

West Hagbourne news

February 2026

Issue 185

Village Association News

Christmas events: *Macmillan Christmas Raffle*

The Macmillan Christmas Raffle was held for the first time in 2025. Village elder, Betty Kendrick, drew the winning ticket (checkout WhatsApp – WH Community Chat – 17th Dec 2025) and congratulations to Margaret Leishman who we hope had a very 'MERRY' Christmas.

The raffle raised £605. Added to the £1,130 raised at the Macmillan Coffee Morning earlier in the year, West Hagbourne has donated a total of £1,735 to the Macmillan Cancer Support Charity. Thanks to everybody who contributed to this BRILLIANT total.

Village Christmas Tree

The village Christmas Tree was raised in The Square over the festive season. We hope you all visited it, enjoyed it



and said hello to Shaun (Santa) and his girlfriend Lola (Christmas Fairy).

Carols in the Barn

Our Carol Service was held at York Farm on the 7th Dec 2025. The barn setting was magical and there was a good turnout. We enjoyed beautiful singing from Meryl and her farmyard singers, who performed a lovely selection of carols as we tucked into mince pies and mulled wine. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed so generously.

The Carol Service is an integral part of TreeFest – a charitable venture run jointly by East and West Hagbourne. Over the 8-day festival TreeFest raised £6,800. This money will be split evenly between St. Andrew's maintenance fund and 'friends of Hagbourne Pool'.

New Year Walk

The walk was held on Sunday 11th Jan 2026. Unfortunately, the weather was very poor, which resulted in a limited



Christmas Carols in the Barn

turnout – indeed, it took some effort to coax the walkers out of the bus shelter!!

We headed down Moor Lane and followed The Embankment to Upton. Our return to the village was along London Road. We then enjoyed mince pies and mulled wine at Rowan, York Road. Very sociable on a cold/wet winter's day. Thank you for coming.

*Future events: *Madge Trophy**

The Madge Trophy will be judged in May this year. Father Jason from our Parish Church has voiced a desire to be our judge this year and we are very excited to accept. He will admire our front gardens from the roadside and will be looking for LOTS of colour and interesting planting structures. The exact date of judging will appear in the April edition of the WH News.

Dragon Competition

The dragons will invade our village from 12th – 26th April this year. We hope you will use your creativity to become part of this celebration. The theme this year is 'How to train a dragon' and your dragon(s) should be displayed in your front garden clearly visible from the roadside. We have plenty of visitors each year who walk around the village and enjoy the spectacle. Your efforts will be greatly appreciated.

The annual Dragon Walk and Dragon Teas will be held on Sunday 26th April. Details of



'The flood group test their newly acquired pump'

these events will appear in the April edition of the WH News.

Garage Sale Trail

Have you lots of 'stuff' filling your garage/attic/spare room/shed? Then we have the solution. This is early notice that the Village Association is planning to hold a Garage Sale Trail in the village in late May or early June this year.

Advantages to the sellers are:

- You don't need to pack your car and drive to a boot sale. You setup in your own driveway.
- You don't need to pay a stall fee
- You don't need to stand in a field drinking tepid tea out of a thermos flask. Your kettle is only yards away.

The Village Association will advertise the event, arrange parking facilities, create a map of the village showing the location of all stalls and provide refreshments to give visitors that 'day out' feeling. Please consider getting involved. More information will follow in the April edition of the WH News.

Rosey Gardiner (Chair)



Winter walk

other news

Death of Dr Eva Pinkava

Eva Pinkava, born on the 23rd March 1934, died after a short illness on the 7th October 2025 aged 91.

Eva was born in Czechoslovakia and lived through both Nazi occupation and communist oppression. She met her husband Václav in a choral group and became a medical doctor in 1958, fulfilling the wishes of her parents, and working full time with four children.

Following on the Prague Spring in the mid-1960s, by chance the family was able to come to England in 1969. Eva's music and Czech

culture were key parts of her new life which she instilled in her children. Eva worked as a psychiatrist in Colchester and retired in 1994, expecting to spend time in Prague with her husband. His death in 1995 was a devastating blow.

Eva moved to West Hagbourne in 2005. She joined the Didcot Choral Society, ran a small choral group (with a suitably Czech repertoire) singing at village events. She made some very dear friends in the village where she lived for the final 20 years of her life. She is survived by three children (Pavel died in 2011) and their spouses, seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Her ashes will be interred in Prague.

Parish Council

Meetings

We had our latest regular bi-monthly PC meeting on 7 January. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 11 March, 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.

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 continue to work with Highways on appropriate signage and road-marking options to improve the traffic situation in the village - there should soon be some extra line markings near the pond.

Village entrance signs

We are arranging for some white picket village entrance signs to be installed to mark the village entrances.

Pavement by the nursery

We are seeking Highways support for the installation of a pavement along the south side of Main Street from the nursery (where the new houses are being built) to the corner opposite the old pub. This will save pedestrians from having to walk on the road or on top of the field verge. Please do let us know if you have any thoughts on this issue.

Salt/grit

The yellow box near the phone box contains a store of salt/grit which can be used in icy conditions to help to keep entranceways and pavements accessible. Please notify the Clerk or one of the Parish Councillors if you need some.

Drainage

The Flood Group continues to turn out on a regular basis to clear ditches and drains (especially appreciated during January when habitually flooded areas have remained dry, or drained quickly - Editor). Please remember that we maintain a stock of sandbags in the village for emergencies.

Village website

The new upgraded village website is now live - please take a look at westhagbourne.org and let the Clerk know if you have anything to add to the site.

OCC and SODC grants

There are various grants available for help installing disabled facilities at home (ramps, stairlifts etc). Please contact the Clerk for details.

Emergency Plan

The Parish Councillors will be going door to door over the next few weeks to gather information for our Emergency Plan on available resources and those who might be in particular need in the village.

Recycling centre

Please note that OCC is implementing a new booking system for visits to recycling centres (effective 14 January). Booking system is here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/household-waste/household-waste-recycling-centres/book-recycling-centre-visit>.

Can you help?

Volunteers are always very welcome and needed in a small village like ours, particularly in the following areas: An Emergency Plan team, Speedwatch and Flood Group teams and Future Parish Councillors. Please contact the Clerk if you can help.

Dan Tozer (Chair)

William Tyrell Trust

Do you know of anyone in the village who would benefit from one-off financial help or services (eg garden clear up) due to ill health or other disadvantage? Or are there young people needing financial support to develop their skills? If so, please contact any of the trustees of the William Tyrell Trust:

june.little23@btinternet.com,
val.brownsword@gmail.com,
liz@wimshurst.org.uk or
rachel.tozer@gmail.com.

Papagena concert



A concert by Papagena, a superb group of a capella singers, will take place in St Andrew's Church on 15th February. Any profit will go to The Friends of St Andrew's - the secular charity dedicated to the maintenance of the church building. Tickets cost £22 including a glass of wine from:

www.wegottickets.com,
Hagbourne Village Shop, Jeff Powell (07751 607932) and on the door.

Planning

Current Planning application: P25/S2925/HH

Little Acorns nursery site. This application seeks permission for another 3-5 houses on the old nursery site. These are in addition to the three houses already under construction on this site, that were approved in the original application.

HUGS

Mosaics

Nature and climate are deeply connected. The loss of carbon sinks such as forests and peat bogs are detrimental to our climate. Conversely, where nature flourishes, mangroves, wetlands and other ecosystems protect against some of the worst impacts of climate breakdown.

Climate directly affects nature. Rising temperatures and extremes of weather, all more frequent, create adverse conditions for wildlife, be it bush fires, floods, droughts, storms, heatwaves.

A similar dynamic, on a much smaller scale, affects our back gardens. Insects are the basis of food chains in our gardens, and insects often need specific conditions to survive. So, if the temperature rises too much or we have flooding or drought, they are in trouble. And when

that happens, the creatures up the food chain, who rely on them for food (e.g. birds, bats, frogs), are also in trouble.

In your garden, you can help insect species by creating a mosaic of habitats:

Varying length of grass, some long, some cut shorter, to give a range of temperature and humidity for ground living insects.

A range of sun and shade: bare soil in sun is particularly helpful to mining bees, while a dense planting creates helpful shade and protection all year round. Different garden features; ponds (however small), wildflowers, native trees and hedging, hedgehog holes in your fence and wild corners that might have wood or stone piles.

All of these things make your garden more resilient for wildlife and therefore more enjoyable for us too. For more ideas on wildlife gardening, see our website:

www.hugsustainability.org

Rural Crime Partnership

Technology and crime

Just before Christmas Thames Valley Police rolled out a facial recognition operation in Oxford, aimed as much at explaining the technology to the public as catching criminals.

Whilst the use of this technology is widely welcomed, there are understandable concerns by some. With all the necessary safeguards in place to protect privacy the only people who should have anything to fear from its use are criminals. The system will never identify everyone it sees, but will look for those on a specific watchlist, either those wanted by the police or who have a warrant issued for them by the courts. Essentially it recognises the people the police are looking for,

but doesn't recognise anyone else.

It is important to explain the use of this technology to ensure widespread consent from the public. It will be just a tool for the police as it will still be the members of Thames Valley Police who will use their professional judgment and put themselves in harm's way to protect the public.

The effectiveness of this technology will continually be evaluated, alongside other tactics. Please play your part by reporting any crimes or suspicious activity you see in your community on thamesvalley.police.uk or by calling 101.

Matthew Barber, PCC

Parish Council

Clerk

Andrew Wise

parishclerk@westhagbourne.org



to you. Shortly before the 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

County Councillor

Johnny Hope-Smith

johnny.hope-smith@oxfordshire.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

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. Send reports to:

https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/trading-standards/weight-restriction-enforcement

other news

Village Lunch

The next village lunch will be on the last Friday in February (27th). As usual it will be at the George in Upton from 12.30.

Anyone can join the group - get in touch with Sue for more details:

editor@westhagbourne.org.

Sue Totterdell,
Meadow's Edge

!!New Editor - urgent!!

A volunteer is being sought to take over the editing of this village newsletter. If can spare half a day once every two months, please get in touch with me. I am happy to hand over at any time but in any event will no longer fulfil the role after the end of 2026.



Monthly meetings: Didcot Civic Hall on the 3rd Tuesday in the month starting at 2:30 pm. Enquiries to join please go to our website.

Future Meetings

February 17th *Women and the Victorian Army* by Dan Allen of the Victorian Military Society

March 17th *On top but neverain control: A gardening talk* from Timothy Walker

April 21 *Forensic Experience* from Hayley Scott

Advertising

This newsletter is partly funded by income from the advertisements in it. It is edited by Sue Totterdell, with contributions from a number of villagers, designed by Mary Ann Le May, printed by Hugh Lewis and distributed by a group of volunteers. To ensure that it will be able to continue in its present form we would welcome new advertisers. If you have a business you would like to advertise to residents, please get in touch:

editors@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! 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: 9.00 - 4.30
Tues/Wed: 9.00 - 4.00
Thurs: 9.00 - 4.30
Fri: 9.00 - 4.00
Sat: 9.00 - 12.30

PO:

Mon: 9.00-12.30; 1.15-4 .30
Tues: CLOSED
Wed: 9.00 -12.30
Thurs: 9.00 - 12.30; 1.15 - 4.30
Fri: 9.00 - 12.30
Sat: 9.00 - 12.30

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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Marquees

The Village Association has two Marquees available for hire:

12x5 metres & 11x4 metres

at a cost of £50 each or £75 for two plus a returnable deposit of £75

Tables and/or chairs are included in the price

Please note that the Association will not be responsible for any claims for accidents that may occur during the rental.

For advance booking and details please contact **Robin Wilkes** at rw@westhagbourne.org

All fees go towards the Association's funds



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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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(west hagbourne)
<https://uw.partners/peter.hazell/join>

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