

Village Association News

Dragon Competition



The Dragon Competition will run from 12th – 26th April this year. The theme is “How to train your dragon”. Dragon(s) should be placed in your front garden, clearly visible from the pavement. Please get involved.

This is a lovely event which makes our village stand out amongst other local villages. We are well known for our dragons and plenty of visitors are expected. Enjoy yourselves and get creative.

The Dragon Walk is scheduled for 26th April, leaving The Square at 2.00pm from the bus shelter. This is followed by the Dragon Teas at 2.30pm. Please note that we have a new venue this year – Broomsticks on Main Street (2 doors down from the bus shelter as you walk towards the pond). Our thanks to Dan and Rachael for hosting this event. Thanks also to Pastor Mark and Sarah Grant-Jones for agreeing to judge the

competition. They will view the dragons during the second week of the display. As always, there will be a cash prize for the best display (£30), the runner-up (£20) and the best children’s entry (£10). Please mark the children’s entries with their names. The prizes will be presented at the Dragon Teas.

The Village Association would be very grateful for donations of cakes/biscuits which can be delivered to Broomsticks on the day of the event.

As in previous years, we will be holding a plant sale to raise funds for the Village Association which can then financially support upcoming social events through the summer 2026. There will be annuals, perennials and, for the first time, some water plants for sale. Don’t forget your purses.

Madge Garden Trophy

I am delighted that the Rev. Jason St. John Nicolle has agreed to judge The Madge Trophy this year. He will be walking around our village on

the 15th May to admire our front gardens, looking for well maintained plots with plenty of colour. This is such a good time of year for plant performance that I am sure he will not be disappointed. The results of the competition will appear in the June edition of the WH News.

Garage Sale Trail

The Garage Sale Trail is scheduled for the 7th June 2026. If you have any unwanted treasures in your garage, shed, spare room or attic, then here is an opportunity to sell them with very little effort; There is no need to load up your car and drive to a “not so local” boot sale; no set up fee; the Village Association will do all the advertising for you; the Village Association will run a barbeque/tea stall/ ice cream stall on the day to promote the feeling of “a good day out”.

Interested? Please register with Rosey Gardiner on 07542 923328 or the4gardeners@btinternet.com.

The Village Association will then publish a map of the village with all the participating houses marked. Visitors will be given the map on their arrival. Tables

!!URGENT!! New Editor needed

A volunteer is being sought to take over the editing of this village newsletter. If you 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.

can be obtained from the Village Association

Wine and Cheese evening

We are hoping to organise a Wine and Cheese evening in July this year. Ed Mitchum, manager of the family owned vineyard in West Hagbourne, has agreed to give a talk on wine making and he will also bring examples of their wines for everyone to sample. The exact date of this event will appear in the June edition of the WH News.

Rosey Gardiner (Chair)

Planning

The following may be of interest to residents. It does not involve a consultation.

P26/S0821/SCR

Thames Water are proposing to construct a water supply trunk main of 4.7km in length, from Hagbourne Hill Service Reservoir to connect with the existing Steventon Diversion Main at a point just south of the A4130. The main is to be constructed below ground along, with the exception of two small above ground kiosks that will house electrical control equipment (nominally up to

2.5m height, 3.5m length and 2m width). The southern part of the new main (approximately 1km) is within South Oxfordshire



Image: Taylor Whippey / Stantec

District and the northern part of the main (approximately 3.7km) is within Vale of White Horse District.

The new main is required in connection with the Didcot Valley Park development, which will provide approximately 4,250 homes, local centres, schools, community and leisure facilities, open space and green infrastructure to the west of Didcot.

The provision of drinking water to the Valley Park development will require modification to the existing clean water supply network, and the provision of new network infrastructure in the form of the proposed Didcot Valley Park Trunk Main.

Litter pick



Can you spare a few minutes to make West Hagbourne more beautiful? Join the village litter pick on Saturday 18th April. Meet at the bus shelter at 10.30. Gloves, pickers and hi-viz jackets will be supplied.



other news

Parish Council

Meetings

We had our latest regular bi-monthly PC meeting on 11 March. Our next regular meeting will be on Wednesday 6 May, followed by our Annual Parish Meeting (APM) on Wednesday 13 May (both at 7.30pm at Hagbourne Village Hall). Please do in particular consider coming along to our APM, where we will be reviewing our work from the last year and looking ahead to the priorities for the next 12 months. We will also have some drinks and nibbles, providing you with an opportunity to meet and chat to your Parish Councillors.

As usual, 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 have also ordered a stock of "20 is plenty" stickers for distribution to households. Extra line markings have now been painted near the pond, and some improvements in road signage made.

Village Entrance Signs

We have approved the purchase and installation of white picket village entrance signs to be installed to mark the village entrances.

Culvert Fencing

Many thanks to Jane Drewe for installing the fencing across the open culverts just beyond the York Road/Manor Close corner and near York Farm.

Drainage

The Flood Group continues to turn out on a regular basis to clear ditches and drains. Please remember that we maintain a stock of sandbags in the village for emergencies.

Village Website

The recently upgraded village website contains lots of useful information - please take a look at westhagbourne.org, and let the Clerk know if you have anything to add to the site.

Emergency Plan

Each household will receive a survey 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.

Neighbourhood Plan

We are considering whether to develop and implement a Neighbourhood Plan; whilst such a plan cannot be used simply to block all development, it may help to ensure that any developments in the village are sympathetic to village needs.

We are in contact with SODC's Neighbourhood Plan team.

Litter Pick

Julie is organising the next village litter pick. The provisional date is 18 April and further details will be circulated via email and the village WhatsApp group.

Post Office

The PC have submitted a letter in support of the campaign to keep the East Hagbourne Post Office open.

Can you help?

Volunteers are always very welcome and needed in a small village like ours, particularly in

the following areas:

- (1) Emergency Plan team
- (2) Speedwatch and Flood Group teams
- (3) Future Parish Councillors

We have a PC election due in May 2027 and may well need additional potential Parish Councillors then.

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 Tyrrell Trust:

june.little236@btinternet.com
val.brownsword@gmail.com
liz@wimshurst.org.uk or
rachel.tozer@gmail.com.

Rural Crime Partnership

The Roads Policing Unit Tasking Team are planning to deliver a more strategic and targeted approach to road safety across the Thames Valley using data and intelligence to identify areas of greatest risk and highest harm. The team will then proactively deploy to these locations to directly address the behaviours and offences driving those risks. This will boost Thames Valley Police's capability to bear down on dangerous and illegal drivers who put others at risk and criminals using our roads.

In addition to their proactive work, the team will support local policing operations where possible and will also target those individuals known to us through intelligence, including those involved in drink or drug driving.

In a two day operation last month to mark the launch of the new team, police officers were joined by other agencies including Immigration Enforcement, HMRC, taxi licensing and Environmental Health. During the operation 16 arrests were made for drug driving and immigration offences along with over a hundred dangerous vehicles taken off the road.

Matthew Barber, PCC

Rare Orchid

A few years ago a rare orchid was spotted in flower locally. At first its exact location was kept secret but this year it seems to have become more widely known and as a result there have been quite a lot of keen photographers risking the steep banks of the old railway line to get a closer shot. Images have been posted on several specialist FaceBook pages.

The orchid in question goes by the name *Himantoglossum robertianum*, known as the Giant Orchid and it is usually found in Mediterranean regions where it is one of the earliest to come into flower. The specimens on the railway embankment were already passed their best by the start of March. It remains to be seen if this unexpected delight will continue to thrive in West Hagbourne.



HUGS

Spring has sprung

As the clocks change, we're outside for longer and more connected with the living world. We notice nature around us more – whether that's queen bumble bees out in the sun looking for a nest site or birds flying with twigs in their beaks on their way to build their nests.

But how much do we value nature? Are you concerned for the queen bees and the birds and whether their chosen nest site will be safe? Or do you pay it little thought? We've seen more and more removal of beautiful mature trees and hedging around Didcot in recent months as new housing developments and roads start to go ahead. How much space is left for nature around here?

Our local councils seem to care little for biodiversity as their choices are laid clear in more and more development without any consideration for the natural world. Not yet on their agenda, is the fact that we need nature. When we live in harmony with it, we are healthier and happier, and so are our children.

In this setting, what we do at home and in our gardens becomes increasingly important for biodiversity and therefore for us too. Have a look at our



Photo courtesy of S Rae

wildlife gardening page for some ideas on what you can do have a healthier garden, bringing nature in.

And for the queen bees:

Welcome them in by leaving a corner untouched in your garden

Have flowers across a long growing season

Let your grass grow longer so dandelions can grow to provide nectar

Avoid using chemicals.

For the birds:

Have more nesting material by less cutting back growth in the garden

Leave space for insects with some longer grass and other wilder areas

Pant native hedging and trees for more shelter and nesting opportunities

And enjoy sharing your garden too.

www.hugsustainability.org



The drain gang take their customary coffee and cake break after (a hard morning) clearing the stream along Moor Lane

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



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

Andy Wimshurst
andy.wimshurst@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

Julie Freeland
julie.freeland@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

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

Johnny Hope-Smith
johnny.hope-smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Telephone: 08453101111

Web site:

www.westhagbourne.org/noticeboard.htm#potholes

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 April (24th). 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

Concert Sell Out

Many thanks to everyone who bought tickets for the Papagena Concert on February 15th. Papagena were well worth coming to see --and it was so good that the concert was a complete sell out. A very special occasion. As a bonus, £1,380 was raised for the Friends of St Andrew's --all of which will be spent on keeping our church building in good shape for the future.

Jeff Powell



Future Meetings

Monthly meetings take place at Didcot Civic Hall on the 3rd Tuesday in the month starting at 2:30 pm. Please look at our website for information on joining.

April 21 *Forensic Experience* from Hayley Scott

May 19 **AGM** and *Raising awareness of Domestic Abuse* with Emma Teasdale

June 16 *ABC of Victorian Painters* with Simon Evers

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 continues to support communication between residents. Local recycling is thriving and updates on bin collections are always useful. If you want to be added, contact Lillie Jamieson (07712 429811).

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

Hagbourne Garden Club

Meetings are held in East Hagbourne Pavilion. For further information email sally.barksfield@gmail.com

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 va@westhagbourne.org

All fees go towards the Association's funds

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