

Welcome to East Hagbourne!

East Hagbourne is a friendly village with a busy social calendar and many regular activities taking place. New residents are always welcome. We hope that one or more of these activities will appeal to you and you are invited to come along, join in and make new friends.

Village Shop and Post Office is situated at the garage on New Road. The shop is a community shop run entirely by volunteers. It stocks a wide range of items at competitive prices and often sells surplus produce from villager gardens. It is a great place to meet people and new volunteers are always welcome. The Post Office offers banking services for many High Street banks, foreign currency, etc. as well as the usual postal services. Volunteering in the Shop is a great way to meet people in the village (Postmaster: Steve Smith 811815; Shop Chairman: Nicola Ainger 819110).

The **Fleur-de-Lys** is our thriving local pub which usually stocks a range of “guest” beers and has an extensive food menu. Music evenings are regularly held twice a month, there’s a monthly quiz, and each summer the **Fleur Fest** hosts live bands.

St Andrew’s Church has a strong and lively congregation which meets in our lovely historic church, parts of which date back to the twelfth century. There’s a Sunday School which meets on the first Sunday of the month at the back of the Church. The church choir is always happy to have new members to swell the singing. The bell tower has a ring of eight bells and anyone is welcome to join them for practice on Tuesday evenings: contact Shirley Goss, 815605. The church serves lunches on Saturdays during Lent and teas on Sundays in the summer. The Rector, the Rev. Jason St John Nicolle (850267), lives in Blewbury.

Hagbourne Village Hall is located in East Hagbourne but serves both East and West Hagbourne. There are three rooms, a large hall (which has a stage), a small hall and a meeting room, each of which is available for hire by individuals or groups either separately or together. There is a kitchen area that can be used to serve food and drink, and a licence to serve alcoholic drinks can be obtained if desired. Various village events take place here e.g: the annual Burns’ Supper, HAMS amateur dramatic society, quiz nights. The village website www.easthagbourne.net has details of how to book the Hall’s facilities, or contact Geoff Leaver (817891).

Hagbourne C of E School is situated opposite the Village Hall. This is an excellent school that is often held up by the county as an example of good Primary practice. (Head teacher: Annette Crewe 813367).

Hagbourne Pre-School meets daily during term time in the Village Hall. It caters for children from two and a half to school age. Visits from parents and children are welcome. (Contact Nicky Brown 07719 400729).

Hagbourne Baby and Toddler Group meets on Fridays at the Pavilion (hagbournetoddlers@hotmail.com).

The Parish Council meets on a regular basis and members of the public are always welcome to attend as observers. There is an Annual Parish Meeting for the benefit of the village as a whole, where you can make your views known if you wish. Relevant reports on local matters are given and guest speakers are invited to keep us up to date on aspects of village life. See the Parish Council page in the Parish Magazine or contact the Parish Clerk: currently Allison Leigh (01865 865876 or parishclerk@easthagbourne.net), if you would like any more information or would like to raise any matters.

The Parish Magazine is published and delivered monthly at a very modest cost. Whilst giving all the information on church matters, it offers a lot more besides. It is the main source of information about local clubs, organisations and forthcoming local events. Many local businesses advertise in the magazine and this alone makes it invaluable. (Contact Janet Corderoy 813367 or Joy Napper 816004).

Neighbourhood Watch is active in the village, which is officially classed as a low-crime area and we need your support to keep it that way (contact Olaf Swanzy 07810 837479 or Charles Sweeny).

The **Recreation Ground** in Great Mead has a children’s play area and a recently-constructed Village Pavilion where a room may be hired (contact David Rickeard 813373).

The following annual events are supported enthusiastically by young and old alike:

- **The Hagbourne Fun Run and Walk** (~4.5 miles and virtually all off-road) takes place on the first Monday in May. It usually raises a substantial amount for Cancer charities. Trophies are awarded to winners in the various categories. Tea, coffee, hot dogs and cakes are on sale in the Village Hall to sustain the runners and supporters.
- **The Scarecrow Trail** is a fun event that takes place in the early summer. Villagers are encouraged to make and display a scarecrow based on a particular theme chosen each year. Anyone can buy a Scarecrow Trail map and vote for their favourite scarecrow; the winner is awarded a cup. The proceeds go to Friends of St Anne's Hospital, Liuli, Tanzania. (Contact Mary Harrison 813826).
- The thriving **amateur dramatics group, "HAMS"**, has put on a variety of productions: one a year since its foundation in 2010. The group welcomes all those, of whatever age, interested in taking part in a production, whether as an actor or a member of the production team. No experience necessary. (Contact Andy Stocks 815344).
- **The Annual Church Fete** is a popular event that usually takes place in June. It is well supported by the village as a whole and from neighbouring Didcot. New helpers are always most welcome. Look out for details in the Parish Magazine!
- **The Hagbourne Produce Show** takes place in September in the Village Hall. Gardens, orchards, and allotments are scoured for prime exhibits. As well as classes for cakes, bread, jams, fruit, vegetables and flowers there are art and craft categories, and various children's categories giving them a chance to show off their inventive, creative and artistic skills.
- **The Christmas Tree Festival** takes place in the church in December. Local groups, individuals and companies are invited to sponsor and decorate a tree with some wonderfully effective results.

The following activities are just a selection of the many things on offer in the village:

- The **Gardening Club** meets monthly in the Village Hall except when outings are arranged (contact Jane Bell 813350).
- A thriving **Bowls Club** with a range of players from beginners to county standard has its own green in the centre of the village (contact Graham Jones 01189 428367).
- **The football team** plays on the recreation ground in Great Mead (contact Trevor Davies 212556).
- **The school's swimming pool** is available for booking to villagers at certain times between May and October.
- **Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides**, as well as **Pilates, yoga, sewing, botanical art, bridge classes/groups** all meet in the Village Hall.
- Two **book clubs** (contact Alice Smith 813393) are held in members' houses on a regular basis, as does an informal Bridge group (contact Mary Harrison 813826).
- A **Community Choir** (contact Louise Rapple Moore 01189 314279).
- **Ramblers** meet monthly for medium-length walks in the local area (Paul Chambers 816365).
- **Barn Dances** are held monthly in the Village Hall (contact Joan Allibone 01491 825269).
- **Table tennis** is played, and **Pilates** classes are held at the Village Pavilion.

This is just a sample of what goes on. Please consult our village website:

www.easthagbourne.net

For more information on events, activities and history of the village, plus contact details for event organisers, or ask any villager!