

Village Association News

December 2024's WET AND WINDY weather resulted in changes to some of our planned events.

Christmas tree

The Village Association sponsored a Village Christmas Tree for 2024. We were hoping to get the village children to decorate it on the morning of 7th December. Unfortunately, the weather was so bad that morning that the event had to be cancelled. The tree was erected several days later by the committee but we really missed the children's involvement. You can imagine how thrilled we were to find new decorations on the tree soon afterwards – three beautiful bead stars. Thank you, Emily, and Livi. We loved them!



Beaded star tree decorations

Carols in the Farmyard

At the last moment, 'Carols in the Farmyard' was transformed into 'Carols in the Barn', once again because of bad weather. Thanks to Jane for agreeing to let us use the barn at York Farm, clearing it of farm equipment and providing straw bales for us to sit on. Thanks also to Meryl and her singers for performing a beautiful selection of carols for us to listen and sing along to. The mince pies and mulled wine were also very welcome!

This event raised £199.20 for Treefest which, in turn, will be distributing more than £5,000 to its chosen charities – the Didcot Emergency Food Bank, the First Steps Baby Bank and St. Andrew's Church.

The Madge Trophy

The Madge Trophy will be judged in April this year - a great opportunity for gardens featuring displays of tulips, daffodils and early flowering perennials to excel. The exact date will appear in the April newsletter: be prepared.

Dragon Competition

The dragon competition will run from 13th-27th April this year. The theme is 'Dragons

celebrate Easter'. Over the 2-week period, please display your dragon so that it can be seen from the roadside. As always, there will be cash prizes for the best dragon, the runner up and the best children's entry.

On Sunday 27th April, the Dragon Walk will start at 2.00pm, leaving the bus shelter and following a route which passes every dragon in the village. The Dragon Teas will be held at Woodleys, 2.30-4.30pm, by kind permission of Robert and Hazel. Come and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and a piece of homemade cake.

There will also be a Plant Stall with a fine selection of annuals and perennials. See you there!

Rosey Gardiner (Chair)



Cutting rural crime

Rural crime - specifically defined as things like the theft of farm machinery, equipment, damage to crops and offences such as hare coursing - can have a huge impact on farming businesses, not to mention the real issues of safety for individuals. Thankfully rural crime is falling locally. Across Thames Valley it is down 24% over the last 12 months

and in southern Oxfordshire it's down 33% after Home Office funding was used for work focussed specifically in Oxfordshire.

Rural Crime Partnership

Thames Valley Police have teamed up with local District Councils, to form a Rural Crime Partnership. By using undercover cameras and off-road bikes, officers can now better monitor remote areas and track down offenders who think they can't be reached while farmers have received free security reviews and DNA marking kits for their equipment, making it much harder for thieves to get away and easier to return stolen items. In addition a dedicated Rural Crime Advisor has been recruited, offering helpful advice to the community, meeting local farmers and businesses, and keeping rural industries safer.

Fly-Tipping

New surveillance tools are helping councils catch and prosecute those who dump waste.

More officers have been recruited to the Rural Crime Taskforce, making it one of the largest and most effective in the country. Many of these offences are recognised as part of organised crime. The taskforce is identifying and focussing on the most dangerous and prolific offenders successfully reducing in crime in our area, whilst other police areas have seen increases. We have now established a South East Partnership Against Rural Crime - joining together neighbouring police forces so that we can target criminals all the way from the farms they target to the ports where they try to export stolen goods. With these measures, our rural areas are becoming safer places thanks to the hard work and dedication of Thames Valley Police officers.

Matthew Barber, PCC



Carols in the barn



other news

Parish Council

West Hagbourne Parish Council continues its work on a number of areas of importance to the village.

Flooding

The Flood Response Group has been doing great proactive work in clearing drains, trash screens and ditches; we feel that this is already starting to have an effect in allowing water to drain quickly off the roads. We continue our ongoing discussions with the County and District Councils in relation to this issue; this has led, for example, to renewed Oxfordshire County Council / South Oxfordshire District Council focus on the drainage scheme for the Great Western Park development. SODC have informed us that there are issues with the implementation of some of the GWP drainage scheme requirements; SODC assure us that they are working with the developers to remedy the situation. Please also remember that we do have a limited stock of sandbags in the village if needed (contact Robin on the village WhatsApp group if needed).

Material planning issues

The planning appeal for the development of land to the north of the pub (the Lizard Bank

field) was rejected by the Government Planning Inspector at the end of November. The Inspector agreed with all key objections made by the SODC Planning team. As a consequence the developer will have to submit a fresh application if it wishes to proceed with any development plans.

Speedwatch

The Speedwatch team continues to do a sterling job to encourage traffic to comply with the applicable speed limit. New members are always appreciated; if you would like to join, please email margaret.leishman@westhagbourne.org.



Hagbourne Cemetery

It is clear that significant work will need to be undertaken to remedy a flooding issue in the cemetery. Our PC covers 25% of cemetery costs (East Hagbourne PC covering the rest) and will remain involved throughout the work.

Road closures

The Clerk sends to the village email list notice of all road closures of which the Parish Council is informed (for example, Hagbourne Hill is scheduled to be closed from 09:30 to 15:30 on 21st February 2025).

Please note that sometimes closure details are changed without notice to us.

Vehicle Activated Signs

We are "on the list" to have these signs reset to correspond to the applicable 20mph limit.

Emergency Plan

As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, we are putting together an "Emergency Plan" for the village. Following some best practice from other Parishes we would like to set up an "Emergency Team"; this would be a group of residents who would be prepared to work together and co-ordinate the village response to an emergency. We are a small village, and there will very likely be some overlap in participants with other groups, but I would be very grateful if you could let me know if you would be prepared to join the village's Emergency Team. Please email me at daniel.tozer@westhagbourne.org with a copy to the parish clerk: parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

We would like to express our thanks to Graham Osborne-King, who has undertaken his own litter-pick along Brook Lane. There are many residents who selflessly get on and do things to improve our village; we're grateful for all of you!

Finally, a reminder that all residents of the village are encouraged to contact the Parish Council if there is something which you would like us to consider. There is a slot in each of our meetings which is set aside for this ("Representations from the public"), but you can also submit representations to us at any time via email daniel.tozer@westhagbourne.org with a copy to the parish clerk: parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

We would appreciate as much notice as possible to allow us to consider any representations.

Full minutes of previous meetings are available on the village website: westhagbourne.org

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 5th March at 7.30pm at Hagbourne Village Hall.

Dan Tozer (Chair)

Twinning

As part of Didcot and surrounding villages' twinning programme, we are expecting a group of German visitors to arrive from Planegg on September 4th on a weekend visit. The Twinning Association is always keen to hear from families who think they might like to support this link with our European partners by offering to host a visitor. Hosting involves offering accommodation and food during the visit but other expenses for the visitors are covered by the Twinning Association. Hosts are welcome to join in the programme of activity which will include visits to local sites of interest and a gala dinner, although they are expected to pay for their own meals.

Please get in touch with Sue Totterdell (Meadows Edge, editor@westhagbourne.org) if you would like to learn more.

Planning

There are three current or recent planning consultations. You can go on line to see the full application and to make comments

7 Manor Close:
P24/S4010/HH
Ivy Farm, Main Street:
P24/S4084/LB
Witchaven, Main Street:
P24/S3680/HH



HUGS Update



Spring is getting earlier. Birds nest, wildflowers bloom and frogs spawn somewhere between a month to six weeks earlier than they did in the 1980s. Scientists attribute this to our warming world. And it's happening around the globe, not just in the UK. In recent years, we've had some very warm periods in Spring and with varying rainfall. Locally, the last couple of Springs have had much higher than average rainfall.

For birds, we might still think that their nesting season starts in March, but for many species they will already have laid their first brood of eggs by the end of March. Around the Hagbournes, long-tailed tits, blackbirds and tawny owls and more will already be nesting in February.

Most birds prefer lots of cover plus height for their nests. Ivy and bramble make ideal nesting sites for many species. You can help out birds with wilder areas of your garden; providing safe areas such as trees, thick, high hedges, shrubs or brambles to nest in. Wilder areas also provide nest building materials such as leaves, sticks, grasses, lichen, bark, moss and mud for birds to collect. Blackbirds are often the easiest to spot nest building. Females will work through flower beds and meadows where flower stems have been left to overwinter. They will select and take away their preferred upright stems to weave into their nests. Long-tailed tits use spider silk in their nest building (to bind the structure), so again wilder areas that are full of insect life, provide better home building options for our birds.

The HUGS website has more info about wildlife gardening (<https://www.hugsustainability.org/wildlifegardening>) and the RSPB provide lots of information about supporting birds in your garden:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/helping-birds-and-wildlife>

Caroline Hunt & Ian Leishman

Defibrillator training



A training session for how and when to use the defibrillator took place on Wednesday 15th

January. It was attended by 17 people from West Hagbourne and one from East Hagbourne.

It was helpful to understand the working of a defibrillator and what to do if the situation arose.

The defibrillator is housed in the

telephone kiosk located beside the bus shelter.

What three words location: *pollution/blossom/ringside*.
Postcode: OX11 0ND



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



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

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

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 first village lunch of 2025 is being planned for Friday 31 January. We will be visiting the George in Upton again, testing their new menus, introduced over the Christmas and New Year period. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to join us on the next lunch (February 28: the last Friday in the month), updates are circulated via the Village WhatsApp group or an email group. To be added to the email group, contact editor@westhagbourne.org.

Sue Totterdell,
Meadow's Edge



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

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

18th March: Moving and making a new small garden from scratch with Timothy Walker. He gave a talk last year and was very well received. Timothy is a British botanist and was the Horti Praefectus of the University of Oxford Botanic Garden and Harcourt Arboretum.

April 15th. Women and the Victorian Army. A talk from Dan Allen.

May 20th AGM.

Quiz and Chips

Saturday 8th March at 6:15 for a 6:30 pm start at District Community Centre, Gentian Mews, OX11 6GR £10 including fish/sausage/spring roll & chips supper. Teams of up to 6 (including non-members). Bring your own drinks, glass and cutlery. Book tickets on a first come first served basis at the January and February meetings or you can phone 01235 510048 or email

shirleyrouse137@gmail.com by 18th February. Payment by cheque or cash only.

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

Marian Nicholls

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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Didcot Cafe Scientifique
 Tuesday 18th February
 7.30-9.30pm
Julian Gold
Glyphosate - Friend or Foe
Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot
 Please contact Didcot Café Scientifique if you would like to be added to the Mailing list on cafesci@didcotfirst.org

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