

Village Association News

Garage Sale Trail

The garage sale on 7th June was a great success in many respects. We welcomed over 200 visitors to the village, hosted 24 stalls, and saw plenty of bargains and deals negotiated throughout the day. The barbecue, tea and cake stall, ice cream stall, and plant stall all generated valuable funds for the Village Association. Most importantly, it was

wonderful to see so many West Hagbourne residents out and about, chatting, laughing and spending time with their neighbours, helping to strengthen our sense of community.

As this was a new event for the Village Association, it also provided some valuable learning opportunities for future garage sales. While extensive parking facilities were provided at York



June at the garage sale



Farm, many seasoned garage sale/car boot sale visitors chose to follow their own preferences, which resulted in more traffic and congestion in the village than anticipated. We would like to thank residents for their patience and understanding and apologise for any inconvenience caused. We have taken on board the lessons from this year's event and will use them if we repeat the event in the future.

Wine and Cheese Evening

What a wonderful event! The Wine and Cheese evening on the 11th July was a hugely enjoyable gathering. Fifty West Hagbourne residents met at Chapel Hayes and sat in the evening sunlight enjoying a selection of wines and local cheeses. We met Ed Mitchum, the manager of Yew Tree Vineyard, located on the edge of our village. He spent a lot of time answering questions about wine, wine production and his plans for the development of the family-owned vineyard. He was a most personable young man with unlimited enthusiasm and he left a lasting impression. We wish him well for the future. All the wines he introduced at the event can be ordered from www.yewtreevineyard.com

I am very glad to announce that every jolly person made it home safely at the end of the night. The village was uncannily quiet the next morning!



Peter Mitchell celebrating his birthday at the wine tasting event



The Village Association would like to thank Margaret and Ian for hosting this event.

Summer Walk

This year's summer walk will leave the bus shelter at 2.30pm on Sunday 23rd August. Let's hope the weather is kind – not too hot, not too cold – but whatever the forecast, I am sure we will take shelter in one of the local pubs. Come along and join us.

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Garden Games Afternoon

This year we will be holding a Boules Competition in the courtyard of Manor Farm on the 13th September. The event will run from 2pm onwards. Haven't played Boules before? Don't worry – we will learn together. Come along and join in. This is a fun event, not to be taken too seriously. Children are very welcome. The Village Association will provide a picnic during the afternoon. Please bring your own beverages and unbreakable glasses. The event is free to West Hagbourne residents. If you wish to invite extended family and/or friends, a nominal charge of £3.00 per head will apply to cover food costs. Visiting children under 11 years old are free.

Please contact Rosey Gardiner on the4gardeners@btinternet.com to let us know how many people will be in your party. This will help us cater the event.

See you there.



**Macmillan
Coffee
Morning**

The Macmillan Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 26th September this year from 10.30am - 12.30pm at York Farm, York Road. We all know someone who has been affected by cancer and this charity provides invaluable support to the patient and his/her family.

We are always amazed by the generosity of our village in supporting this very important charity. Let's continue our impressive record.

Donations for the raffle will be gratefully received – please deliver them to 9 York Road by the 24th September. Homemade cakes/biscuits will also be VERY welcome – they can be brought to York Farm on the day of the event.

Thank you for your support.

Plants

If you are splitting your border perennials later in the year, please don't throw anything away. Contact Rosey Gardiner on 07542 923328. I will collect your donations, grow them on over the winter/spring and sell them at next year's Plant Sale. This raises important funds to let the Village Association support future social events. Thank you.

Rosey Gardiner (Chair)

New unitary authorities

It has been decided by central government that the two-tier system of local government in Oxfordshire has led to confusion and could be improved.

The current Oxfordshire County Council (roads, social care, schools) and SODC (waste collection, planning) will be replaced by a unitary Authority - The Ridgeway Council, who will be responsible for all local government.

The new council will consist of SODC VWH and West Berkshire - representing around 400000 people. New councils will run in parallel with the old system until 2028, when they will take over full control.

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 9 September (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 let the Clerk know if you might be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor.

Village entrance 'white picket fence' signs

These have been installed.

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.

Bin Days

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/>.



**South Oxfordshire Binfluencers
WhatsApp channel**

Dan Tozer (Chair)

!!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.

Planning

One planning application related to land at Little Corns Nursery - asking for variation or removal of some of the planning conditions, altering access and parking. Find details on the SODC site with reference: P26/S2364/S73

HUGS Update

Our feathered friends

The results of a new global assessment published at the end of last year, show that more than half of bird species globally are in decline. Here in the UK, we have wealth of citizen science data and research studies that tell us that many of our bird species are declining even faster.

Since the 1970s farmland bird numbers are down by 62% – corn buntings, turtle doves, tree sparrows and more. Intensive agriculture (pesticide and fertiliser use), lack of overwinter habitat like winter stubble and adequate hedging all play their part.

Woodlands birds are down by a third over the same period, nightingales, wood warblers and others. Changes in woodland management and climate change are both drivers.

House sparrows, starlings and skylarks are some of the worst hit species. UK gardens make up more space collectively than all of the nature reserves in the UK put together so if you want

to help our local birdlife survive, here is a list of some things you can do in your garden this summer.

Create a wildflower patch – either plant one or just let grass grow long. This supports insects that birds rely on for food.

Avoid using pesticides, the insect life you spare is then food for birds, especially caterpillars for the later broods of baby birds.

Put out fresh water for birds every day.

Leave cutting hedges and shrubs (plus any tree thinning work) until mid-January, just before they start budding again. Shorn and clipped hedges leave no place for birds and insects to shelter over winter.

Don't cut back all seed heads at the end of summer – leave at least some for the seedeaters like sparrows to enjoy over autumn.

Plan for autumn planting of native hedges – e.g. hawthorn, blackthorn and holly to give home and food to more birds in your garden.

www.hugsustainability.org



Last month, the PCC and Thames Valley Police launched a new Vehicle Crime Strategy which aims at reducing crime – particularly theft of, and theft from vehicles.

Whilst there has been a reduction in vehicle crime across Thames Valley, with almost 2,000 fewer incidents in 2025 compared with 2024, there is more to do. There will be a series of a series of free tool marking events. Tradespeople are significantly more likely to

experience vehicle crime because their tools are seen as high-reward, low-risk targets for thieves.

Tool marking is one of the simplest ways tradespeople can protect themselves from tool theft. Since March, the office of the PCC has distributed over 500 SelectaDNA tool marking kits to electricians, plumbers, carpenters and other traders across the Thames Valley

Matthew Barber, PCC

Parish Council

Clerk

Andrew Wise
parishclerk@westhagbourne.org



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



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

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

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

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 August (28th). 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.

August 18th *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. concerning war.

September 15th A talk by popular photographer David Bailey entitled 'Wild Homes'.

October 20th Sing with Mandy who offers a brief history of folk music. But beware; you will be invited to sing along!

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.

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Village garden

Following on their success with the Madge Cup, Dave and Sue have decided it is time to give up tending the village gardens by the bus shelter and are looking for a volunteer/volunteers to take over at the end of this season. The Parish Council may contribute towards costs. Please get in touch if you can help:

editor@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:
10 x 4 metres & 10 x 6 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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