

# West Hagbourne Village Association

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## Chairman's Report- November 2022

At the Association's AGM which was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021, the following members stood as follows:

Elected officers:

Chair – Margaret Leishman,

Vice chair – Ian Leishman,

Treasurer – June Little,

Secretary – Sheila Taylor

Executive committee:

Val Walton, Rob Griffiths, Hazel Rack, Betty Kendrick,

Julie Freeland, Pierre Aller, Sheila Collins, Bridget Pickup  
and Marion Allin.

### Summary of Association events & activities – Nov.2021-Nov.2022.

In this, the Village Association's 25<sup>th</sup> year, the committee has been very active, organising and supporting a variety of activities and events.

The committee is fully aware that the lack of community facilities in the village, despite its growing population, can at times be a hindrance when planning and running activities and often presents a challenge. It hopes that one day this problem will be addressed.

### Committee Whatsapp – February.

Thank you to Pierre who created a Whatsapp group for committee members, making communication a lot swifter and easier.

### Village Walks.

Our very enjoyable, season-by-season rambles, have taken groups of walkers to the neighbouring parishes of East Hagbourne, Upton, Blewbury, Harwell and Didcot, often stopping for refreshments along the way. Thank you to Julie who has lead all the walks this year.

### St George's Day Dragons - April.

The annual dragon competition was well supported with over

28 uniquely imaginative displays around the village. Congratulations to the first prize-winner, 9, York Road, the runner-up, 5, Manor Close, and the best children's entry at 6, York Road, who were chosen by Councillor Jane Murphy, our judge for this year.

The dragon teas afternoon, which was held at Woodleys, was very well attended. Thank you to Rob and Hazel for inviting us to use their garden.

This popular event continues to attract a good number of appreciative visitors to the village.

#### Annual Parish meeting – May.

A report highlighting the activities of the Association over the past year was presented at the Parish Meeting.

#### Acquisition of Equipment – May.

We were successful with an application to the County Council's Community Fund, which enabled us to buy additional tables and chairs. Thank you to Rob for your work with this. During the year we purchased a second-hand hot water urn, and another was kindly donated by residents, Paul and Patsy Ryman.

#### The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Party – June.

This event, which was attended by more than 150 people, was by far, one of the biggest the Association has organised in recent years.

Thank you to everyone who took part in this historic occasion to make it a day to remember, and the Parish Council for their financial support. The Association remains eternally grateful to Mrs Mary Allen and her family who willingly accommodated the event at York Farm.

#### Madge Trophy - August.

Sue Mantell, who is a member of the U3A's gardening club, judged the annual front gardens competition. Well done to the winner, 12, Manor Close, and also to Meadow's Edge and Fermain, York Road and Woodleys, Main Street who got a special mention in Sue's report. Thank you to Bridget for organising the competition.

#### Macmillan Coffee Morning – October.

An amazing, record-breaking, amount of over £1500 was raised in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care. It was also a most enjoyable, sociable

occasion, which made the running of the event even more rewarding. With thanks to Val for steering the event, to Mary Allen and family at York Farm, and everyone who donated their time and money to make it such a success.

#### Remembrance Day – November.

The Village Association has purchased a British Legion poppy wreath on behalf of the residents of the village. It will be hung during a short ceremony at the war memorial bus shelter on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### Queen's Jubilee & Memorial Tree – November.

Liz and Andy Wimshurst have donated a horse-chestnut tree, which the Association intend to plant on the verge at the entrance to the village near the junction of Foxglove Lane. The PC has been informed.

In addition to these Association-lead events, several members of the committee were involved in one of last year's Hagbourne Christmas Tree Festival events, Carols in the Farmyard. Thank you to Chris and Sue Lay of Manor Farm for their help and providing the venue, and to Meryl Davies and her choir vOx for leading the singing. The event is planned again for this year.

#### Acknowledgements

The Village Association is very grateful to those who willingly give their time, and, sometimes considerable, efforts to support it in its quest to maintain a sense of community in West Hagbourne.

The village newsletter is the Association's primary means of communication with residents and our thanks go to Sue Totterdell and Mary-Ann Le May for publishing it.

Finally, I would like to thank all members for their dedication to the Association over the years, but especially those on the present committee who are standing down this year. They are June, Rob, Ian, Hazel and Bridget. Also, a big thank you to those members, past and present, who have supported me in my role as Chair and previously as Secretary as I step down from the committee. I wish the Village Association all the best in the future.

Margaret Leishman,  
Chair – WHVA - November 2022.