



St Andrew's Hagbourne  
**PARISH MAGAZINE**



DECEMBER 2023



*A Happy and Peaceful Christmas  
to all our Readers*

**St Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival**  
8th to 16th December – full details in the magazine

***News, Views and Information for everyone in the Hagbournes***

**Thank you very much to the East and West Hagbourne Parish Councils  
for giving the Parish Magazine a home on their websites.**

[www.easthagbourne.net](http://www.easthagbourne.net)

[www.westhagbourne.org](http://www.westhagbourne.org)

# CALENDAR AND DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2023

The Prayer Intentions this month are for all who live in the Astons and Upton.

1 Friday

2 Saturday

**3 +Sunday ADVENT SUNDAY**

8am Holy Communion: St Michael's B

9am Parish Eucharist: All Saints' AU

9.15am Lay led Service: St Mary's U

10.30am Parish Eucharist: St Andrew's H

10.30am All Age Service: St Michael's B

10.30am Parish Eucharist: All Saints' NM

10.30am Online Benefice Service

6pm Benefice Advent Carol Service: St Michael's B

No 4pm Service at All Saints' NM and no 6pm Service at St Andrew's H

4 Monday

5 Tuesday

6 Weds

7 Thursday

8 Friday

10am Holy Communion: St Andrew's H

St Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival begins with Carols in the Close at 6.30pm

9 Saturday

12noon Soup'n'Tunes Lunch: St Andrew's H

**10 +Sunday THE 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9.15am Parish Eucharist: St Mary's U

10.30am Parish Eucharist: St Michael's B

10.30am Online Benefice Service

3pm Carols at the Crown: South Moreton

3.30pm Carols in the Farmyard: Manor Farm, West Hagbourne

4pm Parish Service: All Saints' NM

6pm Sunday Service: St Andrew's H

7pm Youth Group: Benefice Centre

11 Monday

12 Tuesday

13 Weds

14 Thursday

15 Friday

16 Saturday

10am Holy Communion: St Andrew's H

8pm Blewbury Village Carol Concert

7pm The Big Wassail: St Andrew's H

12 midday Soup'n'Song and Tree Festival Finale: St Andrew's H

**17 +Sunday THE 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

10.30am All Age Service: St Andrew's H

10.30am Online Benefice Service

4pm Nine Lessons and Carols: St Michael's B

4pm Carol Service: St Michael's AT

6pm Carol Service: All Saints' NM

6pm Parish Service: St Andrew's H

18 Monday

19 Tuesday

20 Weds

21 Thursday

22 Friday

23 Saturday

10am Holy Communion: St Andrew's H

10am MU Holy Communion: St Michael's B

8pm Online Compline



**Prayer Focus:**

*Sidesmen, those who help with hospitality and catering. Flower arrangers.*

8pm Online Compline

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*Outreach and parish magazines.*



*Families, children's outreach, family Services and Mothers' Union.*

**Continued page 4**

# ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, HAGBOURNE

The United Benefice of Blewbury, East and West Hagbourne and Upton together with Aston Tirrold, Aston Upton, North Moreton and South Moreton.



## Rector's Reflections Conversations at Christmas time

Christmas is very much a time for conversations - conversations with friends and family, conversations with neighbours and perhaps also with strangers, as we do our Christmas shopping or take part in communal carol singing. Sometimes these conversations will be light-hearted and full of fun, but I'm also well aware that Christmas can also have its awkward moments. It can be a quite a stressful time, and it's easy for tempers to fray.

As I write these words, I am struck by the number of times conversations feature in the traditional Christmas readings. The accounts of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus found in the gospels, especially in the gospels according to Matthew and Luke, are full of conversations. Some of these conversations involve a dialogue between a human being and an angel, perhaps most famously in the story of the Annunciation, found in the 1st chapter of Luke's gospel. In this story, the angel Gabriel is sent to the Virgin Mary, and he begins the conversation with the memorable words: "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you". The conversation finishes with Mary saying, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word".

I think there is something very special about a good conversation. A good conversation is the opposite of a speech or a monologue, in which one speaker gives the audience the benefit of their own particular thoughts and views. A good conversation is a dialogue, in which the parties listen to each other and learn from each other, sharing experiences and allowing the conversation to go where it will go.

I think we can learn so much from a good conversation, and this is why recently I have started hosting a series of conversations around Christianity. These conversations provide an opportunity to explore the questions and issues which might be occupying our minds. The next series starts on Sunday 26th November, and it runs for 4 weeks - you are very welcome to drop in to any one of the sessions, or come to all four! They take start at 2.30pm at the Benefice Centre in Blewbury, and last an hour. Seasonal refreshments will be provided - conversation often flows better with some tea and cake! There is no need to book a place, and everyone is most welcome, whatever your particular beliefs. May this Christmas time be a rich source of blessing to you all. Father Jason

### Conversations around Christianity – Sunday afternoons 2.30pm to 3.30pm in the Benefice Centre, Blewbury 26th November till 17th December

The opportunity for more "Conversations" and explorations around some themes relating to the Christmas celebrations and to see where our conversations will take us! Seasonal treats and coffee/tea too!



### Benefice Advent Carol Service Sunday 3rd December 6pm at St Michael's Church, Blewbury Come along and enjoy singing the Advent carols.

## Calendar and Diary for December 2023 continued . . .

### **24 +Sunday THE 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT – CHRISTMAS EVE**

*All the Churches in our  
Benefice and our  
relationships together.*

10.30am Online Benefice Service  
3pm and 4pm Crib Services at St Andrew's H  
3pm Crib Service: St Michael's AT  
3pm Crib Service: All Saints' NM  
4pm Crib Service: St John the Baptist SM  
4pm Crib Service: St Mary's U  
5.45pm Crib Service: St Michael's B  
9pm Midnight Mass: All Saints' NM  
10pm Midnight Mass: St Michael's AT  
10.30pm Midnight Mass: St Michael's B  
11.30pm Midnight Mass: St Andrew's H



### **25 Monday CHRISTMAS DAY**

8am Holy Communion: St Michael's B  
9.15am Parish Eucharist: St Mary's U  
10.30am Parish Eucharist: St John the Baptist SM  
10.30am Parish Eucharist: St Michael's B  
10.30am Parish Eucharist: St Michael's AT  
10.30am Family Service with Communion: St Andrew's H  
10.30am Online Christmas Service  
No online Compline tonight will resume 3rd January

26 Tuesday No online Compline

27 Weds 10am Holy Communion: St Andrew's H No Compline 12.30 Baptism: St Michael's B

28 Thurs No online Compline

29 Friday No online Compline

30 Saturday

### **31 +Sunday 1st SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS** *Giving thanks for all the volunteers in our churches.*

10.30am Parish Eucharist: St Michael's B  
10.30am Parish Service: St Andrew's H  
10.30am Online Benefice Service  
No 4pm Service at All Saints' NM and no 6pm Evensong at St Andrew's H

**January 2024** Prayer intentions in January are for all who live in West Hagbourne & the Moretons

**3rd January** – Holy Communion at St Andrew's at 10am and Oline Compline starts again at 8pm

### **7 +Sunday EPIPHANY**

8am Holy Communion: St Michael's B  
9am Parish Eucharist: All Saints' AU  
9.15am Lay led Service: St Mary's U  
10.30am Parish Eucharist: St Andrew's H  
10.30am All Age Service: St Michael's B  
10.30am Parish Eucharist: All Saints' NM  
10.30am Online Benefice Service  
6pm Evensong: St Andrew's H  
No 4pm Parish Service at All Saints' NM



*Children, our village  
schools and Sunday  
clubs.*

**Christingle Service at St Andrew's on 21st January**

**Epiphany Carol Service at St Andrew's on 28th January at 3pm**

**Details to follow in the January magazine.**

## How to contact the Churn Benefice:

**BENEFICE OFFICE - 01235 850267**

**Churn Website: [www.churnchurches.co.uk](http://www.churnchurches.co.uk)**

The Benefice Operations Manager, Elaine de Ridder, is available from 9.00 am - 2.30pm Monday to Friday, contact on 01235 850267 or 07434 686044 during office hours.

Bookings for Weddings, Baptisms etc. may be made by contacting the office via telephone or email [office@churnchurches.co.uk](mailto:office@churnchurches.co.uk)

**Father Jason St John Nicolle – 01235 850267** – [rector@churnchurches.co.uk](mailto:rector@churnchurches.co.uk)

**Revd Louise Butler – 07837 009730** – [revlouiseb@aol.com](mailto:revlouiseb@aol.com)

**Revd John Clarke – 01235 510073** – [jphclarke@gmail.com](mailto:jphclarke@gmail.com)

**Revd Dr Mark Rhodes-Smith – 01235 850267** – [mark.rhodes-smith@churnchurches.co.uk](mailto:mark.rhodes-smith@churnchurches.co.uk)

**Benefice Online Service** Please help spread the word about our regular online service! This service became a necessity during Covid but has proved to be popular with those people who are unable to attend regular or in-person worship.

The technology is easy to master but Elaine is happy to assist with setting it up. Our online congregation is regularly the second-largest congregation in the Benefice! Every Sunday at 10.30 using this link: **Computer, tablet, smartphone** <https://meet.goto.com/ChurnBenefice/sundayservice>

**New user** <https://meet.goto.com/install>

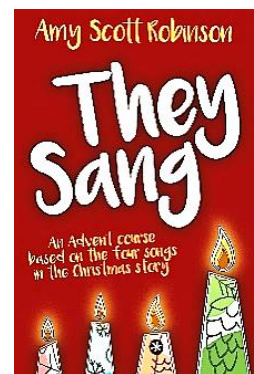
**Ringling in the New Year** St Andrew's Bellringers will be ringling in the New Year at 11.30pm on Sunday 31st December. Lovely to hear the bells ringling out to welcome the New Year.

### ECUMENICAL ADVENT GROUP

**An Advent Course** based on the four songs of the Christmas Story: The songs of Zachariah, Mary, the Angels and Simeon.

**10:30 to 12 noon – Fridays 1st, 8th and 15th December** at the home of Jenny Loder. Josie Midwinter to lead, based on Amy Scott Robinson's book "They Sang".

Please let Elaine in the office know if you would like to take part, also so that she can put you in contact with Jenny and Josie and give you the address. Contact via [office@churnchurches.co.uk](mailto:office@churnchurches.co.uk) or 01235 850267



**Midweek Communion** Everyone welcome to the Midweek Communion at **St Andrew's, Hagbourne, every Wednesday at 10am**. This is a said Communion Service without hymns and the opportunity to stay for a coffee afterwards and a chat.

**This is a popular Service - all welcome.**

**Thank You** Michael James and family and Edna and Terry would like to thank everyone for their kind messages of sympathy and support on the unexpected death of Lesley. They would also like to thank all who attended Lesley's Service to Celebrate Her Life at the South Oxfordshire Crematorium on the 9th of November and for giving donations in Lesley's memory to Dogs for Good, a charity close to her heart.

### Funerals in the Benefice

9th November at South Oxfordshire Crematorium **Lesley Patricia James** aged 71

15th November at Oxford Crematorium **Jean Miles** aged 89

16th November at St Michael's Aston Tirrold followed by burial at St Mary's Upton

**Simon Powell** aged 80

*May they rest in peace and rise in glory*





## **Christmas Services at St Andrew's**

### **Sunday 17th December**

**10.30am All Age Service  
6pm Evensong**

### **Christmas Eve**

#### **Sunday 24th December**

**10.30am Online Benefice Service  
Crib Services at 3pm & 4pm  
11.30pm Midnight Mass**

### **Christmas Day**

#### **Sunday 25th December**

**10.30am Family Service  
with Communion  
10.30am Online Benefice Service**

**1st Sunday of Christmas: 31st December – 10.30 Parish Service  
Epiphany: Sunday 7th January – 10.30am Parish Eucharist, 6pm Evensong**

***St Andrew's Church welcomes you to our Services.***



### **The Crib Services at St Andrew's**

#### **Christmas Eve, 24th December 3pm and 4pm**

This is the chance for your child to hear the wonderful story of the first Christmas. We are holding a Crib Service at 3pm and at 4pm so that your family can come along to the one that is most convenient to you.

A lovely way to start your Christmas.

**Hagbourne Pre-School Carol Singing** The Pre-School will be singing carols at St Andrew's during the Christmas Tree Festival on 14th December at 11am.

**Festival Volunteers needed!** We need Tree Sitters for the Christmas Tree Festival to welcome visitors in Church. There is a Sign-Up Chart at the back of the Church to enter your name if you could spend an hour or two over the Festival week. Thank you.

**Sunday Club** In the Parish Room at St Andrew's, Hagbourne on the first Sunday of the month at 10.30am, joining parents in the Church Service later. Bible stories, circle time, drawing, colouring, painting, crafts and more. Ages 4 - 11. Encourages children to interact with each other and adults, make friends, be creative. A gentle introduction to Christian values.  
**Next date: Sunday 3rd December. ALL WELCOME.**





**Tower Talk** Two of the team have been unavailable for two weeks due to them having cataract surgery within a day of each other but they have both returned. On Sunday 12th November we rang the bells for Remembrance Sunday for Evensong at 6:00, the bells were rung half muffled. Shirley Goss.

**Birthdays:** 13th December - Shirley Goss and Thomas Addison  
23rd December - Rob Abel

**Dates for the diary:** Friday 15th December – Big Wassail 7pm in Church  
**Sunday 31st December** – Ringing in the New Year starting at **11:30 PM**



*The Belbringers would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy and Prosperous and safe New Year*



**THANK A Big YOU to Linda Benton for our lovely new Benefice logo**

**Poets' Trail update . . .** Early next year the words and illustrations for the Green Theme anthology will be ready for the printer. Most of the 'green' poems have been written by people in the village.

With this project well under way we want you to be thinking about the next one. The Poets Trail will be funding the publication of a book of poems inspired by Didcot Oaks (and other notable trees). We will be encouraging writers from the whole Didcot area to Google the Didcot Oaks website, visit some of the magnificent, ancient trees, and be moved to write something poetic. Whether it's first kisses under the leaves over a period of 400 years, how they withstood the wars, or the animals who live among the branches, let your imagination branch out! What have the trees witnessed over the years, how have some of our historical trees already met their ends, and what has the wood been used for since? Poems up to 36 lines. Submissions by 14th February 2024 to [linda.benton@live.co.uk](mailto:linda.benton@live.co.uk) Linda will be illustrating the book.

Full details are on the Didcot Writers website.

The link is: [bit.ly/didcotoaks](http://bit.ly/didcotoaks)

<b>December ROTAS</b>	<b>3rd December</b> 2nd Sunday of Advent	<b>10th December</b> 4th Sunday of Advent	<b>24th December</b> Christmas Eve 11.30pm	<b>25th December</b> Christmas Day All Age Service	<b>General Notes</b>
<b>Readers</b>	Isaiah 64 v 1-9 Jeff Powell 1 Corinthians 1 v 3-9 Justine Shepperson	Isaiah 61 v. 1-4, 8-11 Donna Clifford 1 Thessalonians 5 v.16-24 Sally Duncan	TBC	TBC	The <b>Tree Festival</b> is from 8th to 16th December. During this time there should be a lot of trees in church and various activities please make allowances for this. <b>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for sidesmen on 25th and readers for 24th and 25th</b> Church cleaning should be done on the Friday afternoon or Saturday before your name is on the rota. Thank you.
<b>Intercessions</b>	Celebrant	Celebrant	Celebrant	Celebrant	
<b>Sidesmen</b>	Marian Powell Richard Powell	Trevor Goss Myra Hardiman	Robin Harries Jane Blond		
<b>Coffee</b>	Jeff Powell Justine Shepperson	Shirley Goss Donna Clifford	No Coffee	No Coffee	
<b>Church Cleaning</b>	Helen Clayson Rachel Williams	Tree Festival Event			
<b>Flowers Lady Chapel</b>	No Flowers	No Flowers			
<b>Flowers High Altar</b>	No Flowers	No Flowers	Lynne Carter		

## Hagbourne Baby and Toddler Group

Regretfully, after much discussion, the decision has been taken to close the Hagbourne Baby and Toddler Group. Unfortunately, the number of families attending has dwindled significantly over the last couple of years and without people attending, as a parent led group, there is also not enough volunteers to run it. We would like to thank the Church for their continued support of the group over the past few years. We would also like to thank Marian for faithfully coming each week for many years to serve our refreshments, without her we would have been lost! Prior to Covid, Janet also used to help with refreshments which we really appreciated and thank her for as well. We are sorry to anyone who was planning on attending as we know this will be a disappointment. If there is anyone who would like to find out more about what is involved in running the group, please do reach out to us at [hagbournetoddlers@hotmail.com](mailto:hagbournetoddlers@hotmail.com) and we can discuss further.

## Churchwarden's Chatter . . .

It seems that even though Christmas is just around the corner, there are lots of things still happening. The All Souls' Service was very well attended and was greatly appreciated by all. We had a meeting to discuss the Church calendar of extra events for 2024 and we will be including an outline of these in the January magazine.

Jane and I have sourced new planks for Christmas Tree Festival which is racing towards me as I write this (and has the ability of causing not a little bit of panic in me).

I thought the Remembrance Day Services were particularly well thought of this year.

The Church was so beautifully decorated. The lovely flowing poppies from the pulpit with a poppy wreath, the handmade poppies (by the Sunday Club children) on the white cross, the beautiful poppy arrangement on the stand as you come into Church and the magnificent hand knitted and crafted wreath hanging on the door.

We have been considering the condition of the walls that are on the boundary of the churchyard and also the trees within, and this was discussed at our PCC meeting that was held in November.

Then there was the rather lovely (and fun) Advent Candle Making Service. It was a joy to be there and to see so many friends and new people.

***Jane and Jill wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas  
and may next year be all that you wish it to be.***

**Home Communion** is available to anyone who is unable to get to church through sickness or frailty, either for a short time or on a long term basis. If you, or anyone you know, would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact the office 01235 850267 and Elaine will arrange it for you.

**Short Reflection and daily prayer** During weekdays, Fr Jason writes a short reflection and prayer. If you would like to receive this please contact the Benefice Office. (see page 5).



### Collection for Oxfordshire Homeless

**Can you imagine Christmas without a present? Here are some gifts O'Hanlon House in Oxford have requested. The Hamper at St Andrew's will be in place for Advent Sunday, 3rd December.**

If you put your items in the hamper the Action Group will take them to Oxford, where Oxfordshire Homeless will wrap them up as Christmas gifts:

**New toiletries: shower gel, toothbrushes, toothpaste, perfume, body spray etc, not soap.**

**New pyjamas, slippers or dressing gowns. New ladies' underwear (sizes 8,10 and 12)**

**New men's boxers (sizes S, M and L) NO second hand items.**

**Donations by 11th of December please so that the Action Group can get them to Oxford in time to be wrapped for Christmas Day.**

**Your gift will brighten someone's day!**



St Andrew's Church, Hagbourne

# Christmas Tree Festival

Vote For Your Favourite Tree

Bumper Festival Raffle



Search Hagbourne Treefest or scan the QR code below



**8th -16th December**

Trees all around the Hagbournes and in the Church

Church Open Daily – 10am to 4pm – Tea & Biccies 12noon to 4pm

Supporting St Andrew's Church and Helen & Douglas House

In aid of  
*Helen & Douglas House*  
your local children's hospice

HUGE THANKS TO OUR FESTIVAL SPONSORS





## A very Happy Christmas with all good wishes for the New Year from the Parish Magazine committee



We hope that as many people as possible in East and West Hagbourne are seeing and enjoying the parish magazine which is online on both of the East and West Hagbourne Parish Council websites. Thank you to the Parish Councils for enabling this. We are also emailing copies of the magazine to individuals on request and are also printing some magazines for those without a computer and find it easier to have a printed copy. Let us know if you would like to be on our email list or would appreciate a printed copy.

We would be grateful for any donations towards the production of the magazine and suggest maybe a donation of £6 for the year if you receive it online, or £12 for the year if you are receiving a printed copy.

It is possible to pay donations or subscriptions by Bank Transfer using the following details:  
**Hagbourne Parochial Church Council, Account Number: 30438952**  
**Sort Code: 20-01-09 and please use this reference: "Magazine".**

If you would prefer to pay by cash or cheque, payable to **Hagbourne Parochial Church Council** this can be safely left in the wall box safe in Church (to the left of the door as you enter) or to 22 Blewbury Road, East Hagbourne or Little Ash, York Road, West Hagbourne. Please put the money or a cheque in an envelope marked "magazine" and if you are paying for a printed copy please add your name and address on the envelope. Thank you.

**Many thanks to all the contributors** who send in their varied and interesting articles month by month and many thanks also to our advertisers who continue to support the magazine.  
 The Parish Magazine Committee.

KICK OFF CHRISTMAS WITH

# CAROLS IN THE CLOSE

6:30PM – FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DEC  
 CHURCH CLOSE,  
 EAST HAGBOURNE



SING ALONG WITH  
 BLEWBURY BRASS BAND

Mulled Wine,  
 Hot Chocolate,  
 Gingerbread  
 and mince  
 pies for all!

*Followed by the  
 Christmas Tree Festival Big Switch On*

**In support of the Church & Helen and Douglas House**

Many Thanks to our Generous Festival Sponsors







## HAMS – HAMSFEST rehearsals begin

Following the launch meeting of *HAMSFEST*, our March 2024 production, we had two further weekly sessions, introducing a wide variety of new ideas for the sketches, playlets, and songs with live music. Some of the ideas were available as video clips which were projected onto the big screen, giving us a much better flavour of how they might be received by our audience.

Having assembled a list of possible acts we started to put together a likely programme for the production. By the way, we have confirmed that the performance dates will be on the evenings of

**Friday 8th March 2024 and Saturday 9th March 2024.**

(Don't forget to put them in your diary).

Having decided the provisional programme, casts were chosen for the various acts and rehearsals began. The team was split into four groups, each with the aim of finding a space in the hall to rehearse a particular act and later to present it to everyone present.

When finally presented, from the amount of laughter and applause with which each act was received, it promises to be a good show.

[www.thehams.co.uk](http://www.thehams.co.uk)

[email:info@thehams.co.uk](mailto:email:info@thehams.co.uk)

### Help Wanted to run the Village Hall

Linda Benton has been our caretaker for a number of years, with only occasional breaks where she has arranged cover herself. She has recently indicated to the committee that she wants to take more time off, so would like us to find someone to support her, and perhaps in the longer term to work with her on a part time basis. The role involves making sure the hall is ready and available for each user. Many of our regular users have keys to let themselves in and out, and we expect each user to clean and tidy up as they leave, but clearly there will be some cleaning up on occasions, as well as opening and closing for what we call our casual users – those people who have hired the hall for a one-off event.

To be clear, this is a paid appointment, with a monthly fee agreed depending on the work carried out. If you or anyone you know would be interested in taking on this role, I would love to hear from you, or alternately you could discuss the role with Linda herself. I have put my phone number, as well as Linda's, at the end of this article.

Richard Elliott - 01235 814140

Linda Benton - 01235817891

### The Christmas Tree Festival GRAND RAFFLE

Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets at £1 each, on sale at the Community Shop, the Christmas Café in Church or at the various Festival events. Wonderful prizes donated by our community and friends including Luxury Christmas Hampers, Eating Out Vouchers, and lots more. The Draw will take place on 16th December at the Festival Finale. Tickets on sale NOW . . . .





## East Hagbourne Community Shop

For 20 years, East Hagbourne Community Shop has been proudly run entirely by volunteers. We are seeking new Committee members and volunteers to help keep it going and growing! To learn how you can help in 1 or 2 hours a month: email Alice at [alice.w.smith@gmail.com](mailto:alice.w.smith@gmail.com) or [easthagbourneshop@gmail.com](mailto:easthagbourneshop@gmail.com), or pop in and chat with the Volunteer on duty.

**Visit us on FB or on the village website at:**  
**[easthagbourne.net/our-village/shop-post-office](http://easthagbourne.net/our-village/shop-post-office)**

**East Hagbourne Community Shop and Post Office wish you a joyful Christmas Season, and a happy and peaceful New Year!**

**Christmas Bakery Stall 9am – 12:30 Saturday 16th December** Join us for free mulled wine or juice and minced pies as we cap off our 20th Anniversary Year with our annual Christmas Bakery Stall! Pick up **Marcopolo breads and pastries**, browse gifts and seasonal treats including **adorable knit characters** (concealing a Terry's Chocolate Orange), **Nellie-Jean's artisanal Christmas chocolates**, **hand-made wreaths**, **organic guest soaps**, **festive homemade cakes** and our own **Village tea towel** and **jute shopper**.



**Giving Back to the Community 2023** In honour of our 20th year of service to our community, we are donating £500 to local charities. **You can vote until 2nd Dec** to determine the three Award Winners from our 7 worthy candidates and awards will be presented at our Christmas Stall. **Thank you for your support in 2023!**



**Spread Christmas Cheer** with **local artist-designed cards** – many featuring East Hagbourne & local villages – by Linda Benton and Skillipigs, or 'warm and fuzzy' cards by Lorraine Drewe! Looking for gifts? Wrap up **festive treats**, **local honey**, or **Mary's Marmalade** in our **East Hagbourne Village Tea Towels** inside our **Jute Shopper**. **Prepaid cards** from the PO suit everyone. And don't forget our **homemade cakes each Thursday** to celebrate each week of the season!

**Celebrate St Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival** Get **raffle tickets** in the Shop or at our Holiday Stall, and visit all the trees, including our 2 entries, from 8th to 16th December.

### December Operating Hours

**Post Office:** Mon to Sat: 9am – 12:30pm; and Mon & Thurs 1:15 – 4:45pm

**Shop:** Mon, Thurs: 9am– 5pm; Tue/Wed/Fri: 9am– 4pm; Sat: 9am– 12:30pm

**Christmas Hours: OPEN: Saturday 23rd December 9:00am - 12:30pm**

**CLOSED: Bank Holidays 25th & 26th December**

**OPEN MORNINGS ONLY Weds 27th Dec to Sat 30th Dec: 9:30–12:30pm**

**CLOSED: Bank Holiday Monday 1st January**

## 2023 CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL EVENTS

In addition, the church is open daily and between 10:00 and 4:00 so please do come to enjoy the trees and vote for your favourite.

- 
- Friday 8 Dec**      6:30pm      **Carols in the Close**, Church Close, EH  
*Sing along with Blewbury Brass Band*  
**The Big TreeFest Launch**  
*Switch-on of the trees inside the church*
- Saturday 9 Dec**    12:00pm    **Soup'n'Tunes Lunch**  
*The tastiest soups, with unique ambience.*
- Sunday 10 Dec**    3:00pm      **Hagbourne & Wallingford Young Pianists**  
*Concert in the church . . . with cake!*
- 3:30pm      **Carols in the Farmyard, Manor Farm, WH**  
*The very welcome return of the vOx choir*
- Thursday 14 Dec** 6:30pm      **Carols on Your Doorstep**  
*Local carollers roam the village streets*
- Friday 15 Dec**    7:00pm      **The Big Wassail**  
*Carols, poems, songs, tunes . . . and fun!*
- Saturday 16 Dec** 12:00pm    **Soup'n'Song Lunch**  
*Festive songs from The Nightingales*
- 2:00pm      **Result of the public vote for favourite tree**  
Followed by the **Festival Raffle draw.**
- 2:30pm      **Hagbourne Community Choir**  
*Seasonal favourites as the village sings*
- 4:00pm      The Festival Closes

Note: All events in St. Andrews Church unless otherwise stated



### Please Support our Generous Festival Sponsors



**Table Tennis at the Pavilion:** Join our friendly table-tennis group at the Pavilion for exercise and fun on Tuesday mornings. We play from 10am to 12noon, £2 per session. All ages, skills, welcome; bats available. More info from: Julian 01235 813599 [jgallop@freeuk.com](mailto:jgallop@freeuk.com)  
Anthony 01235 511920 [aannanjones@gmail.com](mailto:aannanjones@gmail.com)

**Football in East Hagbourne:** Hagbourne United FC plays regularly at East Hagbourne and welcomes new men and youth players.

Contacts: John Symonds 07831 714076 [jesymonds29@gmail.com](mailto:jesymonds29@gmail.com)  
or Keith Davies 07810 504155 [keith\\_davies4@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:keith_davies4@hotmail.co.uk)

# HUGS December News

## Hagbournes and Upton Group for Sustainability

**The State of Nature? in Deep Trouble** When 16% of UK monitored species are in danger of extinction – one in six – you are in deep trouble, says naturalist and TV presenter Chris Packham. The new State of Nature report, led by the RSPB and supported by more than 60 conservation and research organisations, maps the continued decline of British wildlife species decline averages 19% in the UK. Species providing pest control, such as the two-spot ladybird, have declined by more than a third, creating a vicious cycle for farmers' yields. Only half of fish stocks are sustainably harvested and none of the seafloor is in good condition due to damage from fishing gear. Only 7% of woodlands and 25% of peatlands are reported as being in a good ecological state. These habitats are crucial for carbon storage, and can be harnessed to help fight climate change. The report illustrates that although the UK leads the world in biodiversity monitoring, it has less than half of this remaining.

Although the problems faced and the solutions needed are well understood, large scale action is clearly lacking and restorative work to bring degraded habitats to life needs to be replicated and expanded, says the report.

Farming must shift to regenerative models, developments must build nature into the way we plan our homes and infrastructure, and polluters must pay and invest in nature, demanding behaviour change in every corner of society and every inch of the economy - says Richard Benwell, chief executive of the Wildlife and Countryside Link, describing the figures in the report as "heart-stoppingly horrible". Environment Secretary, Therese Coffey, in response to the report, said the Government has legally committed itself to protecting 30% of the UK's natural environment by 2030 with an Environmental Improvement Plan to create and restore at least 500,000 hectares of new wildlife habitats, starting with 70 new wildlife projects including 25 new or expanded National Nature Reserves."

Let's hope the political parties put the money in to make this actually happen. At a local level we can all help nature - in our gardens, along our roads, in our ponds, in the decisions we take to fight for nature in our own ways. As Chris Packham says "this is our time. So, it doesn't matter whether you're into bats, bumblebees, butterflies, birds, bugs or badgers – **ultimately, we need to come together.**"

CHRISTMAS COMES TO WEST HAGBOURNE

# CAROLS IN THE FARMYARD

3:30PM – SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> DEC  
MANOR FARM,  
WEST HAGBOURNE



ENJOY WONDERFUL  
CAROL SINGING BY MEMBERS  
OF THE VOX CHOIR OF OXFORD

Mulled Wine,  
and mince  
pies for all!

In support of the church & Helen & Douglas House

Many Thanks to our Generous Festival Sponsors



**Local Farmers respond to last month's HUGS item . . .** We, the working farming communities of the Hagbournes would like to express our disappointment at the article by the HUGS group in the November magazine - which demonised the chemical Glyphosate (brand name Roundup). We need to offer this counter argument in defence of this very important product.

Glyphosate is a broad-spectrum herbicide, and the world's most reliable and safest weedkiller. It has been used in agriculture, sports grounds, public spaces, and private gardens for over 40 years now. Its use has been vital in agriculture to help create seedbeds that do not need extra carbon producing cultivations such as ploughing and discing. Many farmers are now practising regenerative farming - where a winter cover crop is sown (and often grazed by sheep) and then destroyed using glyphosate (Roundup). This then means that a cereal crop can be directly drilled into the ground without any need for cultivations. This chemical, used correctly, does NOT degrade the soil.

A typical on-farm dose of glyphosate would be just 2. litres per 150 litres of water --a miniscule 1.35% of chemical in the tank mix. Many of us use 200 litres of water to 2.0 litres of glyphosate - just 1% of chemical in the mix .

The key, as with most things, is using the product sensibly and within the guidelines. If you think about how little chemical should be used in a watering can of water it is clear to see that many gardeners are using too much. This has also been the case with slug pellets - which have been used in far too large quantities in gardens over the years. Similarly - many pets are being treated for fleas and ticks - whether they need it or not. This treatment often contains neonicotinoids - and traces of this product are now being found in watercourses-particularly in cities -due to over dosing .

The use of glyphosate on farms is absolutely vital in crop production. Without it UK agriculture would add the equivalent of 12 million tonnes of CO2 to the atmosphere each year--the equivalent of emissions from 2.5 million new petrol cars-through the added use of machinery, and bringing more land into production to enable current yields to be maintained.

The use of glyphosate has helped nature friendly farming - fewer cultivations help earthworms thrive and ensure ground nesting bird habitats are not disturbed.

We could continue this over some pages -but will finish with the following:

The International Agency for Research on Cancer has said that drinking hot drinks and working night shifts "are as likely to cause cancer as glyphosate". Similarly, too much sunlight, baking soda, table salt, and caffeine are more likely to cause cancer than glyphosate.

We enjoy the HUGS articles in the magazine - let's all be friends and keep working to protect the beautiful environment in which we live.

From Jeff Powell -- on behalf of, and fully supported by:

W H Powell and Son, West Hagbourne, The Drewes, Coscote The Lays, Manor Farm West Hagbourne  
The Nappers, Inghams Farm, Upton, The Lays, Hagbourne Hill Farm, The Mitchams, Coscote.

## **Didcot Emergency Foodbank**

**The Didcot Emergency Food Bank is at The Didcot Baptist Church, 43 Wantage Road, Didcot. OX11 0BS Telephone 01235 813187. Email: [office@didcotbaptist.org.uk](mailto:office@didcotbaptist.org.uk)**

An Emergency Foodbank is a practical, community-based project aimed at providing short term relief by giving food to people in crisis in our local area. The Didcot Emergency Foodbank serves Didcot and the immediate surrounding villages.

**There is very high demand on the Foodbank at the moment.** You can leave items in the supermarkets in Didcot, at Blewbury Post Office or make a money donation via the Foodbank.

**Contact details if you need to use the Foodbank or you would like to make a donation:**

You can leave a message on the Baptist Church Office answering machine on 01235 813 187 or you can email the Foodbank: [foodbank@didcotbaptist.org.uk](mailto:foodbank@didcotbaptist.org.uk) or use the [contact form](#) on the website. **All donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you.**

SING & CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT

# THE BIG WASSAIL

7:00PM – FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> DEC. IN THE CHURCH

A Fun Evening of Music, Song and Words



Suggested donations of £5.00 each

A **TreeFest** event in support of the church & Helen & Douglas House



## Hagbourne Bridge Club

**If you can play bridge but haven't done so for a while – give us a go!**

If you have never learnt to play bridge but would like to give it a try – why not come and see us? We meet every Thursday in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. We have a break around 8.30pm for light refreshments and usually finish playing cards by 10pm. It will cost you £3 We look forward to seeing you. We are: Jill Garlick – 07873431144 [hjgarlick@gmail.com](mailto:hjgarlick@gmail.com) and Shirley Goss – 815608 [shirley.goss@btinternet.com](mailto:shirley.goss@btinternet.com)

## Hagbourne Garden Club

**Wish you all a Merry Christmas** and hope to see you at our first meeting of the New Year on 25th January in the Pavilion at 7pm. The talk will be on **Designing and Planting a Small Garden** by Cathy Cornish.

French Beansies.



· Fun with French ·

### \* New French Group for Reception/Year 1 Children! \*

Do you have a child in Reception or Year 1 that would like to have lots of fun learning French in a friendly, local club?

French Beansies is an after-school club based in East Hagbourne. Children can enjoy games, chat, singing, role play, arts, crafts, French foodie treats and much more. Max. 6 places.

Established 15 years.

**First session is free. Starting January 2024.**

Come be a Beanie! Allons-y!

Contact: Sarah Wright at [info@frenchbeansies.co.uk](mailto:info@frenchbeansies.co.uk)  
[www.frenchbeansies.co.uk](http://www.frenchbeansies.co.uk)



## News from the Village Hall

The Annual General Meeting for the Village Hall was held on Wednesday 22nd November, and, despite there being wine available to all attendees, only a small number of people attended.

Despite this, a significant amount of business was conducted, including the endorsement of the decision to raise the rates for both regular users as well as casual users i.e. those who book for a party or one-off event. Each of the regular users have been individually advised of their new rates, whilst the rates for casual users are now:

	Large Hall	Small Hall	Both Halls	Minimum charge	Late Charge (later than 11 pm)	Meeting Room (Min charge £14)	Both Halls and Meeting Room
Hagbourne residents	£12.00	£10.00	£16.00	£25.00	£10 (£12 w/ends)	£7.00	£22 per hour
Non-Hagbourne residents	£13.00	£11.00	£17.00	£25.00	£10 (£12 w/ends)	£8.00	

The ongoing management of the hall was discussed at length, and it was noted most of those present would probably want to retire from the committee in the next 3 to 5 years, and no one in the village has yet come forward to take up the reins. The village Hall is a charity, managed by an increasingly small group of volunteers. If there are no new people willing to join the committee, the charity will be forced to cease existence AND THE HALL WILL HAVE TO BE SHUT.

The committee only meets about 3 to 4 times a year, so the commitment to join this team is not large. The day-to-day business of the hall is ably managed by Linda Benton and Geoff Leaver, to whom we are indebted for their hard work. Richard Elliott, Chairman

# CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL FINALE

## CHOIRS, LUNCH AND THE GRAND RAFFLE DRAW

### SATURDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> DEC. AT THE CHURCH



**12:00PM – SOUP'N' SONG LUNCH STARTS**

**12:30PM - THE NIGHTINGALES**

**1:30PM – THE GRAND RAFFLE DRAW**  
**FOLLOWED BY AWARDING THE TREEFEST TROPHY**

**2:30PM – THE HAGBOURNE COMMUNITY CHOIR**

**IN AID OF THE CHURCH  
AND HELEN & DOUGLAS HOUSE**



**Thank You To Our Festival Sponsors**







## Comments from the East Hagbourne Parish Council Chairman

**County and District collaboration in clearing channels of weeds** Just recently we had a very interesting meeting with officers from both county and district, who are both responsible for the edge of the road by the kerb or verge, the area that is now termed the channel, so no longer the gully or gutter! The district is responsible for cleaning including the road sweepers and the county for all other matters. For these officers it was the first time they had discussed their complementary roles. Together they plan on helping the village clean up the channels on Main Road in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way.

At the same meeting, the Fix My Street patrol joined us and confirmed that efforts would be made to get SGN (Southern Gas Network) to replace the historic stone steps at the foot of Bakers Lane. Other good news at this meeting was that the footway repairs by the Fleur should be done soon and that dropped kerbs would be installed in Kingsholm Close at no cost to the Parish Council.

**Footpaths** We really are blessed with a rather large infrastructure of footpaths in the village most of which are used by villagers and visitors on a very regular basis. A map of this path system, based on OpenStreetmap data, <https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright> can be found in the dropbox file:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/5opfkco97samzj8m4g0k4/footpaths.png?rlkey=2znr0ot8lxe2sop1v27lsp6k1&dl=0>

However, this blessing has a downside in terms of maintaining these footpaths. A subgroup of councillors led by Carolyn Shaikh is looking carefully at all the footpaths in this map to identify the main problem areas and to prioritise work on them. One footpath with a high priority is FP4 from Wilcher Close up the side of the allotments to join the Sustrans path. One possibility that the Parish Council is currently investigating is to get this work part funded by a grant so that we can ask OCC to install a completely new path.

**Housing development by the Village Hall** Hopefully by the time you read this, there will be access for anyone through the site onto the railway embankment. The ramp will be immediately accessible, and the steps will also be after handrails have been installed. Many people have asked if Deanfield will make good the damage done to Main Road outside the site. This is in fact a requirement of the planning permission and will be done under an S273 agreement with OCC. Deanfield's current plan is to do this during the school Easter holidays next year.

They are also re-seeding some areas by the embankment and planting a few shrubs to replace those that were removed for the construction of the two accesses. Deanfield have also installed a number of bat boxes and bird boxes (including swift boxes) in the houses.

Half of the 44 houses marketed directly by Deanfield have now either been sold or are reserved. The 30 affordable houses are managed by the Housing Association Fairhive Homes from Aylesbury and allocation will be carried out by SODC. The first residents should be arriving towards the end of January.

**Parish Surgeries** As it is now the season to be jolly, I think the Fleur might just be too lively for a surgery in December and I suspect most people's main thoughts at this time are unlikely to be parish concerns. However, feel free to contact me (iain.duff@easthagbourne.net), the clerk or any other councillor should you have urgent concerns.

**Parish Council meetings** Parish Council meetings are held in the Pavilion on the Recreation Ground. Members of the public are welcome to join the meeting and the agenda is posted on village notice boards and the village web pages at least three clear days before the meeting. The next meeting will be held starting at 7.30pm on Thursday 7th December. Let me remind you that this is not a formal or even approved article from the Parish Council but is rather a few words from me. Thus anything in this article should not be construed as coming from or endorsed by the Parish Council. Iain Duff



**East  
Hagbourne  
Parish  
Council**

NEWSLETTER No.257 – December 2023

**CONTACT DETAILS:**

Parish Clerk, Laura Lloyd

Telephone: 07891 551 851

**Email: [easthagbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:easthagbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com)**



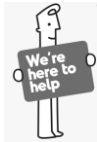
**GRASS CUTTING UPDATE**

Thank you to all who completed the grass-cutting survey and provided comments. It is clear that both village appearance and biodiversity are of importance, and we will work to achieve this in the best way possible. There was a clear preference that our grass-cutting should continue at the basic 2/3-week schedule, with consideration of allowing longer grasses in selected spaces in amenity areas. We are evaluating the information provided by OCC to decide whether to take over some of their responsibilities within the village and also considering the situation along rural roads. The new schedule, when finalised, will be retendered in preparation for the 2024 growing season. We are also focusing our attention on improving the appearance along Main Road and are currently liaising with OCC and SODC.



**CHAIRMAN'S SURGERY – NO SURGERY AT THE FLEUR IN DECEMBER**

Iain Duff will not be holding his surgery in December, please email the clerk with any queries or concerns.



**ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AVAILABLE**

**Winter Warm Spaces** are available at Didcot Library and the Didcot Wave, see further info [here](#) for opening times and other nearby venues.

**Oxfordshire Age UK's online Winter Hub** is accessible [here](#) with advice on Oxfordshire County Council's Resident Support Scheme and other useful guidance

**SOFEA Didcot Community Larder** is open on Thursdays see [here](#) for information

**Didcot Emergency Foodbank** is open on Tuesdays and Fridays, see [here](#) for information

**Cost Of Living Crisis** An SODC page with a range of advice and support can be found [here](#)

**The Community Hub** can assist with isolation and financial help. Details can be found [here](#)

**Hagbourne Charities** – [hagbourne.charities@gmail.com](mailto:hagbourne.charities@gmail.com) or 01235 814024

**East and West Hagbourne Fund** – Contact David Stainthorp on 07711 802887 or email [hagbournevillagefund@gmail.com](mailto:hagbournevillagefund@gmail.com)

**East Hagbourne (Coronavirus) Community Support Group** - [easthagbourncovid19@gmail.com](mailto:easthagbourncovid19@gmail.com) or 07568 395228



**DEFIBRILLATORS:** The village defibrillators are available 24/7 at the following locations:

**Outside the Village Shop** at 114 New Road

**Hagbourne Village Hall** (next to the main entrance)

**Hagbourne Bowls Club** on The Croft (defibrillator is wall mounted outside the gate)

**In an emergency, call 999 – they will give you the access code.**

**USEFUL INFORMATION**



<https://www.fixmystreet.com/> for reporting a wide variety of issues from potholes to fly tipping.



<https://publicrightsofway.oxfordshire.gov.uk/standardmap.aspx> can be used to report an issue with a countryside path or public right of way.



<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/recycling-rubbish-and-waste> for information on waste services and reporting missed bin collections.



Get the **Binzone** app on your mobile to receive notifications of bin services in East Hagbourne



<https://one.network/> for checking roadworks in the area

*Planning applications received since the last newsletter:*

**P23/S3662/HH** 35A Blewbury Road - Proposed ground floor rear extension. Proposed new detached garage.

**The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 7th December 2023 at The Pavilion, Great Mead.**

All Council meetings are open to the public and we welcome your participation.

Agendas and Minutes of previous meetings are published at [www.easthagbourne.net](http://www.easthagbourne.net)

## Local Bus Service 94 and 94A between Didcot, the Hagbournes and Upton via Blewbury, Aston Upthorpe and the Moretons.

Mondays to Fridays (except Public Holidays)														
	94	94A	94	94A	94	94A	94	94A	94A	94	94	94A	94	
Didcot Parkway Railway Station		0735	0840	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1545	1705		1820	1920	
Didcot Orchard Centre		0739	0844	1014	1114	1214	1314	1414	1549	1709		1824	1924	
Didcot Sandringham Road, Saxons Way		▼	0848	1018	1118	1218	1318	1418	1553	1713		1828	1928	
East Hagbourne War Memorial		0745	0851	1021	1121	1221	1321	1421	1556	1716		1831	1931	
Blewbury The Blueberry		▼	0858	▼	1128	▼	1328	▼	▼	1723		▼	1938	
West Hagbourne Moor Lane	0645	0751	▼	1027	▼	1227	▼	1427	1602	▼		1837	▼	
Harwell Campus Becquerel Avenue	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	1740	▼	▼	
Upton Village Hall	0648	0754	0903	0933	1030	1133	1230	1333	1430	1605	1728	1750	1840	1943
Blewbury The Blueberry	0653	0759	▼	0938	1035	1138	1235	1338	1435	1610		1755	1845	1948
Harwell Campus Becquerel Avenue	▼	▼	0915	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼		▼	▼	
Aston Upthorpe The Chequers		0808		1044		1244		1444	1619				1854	▼
South Moreton The Crown		0814		1050		1250		1450	1625				1900	▼
North Moreton Bus Shelter		0818		1054		1254		1454	1629				1904	▼
East Hagbourne War Memorial	0700	▼		0945	▼	1145	▼	1345	▼	▼		1802	▼	1955
Didcot Sandringham Road, Saxons Way	0704	▼		0948	▼	1148	▼	1348	▼	▼		1805	▼	1958
Didcot Orchard Centre	0710	0826		0954	1102	1154	1302	1354	1502	1637		1811	1912	2004
Didcot Parkway Railway Station	0715	0831		0959	1107	1159	1307	1359	1507	1642		1816	1917	2009

Saturdays													
	94A	94	94	94A	94	94A	94	94A	94	94A	94	94A	94
Didcot Parkway Railway Station	0735		0910	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1510	1610	1710	1810	1910
Didcot Orchard Centre	0739		0914	1014	1114	1214	1314	1414	1514	1614	1714	1814	1914
Didcot Sandringham Road	▼		0918	1018	1118	1218	1318	1418	1518	1618	1718	1818	1918
East Hagbourne War Memorial	0745		0921	1021	1121	1221	1321	1421	1521	1621	1721	1821	1921
Blewbury The Blueberry	▼		0928	▼	1128	▼	1328	▼	1528	▼	1728	▼	1928
West Hagbourne Moor Lane	0751	▼		1027	▼	1227	▼	1427	▼	1627	▼		1827
Upton Village Hall	0754		0933	1030	1133	1230	1333	1430	1533	1630	1733	1830	1933
Blewbury The Blueberry	0759		0938	1035	1138	1235	1338	1435	1538	1635	1738	1835	1938
Aston Upthorpe The Chequers	0808			1044		1244		1444		1644		1844	▼
South Moreton The Crown	0814			1050		1250		1450		1650		1850	▼
North Moreton Bus Shelter	0818			1054		1254		1454		1654		1854	▼
East Hagbourne War Memorial	▼	0845	0945	▼	1145	▼	1345	▼	1545	▼	1745	▼	1945
Didcot Sandringham Road	▼	0849	0948	▼	1148	▼	1348	▼	1548	▼	1748	▼	1948
Didcot Orchard Centre	0826	0855	0954	1102	1154	1302	1354	1502	1554	1702	1754	1902	1954
Didcot Parkway Railway Station	0831	0900	0959	1107	1159	1307	1359	1507	1559	1707	1759	1907	1959

No service on Sundays or Public Holidays

### Thames Travel bus service to the JR Hospital from Didcot – X32

This X32 service starts at Cockcroft Road, Didcot, which might be a convenient point for some people to catch it - still every half hour. It then goes to GWP and down Wantage Road, past the Hospital, to the Orchard Centre, Station, and on to Oxford and JR.

**The service from Didcot to Wantage is now the X35 and we also have a service to Newbury, the X34. These all start from the Orchard Centre in Didcot.**

To look up timetables for all these services please visit:

[www.oxfordbus.co.uk](http://www.oxfordbus.co.uk)

We will also put some printed timetables in the Community Shop.

**Didcot and District U3A** The Christmas Lunch at **2.30pm, 19th December** at Didcot Civic Hall is a member only ticket event followed by Ian Keable's Magic Show. Our first meeting in the New Year is on **16th January** with a talk **The Joys and Perils of being an Author** with speaker Colin Wade. U3a Thames Valley network offer a wide range of talks, study days and quizzes. **Visit the website to discover more and join in:**

[www.u3asites.org/didcot](http://www.u3asites.org/didcot)



## **JANUARY 2024 PARISH MAGAZINE**

Please let us have copy for the January 2024 parish magazine by  
**Monday, 18th December to magtemp5@gmail.com**  
Thank you, the parish magazine committee.

### **Brass Band**

**BLEWBURY BRASS BAND** Rehearsals are held in the Band Room, Bohams Road, Blewbury, 7.30 – 9.30pm every Wednesday. All ages/levels welcome. Instruments supplied. Very friendly group. **Band Room available for Hire** £8 per hour (min.2hrs). Large practice room. Toilet but no kitchen or storage facilities. Suit pop groups, theatrical rehearsals, group meetings, etc. **Enquiries - secretary@blewburybrassband.org**

### **Builders and House Maintenance**

**D. BARTLETT BUILDING SERVICES** Customer driven and friendly local builder for all your general building needs from kitchens, bathrooms and plastering to extensions and loft conversions. Please contact David Bartlett on **07816 413166**  
**David.bartlett23@hotmail.co.uk**

**MR HANDY SERVICES and G.F.S fencing** All timber fencing and decking, especially close boarded, sheds, garden maintenance. Hedge and grass cutting. Property maintenance to painting and decorating. For all the jobs that you do not get around to doing.  
**Les Giles, Tel: 07879 451301 les.giles@yahoo.co.uk**

**BRIAN WINDSOR Carpentry, repairs and general maintenance**  
30 years in the trade, jobs carried out in a tidy and efficient manner. £25 per hour.  
**Phone: 07749 197172**

### **Carpet Cleaning**

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### **Catering**

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**www.computertutorabingdon.co.uk**

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**Tel: 01235 850000 Mobile: 07788 713966**

**Email: post@connect-installations.co.uk www.connect-installations.co.uk**

**HES ELECTRICAL SERVICES** Friendly family run business based in East Hagbourne. Domestic and commercial electricians. All aspects of electrical installations carried out to NICEIC standards. NICEIC and Trust a Trader registered. City & Guilds qualified. Heating control specialist • Full and part rewires • Security lighting • Test certificates Extra sockets and lights • Garden installations • New build and extensions.

For a free quote or visual inspection please call: **07973 891663 or 01235 814332**

**PIPES & WIRES ELECTRICIAN** East Hagbourne based • Very reasonable rates Trading standards approved • Part "P" building regulations • Meticulous & reliable CRB checked • Free no obligation advice • 5-star Which magazine rating • We do plumbing too. **Pete Wood (M.I.E.E.) Email: pete@pipesandwires.co.uk**

**Mobile: 07799 661188 Landline: 01235 817239 www.pipesandwires.co.uk**

## Estate Agents

**THOMAS MERRIFIELD Sales and Lettings** Your local independent Estate Agents. If you are thinking of selling, would like a free market appraisal or expert advice then please contact us: **01235 813777**

**www.thomasmerrifield.co.uk didcot@thomasmerrifield.co.uk**

## Foot Health

**FOOT CARE Mobile foot clinic for Hagbourne and the surrounding area.**

Treatment provided in your own home for: Routine foot and nail care. Toenail trimming. Corn and callous removal. Diabetic foot care.

Please contact: Jill Allen DipFH MCFHP MAFHP Foot Health Practitioner

**01235 815917 or 07767 763441**

## Family Farm Shop, Garden Centre, Florist, Gift & Animal Feed

**SAVAGES Family Farm Shop, Garden Centre, Florist, Gift & Animal Feed.** Fresh quality fruit and vegetables and foods, including dairy, meat, bakery items and more, as well as home grown plants, pots, compost, flowers, giftware, greeting cards, balloons and wild bird and animal food and accessories. Retail and wholesale services available.

The Nurseries, London Road, Blewbury, OX11 9HB Established 1960.

**Tel: 01235 850352 shop@savagesblewbury.co.uk www.savagesblewbury.co.uk**

## Garages

### **S. K. PASSEY – HAGBOURNE GARAGE 114 New Road, East Hagbourne.**

MOT testing. Servicing – all types of vehicles and light commercial. Cut price tyres, exhausts and batteries. Diagnostic equipment. Body repairs and welding. Recovery. Free Collection and Delivery Service. Free Courtesy Cars available. **Register on-line for our free MOT and Servicing reminder at [www.hagbournegarage.com](http://www.hagbournegarage.com)**

**Tel: 01235 812263 or 07979 9822263**

### **REX GARAGE Vicarage Road, Didcot, OX11 8EL**

Winners of the Didcot Business and Community Award for Customer Service.

Servicing. Repairs. MOTs. Diagnostics. Tyres. Batteries. Air-conditioning. Exhausts.

**Town centre location. Tel: 01235 813227 [www.rexgarage.co.uk](http://www.rexgarage.co.uk)**

### **SCOTLAND'S ASH GARAGE Main Street, West Hagbourne, Didcot, OX11 0NA**

MOT testing from 6am by appointment. Servicing all types of vehicles including vans and new vehicles under warranty. Air-conditioning specialists. Tyres, exhausts and clutches. Selection of free courtesy cars. Recovery service available. Diagnostic fault finding and rectification for any make of car. We are now the Oxfordshire taxi compliance testing station.

**We are now offering the Terraclean Service – call for details. Huge saving on tyres.**

**Tel: 01235 850707 [www.scotlandsashgarage.co.uk](http://www.scotlandsashgarage.co.uk)**

## Garden Maintenance and Design

**ANDY'S GARDEN MAINTENANCE** All aspects covered including: Patios, Fencing, Hedging, Grass Cutting and Weeding.

Please contact: **Telephone 01235 819120 Mobile 07521 031773**

### **BLOOMS AND BRICKS Gardens, hedges and lawns, crafted with care.**

Plant care (Horticulture) • Tree and plant pruning • Weeding • Turf management • Hedge trimming • Planting design and advice • Small landscaping projects • Your local, friendly garden girl. Member of the 'Women's Farm & Gardening Association' Practical Horticulture, RHS qualified. Call Baz Manning on: **07821 353439 [bloomsandbricks@gmail.com](mailto:bloomsandbricks@gmail.com)**

### **J. DREWE LANDSCAPING & MAINTENANCE LTD** Members of The Association

of Professional Landscapers we are renowned for projects ranging from luxury domestic gardens to the maintenance of large public spaces. Fully insured and offering a wide range of garden services from mowing residential lawns to commercial landscaping contracts.

Please contact: **01235 412567 Mobile: 07900 987407 [info@jdrawelandscaping.co.uk](mailto:info@jdrawelandscaping.co.uk)**

### **VAL AND JOLA MIGALA For all your home, garden care & maintenance needs**

Val is an experienced carpenter and can also do painting and decorating, tiling, plumbing, floor laying, plastering, pressure washing and gardening. Jola loves to clean and will do your laundry and ironing and can look after your house while you are away. Competitive rates.

Refences available. Please call **01235 797859 or 07843 085157**

## Garden Machinery

### **MILTON GARDEN MACHINERY LTD Winter servicing, collection and delivery**

**service available** – please call or email for a quotation. We repair all types of petrol driven machinery. Main dealers for Alko, Atco, Briggs Stratton, Countax, Cub Cadet, Echo, Efco, Hayter, Lawnflite, Mitox, MTD, Murray, Simplicity, Snapper, Toro, Westwood and Wheelhorse. We repair Stihl and Honda machines too. Established for over 30 years.

Windyridge Farm, Milton Road, Abingdon OX14 4EZ

**Tel: 01235 555115 Email: [paul@miltongardenmachinery.co.uk](mailto:paul@miltongardenmachinery.co.uk)**

## General Plumbing

### **TAPS AND TOILETS For all your small general plumbing jobs!**

Taps • Toilet repair • Leaks • Sink installations • Toilet installations • Washer changes  
• Overflow Issues • Washing/Dishwashing machine installs • Outside Taps • Pumps  
• Showers • Stop Cocks • NO HEATING/BOILERS • Emergencies •

**Tel: 07526 304050 [www.taps-toilets.co.uk](http://www.taps-toilets.co.uk)**

## Hairdressing

### **My name is Katie, and I am a hair stylist with 20 years' experience**

specialising in hair cutting and styling only. I am salon AND mobile based covering Didcot, Wallingford, and surrounding areas. For an appointment, please call/text me on

**07730400595 or email [kjmobilehair86@gmail.com](mailto:kjmobilehair86@gmail.com)**

## Heating Services

### **STUART CORRIGAN HEATING SERVICES Central Heating Installations**

Servicing and Repairs of Gas Appliances • Emergency Plumbing Repairs. Gas Safe Register.

Please contact: **01235 417198 or 07711 022410**

## Language Tuition

### **FRENCH BEANIES, East Hagbourne French Beanies is a language learning**

**After School Club for primary school children based in East Hagbourne.** Have lots of fun, meet new friends, enjoy games, chat, singing, role play, arts, crafts, French foodie treats and much more. All in small groups of max 6 children. Established 10+ years.

*First lesson is free* – come and join the French fun! Contact Sarah Wright for more info:

**[sarah@frenchbeanies.co.uk](mailto:sarah@frenchbeanies.co.uk) [www.frenchbeanies.co.uk](http://www.frenchbeanies.co.uk)**

## Mental Health Concerns?

**I AM DONNA, a Senior Mental Health Nurse Practitioner** offering a range of bespoke mental health services designed to help improve your mental health and overall well-being. My consultations are held either on Zoom or at clinics at West Hagbourne or Headington, whichever you prefer. **If you have any mental health concerns, call me on 07541 556039 or visit [mentalhealthrelease.com](http://mentalhealthrelease.com).**

## Osteopathy

**OSTEOPATHY BY CORINNE** Professional Osteopath, Corinne McLardy-Smith, based in Didcot, has been working for the past 10 years treating all ranges of patients from sports enthusiasts to the elderly. Currently based at 174 The Broadway, Didcot OX11 8RN Corinne offers osteopathy treatments for a wide range of medical conditions from sporting injuries, headaches and occupational related injuries to general aches and pains.

**Phone: 07519 868817 email: [osteopathybycorrine@gmail.com](mailto:osteopathybycorrine@gmail.com)**

**[www.osteopathybycorrine.co.uk](http://www.osteopathybycorrine.co.uk)**

## Painter and Decorating

**GARY CUDDON** Local Fully Qualified Painter and Decorator providing a high-quality service. Free quotations. Fully insured.

**Mobile: 07827752904 Tel: 01235 510680 Email: [garycuddon@aol.com](mailto:garycuddon@aol.com)**



## **Pilates Classes and 1-1s**

**PRINCIPAL PILATES** Pilates classes and 1-1 sessions both online and in person in East Hagbourne and Milton. Please contact Caroline Hunt: [carolinehunt@btinternet.com](mailto:carolinehunt@btinternet.com) 07758 814578 [www.principalpilates.com](http://www.principalpilates.com)

## **Public Houses**

**THE FLEUR DE LYS** East Hagbourne – A warm welcome awaits you.

We are open: Tuesday 3pm – 11pm. Wednesday & Thursday 11.30am – 2.30pm and 6pm – 9pm, Friday & Saturday 11.30pm – 11pm, Sunday 12noon – 10pm. Monday closed.  
**Food served:** Tuesday 6pm – 9pm, Wednesday – Saturday 12noon to 2pm & 6pm – 9pm Sunday 12noon – 3pm. Your hosts Darren, Ruth & Floyd. Pub of the Year 2017, 2019 & 2021  
**Tel: 01235 813247 Email: [info@thefleurdelyspub.co.uk](mailto:info@thefleurdelyspub.co.uk)**

## **Secretarial Services**

**PAULINE'S PERSONNEL** Secretarial and employment agency.

All grades permanent and temporary office staff provided. Confidential correspondence typing service: theses, reports, manuscripts etc. Tapes transcribed. Fax (from £1 per page). Photocopying service. Word processing. Wages, VAT and general book-keeping. Mail shots.  
**Tel: 01235 812067 Fax: 01235 811480**

## **Soft Furnishings and Upholstery**

**GRIFFIN INTERIORS** Soft furnishing solutions. Interiors and soft furnishings workroom located in Appleford making quality handmade curtains, pelmets, blinds, cushions, alterations. Headboards, loose-covers and upholstery. Poles, tracks and fitting service. Design studio with extensive library of fabrics and trimmings. Fabrics and curtain making materials available for home curtain makers. 20 years' experience. Off street parking. Flexible opening hours. **Tel: 01235 847135/07808 762626**  
**[www.griffininteriorsoxford.com](http://www.griffininteriorsoxford.com)**

**SWALLOWS & OTTOMANS UPHOLSTERY** East Hagbourne. A bespoke upholstery service restoring cherished furniture to its former glory. All aspects of upholstery covered: antique or contemporary furniture, simple recover to complete reconstruction using traditional horsehair or modern techniques. Loose covers and cushion making service. Contact me for a free estimate of the work and costs involved.

**Natalie Wratten AMUSF qualified 07769 976967**  
**[swallowsandottomans@gmail.com](mailto:swallowsandottomans@gmail.com) [www.swallowsandottomans.weebly.com](http://www.swallowsandottomans.weebly.com)**

## **Tree Felling and Landscaping**

**ARBOCARE Tree Surgery and Landscaping.** Cert Arb RFS (Distinction) National Trust Approved Arborist • Established 20 years • Tree surgery and landscaping • Grass and hedge cutting • Fencing • 24 Hour emergency service. Please contact:  
**Freephone: 0808 1555815 Mobile: 07778 811136 [www.arbocare.co.uk](http://www.arbocare.co.uk)**

## **Vets**

**LARKMEAD VETS** Caring for pets, horses and farm animals across Oxfordshire.

**Didcot, Great Western Park & Sutton Courtenay: 01235 814991**

**Cholsey & Benson: 01491 651379 [www.larkmead.co.uk](http://www.larkmead.co.uk)**