

Village Association News

Garden Open Day

Who knew that West Hagbourne had so many spectacular gardens?

On Sunday 14th July the garden gates of West Hagbourne were opened to the public. About 150 people were treated to 13 beautiful gardens, all maintained to the highest standards. The weather was perfect – warm, dry and sunny – and everyone agreed that we had a very enjoyable afternoon.

The art exhibition at Chapel Hayes proved that West Hagbourne residents have many talents, not just horticulture. There were beautiful examples of painting, woodwork, needlework,

glasswork, flower arranging and many more creative ideas.

The Village association would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the Garden Open Day. Your efforts made it a very special and memorable day.

We would also like to thank York Farm for providing parking facilities for this event.

Summer village walk

The summer village walk took place on the 7th July this year. Participants left the village along Moor Lane and joined the embankment to Upton. A quick walk around the village ended at the "George at Upton" where refreshments were enjoyed in the garden. On leaving the pub, the group walked across the recreation grounds and through the back of the Lays farm to re-enter the village. The weather was kind and everyone enjoyed themselves.



Mike and Julie Freeland



Steve and Maddie Carr



Dave and Sue Totterdell

The Madge Trophy

The annual Madge Trophy will be judged on Wednesday 14th August this year. We are delighted to announce that Sue Quinton of the Harwell Gardener's Club has agreed to judge the competition. She will walk around the village enjoying our front gardens from the roadside looking for well planted, colourful borders, containers and hanging baskets. Good luck!

Boules afternoon

Last year the Village Association held an "outdoor games afternoon" which proved so popular we have decided to repeat the event this year. A very light hearted Boules – not bowls – competition will be held on the gravel courtyard of Manor Farm on Saturday 7th September. The event will run from 2pm onwards. If you haven't played Boules before, no problem, we'll learn together. Other games will include table tennis, Croquet, child friendly archery and Giant Jenga. Chris



Walkers

and Sue Lay will be kind enough to open their climbing frame and trampoline for the duration of this event, but, neither they or the Village Association accept any liability – children must be accompanied by an adult at all times when using this equipment.

Sandwiches and crisps will be provided during the afternoon. Please 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 will apply to cover food costs. Visiting children under 11 years old are free.

Please contact Rosey Gardiner on 07542 923328 to let us know how many people will be in your party. This will help us cater for the event.

See you there!

Macmillan Coffee Morning

This year the Macmillan coffee morning will be held on Saturday 28th September from 10.30-12.30pm at York Farm, York Road. The village Association invites every resident of West Hagbourne to come to this event and support a charity which provides invaluable help to families coping with cancer.

As always donations of cakes/biscuits will be gratefully received. Thank you.



Art and Crafts in the barn: Ian and Margaret Leishman



Malcolm and Val Brownsword

Rosey Gardiner (Chair)

other news

Verge maintenance

Many thanks to local farmers - the Drewes from Coscote Farm and Nick Lay from Hare Chase Partners for doing a great job in cutting back the verges around our village - particularly on Coscote Road, A 417, and Hagbourne Hill.

Not only has this helped prevent the further spread of pernicious weeds like hemlock, giant hogweed, and ragwort, (now rampant in Oxfordshire due to the Councils delaying verge cutting) but it has improved road visibility and therefore safety hugely. Much appreciated

Jeff Powell

Nature's Eye

In recent weeks, I have spent a considerable time in the garden preparing for the recent village open gardens day. Normally at this time of year, one would expect to see plenty of butterflies, particularly on sunny days. Instead, during June, I cannot recall seeing more than two during a day's gardening. Even my large Buddleia attracted only one or two individuals in a day. I have noticed over the years that Gatekeeper butterflies (the most numerous species in Butterfly Conservation's annual 'Big Butterfly Count' last year) usually make their first appearance to coincide with the appearance of bramble blossom. This is in mid- to late June. This year I had to wait until mid-July. Earlier, only Red Admiral, Holly Blue and Orange Tip were seen in reasonable numbers.

On the brighter side, those who visited my garden on the open day will have noticed the numerous Azure Damselflies on my pond. In June there was a pair of Large Red Damselflies



Male Large Red Damselfly

present. There is also a Small Red Damselfly, rare in the UK but locally common at Parsonage Moor near Abingdon.

Malcolm Brownsword

HUGS Update

Butterflies

While some species increased, 2023 saw worrying declines in others (UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme). It was the great year for Chequered Skipper, Brimstone, Large Blue and the Red Admiral who now overwinters in the UK as our climate warms. 2023 also saw the lowest numbers for 48 years

for the Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary and Small Tortoiseshell. Butterflies are useful environmental indicators, reflecting habitat, pollution and climate change.

To do your bit, plant flowering plants: Scabious, Verbena, Alliums and Lavender to provide food; leave grass long, nettles, brambles, logs and leaves as shelter for butterfly caterpillars.

Caroline Hunt & Ian Leishman

Gladys Mary Allen 'Mary'

Mary was born 4th February 1927 and spent the majority of her childhood living on the village green at Steventon. After a local education she worked for a short time at the Army depot switch board on the Hanney Road.

Her initial trips to West Hagbourne were to Manor Farm to visit her father's brother John Lay and his wife Elizabeth (Nee Napper) along with their children, in particular Charlie Lay her favorite cousin. It was there in 1947 she met Charlie's friend and neighbouring farmer Richard Allen, the youngest of five children born to Ernest William Allen & Phoebe Suzanne (Nee Townsend), who had occupied York Farm since 1901.

Mary married Richard in 1949 at Steventon Church and returned to York Farm where she lived for the next 77 years. In the early years, as well as rearing four children, Mary was busy helping her mother-in-law care for her father-in-law who had suffered a severe stroke, who lived next door at York Farm Cottage. York Farmhouse, although clean, was in very poor condition, it was not until the 1950s that an inside toilet was installed, and the central heating in the early 1970s.

Up until 2007 cows were still being milked at York Farm and Mary's contribution was the rigorous washing of the dairy towels each week: she was delighted when she finally got an automatic washing machine. Calving cows, feeding calves, rearing orphan lambs, gardening, learning to drive, feeding farm staff were just a few of the skills she had to learn being new to the world of farming, but she took it all in her stride and made an invaluable contribution to the success of the farming business.

Outside of farm life Mary enjoyed her voluntary work being a driver for the Blind Association and an active member of the Ladies Conservative Association at Abingdon. It was not unusual to see her take on the catering for their annual Christmas lunch single handed. Mary enjoyed cooking, her Sunday roasts and shoot dinners were legendary, huge joints of roast beef and an endless supply of Yorkshire puddings were produced from the most modest of facilities followed by nearly always sherry trifle. The guests loved it.

Mary's life also endured tragedy. In 1968 she lost her first born son James William aged 18 years, a loss that left a sadness

in her heart for the rest of her life. Her other three children all married and together gave her nine grandchildren and nine great grandchildren who gave her so much love and pleasure, all living locally and regular visitors to York Farm.

In 2003 Mary experienced the onset of age related macular degeneration, an eye condition which gradually worsened over the years, resulting in the loss of her diving licence. However she persevered with great stoicism, continued to knit, cook and make the most of what she was able to do: most people were unaware she suffered from the condition.

Once the children had left home, Mary and Richard enjoyed their time together at York Farm, watching their family grow, continuing to play an active role on the farm, enjoying holidays and entertaining until Richards death in 2021, a wonderful marriage that lasted 72 years.

Mary continued to live on her own, assisted by a stream of family and friends who enabled her to stay at York Farm for the following twenty two months until her death on 16th May 2024.

Jane Drewe

Parish Council

The West Hagbourne Parish Council continues its work on a number of areas of importance to the village, as follows:

Flooding

We have been in regular contact with the County Council in relation to the operation and condition of the watercourses and drainage channels through and around the village, including a couple of site visits. We are identifying potential work which needs to be undertaken to make the system more functional and resilient, and are pressing for this work to be done before the winter (we have applied for a grant to support this). Those on the village WhatsApp group will have seen Robin's request for information from anyone who has experienced flooding in the village - both this year and historically. Many thanks to all those who have shared their experiences so far; any further information should be sent to robin.wilkes@westhagbourne.org. All of this information is very important in helping us to do what we can to address this key issue.

Planning

The rejected planning application for the land opposite the Horse & Harrow site (six houses) has been appealed to the Secretary of State. The PC will maintain its opposition to the application and will share information with residents about how they can also submit their views on the appeal (this will have happened prior to publication of this newsletter).

Moor Lane

The byway remains closed. We continue to chase the County Council for information about the remedial works which will be required, and plans for future access.

Vehicle Activated Signs

EW have requested that these are reset to correspond to the applicable 20mph limit.

Speedwatch

We thanked the Speedwatch team for their continued efforts in encouraging traffic to comply with the applicable speed limit.

Highways

The PC will be meeting the County Council's "Engagement Team" to discuss issues with traffic speed and volume.

Hagbourne Village Hall

A significant project is planned to replace the roof of the village hall. Initially, a feasibility study will be commissioned to confirm the right approach. We, along with the East Hagbourne Parish Council, will provide support to the Hall Committee during this process.

Hagbourne Cemetery

A flooding survey is required due to issues in part of the cemetery. Our PC covers 25% of cemetery costs (East Hagbourne PC covering the rest) and will remain involved in the work through Julie, our representative on the Cemetery Committee.

Finally, the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment has a number of grants available for wildlife and environmental projects (from £1000 to £25,000). The PC is keen to support an application if we can; please do let me know if you have any ideas for a project in the village which might be considered (the application deadline is 7 October).

Next meeting: Wednesday 4 September, 7.30pm, Hagbourne Village Hall.

Dan Tozer (Chair)

Parish Council

Clerk

Andrew Wise
parishclerk@westhagbourne.org



Councillors

Chair:

Dan Tozer
daniel.tozer@westhagbourne.org



Vice chair

Margaret Leishman
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Andy Wimshurst
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Julie Freeland
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Robin Wilkes
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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>

other news

Lunch Club

We are anticipating that the George at Upton will be open in September for the first Village Lunch under the new owners. I suggest we start with Friday September 27. I hope to be able to circulate sample menus in advance. Watch the WhatsApp and email list for details.

*Sue Totterdell,
Meadow's Edge*



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

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

17 September: Andrew Carnegie, From Rags to Riches Giving it all away; The World's Richest man - Jeremy Holmes

15 October: Morris Minors in the Media - Ann and John Ford

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

*Marian Nicholls
Bulletin Coordinator*

Musical Interlude

The 'Amici della Voce' octet, based in Oxford, are a mixed-voice 'a cappella' group, specialising in performing a wide variety of repertoire from early Renaissance through to present day.

Founded and directed by David Crown, they draw on their extensive choral experience to deliver engaging and spirited concerts.

Repertoire for their concert at 5pm on 7th September at St. Andrew's, East Hagbourne will feature works by Bob Chilcott, Ola Gjeilo and former Classic FM composer-in-residence Patrick Hawes.

Entry is free but donations very welcome as the choir wishes to make a donation to St. Andrew's church.

Meryl

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.

Marquees for hire

If you are planning a party the Association has 2 marquees, tables and chairs that are available to hire. In addition to the village marquees, the Village Association can now rent out gazebos - £25 to hire, size: 3m x 3m. For further details please contact Robin Wilkes at va@westhagbourne.org

other news

Newsletter's future

It seems that the newsletter in its current form, with its wealth of colour pictures, village-wide free distribution and quality output relies on a Parish Council subsidy. The advertisers no longer cover the costs of printing.

I would like to encourage local businesses to advertise in the newsletter and to pay promptly for their adverts each year. It would also be helpful if there were a volunteer to actively seek out possible advertisers so if you can help, please get in touch with me.

Sue Totterdell (Editor)

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

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 750€/week July

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