

Village Association News

Macmillan Coffee Morning

The Village Association is very pleased to announce that the Macmillan Coffee Morning, held on the 28th September 2024 raised a total of £1082.41. Our thanks to the West/East Hagbourne residents who donated cakes and/or raffle prizes. Thanks also to everyone who attended the event and gave so generously.

The Autumn Walk

On the 3rd November, a group of enthusiastic walkers left West Hagbourne via the York Road/Manor Close footpath and headed north towards the outskirts of Didcot. Having crossed Park Road, we headed for Mowbray Fields and entered East Hagbourne. There followed a "happy hour" at the Fleur de Lys before our return home via School Lane. A most enjoyable afternoon. The weather was kind – while it was not sunny, it was dry – and, as always, the company was good.

Remembrance Sunday

A well-attended service was held at the West Hagbourne War Memorial on the 10th



Welcome drink at the Fleur



New poppy wreath

November. A two minute silence was observed and a new poppy wreath hung as a mark of respect to those villagers who lost their lives during WWI and WWII.

West Hagbourne Village Association AGM

The Village Association AGM was held on the 18th November at Rowan, York Road. The Chairman, Rosey Gardiner, reported on the events of the 2023-2024 season. The treasurer, Stephen Carr, reported on our financial standing. Copies of both reports can be obtained on request (phone 07542 923328). The committee will remain unchanged for the 2024-2025 season and I would like to thank all members for their continued enthusiasm. We had a very worthwhile discussion about possible future events. These will be publicised in the Newsletter at the appropriate time and I hope you will support them and have some fun!

The Village Christmas Tree

The Village Association has sponsored a tree for the middle of the village again this year. It will stand under the horse chestnut tree in The Square. We would like to invite the children/grandchildren of the village to come along between 11am-12pm on the 7th December to help decorate the tree. Why not make some decorations? Last year we had some very beautiful origami, the



Villagers observing a 2 minute silence

CHRISTMAS COMES TO WEST HAGBOURNE

CAROLS IN THE FARMYARD

3:30PM – SUNDAY 8TH DEC
MANOR FARM,
WEST HAGBOURNE

ENJOY WONDERFUL
CAROL SINGING BY MEMBERS
OF OUR FARMYARD CAROLERS

In support of the church, Didcot Emergency Food Bank
& First Steps Baby Bank

Many Thanks to our Generous Festival Sponsors

year before, stars made out of dried fruit and lollipop sticks. Come and help us adorn the tree with tinsel and baubles and start the festive celebrations with a sparkle.

Carols in the Farmyard

St. Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival (Treefest) will be running from 6-14th December this year. As part of the festival, West Hagbourne holds "Carols in the Farmyard". The venue will be Manor Farm and this year it will be on Sunday 8th December, starting at 3.30pm. Meryl and her "Farmyard Singers" have, once again, agreed to lead the carol singing. Thanks to Sue/Chris Lay for hosting this event. 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 also be on sale at £1.00 per ticket. There are 11 wonderful prizes to be won including meal vouchers, shopping vouchers and hampers. All proceeds from this year's event will be split between St. Andrew's Church and Didcot Emergency Food Bank/First Steps Baby Bank.

This is a cash only event!

Christmas Wish

Finally, The Village Association would like to wish every resident of West Hagbourne a very happy Christmas and New Year. See you next year at our social events!

Rosey Gardiner (Chair)

CHRISTMAS
GREETINGS TO
ALL WEST
HAGBOURNE
RESIDENTS



other news

Parish Council

Key items arising from the last Parish Council held on 11th November are as follows.

Flooding

Working with the County Council, we continue to make progress in identifying "pinch points" and improvements that can be made to the operation and condition of the watercourses and drainage channels through and around the village. We have set up a Flood Response Group to help us spot and resolve issues. Those on the village WhatsApp group will have seen Robin's request for volunteers to join this group; many people have already come forward to offer their help (many thanks for this); if you'd like to join the team, please contact Robin: robin.wilkes@westhagbourne.org Any help or information which you can provide will be very welcome. Please also remember that we have a stock

of sandbags available in the village if anyone needs them (to get hold of them, contact Robin or message on the village WhatsApp group).

Moor Lane

The byway will remain closed through the winter. In spring/summer '25 the County Council plan to undertake undergrowth removal/control works, following which an assessment will be made of future access. We will remain in consultation with them on this issue.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council has decided that it is not in the interests of the Parish to put such a plan in place at the present time, given that the key purpose of such plans is to identify sites which are appropriate for development rather than to prevent additional development. We will continue to assess the risks and benefits of adopting such a plan on an ongoing basis.

Speedwatch

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



Village records

Sheila Taylor is in contact with the Oxford History Archive Manager to identify an appropriate location for the storage of the West Hagbourne History Group's archive. The Parish Council also has a number of old maps of the Parish which we will also seek to store in an accessible location.



Rubbish and litter pick

We thanked those who gave up their time on 19 October to help to keep our village clean and tidy.

Emergency Plan

We are putting together an emergency plan for the parish.

This is a document that most parishes have, and is intended to provide key information and guidance to residents in a time of emergency. We will make this available to all residents once finalised.

Grants for various projects

The Parish Council is made aware from time to time of grants which are available for various projects. The grants are usually focussed on particular areas, such as "community initiatives", "wildlife" and "environmental issues".

Please do let us know if you have any ideas for a project which would benefit the village (those on the village WhatsApp group will have seen Julie's request in relation to community projects).

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 8th January at 7.30pm at Hagbourne Village Hall.

Dan Tozer (Chair)

HUGS Update

Imagine a world without chocolate

Guess what? Cacao plants - which are the source of chocolate - depend on just one type of midge to pollinate them. So no midge = no chocolate.

But it's not just chocolate at stake. An incredible 84% of the EU's crops are pollinator-dependent and while global demand for food supply is rocketing, populations of insect pollinators are collapsing. In the UK, wild bees are especially important pollinators of our crops. We need to take care of all our local pollinators and provide their larval food plants as well as the habitat they need to survive. So when you're

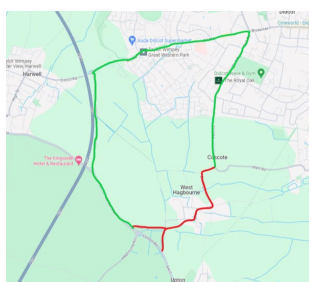
planning your fruit and veg planting for you to eat, think about the pollinators who pollinate and improve your crops and plant and plan space for them too. Vital pollinators in the UK include: bumble bees, hoverflies, solitary bees, wasps, moths, butterflies and beetles

And why not come and see pollinators in action on our HUGS tree in the St Andrews Christmas Tree festival?!

Caroline Hunt & Ian Leishman

Road closure

The road through the village will be closed 06/01/25 - 07/01/25 from 09h30 - 15h30 for carriageway patching. Access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles,



local buses and for those frontages within the closure area, subject to the progress of the works and liaison with the works supervisor. See the map of the closure above.



Reflecting on the past twelve months, I see a village that continues to thrive despite continuing

pressure for more development, often without the supporting infrastructure. A village that welcomes newcomers.

The Parish Council and the Village Association in particular make a huge contribution to improving village life but there are countless others, often behind the scenes. My list includes the team who produce and deliver this newsletter, the people who keep an eye on their neighbours, support village events, those who keep the village clean and tidy, tending their gardens and providing a colourful environment. Thanks too to the team who regularly check the defibrillator is working.. Thanks too to all the people I have forgotten. Your contributions are appreciated.

Editor



Flood control work underway at the end of York Road at the junction with Manor Close

PCC

Tackling shoplifting in southern Oxfordshire

A common myth about shoplifting is that it is linked to the cost of living. Whilst there will inevitably be some exceptions, we see that a significant amount of shoplifting is related to addiction (drink and drugs), but the biggest rise is actually from organised crime. Even in our more rural areas, sadly some retailers have been targeted but help is at hand; and the new Retail Crime Strategy launched earlier this year has made supporting retailers a higher priority for the police.

Over the last year across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse the number of charges for shoplifting has more than doubled (up by 106% so far this year), showing that the work to tackle prolific offenders is paying off. The police have identified the top suspects locally and as a result many are now behind bars.

Part of the effort to work more closely with shop staff is to increase reporting. All too often shoplifting or assaults on staff can go unreported. Sometimes people feel the police won't act - well if it is never reported, they certainly can't act! To help

encourage reporting and information sharing I have funded a new system called Disc, which is being rolled out free to any retail business locally that wants to sign up. The app allows businesses to report more easily to the police - although if there's a crime happening now, always call 999 - and crucially to share images from CCTV and mobile phones of suspects. These are shared both with the police and neighbouring businesses. I have been out with the police in Wantage, Didcot and Wallingford, talking to staff about their experience and getting them to sign up to the free scheme. Anyone with a retail business can contact Thames Valley Police to sign up and find out more by emailing oliver.fletcher@thamesvalley.police.uk.

Matthew Barber

Matthew Barber has been Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley Police since May 2021. He has previously been Leader of VWHDC. The core functions of a PCC are to secure the maintenance of an efficient and effective police force within their area, and to hold the chief constable to account for the delivery of the police and crime plan.

Defibrillator training

Community defibrillator training is being organised for early 2025. The more villagers who know how to operate this life-saving equipment, the more likely one will be on hand if the need arises. Spend an evening getting to know how and when to use a defibrillator. Look out for information about a date for this session early in the new year or contact Julie Freeland:

julie.freeland@westhagbourne.org

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

With busy pre-Christmas schedules, it has been decided not to have a village lunch meeting in December. The next village lunch will be at the George, Upton, at 12.30 on Friday 31 January. Details are circulated via the Village WhatsApp group or you can join my mailing list (editor@westhagbourne.org).

*Sue Totterdell,
Meadow's Edge*

U3A

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

Christmas Lunch and Magic Show

Tuesday 17th December
This will be held again at The Barn, Foxhall Road, Didcot OX11 7AD. Just a few tickets remain at £15 per person payable by cash or cheque.

21st January: The Oxford Museum Service coming from the Resource Centre with curios to talk about schooldays from the past.

18th February: David Taylor from Didcot and District Archaeology and History Society gives a history of Didcot.

8th March: Moving and making a new small garden from scratch with Timothy Walker. Timothy is a British botanist and was the Horti Praefectus of the University of Oxford Botanic Garden and Harcourt Arboretum. More information here:

timothywalker.org.uk

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

*Marian Nicholls
Bulletin Coordinator*

Carol Concert

Abingdon Music Society's Carol Concert at 4pm on Sunday 15 December in St Helen's Church Abingdon will include seasonal pieces by the orchestra, and choir together with a selection of well-known carols for the audience to join in. For more information see <http://www.adms.org.uk/>

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



Village Shop & PO

Shop:

Mon - Thurs: 9am - 4.30pm

Fri: 9am - 4pm

Sat: 9am - 12.30pm

PO:

Temporary hours - check

easthagbourne.net

for updates

Mon, Wed, Sat:

9am - 12.00pm

Closed in the afternoons and on Tuesday

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.**



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