

Village Association News

Madge Trophy

This year the Madge Trophy was judged by Father Jason St. John Nicolle on 20th May. He was very impressed "each garden had at least one feature to admire".

The winner this year was the public garden around the bus shelter. Father Jason greatly admired the community spirit of the garden and its aim to improve the quality of life in the village. He found "the planting full of variety and the area clearly lovingly cared for". Well done Sue and Dave Totterdell and thank you for all your hard work.

The runner up this year was Blissetts with its "amazing topiary and unique planting including a striking copper coloured *iris*".

Dragon Competition

The Dragon Competition ran from 12th-26th April this year. We had an impressive display of

28 dragons. The theme "How to Train your Dragon" inspired an incredible level of imagination.

We had several schools teaching the principles of dragon life – roaring, flying, breathing fire etc. Others were training the more modern dragons to drive – cars and trains – or jump through hoops of fire. Their healthy lifestyle was encouraged by classes in weight lifting, fishing, ping pong and tennis. Other schools were less reputable, with dragons learning to play poker or simply studying to be a layabout!

All in all, the display was great fun this year and our judge, Pastor Mark Grant-Jones, selected the following winners.

ADULT EVENT

Winner:

1 Main Street

Runner Up:

5 Manor Close

Highly Commended:

1 Manor Close, Broomsticks, Fermain and 9 York Road

CHILDREN'S EVENT

Winner:

6 York Road

Runner Up:

8 York Road

Highly Commended:

Dormer Cottage



1 Main Street



5 Manor Close



6 York Road

The committee would like to thank everyone who got involved in this event, making it so very special.

On the 26th April we held the Dragon Walk and Dragon Teas. Thanks to Dan and Rachael for opening their garden – what a beautiful setting! The day was sunny and everyone enjoyed tea/coffee and cake. We held our largest plant sale EVER and all funds raised will support future WHVA social events.

Garage Sale Trail

The Garage Sale will be on the 7th June. We have 16 stalls booked around the village and are producing a map as a guide, which, on the day, can be obtained from York Farm, York Road at the nominal price of £2.

A BBQ, tea/coffee and cake stall and an ice cream stall will be set up for your refreshment. Please note that this is a cash only event, so don't forget your pennies. Now all we need is fine weather!

Wine and Cheese Evening

Come and enjoy a social evening tasting a variety of wines with matching cheeses to compliment their flavour. The event will be held at Chapel Hayes, Main Street on 11th July 2026, starting at 6pm. Ed Mitchum, the manager of the family owned vineyard in West Hagbourne will give a talk on the development of the wine



Plant sale

Don't Forget!

Village Garage Sale on Saturday 7th June

industry in England and, more specifically, on future plans for their vineyard in our village.

The WHVA will be releasing further details over the next few weeks. Hope to see you there.

Rosey Gardiner (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.little236@btinternet.com
val.brownsword@gmail.com
liz@wimshurst.org.uk or
rachel.tozer@gmail.com.

!!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.

other news

Parish Council

Meetings

We had our latest regular bi-monthly PC meeting on 6 May, and the Annual Parish meeting on 13 May. It was very good to see residents coming along to the APM, and to join us for refreshments afterwards with our County and District Councillors. Our next regular PC meeting will be on Tuesday 30 June (7.30pm at Hagbourne Village Hall). All Parish Council meetings are open to village residents to attend. 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.

Parish Councillor roles

We have agreed to keep our existing "lead" roles on the PC (Dan - budget/governance,

Margaret - roads/rights of way, Andy - planning, Robin - drainage, Julie - community), and I will continue as Chair and Margaret as vice-Chair until May 2027, when we are due to hold a PC election. Please do let the Clerk know if you might be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor.

Village entrance signs.

Village 'White Picket' entrance signs should be installed in the next month or so.

Drainage

There is some more work to be done on the Moor Lane ditch, and some posts to be installed to protect the verge on the paved section of Moor Lane. We also continue to look at the other drainage concerns around the village. Please remember that we maintain a stock of sandbags in the village for emergencies.

Pub

The site was listed for sale by Savills at auction on 20 May (having been moved from their previous auction). We will keep an eye on progress as the site is clearly deteriorating.

Village website

The 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.

Litter Pick

Many thanks to those who joined the litter pick in April. The next one is planned for October.

BinDays

See the new BinDays app for up to date information on refuse collection:
<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/bindays/>.

Dan Tozer (Chair)

Lunar Kites set controls for Doctor Who gig this July

Following the success of last summer's Doctor Who-themed concert in East Hagbourne, space rockers Lunar Kites are set to do it all again in 2026. This year's gig will take place at the Fleur de Lys pub at 3pm on Sunday 5th July. The event marks the anniversary of the Tom Baker story, The Android Invasion, which was filmed in East Hagbourne in July 1975.

"We were delighted with how many people - Whovians and non-fans alike - turned out for last year's gig at East Hagbourne village hall. So we thought we'd jump into our Tardis and set the coordinates for 2026," said guitarist and founder member Tim Masters, who lives in West Hagbourne.

"We're excited that this year's venue will be the Fleur de Lys pub, which was used as a key location in The Android Invasion. We hope our show will send the audience swirling with delight into the time-space vortex."

The other band members, from across Oxfordshire, are Roger Bowley (bass), Andrew Findlay (drums), Jason Foster (guitar) and Antonio Serrano (vocals). Lunar Kites will release their debut album The DoomStar Chronicles on vinyl, CD and in digital formats on 21st June.

An album launch event will take place at The Bullingdon, Oxford, on 18th June. Visit www.lunarkites.com for tickets.



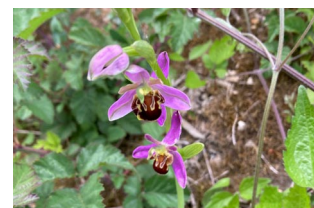
Litter picking volunteers



Lunar kites

Planning

There are currently no outstanding planning applications for West Hagbourne.



Bee orchid spotted locally

HUGS

Citizen Science

The UK is thought to have the largest participation levels in citizen science anywhere in the world. Hundreds of thousands of us every year take part in surveys in our gardens, parks and other green, spaces. We're recording birds, insects, plants and more. Many of us are motivated by the obviously reducing numbers of wildlife that we notice around us. Taking part in these surveys provide valuable, large-scale data on these current trends.

Here are just a few of our national biodiversity surveys:

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

Held in January, the world's largest garden wildlife survey. One hour counting the maximum number of each bird species seen.

Big Butterfly Count

Held in July and August, the world's largest butterfly survey. 15 minutes in a sunny spot counting butterflies and day-flying moths.

Big River Watch

Run in April and September by the Rivers Trust and Earthwatch Europe, a huge water quality and river health survey. 15 minutes watching the river, answering survey questions about pollution and overall ecosystem health.

Bugs Matter

Led by Buglife, running spring and summer, a relatively new survey. All you have to do is clean your car registration plate, download the app, log your car journey and at the end count and upload the number of insect splats you have on your car registration plate.

UKPoMS (UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme)

Running spring and summer, just 10 minutes recording all the insects that visit specific target flowers.

For more ideas and inspiration, take a look at the Natural History Museum's survey calendar and why not have a go! <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/> and follow the link to: Survey calendar for beginners

www.hugsustainability.org

Rural Crime Partnership

Victims First is a free service providing emotional and practical support to victims and witnesses of crimes, as well as to family members of victims, living in the Thames Valley. This service covers all types of crime and has several specialist services for victims of sexual violence, domestic abuse and stalking. It also has a dedicated Children and Young People's Support after Crime service available to children and young people aged 5-18 years old who have experienced crime.

Victims First can offer support regardless of how long ago the crime was committed and

whether the crime was reported to the police.

If you live in the Thames Valley area and have experienced crime either as a victim of a witness, and need support as a result, please reach out to the Victims First team. The opening hours are Monday to Thursday 9 am to 6 pm (excluding Bank Holidays) and Friday 9 am - 4.30 pm.

Support is available on 0300 2134 148 or via Live Chat at www.victims-first.org.uk and one of the team will call you back.

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

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

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 July (31st). 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



Future Meetings

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

July 21 *A is for Arsenic*
Dr.Kathryn Harkup discusses the poisons used in Agatha Christie novels.

August 18 *The Flanders and Swann Story* as told by James Mitchell and James Williams. The two first collaborated in 1939 and wrote over 100 comic songs.

Didcot Farmers' Market

This is held in the Market Place on the second Saturday of each month from 8.30am - 1.30pm.

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:

The Post Office is closed while a new funding arrangement is being sought.

Please watch this space, and continue to support the shop.

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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