

West Hagbourne Village History Group
Annual Report
May 2010 – April 2011

During this past year a considerable amount of time has been spent discussing the future of the History Group. Despite our best efforts we have not been able to attract new members. It was decided to reach out to neighbouring villages to share our common concerns and find solutions. This has turned out to be a very successful strategy.

The last AGM, held on 24th May 2010 at Hagbourne Village Hall was well attended with two representatives from the West Hagbourne Village Association and also four people from East Hagbourne in attendance. It was clear from this meeting that we all shared concerns about the safe storage of historical documents and archives as well as the problems of continuing to collect new information.

A further joint meeting was held 6 months later on Monday 1st November 2010 at Hagbourne Village Hall. Eight people from East Hagbourne and three from Blewbury attended this meeting.

Actions taken as a result of these joint meetings:

- Transfer of copies of large maps to the Local Studies section of Didcot Library
- A meeting with WH Parish Council to discuss village archives. It was agreed to have an annual audit of archives held by the History Group, the Parish Council and other village organisations
- Information about the 1659 fire on East Hagbourne's village website has been changed to reflect the fact that the fire did not spread to the west once it reached the church. Contrary to myth and legend, East and West Hagbourne have always been two separate villages
- An audit of holdings of the WH Village Newsletter has been conducted with the help of the Parish Council
- Working parties are sorting and listing photographs and documents in readiness for storage
- Work has begun on updating St. Andrew's Church guide

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Storage solutions

The Hagbourne Village Hall Committee has kindly agreed to provide secure and safe storage space for both West and East Hagbournes' archives in the new meeting hall. A steel 4-drawer filing cabinet has been purchased by the West Hagbourne History Group and has been installed in the new meeting room. Archives will be transferred when all documentation has been completed. Items to be stored include albums of local events, parish magazines, newsletters, research for the history book, minutes, correspondence, newspaper cuttings, films, photos, CDs, videos, censuses, etc.

New acquisitions

An autochrome photograph, taken in 1912, showing the house known as The Square and the old cob wall was recently published in the Daily Telegraph (to illustrate moss on thatched buildings). The Group has purchased a digital image of this photograph from the Science and Society Picture Library (Science Museum).

Annual General Meeting

The next AGM will take place at 7.30pm on 6th June 2011 in the new meeting room of the Hagbourne Village Hall. Once again this will be followed by an open meeting. Interested people from West and East Hagbourne, Blewbury and Upton are invited.