

## Village Association News

### Madge Trophy

This year the Madge Trophy was judged by Alison Brown from the East Hagbourne Gardening Club. Judging was carried out on the 11th April, thus focusing on spring planting. The following gardens were commended:

**Woodleys** 'particularly liked the naturalized area under the trees'

**1 Manor Close** 'a very well-kept allotment, with compost bins and water storage'

**Chiario** 'lots of spring bulbs and beautiful, well-structured trees'

**Grove Terrace** 'the front shared area was delightful with bulbs, cowslips and an Easter display'

**Enard Cottage** 'impressive mixed planting area at front of property'

**Shire House** 'the bank in front of the property was covered with a magnificent display of bulbs'

The winners were:

1st: **Green Thatch** 'a beautiful cottage garden, appropriate to the house and very well maintained'

2nd: **2 Manor Close** 'lots of effort in creating a very pretty, small garden'

3rd: **14 Manor Close** 'an impressive display of Hellebores and an exceptional, architectural cooking apple tree'.

Well done everyone!

### The Dragon Competition

The Dragon competition was held from 13th-21st April and it was lovely to see so many "Dragons celebrating Easter". This year the judges were Sheila Bayliss and Louisa Abbey from The Hagbourne Pre-School. On the 28th April they walked around the village and found 32 dragons (almost a record). The winners were:

1st: **Broomsticks**, Main Street.

2nd: **1 Manor Close**

Children's: **8 York Road**.

Thank you to everyone who took part. What a wonderful event, although sadly marred by the theft of toy dragons and Easter eggs from Blissetts.

On the 21st April, we held the Dragon Teas at Woodleys. It was a beautiful, sunny day and we enjoyed tea/coffee, cake and conversation in Robert and Hazel's garden. The plant sale went well and many residents went home with an arm full of annual and perennial plants.

### The 80th Anniversary of VE Day

On 5th April we held a celebration to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII in Europe. The Village Association added humour to the event by dressing up in war time outfits and, since West Hagbourne is in an agricultural area, it was appropriate that we had so many land girls. Tea/cake was consumed – of course – and we spent a lovely afternoon talking to our neighbours. Very sociable! The children made Union Jack windmills and war time medals.

### Barn Dance

Good News! The date for our village barn dance is fixed for Saturday 5th July 2025 from 7-



First prize: Broomsticks



Children's prize: 8 York Road



VE Day celebrations

11pm. The venue is the Grain Store, Reading Road, West Hagbourne. OX11 0FE (thanks to Jeff Powell). Live music will be provided by Pandemonium from Wantage.

This is a FREE event, but please note that a Sol e Luna van will be parked on site and selling pizzas during the evening, so money will be required. Bring your own drinks and unbreakable glasses.

Family and friends are very welcome.

We will be undertaking a leaflet drop in a few weeks for you to fill in details about numbers and dietary requirements.



Cakes at Woodleys

Alternatively, you can email your details to:

[the4gardeners@btinternet.com](mailto:the4gardeners@btinternet.com).

Let's hope we have an unforgettable event. See you all there.

Please note that villagers who do not wish to attend the barn dance are still welcome to order from the pizza van. Time slots will be available to book, on the day, to facilitate quick and easy pick up.

Phone 07542 923328

### Plants

If you are splitting your boarder perennials, either now or in the autumn, please do not throw anything away. Phone Rosey on 07542 923328. I will come, collect and grow on the plants for next year's Village Association plant sale to raise funds. Thank you.

Rosey Gardiner (Chair)

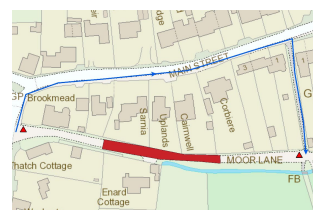
## Temporary Footpath Closure

LOCATION: West Hagbourne, Moor Lane (Boat 401/9 at Enard's Cottage)

In the interests of public safety, it will be necessary for Oxfordshire County Council to close the footpath as detailed above to facilitate drainage investigation works.

This Temporary closure is effective from 16/06/2025 to and including 17/06/2025 (each day from 08:00hrs to 16:30hrs).

Pedestrian access will be via the diversion shown below.



# other news

## Parish Council

### Meetings

We had our regular bi-monthly PC meeting on 7 May, and then our Annual Parish Meeting on 14 May (featuring contributions from the Village Association and the Tyrell Trust). It was great to see many residents join us for the APM. Our next regular PC meeting will be on Wednesday 2 July, 7.30pm at Hagbourne Village Hall. Please do contact the Clerk or any Parish Councillor if you have a matter which you would like the PC to consider at our next meeting. Agenda and minutes of all PC meetings can be found on the village website.

### Planning

The application to build a children's nursery on the site of the old Pumping Station on Hagbourne Hill has been withdrawn. Following a number of residents raising the issue, the PC has raised a planning enforcement notice with SODC in relation to a building which appears to be being built in a garden without planning permission. Please do remember to check the planning rules before committing to any development - and note that they are more strict if you are in the Conservation Area.

### Roads

The Community Speedwatch team continues to do sterling work to monitor speed levels along Main Street and report offenders to Thames Valley Police. We are working with OCC Highways to replace the current incorrect and non-functioning roadside signage throughout the village, and hope to see progress on this soon.

### Drainage

The Flood Group (with a number of very welcome new members) continues to turn out

on a regular basis to clear ditches and drains, and we continue to liaise with OCC on significant related projects. The PC has approved a budget for the Flood Group to purchase some equipment for use in their work. Please remember that we maintain a stock of sandbags in the village for emergencies.

### Hedging

Please do remember to keep hedging trimmed which runs alongside the road or a pavement. This is particularly important for pedestrian and road safety, and also to prevent our drainage systems from becoming blocked by hay which is scraped off by overhanging hedges whilst it is transported during harvest season. Please do let one of the Parish Councillors know if you're struggling to manage any such hedging and we'll do what we can to help.

### Phone Box

We have approved funding for the refurbishment of the phone box.

### Moor Lane

We continue our discussions with OCC about the plans for future access to the Moor Lane byway when it reopens, and maintain our aim to have the most problematic section (running east from the old railway bridge) redesignated as a restricted byway to prevent it from being used by recreational 4WD vehicles. We have engaged the support of our new OCC councillor, Johnny Hope-Smith, in this endeavour.

### Help needed!

The Parish Council is looking for volunteers in the following areas: (1) 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! Many thanks to those who have already come forward to help. 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. (2) The Speedwatch and Flood Group teams do great work for the village, and are always very keen to welcome new members. If you're able to help, please contact Margaret (Speedwatch) or Robin (Flood Group).

### Interested in becoming a Parish Councillor?

Whilst we do currently have a full complement of five Parish Councillors, vacancies do arise from time to time and the next election is scheduled for 2027. Please do contact me if you are interested in helping our village by becoming a Parish Councillor at some stage.

*Dan Tozer (Chair)*

## From Your MP

Understanding local concerns is the most important part of my role as your MP. I am grateful for opportunities like this newsletter to provide you with updates and prompt new connections.

In Parliament I continue to advocate for issues that matter to our constituency such as aligning new housing developments with adequate infrastructure (a new railway station serving Grove and Wantage, new/expanded GP surgeries). I will be on the committee scrutinising the government's new Planning and Infrastructure Bill.

Locally, I am working with fellow MPs to address safety on the A34, including the length of the slip roads at the Chilton interchange and I welcomed the news that planning permission has been granted for the new

GP Surgery at Great Western Park.

Our area is a hub of research, innovation, and enterprise. With the announcement of the Oxford Growth Corridor, I am keen to help ensure that Culham, Harwell Campus, and Milton Park benefit from investment and opportunities. I am mindful, however, that most local businesses are small or medium sized with different challenges. I recently met local entrepreneurs and have visited local farms to understand the impact of new policies around tax and NI, and the cost and availability of food.

In local and regional media interviews I have covered the A417 flooding, hare coursing, and rural crime. On the BBC's Politics South show, I was on a panel discussing conflict in Ukraine and rising energy bills - topics many of you have contacted me about.

If you have any concerns that you think I can help you with, please email me at [olly.glover.MP@parliament.uk](mailto:olly.glover.MP@parliament.uk) or leave a voice message on 0207 219 7657.

## Local Wildlife

Watch out for newts and frogs in your ponds. There are also orchids to be found locally to West Hagbourne. How many species can you spot when you are out walking? Has this year's dry spring made a difference? Meanwhile kites and buzzards are nesting locally - listen out for their distinctive cry. At this time of year it sounds a lot like 'feed me'. And if you are lucky you might catch a glimpse of the kingfisher near the village pond.



## HUGS Update

### *In celebration of trees*

If you didn't see Linda Benton's Didcot Oaks exhibition at the Cornerstone in May, do pick up a copy of the latest Poets' Trail anthology 'Didcot Oaks (and other notable trees)' with Linda's beautiful illustrations. Available from the Cornerstone.

Meanwhile, here's why we love and celebrate trees:

Economically, trees yield many crops across the world (timber, rubber and fuel). They provide us with jobs, landscaping, forestry and woodland restoration. They may enhance the value of our houses by just being there in our gardens.

They feed us (our local heritage here is fruit tree orchards; apples, pears, plums, greengage, damson and cherries).

They provide myriad environmental benefits. They store carbon, their canopies catch and roots absorb rainwater reducing flood risk,

they lower temperature and provide us with much needed shade throughout the year. They improve air quality, absorbing pollution and noise.

They support an abundance of wildlife. A mighty oak can support more than 280 species of insect alone. Many birds and mammals depend on trees for a home and for food.

Our own health depends on nature and trees are a vital part of this. We may feel that we're no longer a part of nature, but scientific studies suggest otherwise. Our blood pressure lowers when we look at wildflowers and blossom. And we recover better from ill health / surgery when we can see trees from our hospital or bedroom windows.

So, if you have trees in your garden or your neighbourhood look after them. And if you want more trees, use the summer months to plan and research which beautiful species to bring into your home environment to nurture you, your family and your local wildlife.

*Caroline Hunt & Ian Leishman*



Recently community groups across Thames Valley received a share of over £200,000 of cash taken from criminals as part of our Community Fund programme.

In April, we heard that a bid to fund an additional 68 neighbourhood police officers for Thames Valley had been successful. These new officers, to be recruited this year, are on top of the increase that we have already seen in neighbourhood policing locally. When these officers hit the streets there will be more than two and a half times as many neighbourhood

police officers as when my Crimefighters strategy was launched in 2023.

Overall crime in Thames Valley continues to fall, and Thames Valley Police are doing a good job but there is more work to do. I urge you to report crime or concerns directly to the police, don't assume someone else will do it. Only reporting crimes to the police will lead to more criminals being caught and, if cases can be prosecuted, victims getting the justice they deserve.

*Matthew Barber, PCC*

## Parish Council

### Clerk

Andrew Wise  
[parishclerk@westhagbourne.org](mailto: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](http://www.westhagbourne.org/pc_minutes.htm)

### Councillors

Chair:

Dan Tozer  
[daniel.tozer@westhagbourne.org](mailto:daniel.tozer@westhagbourne.org)



Vice chair:

Margaret Leishman  
[margaret.leishman@westhagbourne.org](mailto:margaret.leishman@westhagbourne.org)



Andy Wimshurst  
[andy.wimshurst@westhagbourne.org](mailto:andy.wimshurst@westhagbourne.org)



Julie Freeland  
[julie.freeland@westhagbourne.org](mailto:julie.freeland@westhagbourne.org)



Robin Wilkes  
[robin.wilkes@westhagbourne.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://fixmystreet.com)

Or: [highwaysenquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:highwaysenquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Telephone: 08453101111

Web site: [www.westhagbourne.org/noticeboard.htm#potholes](http://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>

### District Councillors

Crispin Topping  
[Crispin.Topping@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:Crispin.Topping@southoxon.gov.uk)

Anne-Marie Simpson  
[Anne-Marie.Simpson@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:Anne-Marie.Simpson@southoxon.gov.uk)

### County Councillor

Jane Murphy  
[jane.murphy@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto: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

## other news

### Lunch Club

Following on successful lunches earlier this year, the next village lunch will be on the last Friday in June (Friday 27th) at the George in Upton from 12.30. Anyone can join the group - get in touch with Sue for more details:

[editor@westhagbourne.org](mailto:editor@westhagbourne.org).

*Sue Totterdell,  
Meadow's Edge*



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

### Trips

A visit to the Abingdon Gin Distillery will take place at a later date. If any members have any more suggestions for trips during 2025 we would be pleased to hear from you.

Due to the high costs of coach travel we are curtailing day trips at present time.

### Future Meetings

June 17th. A musical delight from Mike and Rachel on the dulcimer and autoharp. The speaker will be David Fenton.

July 15th. Slovenia/Albania, a talk from Nick Brazil.

Aug 19th. Fraud and Scam awareness. Officers from Trading Standards, Thames Valley cyber security and Didcot Police.

If you have a query please email [bulletin@didcotu3a.org](mailto: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](mailto: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

### Planning

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

#### P25/S1445/HH - Uplands, Main Street.

Extension, replacement conservatory, garage conversion.

#### P25/S1508/HH - Brookmead, Main Street.

Removal of conservatory and erection of single storey flat roofed extension

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:editors@westhagbourne.org)

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**Didcot Cafe Scientifique**  
 Tuesday 17th June from 7.30-9.00pm

**Jane Sellwood**  
**BIRD FLU, MAN FLU, SEASONAL FLU**  
**- is Covid now a 'flu'?**

**Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot**  
 Please contact Didcot Café Scientifique if you would like to be added to the Mailing list on [cafesci@didcotfirst.org](mailto:cafesci@didcotfirst.org)

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**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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