

Village Association News

Madge Trophy

The Madge Trophy will be judged on the 10/11th April this year, weather permitting. We are very excited that Alison Brown from the East Hagbourne Gardening Club has agreed to be our judge. She will admire our front gardens from the roadside and will be looking for plenty of colour in our spring flower beds. Good luck!



The Dragons are coming!

Last year's dragon display was a great success. It was lovely to see so many groups walking around the village: Brownies, Guides, Nurseries and Pre-schools were all spotted enjoying our 'dragons by the seaside'. Three generational family groups from our village and the surrounding areas also enjoyed the spectacle together. Very rewarding for all who made such a creative effort. Thank you.

This year's theme is 'Dragons celebrate Easter' and the competition will run from the 13th-27th April. We hope you will display your dragon(s) in the front garden to be clearly visible 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).

The annual Dragon Walk will take place on Sunday 27th April, leaving from the bus shelter at 2.00pm. If you haven't managed to see the dragons by then, this is a great opportunity to catch up. The Dragon teas and prize distribution will follow at 2.30-4.30pm at Woodleys, The Square. The Village Association would like to thank Robert and Hazel for hosting this event in their garden.

The committee would be

grateful for cake donations (handed into Woodleys on the Sunday). A plant stall, selling a wide range of annuals and perennials, will raise money for future events. Please note this is a cash only event.

VE day

Join the nation in celebrating the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe. Afternoon tea and cake will be served between 2.00-4.00pm on Bank Holiday Monday - 5th May – at Woodleys, The Square. Activities for the children will be provided.

Barn Dance

The Village Association is planning to hold a Barn Dance on Saturday 5th July this year. PANDEMONIUM from Wantage will be performing between 7.00-10.00pm.

Thanks to the money raised at the village Garden Open Day last year, this event will be free, but, please note there will be food on sale at the venue. Thanks to Jeff Powell for providing the venue – the Grain Store, Reading Road, West Hagbourne OX11 0FE.

Further details will appear in the June issue of the West Hagbourne Newsletter.

Rosey Gardiner (Chair)

Fun Run

Appeal for Marshalls

The Hagbourne Fun Run & Walk, a successful annual event with over 400 participants which raises several thousand pounds each year for charity, is in need of some more marshalls this year on Monday May 5th at 11am. Is there anyone in West Hagbourne interested, able and willing? If so please get in touch with John Baile on 01235 850251 or email john@jb123.uk.



Scams!

The Police and Crimes Commissioner this month highlights scams.

Despite the convenience that technology brings, we are all more at risk online. Much cyber crime and fraud is, however, preventable. Scams can take place online, on the phone or in person. Here are some signs to look out for to help you protect yourself.

Mail Scams

Commonly these postal scams include fake lotteries and prize draws, offers of investments and inheritance windfalls. Look out for: offers that are too good to be true; unfamiliar branding; not using your name; bad spelling and grammar.

Telephone Scams

Commonly include investments, pension or computer support scams. The caller sounds professional, pretending to be from a trusted organisation (your bank, the police or a company you recognise). Look out for: being asked to share personal or financial information or a passcode or pin; callers asking for remote access to your computer; callers pressing for a commitment.

Doorstep Scams

Criminals pose as legitimate business people selling goods or services that are faulty, overpriced, poor quality or non-existent. Look out for: being asked for money upfront before providing any goods or service; require ID or proof of who they are.

Email, Text and Website Scams

"Phishing" involves an email or text may seem to be from your bank or other company. You may be asked to click on a link which takes you to a fake website where you will be prompted to enter your details. Look out for: spelling or grammar mistakes; they may not use your name; an email address which resembles but doesn't match the company email; strong encouragement to click on a link.

Remember, anyone can be a scam victim. If you spot a scam, always report it. Help others by joining [friendsagainstsams.org.uk](https://www.friendsagainstsams.org.uk) to raise awareness throughout your community.

For more information visit [stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk](https://www.stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk).

Matthew Barber, PCC



The Annual Hagbourne Fun Run and Walk will take place on Monday 5th May at 11.00am. This year there will be a prize for the best fancy dress. Full details and entries from: <https://www.evententry.co.uk/hagbourne-fun-run-walk-2025>

other news

Parish Council

Planning

The Parish Council has objected to the planning application to build a children's nursery on the site of the old Pumping Station on Hagbourne Hill, due to the impact on traffic levels in the village and other relevant factors. Residents are encouraged to submit their own representations directly on the OCC planning website.

Roads

The Community Speedwatch team continues to do sterling work to monitor speed levels along Main Street and report offenders to Thames Valley Police. To encourage drivers to keep to the applicable speed limit when the Speedwatch volunteers are not roadside, the Parish Council will purchase one of those signs which informs motorists of their speed (with a smiley face for lawful speeds). We are in discussion with OCC Highways about suitable locations for the sign.

Buses

The contract for the service has been renewed at existing bus frequency levels.

Drainage

The Flooding team has continued to turn out on a regular basis to clear ditches and drains, and we continue to liaise with OCC on significant related projects (such as surveying blocked pipes and the GWP drainage scheme). Please remember that we have a stock of sandbags in the village for emergencies.

Moor Lane

Residents might have seen that OCC has undertaken what they describe as "scrub clearance" on the Moor Lane byway (past the old railway bridge). Unfortunately, their approach has involved the removal of a horse chestnut tree planted by residents. We are in contact with OCC about this and plan to replace the planting in an approved and protected location. We also remain in discussions about the plans for future access to the Moor Lane byway when it reopens.

Help needed

The Parish Council is looking for volunteers to help in two areas:

1 Maintaining the village website westhagbourne.org.

John Baile has done a great job

with this over the years and is looking to hand over to someone with experience or interest in web design/hosting - perhaps a great project for a student in this area?

2 As part of our village Emergency Plan

We're looking for residents to come forward who would be available to help in emergency situations. Lots of different types of help might be needed, from checking up on the vulnerable, maintaining registers, making hot drinks to wielding chainsaws! All offers of help are very much appreciated - we hope we'll never need it, but we

do need to be prepared if the worst happens. Please contact the Clerk if you can help.

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

westhagbourne.org

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 15th April at 7.30pm at Hagbourne Village Hall.

Dan Tozer (Chair)

From Your MP

This month, I met many constituents in surgeries, out and about, and online. Flooding continues to cause concern, and many constituents have contacted me about the appalling track record of Thames Water. I supported Charlie Maynard, MP, in challenging Thames Water's water bill increases and ongoing debt-financing and will continue to do so.

I am engaging with the agencies responsible for flood management, pushing to see preventative and mitigation work completed as soon as possible.

In Parliament, it was an honour to speak in the debate to mark the third anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. The tragic situation has shown the best of our constituency, and I was able to recognise the huge contribution of local families and charities.

On BBC Radio Oxford, I spoke of the urgent need for a review of adult social care. As a Transport Select Committee member, I raised concerns about barriers to bus use, especially in villages.

Finally, I was pleased to hear the local elections are going ahead in May.

If you have concerns, would like to meet me or would like me to visit you, please contact me at: Olly.glover.MP@parliament.uk

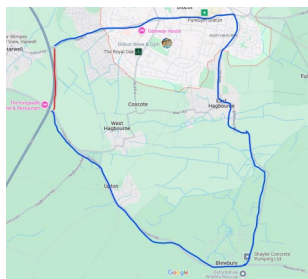
Road Closures

LOCATION: Harwell Link Road (junction with A417 to junction with B4493)

REASON: To facilitate surface dressing works

DURATION: Starting on 28 April 2025 - 02 May 2025 between 0400 - 1800

ACCESS: Limited access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for frontages within the closed section of road, subject to the progress of the works. Access will be maintained for cyclists and pedestrians - see Map 1.



Map 1

LOCATION: West Hagbourne/Chilton, Hagbourne Hill (Junction with A417 to junction with A34 Off Slip Rbt)

REASON: To facilitate surface sealing works

DURATION: Starting on 08 May

2025 - 11 May between 0400 - 1800

ACCESS: Limited access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for frontages within the closed section of road, subject to the progress of the works. Access will be maintained for cyclists and pedestrians - see Map 2.



Map 2

HUGS Update

Climate change slugs

Slugs are here to stay! Like it or not, they are a beneficial and important part of a garden or allotment ecosystem. And only a small number of our 200 native species are interested in eating young vegetable or flower plants. They provide food for birds, frogs, hedgehogs and a range of insects too (especially beetles). They play a key role in the recycling process, consuming rotting vegetation. They act as slow-motion pollinators and spore dispersers, helping flowering plants and ferns reproduce.

Similar to us and to much of our wildlife, slugs are affected by the weather with fewer in dry years. Last year was a record high slug year, following what is likely our changing climate trend of milder winters and wetter years. The RHS predicts a quieter slug year for 2025. So far, we've had cold and dry weather which slugs won't like.

Whatever the weather, it makes sense to plan for slugs in a nature-friendly way:

Encourage hedgehogs, frogs, birds and beetles - all looking for slugs to eat.

Grow flowers and veg that slugs don't like.

Avoid planting out very young plants.

Avoid planting out in wet weather.

Think about when you water.



Leopard slug
(Photo courtesy of Creative Commons)

Pick off slugs off plants in the evening and put them in your compost heap.

Avoid slug pellets. Even 'organic' slug pellets are toxic and may have negative effects on wildlife.

For more info on gardening for wildlife, see our website:
<https://www.hugsustainability.org/wildlifegardening>

Caroline Hunt & Ian Leishman

Local wildlife

WhatsApp group members will have been delighted recently to see the video of an otter in the stream alongside Moor Lane: a white egret has also been spotted there. Meanwhile hedgehogs have recently found new homes in York Road. Less welcome in our gardens are the muntjac deer often seen in the village. We can all do our bit to support wildlife in our gardens and our local environment so that villagers can enjoy their experiences in years to come.

Otter or mink?



Size is probably the best way to tell if it is an otter or a mink, as otters are bigger. If they are in the water, then a mink swims higher in the water, so you see more of its body. Otters have a flattened head shape and a broad, dog-like muzzle, while minks have a pointed, ferret-like muzzle. Otters tend to leave lots of bubbles and their tails are about one third of the length of their body.

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

Crispin Topping
Crispin.Topping@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

Following on successful lunches in January, February and March, the next village lunch will be on the last Friday in May (Friday 30th) at the George in Upton from 12.30. Note there is no lunch in April as it falls in Easter week. Anyone can join the group - get in touch with Sue for more details:

editor@westhagbourne.org.

Sue Totterdell,
Meadow's Edge



Coach trip to Exbury Gardens Thursday 15th May. Details: <https://www.exbury.co.uk/visit-us> Total cost £45 pp. Coach will depart Marlborough Club, Didcot at 9.30am: return around 4.30 pm. Book early.

A visit to Abingdon Gin Distillery due in September. We also have suggestions for Warwick Castle and Stratford-upon-Avon.

Future Meetings

Monthly meetings: Didcot Civic Hall on the 3rd Tuesday in the month starting at 2:30 pm.

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

May 20th. AGM.

June 17th. Music from Mike and Rachel on the dulcimer and autoharp and speaker David Fenton.

July 15th. Nick Brazil Slovenia and Albania.

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

Marian Nicholls
Bulletin Coordinator

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



WhatsApp Group

The village group goes from strength to strength, facilitating communication between residents. Notably in the past month it has helped people pass on items they no longer want to neighbours who can make use of them - local recycling has to be the green option! It has also made sure we are aware of forthcoming events both terrestrial and celestial.

If you want to be added, contact Lillie Jamieson (07712 429811).

To be added to the Village email list, contact the Clerk.

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

NEED A PLUMBER FOR THE SMALL JOBS?
07526 304050 ★★★★★
taps-toilets.co.uk 5 STAR SERVICE

SCOTLANDS ASH GARAGE SERVICES
 Oxfordshire's Leading Independent Garage

MOT testing from 6am
 Diagnostic Fault Finding and Servicing on all types of vehicles
 Air Conditioning Exhausts
 Body Repairs Tyres

FREE COURTESY CAR

01235 850 707
www.scotlandsashgarage.co.uk
 Main Street, West Hagbourne OX11 0NA

Didcot Cafe Scientifique
 Tuesday 15th April
 7.30-9.00pm

John Broadbent
The Science of the Honey Bee
 Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot

Please contact Didcot Café Scientifique if you would like to be added to the Mailing list on cafesci@didcotfirst.org

Professional Filming From £500
Drone & Camera Productions

Google ★★★★★
 07418 613760
www.dronemotion.co.uk

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