Parking at Manor Farm Lane or the Pavilion car park.

Deaths

We note with sadness the recent death of Mary Allen, of York Farm. An obituary will appear in the August newsletter



Northern lights on 10th May. Photo by Nadia, Grove Terrace

Parish Council

Clerk

Andrew Wise
parishclerk@westhagbourne.org



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

Councillors

Chair:

Dan Tozer
daniel.tozer@westhagbourne.org



Vice chair

Margaret Leishman
margaret.leishman@westhagbourne.org



Andy Wimshurst
andy.wimshurst@westhagbourne.org



Julie Freeland
julie.freeland@westhagbourne.org



Robin Wilkes
robin.wilkes@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

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>

other news

Lunch Club

The good news is that the George and Dragon has been bought by a family with strong ties to Upton and they have plans to reinstate it as a village asset. They hope to fully refurbish the pub as well as opening a cafe and a shop on the premises. The bad news, this will take some time. The owner tells me they hope to get a basic drinks service operating in the garden soon, possibly with basic food provision. I encourage you to give this a try when it is available. Offering a full food menu will take longer - hopefully by mid-summer. Watch this space and other village communication channels for news of when lunches can restart.

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.

Tai Chi at the Retreat at Lilley Cottage

Next batch of 6 classes starts on Monday June 3rd - July 8th at 15.45.

After a summer break the sessions will re-start on September 2nd.

Men and Women welcome £80 per 6-week session. Contact Sue Lay at Manor Farm or via the village WhatsApp group.

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

Twinning

Would you be interested in a weekend in Meylan, our twin town in France? You would need to pay your own travel costs (a basic return flight to Lyon on BA costs about £150 per person currently) but you will be hosted by a local family. A party from Didcot and surrounding villages will be going 19-22 September. If you would like to join us, get in touch via our website didcotwinning.org.uk

other news



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

18 June: Wildlife Wanderings - David Bailey

16 July: Anecdotes of life playing music on horseback - Jon Woodhouse ex Life Guards Musician

20 August: Where The Money Went; the cost of WW1 - Roy Larkin

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

Marian Nicholls
Bulletin Coordinator

other news

Newsletter delivery

Thank you to volunteers who responded to my request for people to deliver newsletters. Maybe you too could deliver between 10 and 20 newsletters, every two months. New volunteers are always welcome so that some of the current team can 'retire'. Please get in touch with me via editors@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.**

dronemotion.co.uk
 DRONE FILMING & ROOF SURVEYS

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

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