

Winter 2016/17

Issue 168

Dear to all Readers

2017

The Courier



Uffington Parish Council

THE COURIER

Produced by J.F.N.Packford

No. 168

Published quarterly

Winter 2016/17

Copy date for Winter Issue Saturday March 25th 2017
(to Jem Packford, Lower Woolstone. Tel: Uffington 820631 or
e-mail jem_packford@lineone.net)

UFFINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Simon Jenkins (Chair)

The Council

Uffington Parish Council has six councillors. They serve four year terms, with elections next due in 2019. The composition of the Parish Council is:

Mr Simon Jenkins (Chair)	Tel. 01367 820776
Mr Graham Banks (Vice Chair)	Tel. 01367 820379
Mrs Fenella Oberman	Tel. 01367 820230
Mrs Karen Pilcher	Tel. 01367 820978
Mr Mike Oldnall	Tel: 01367 820369
Dr Paul Coad	Tel: 01367 820428
Clerk	
Mrs Julia Evans	Tel: 01235 833466

Councillors may be contacted on the above telephone numbers or by e-mail to: parishcouncil@uffington.net

The Council meets on the second Monday of the month in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, at 7.30pm. All residents are welcome to attend these meetings and raise any issues; we will make it easy for you by having an 'open forum' session early in the meeting. The agenda is published on the Parish Council website and notice board at least three clear days before the meeting.

2016 Vale of the White Horse Community Awards

The Chairman of Vale of the White Horse District Council, Councillor Mike Badcock, hosted the 2016 Vale of the White Horse Community Awards lunch on Saturday 26 November. Parishioners will wish to be aware that two Uffington residents, John Hatcher and Neil Wells, were both recipients of the 2016 awards - John because of his valuable service in managing the UBW Community bus, particularly in the period leading up to and after the loss of the 67 bus, and Neil for his work in persuading the Vale District Council to refuse the planning application for a new housing development to the south of Fawler Road, and in resisting the subsequent appeal by the developers.

The Parish Council would like to offer congratulations and thanks to John and Neil, notwithstanding that both of them would prefer 'no fuss'. These things

happen because volunteers make them happen; they are not services provided by the District Council or any other public sector organisation, and therefore public recognition and appreciation are important.

School warning lights

The school warning lights were replaced in November 2016, delivering a great improvement in driver awareness around the school at critical times. This has been made possible by a number of very generous contributions, as follows: White Horse Show Trust - £1,100, Euro Fine Foods Ltd - £1,000, Baulking Concert Fund - £400, Uffington Parish Council - £200.

The School and the Parish Council are extremely grateful for these contributions and such generous community support. The warning lights and advisory 20 mph speed limit will make a great improvement to road safety in Uffington, as requested in the Community-Led Plan.

Parking on Broad Street by the School

Please do NOT park, for however short a period of time, on the yellow zig zag lines outside the School; they are there for an important purpose - which is to make it possible for children to enter and leave the playground safely. It is a parking offence to park on these lines and you may be liable for penalties. Please also do NOT park beside the gate to the Church and from there through the bend and back towards the Museum. Parking in this area is dangerous as it obstructs the view of the road ahead to traffic coming from the Woolstone and Fernham direction. There is a white line on the road to indicate this.

Crocus planting

A small team planted 2,200 crocus corms in the shape of the White Horse, on Monday 14 November on the Jubilee Field, in the area of the village sign. How has this come about?

In 1985 polio was endemic in 125 countries round the world. In that year ROTARY INTERNATIONAL pledged their worldwide efforts towards eradicating this fatal infectious disease. This year there are just TWO countries that remain on the endemic list.

Polio most often affects children under the age of five. Since 1985 Rotary has helped immunise 2.5 billion children globally, at a cost of 20p each. Every £1 raised by Rotary towards this project is improved by £2 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The year 2017 sees the centenary of the Rotary Foundation - the international charity wing of the Rotary movement. The hope is complete eradication of the disease - which if achieved would make it only the second such worldwide disease to be conquered.

The Rotary Club of Faringdon & District has been part of the campaign for quite a few of the 31 years. To celebrate 2017 the Club has donated 20,000 crocus corms (bulbs) to Faringdon town and villages within its District. With thanks to Douglas Dalrymple for organising the gift to Uffington, we wait to see what they look like in the spring.

A photograph of the team heads, down and hard at work at the planting, (Karen Pilcher, Julie Rumble and Messrs Church, Keene, Rumble and Dalrymple) is here:



The Jubilee Field Spring Tidy 2017 - Save the Date

The next Tidy up of the Jubilee Field will take place on Saturday and Sunday 18/19 March. Please assemble at the THMH car park at 10.00 on Saturday 18 March, equipped with gardening tools. We hope to include a Litter Blitz to clear the verges and ditches.

The Parish Council would like to thank all those who turned out for the Autumn Tidy on 29/30 October.

Every day sees more cans, bottles and burger boxes thrown onto verges by passing vehicles. It is beyond our powers to change this culture, but it helps enormously if you collect a bag full when you walk around the village.

Community-Led Plan

The Parish Council is continuing to work on the Actions which come out of the Community-Led Plan. The progress report is updated from time to time and placed on the website. The most recent one is dated December 2016.

Vale of White Horse District Council Local Plan 2031

The Vale's Local Plan Part 1 was approved by the District Council on 14 December 2016. Now the plan has been approved, the district's five year land supply is secure and major development should only happen in areas identified

in the Local Plan. The VOWHDC will now use the Local Plan (Part 1) to determine planning applications throughout the district. This means it will have much greater control over what developments are allowed to be built, ensuring communities only see new developments that accord with the Local Plan. The Council is now working on Local Plan Part 2. (smaller sites) and it is intended that a draft will be released for consultation in February 2017.

Uffington and Baulking Neighbourhood Plan

From Rob Hart, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group:

You may recall that the Neighbourhood Plan process involves a number of stages before the plan can be drafted and put to the District Council for inspection and subsequently to the villages for referendum. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has been working hard to make progress through this process and had got about half way through when two events came to pass, which have cumulatively caused about 6 months of delay in delivery of the plan. Firstly, there have been a number of legal challenges against completed plans and as a result the District Council has made the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) process more robust. This has meant that, while the work done beforehand remains valid, the Group has had to go back and revisit some of the work it had completed and to undertake more detailed building of evidence, to ensure the final plan is better able to stand scrutiny or legal challenge. Ultimately, this will be in the best interests of the villages, but it does mean some delay while that extra work is being done.

Secondly, the Chair of the Woolstone Parish Meeting decided Woolstone should reconsider whether it wished to remain part of the NP. Both Baulking and Woolstone subsequently internally reviewed their positions and the outcome was that Baulking remains part of the NP and Woolstone has decided to leave. This has meant the Group have had to re-designate the land area the NP will cover with the District Council, and revise its project delivery plan. This is all done now, the gathering of additional evidence is in progress and the area re-designation is expected to be complete by February.

As part of the additional evidence gathering, all households in Uffington and Baulking will shortly receive a Housing Needs Assessment Questionnaire, and the Group encourages you very strongly to engage with this. The end result will influence how much and what character of development Uffington and Baulking may need to absorb, and will form the baseline for what the NP will need to allocate in terms of potential sites. Once this is complete, with your support, the Group will consult on the outcome.

The Group will then move forward to allocate sites from the call for sites submissions last summer and may, subject to District Council guidance, need to conduct sustainability and environmental impact assessments against them. Combining this with the ongoing policy development, the Group hopes to have a draft plan together in late spring to consult you on again and then start the inspection and referendum process over the summer. Having a strong plan in place, which balances necessary development against character and sustainability, will be the best defence the villages can put in place against opportunist developers seeking to impose housing in areas the villagers don't

want, for example in areas that affect key views into and out of the villages. The Group is committed to keeping you informed and will continue to communicate via email, the web sites and the Courier, in addition to holding another community consultation event in the near future, once the Housing Needs Assessment is complete. The Group thanks you in advance for your support with this work and looks forward to seeing you at the next event.

Comments and questions are always welcome via the NP web site, www.ubwnp.net

Remember - please complete your Housing Needs Assessment Questionnaire!

Major Planning Matters in the Village

Since the last edition of the Courier, there is the following to report:

Jack's Lea. Work continues on the development of 36 houses on the Station Road site. As at early December, the developers reported that 10 units have either been completed or reserved, and that they are on target for construction to be complete by the end of 2016. The number of occupied homes is very important as it triggers the release of S106 funding to the village, and to the parish, district and county councils as detailed below.

Fawler Road / Station Road. A planning application for access only to a new residential development on land at Fawler Road and Station Road Uffington for up to 44 new dwellings was submitted to the Vale District Council shortly before Christmas under reference P16/V3185/O. It will include up to 15 (35%) affordable units and associated infrastructure. The Parish Council will be reviewing the application in January.

New houses in Uffington. The Parish Council has raised objections on various grounds to the following:

1. A new house on land adjacent to the Manor
2. A new house and garage/office at Creslu, on the Woolstone Road
3. Three new houses on the Woolstone Road
4. A new house in the garden of Packers Forge.

In all the above cases, further information is awaited from the District Council.

Construction of a new house at Craven Yard, Fernham Road, was halted in November 2016 by the District Council pending submission of a new planning application.

Jack's Lea Development Site - Section 106 contributions

As part of the planning approval for the development of Jack's Lea, certain sums of money were required to be paid to the parish, district and county councils as contributions towards the additional infrastructure and facilities required to support additional residents. These facilities may be located within Uffington parish (e.g. Public Art) or further afield if shared (e.g. Secondary Schools or Swimming Pools). Some of these are described below.

Public Art Contribution. We are working with the Vale District Council and the artist who has been appointed to this project - Tom Hills of Greenspace Designs Ltd - with an initial budget of £12,600 from the Jack's Lea S106 agreement. The public art contribution has to be used to finance a unique work/s of art for the village, to be sited in a central location.

Our brief for Tom Hills is a project in two phases. Phase 1 will celebrate the culture and history of Uffington with a central information board or feature in the area of the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall/Shop, and 12 - 15 artistic marker posts, each with a replaceable information panel referencing various themes. The posts will be placed on key sites in and around the village, including on footpaths, with a new trail map and leaflet. Phase 2 (which may need further funding) will comprise a small number of Wi-Fi points, located in the village or in remote rural sites, with the ability to upload information to anybody with a smart phone. The Wi-Fi points can be solar or mains powered; they will allow visitors to explore and learn about the culture and history of the village and surrounding areas, and to provide feedback. This is quite a new concept and will bring Uffington firmly into the 21st century!

The project team will be wishing to consult early in 2017 with the various communities in the village, to discuss what information should be included on the central information board and on the marker posts. Watch out for further information, or if you would like to be included in the forthcoming public consultation, please let Karen Pilcher know, at: karen.pilcher@btinternet.com

Other Contributions. There are also contributions to the Parish Council and a number of sporting organizations in the village or locally, including: the Clubhouse at the Sports Club, tennis, cricket, and football. Some of these have been paid by the developers and are held by the Vale District Council and others will be paid when more than 12 open market houses have been occupied.

Parish Council Contribution. We have received a number of expressions of interest and requests for assistance with projects in the village from the CLP questionnaire, the Parish Annual Assembly meeting and from individuals and organizations. These currently include Hall improvements from the Management Committee of the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, for essential building repairs from the Tom Brown's School Museum, for improvements to the younger children's play area, for more seating and picnic tables around the village and for tree planting around the Jubilee Field. The procedure for bidding for grants is contained in a revised version of the Parish Council's Grants and Donations policy which will shortly be available on the village website. Any queries or suggestions for other projects should be directed to the Parish Council.

Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGA) Contribution. The CLP contained the following request: 'Parish Council to consider suggested changes and additions to play area focussing specifically on provision of more adventurous equipment for older children, ensuring a robust maintenance plan is in place. Also to

consider provision of football goals at the Jubilee Field'. As those who have been to the Jubilee Field in recent weeks will be aware, two MUGA have been installed. They were funded from the following sources: The MUGA contribution in the S106 agreement, a grant from the Vale District Council and a grant from the White Horse Show Trust. The Parish Council is very grateful to all of these. The MUGA look like this:



Communications

Village Web site. The village website will be found at <http://www.uffington.net/> It is in the ownership of the Parish Council, which pays the hosting and support charges on behalf of the village. Requests for additions and changes should be made to the Clerk, Julia Evans, at uffingtonpc.clerk@gmail.com or through the website.

E-mail notices. We have set up an e-mail distribution list which is used to publish notices of general interest to residents of Uffington, the villages of Woolstone and Baulking, and others further afield, as and when they occur. If you would like to join it, please call 01367 820776 or send an e-mail with your own details to sjmjenkins@gmail.com For data protection reasons, individual e-mail addresses are not disclosed.

Roadside hedges and ditches

It is the owner's responsibility to ensure that pavements and sight lines are not obscured by the growth of vegetation; there are a few houses where hedges and plants have grown out over the pavement or road to a considerable extent.

If the pavement or road is obscured by your hedge and it is held to have caused /contributed to an accident, you may be held liable. Please cut it back to the indicated edge of the road - this is usually clear but if you are unsure please contact the Parish Council.

The Parish Council would like to thank the small group of residents who volunteered to assist with maintenance work around the village, in areas which are the responsibility of the Parish Council; much essential work has been done. If you would like to join this group, please get in touch with the Parish Council. As winter approaches, it is essential that the ditches around the village run freely. If you need some assistance in clearing ditches which are your responsibility of vegetation, please contact the Parish Council at uffingtonpc.clerk@gmail.com

The Allotments

There are some spare plots at the Uffington allotments; the cost is currently £40 per year. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Council at uffingtonpc.clerk@gmail.com

BT Broadband and Phone problems in the village

An update on the problems highlighted in the last Courier has been provided, as follows:

Open Reach have attended and resolved the issues for everyone who responded to Steve Ikin's original message and the fault ticket has been closed. There is an issue in the telephone exchange and there will be a permanent solution implemented by Open Reach in the near future but hopefully this will be transparent to users.

NOTICES

Drainage

Please remember that it is vital that any blockages or overflows in the foul drainage system are reported immediately to Thames Water. It is only if there is a documented history of problems that they may have to take action in the future. The 24/7 emergency number is 0800 316 9800.

You should be aware that Thames Water distinguish between 'operational flooding', and 'hydraulic flooding'. Operational flooding is caused by sewer collapses, equipment failure and blockages (e.g., clothing, sanitary items, wet wipes and cooking fat - DON'T FLUSH ANY OF THESE. Hydraulic flooding is caused by insufficient capacity under normal operation and Thames Water believes that Uffington does not suffer from this type of flooding.

Do you need help in a power outage? From Helen Vass, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks

I am approaching all parishes in the Oxfordshire area to try to ascertain the level of people within the parish that may require a little extra help or assistance should it suffer a power outage in the forthcoming winter months. My role within Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks is to highlight those people within the parish that would need assistance and ask them if they would like to be

registered with us so we can come out and ensure they are looked after during a sustained outage. It is a free service, and any information provided is strictly confidential.

I work closely with the Council and we together have registered in excess of 700 people in the last 12 months within Oxfordshire but we are aware there are many more vulnerable people that are not registered. Those people we have registered will now be highlighted to myself and my team should there be a power outage affecting them. We will go out and visit them and depending on their needs provide assistance from generating their house to offering hot meals, drinks and reassurance. In addition our Emergency Service Centre will call them during the outage, checking they are ok and giving them updates on the estimated time of power restoration.

Copies of leaflets advertising this service will be available in the Shop and Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall. Registration is quick and simple to do. It can be done online, on the phone or the form can be returned freepost. If you have any questions or queries relating to our Priority Service Register please do not hesitate to ask. I look forward to hearing from you.

Helen Vass

Customer & Community Advisor - Ridgeway, 1 Woodstock Road, Yarnton, Oxford, OX5 1NY

01865 845800

07876 837305

helen.vass@sse.com

www.ssen.co.uk

Message in a bottle



If you live alone it's important that your contact and medical details are easy to find in the event of an emergency.

To help out, Oxfordshire County Council are giving away a free green bottle for you to store important information, such as personal details, emergency contact details, doctors details, medications and allergies. These bottles are provided by Lions Club International.

If the emergency services are called to your home they will look for the green cross symbol on the back of your front door and will then know to look in the fridge for the information in the green bottle.

To get hold of free green bottles for your community group or parish please contact 01865 323765 or email emergencyplanning@oxfordshire.gov.uk or contact the Parish Council.

More information can be found at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/emergency-planning.

From Thames Valley Police

Please don't leave your car unattended and running on frosty mornings. Nobody likes cold morning starts. The tempting option of starting the car, setting the blowers to max and leaving it to idle until the windows have cleared, sounds more attractive than hacking at ice-covered windows with a scraper.

One UK Insurance company has claimed that motorists waste nearly £50m of

fuel each winter by leaving their cars to idle and warm up while they defrost the windows. And it appears lots of us are doing it. A survey carried out by one insurance group found 4 in 10 respondents said they leave their cars to idle, unattended.

However from a policing point of view, there is a risk that your car may be stolen by criminals who target cars, left running with keys in the ignition, on frosty mornings. The insurance companies also point out that your insurance may be invalid, through negligence, if you leave your car running with the keys in the ignition and it is stolen. The financial impact may therefore be significant. With the recent drop in temperatures, we have already taken reports of this kind of theft in the area. Please don't take the risk; spend a few pence on an ice scraper or a canister of de-icer to ensure your windows are clear before you start your journey.

Winter road safety advice is available on the Thames Valley Police website

GO Active Gold

GO Active Gold is a 3 year project that aims to increase the health and well-being of people ages 60+ living in rural areas through fun, friendly, affordable physical activities. There will be a Taster event in Uffington Village Hall on Monday 20 February 2017. To book please contact Luke Horton whose contact details are on his advertisement.

FREE taster event for the over 60's
Uffington Village Hall
Monday
20 February 2017
Bringing fun, friendly
and
affordable activities to
Uffington



10.00 am - 12.00 noon
Learn about the project, tell us about the activities you would like, meet the team, and trial an activity!

Booking essential:
Luke Horton 07717 346 351
luke.horton@southandvale.gov.uk




* * * * *

TOM BROWN'S SCHOOL MUSEUM

Karen Pilcher (Curator)

As we welcome in the new year, the museum will be celebrating 400 years of schooling and education in Uffington. The original schoolroom was founded in 1617 by Thomas Saunders as a school for, '12 worthy boys' and this year's exhibition will recognise this major milestone. We will be working in partnership with the primary school and the Thomas Saunders Trust and if anyone would like to be involved then please give me a ring on 01367 820978

* * * * *

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

USEFUL NUMBERS

PCSO Maralyn Pack (Mobile - when on duty)	-	07779 586392
E mail - Maralyn.Pack@thames valley.pnn.police.uk		
Thames Valley Police Non Emergency	-	101
Emergency	-	999

* * * * *

AFTERNOON CLUB

Ann Smith

We would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy 2017.

At our October meeting we were entertained by Mr Peter Pierce singing and playing his guitar, a very enjoyable afternoon.

In November we had Christmas lunch cooked and served in the village hall by Coleshill Catering, after having an hour power cut.

December the younger children from Uffington school came and sang carols and played hand bells, they were wonderful and enjoyed by all. We would like to thank children, teachers and helpers. We welcome new head mistress Mrs Lisa Bradbury and bid farewell to Mrs Float who has been with the children when they came to us for the past 19 years.

We meet 2nd Thursday of the month at 2pm in the village hall. If you would like to join us you are sure of a warm welcome.

* * * * *

UFFINGTON BAULKING AND WOOLSTONE MINIBUS ASSOCIATION

Our community minibus, which seats 16 people plus a driver, exists for use by all within our villages and the surrounding area, for not for profit social and recreational activities. A team of volunteer drivers operates regular shopping trips, and the minibus may be reserved by local groups and individual members of the community for their own purposes.

It is necessary to join the UBW Minibus Association in order to use the minibus. Membership is available to all, and there is no charge to join.

The shopping trips are to Faringdon and Wantage every Tuesday and Friday respectively, and to Swindon on the first Thursday of the month. We leave Patricks Orchard, Uffington at 9.30, picking up and setting down members where convenient for them.

The Association is not run for profit, but there is a modest fare for the shopping trips, and a fee for private bookings, to cover costs. Bus Passes may be used for the shopping trips.

The Association always welcomes new volunteers to join the driver pool or assist with administration. A full car licence is required to drive, and training is provided.

Please call John Hatcher (01367 820417) for further information.

* * * * *

Please do come along and join the White Horse Garden Club in 2017. There is an exciting programme (see below) with some 'star' speakers. Membership is £10 per annum. Visitors £2.50 per meeting. Raffle £1. Venue: Thomas Hughes Memorial (large) Hall, Uffington SN7 7RA

2017 PROGRAMME

Thursday 2nd February - Plant Signatures. An exploration of the old Doctrine of Signatures whereby plants indicate by their appearance, habitat, taste and smell, what they can be used for and who can benefit from them. A talk by Davina Wynne-Jones of Barnsley House Herb Garden. <http://www.herbsforhealing.net>.

FRIDAY 17th February. SNOWDROPS. Visit John Sales' garden, Covertside, Perrott Brook, Cirencester GL7 7BW. Max.30 (12 cars). £10 inc. refreshments.

Thursday 2nd March - 'Changing planting styles' by Mary Keen, Garden Designer and Columnist. Visitors £3. <http://www.keengardener.com>

Thursday 6th April - 'Summer Container planting': ideas for problem areas. Tips to make your hot spots, shady areas, windy corners and eyesores a little more enticing this year. A talk/demonstration by Harriet Rycroft.

SATURDAY 13th MAY. 2.30 - 4.00 pm. Plant Sale Please bring plants for sale. Please support our main fund raising event, and bring your friends. Label and price each plant. If you wish to sell your plants on a 50:50 basis please add an extra label to each one with your name and the cost.

Thursday 18th May - Visit to Mary Keen's garden at The Old Rectory, Duntisbourne Rous, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 7AP. £10 per person to include refreshments.

Thursday 1st June - Visit to The Mill House, Woolstone, courtesy of Justin Spink. £5 members, £7.50 visitors, inc. refreshments. <http://www.justinspink.com>

Thursday 6th July - Visit to Eastleach House Gardens. £12 per person to include introductory talk & leaflet with plan of the garden. Numbers limited to 30. Supper in local pub. tbc.

SATURDAY 5th August - Visit to Coton Manor gardens, Coton Rd, Coton, Northampton NN6 8RQ. The garden opens at 12noon. £6 per head. Car sharing. Lunch/teas available. There is a good nursery and cafe.

Thursday 7th September - 'The Edible Flower Garden'. Talk by Kathy Brown will tell us about the inspiration behind her garden.

<http://www.kathybrownsgarden.com>

Thursday 5th October - 'The A - Z of Roses' by Simon White, Garden Centre Manager at Peter Beales Roses. Plants for Sale. <http://www.peterbealesroses.com>

Thursday 2nd November - 'Digging deeper - a gentle look at garden science as it relates to soil and plant growth'. A talk by Paul Williams, Head Gardener at Whichford Pottery. † <http://www.pw-horticulture.com>

Thursday 7th December - AGM, followed by 'Gin - distilling and botanicals', with gins to sample. A talk by Majestic Wine. Seasonal refreshments included. Visitors £3.

Further information: Pamela Preene, T: 01367820251

E: parrottspreene@aol.com



For current service times: 'See Church noticeboards and the Weekly Sheet for current service times - this can be obtained by sending an email to:- weeklysheets@outlook.com'

Perhaps it has been the great season of Christmas which has encouraged me to reflect again on the whole idea of true neighbourliness. It is not a bad thing to be thinking of as we go through winter and out the other side. It may have been the goodwill I sense from all sorts of people at Christmas which got me thinking about it, or maybe the challenge of catching up with distant friends and family members which had me questioning whether I had a deep enough grasp of who my neighbour might be today.

I recommended, in a recent Weekly Sheet, a talk given by Revd Dr Sam Wells of St Martin-in-the-Fields called My neighbour, Gods gift on Monday 14th November last year. It is still on their website under podcasts and is very well worth searching out and drinking a cup of tea to. In it he says; we are divided our hearts are torn by the self-reservation and self-assertion that says: No, I've tried so hard for so long to get to a place of sufficiency that I'm not having this interloper drag me down into the abyss; and the guilt or compassion that says: That's a human being; That's a person who deserves my respect and support, who could easily one day be me who has, at another time, been me.

These are deep words which help us dig below our frozen categories of who might be in and who we might best avoid as we go about our lives. To the question who is my neighbour? Jesus relates the parable of the Good Samaritan which, when read afresh, and transposed anew into every culture, always has the power to enable people to see differently, on both a macro and a micro scale.

The really great peace-makers of our world and its history are always those who have found ways of catching stones and putting them down, rather than casting them. As our group of Churches experiments with a new service pattern which seeks to offer one Benefice Communion Service a month (a chance for us to gather together across our four villages), I would very much appreciate your patience and understanding. We have a Ministry Team with finite resources and we are limited to optimum service times, but more importantly we are far richer spiritually, I believe, if we experiment with worshipping separately and together.

You are very welcome to join us as we strive to offer good and faithful worship... Wishing you and yours a belated, but Very Happy New Year!

Jeremy

* * * * *

MESSY CHURCH

Sue Jennings

We continue to meet the second Friday of each month in the THMH, at 3:30-5:30pm, and in November celebrated our fourth birthday with a cake. In December we said thank you and farewell to Eleanor, Graham and Verity Banks who stood down from helping with crafts, having been there every month, so we will really miss them.

Our themes this next 3 months are:

January 13th : 'Past, Present and Future'.

February 10th: 'Moses', and

March 10th: 'Esther'.

Do come along and bring your family and friends, you will be made very welcome. It is informal and fun, suitable for all ages.

Each Messy Church we have several crafts around the theme, for the day; then a 15 minute celebration with a prayer, song and drama, followed by a 2 course meal. Liz is introducing a rota for those happy to share bringing food, which is great. If you would like to help in any way, do contact us:

Sue Jennings (Ministry team member) 820013 07956534478

jenningsue@gmail.com; Liz Doyle for catering 820436

* * * * *

UFFINGTON FARMERS MARKET

Lucy Palmer

Local food producers offering meat, cheese, preserves, fruit, vegetables, pies and pastries, vintage tea room and much more!

The market runs every third Sunday of the month in the car park of the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington. SN7 7SB. 10 am to 12.30pm

<http://uffingtonmarket.uk/>

Dates for the year 2017 are:

Sunday 16th April; Sunday 21st May; Sunday 18th June;

Sunday 17th September; Sunday 15th October;

Sunday 19th November; Sunday 17th December.

* * * * *

UFFINGTON PLAYERS

Christine Holley

The Uffington Players will be celebrating 40 years in 2017 so we are planning something a bit special. We would love to hear from any past members who would like to be involved on this special occasion. New members also welcome. There will be more information in the next issue about performance dates, ticket prices and availability.

For further information please contact Christine Holley 820474 or email christineholley28@hotmail.co.uk

* * * * *

SCHOOL NOTICEBOARD

Our school year ended with the EYFS nativity (plus live donkey!) and our lovely production of Hosanna Rock in the Church. Both occasions were packed to the brim with parents, family and members of the local community. Thank you to everybody who supported us including the PTA who served mulled wine and treats. The children sang and acted beautifully we definitely have some future stars amongst us!

We were also proud of the children's Remembrance Service in November when they not only sang but created a poppy field, some of which reflected research done by the pupils on former inhabitants of Uffington who served in the forces. Again we were supported by members of the local community which means a great deal to us.

Thinking of others has always been of paramount importance to us and we have had some super fundraising successes. In December Wayland class organised a Christmas fayre and raised £305 pounds for Oxfam. They bought everything from seeds to taps to goats! The school council on the last day of term asked everybody to wear Christmas jumpers in order to raise money for Save the Children - pictures are on our new school website: www.uffington.oxon.sch.uk.

From all at Uffington School may we wish you a happy and a prosperous new year.

Mrs Bradbury, Head Teacher

ELM TREE SURGERY SHRIVENHAM

Pam Coulson

PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION SERVICE

Will patients ordering repeat prescriptions from the Surgery please note that they should now do so before 12.30 pm on the Monday of the week in which they are needed, earlier orders would of course be welcomed. Prescriptions will then be available in the Post Office on the following Thursday.

* * * * *

THOMAS HUGHES MEMORIAL HALL

Douglas Dalrymple (Chairman 821063)

The Hall continues to serve users, regular and one-off. There are major and lesser projects in mind for 2017. To learn more about these, everyone is welcome to attend the AGM at 8.00pm in the small Hall on Monday, January 30th. Also at this meeting the draft of the updated constitution, circulated well in advance to those the existing constitution requires, will be discussed and adopted if approved, and the normal business of the AGM, reports and elections, will take place. Particularly welcome will be anyone minded to stand for co-option to the Management Committee, initially not as a post-holder but to gain Committee experience before taking on a specific role as and when. Happily all the existing post-holders will be standing for re-election, thus ensuring a pleasing continuity for the coming year, assuming no coup d'état on the night, of course! The Trustees have asked me to thank this year's post-holders for all their work and service to the Hall, and thus service to the Community of the three villages, known in official documentation as the 'area of benefit'. Few, if any, would doubt the benefit the Hall brings to the area.

* * * * *

FUEL OIL BULK PURCHASE SCHEME

Paul Armishaw

Community First Oxfordshire (previously ORCC) is the oldest rural community council in the country and is a registered charity. Their fuel oil purchasing scheme has been operating in our three parishes since February 2011 and was one of the first in Oxfordshire. The oil buying syndicate brings communities throughout Oxfordshire together to make the most of joint buying power. Not only do you get the best possible price, but the oil companies can make the most efficient use of delivery lorries (and fewer journeys to a particular community helps the environment). You also pay the same bulk price regardless of the quantity ordered, ideal for keeping your tank regularly topped up. The minimum order is 500 litres.

Wherever possible, they operate the scheme through local volunteer co-ordinators, who are placed within the community and can help with day to day issues. From helping those with no internet or computer access, to checking oil levels for those who are unable to and reminding you to check your oil levels or when an order date is imminent. They are there to support anyone who needs that extra bit of help and guidance.

I have been the co-ordinator for Uffington, Baulking and Woolstone plus the surrounding area since 2011 when prices were over 60p./Litre. We currently have circa 50 members and this has plateaued somewhat since the fall in prices experienced in the last three years or so. However, prices have been trending upwards again since February this year. With the heating season approaching, now is the time to think about a cheaper option. If you would like to know anything further about the scheme, do not hesitate to contact me on 820385.

* * * * *

Classified Advertising

ACCOMMODATION

BED AND BREAKFAST at Norton House, Broad Street, Uffington, SN7 7RA. Contact Fenella or Carl Oberman Tel 01367 820230, e-mail carloberman123@btinternet.com, Website <http://www.smoothhound.co.uk/hotels/nortonfaringdon>.

ACCOUNTANCY & TAX

SWASH & CO, CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
Bookkeeping, year-end accounts, corporation tax returns, VAT, payroll, tax and self-assessment 01367 821128, enquiries@swashandco.co.uk

CARPENTRY

WILTSHIRE WOODWORKING - Commercial and Domestic Carpentry & Joinery. Custom/Purpose made joinery, Manufacture and installation, Real wood and laminate flooring, Doors, skirting, kitchens fitted, Fencing and decking, Shop fitting and renovations. Telephone Jamie Wiltshire on 07771 953803 or 01367 820462. www.wiltshirewoodworking.co.uk.

DANCE TUITION

DANZONE - funky freestyle jazz classes. Freestyle Jazz ● Ballet ● Musical Theatre ● Zumba. Classes are available for all ages, kids and adults. Classes in: Nythe, Covingham, Lawns, Central Swindon and UFFINGTON. New Saturday Morning Ballet Classes, Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington with Miss Hayley AISTD BA Hons Dance. New classes starting 2012 - Zumba, Musical Theatre. For Venues & times contact Clare Jones, Tel 07876 256 739 | danzone@tesco.net | www.danzone.co.uk. C.R.B. approved, first aid trained, qualified in America Jazz and fully insured. DANZONE dancers perform in local fetes and events, to request the dancers call Clare.

DECORATING

PROFESSIONAL INTERIOR & EXTERIOR

DECORATING - 25 Years Experience, Prompt Reliable Service, References Available. Contact: David Gough, Tel: 07801 070466.

EATING OUT

THE TEA POT - Home made cream teas. Open Saturdays 3-5:30pm, Sundays & Bank Holidays 3-6:30pm March to December. Coffee, Lunches, Teas, Suppers or Barbecues can be arranged any day of the week for group bookings. Coaches are welcome by prior arrangement. Handcrafted Gifts and greetings cards, Various Gifts and Homemade Cakes on sale in the Tea Room. Britchcombe Farm, Uffington, Tel 01367 820260 (24-hour telephone answering service). We are situated 1/4 mile from the oldest White Horse Monument, on the B4507 near Uffington, Oxon. Nearby places of interest include Wayland Smithy, Blowing Stone, The Ridgeway and the Uffington Museum.

THE VINTAGE TEA ROOM is open Saturdays at the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Broad Street, Uffington, SN7 7SB from 9:30am to 1pm. Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Lemonade and handmade cakes and treats will be available.

EDUCATION

UFFINGTON FOUNDATION CLASS. For 2¹/₂ to 5 year olds. Modern purpose built unit attached to Uffington Primary School. Flexible sessions during term time, Great outdoor play area, Funding is available depending of age, Happy caring atmosphere. For more information please call 01367 820296 www.oxfordshire.schooljotter.com/uffington

FRENCH TUITION. French native experienced teacher gives private French tuition all ages and all levels (including GCSE/A-level tutoring). Conversation class also available. Will travel within 10 miles radius of Uffington. For more information, contact Béatrice Cunnington on 01367 820152 or 07564330260, e-mail beatrice.louchez@hotmail.com.

FURNITURE RESTORATION

BROUGHTON RESTORATIONS Littleworth - All aspects of antique furniture restoration undertaken by experienced craftsmen - Insurance work, including fire and flood damage. Fully insured workshop, Full accredited member of B.A.F.R.A (British Antique Furniture Restorers Association), 30 years experience. Tel: **01367 242009** www.broughtonrestorations.co.uk

GLAZING

PAUL POUNDS TRADITIONAL GLAZING - Manufacture & restoration of traditional lead lights, & stained glass. All work done with pride & perfection. Tel: 07879016386 or e-mail poundsglazing@yahoo.co.uk

HEALTH

EMMA HUDSON, DO, Registered Osteopath, over 20 years experience. Now in Fernham. Also Sports Massage. Convenient location, affordable rates. Helps to relieve musculoskeletal pain e.g. back, neck, shoulder pain, sciatica, tension headaches. Call 01367-820526 or 07792599512 for appointments or to discuss whether I can help you.

HEALING THERAPIES Massage and Massage Training. Lilly Sell (ITEC IHHHT IGCP CNHC) Qualified & Highly Experienced Therapist who can help with so many different aches and pains (painful neck and shoulders, swollen legs, headaches etc etc). Deep Tissue & Holistic

Massage, Indian Head Massage, Lymphatic Massage' Ante & Post Natal Massage' Reiki. Treatment rooms in Uffington and Wantage. For an appointment or free assessment : 01367 820143/07711 702460 lilly@newhaven4.co.uk Gift Certificates available for presents!

HOME HELP

CHAT & CHORES - The 'Family Friend' Service, I am here to stand in for the family for those needing a little assistance when the family are not available whether for an hour, a day or a week - friendly service tailored to your needs. 20 years nursing experience, local and CRB checked. Happy to run errands, help prepare meals, walk the dog, accompany to the shops, GP appointments or simply be a friendly companion. To have a chat about how I may help, please call Claire 01367 820355/07733 338735 laundrylass@hotmail.com

HELPING HANDS Home Care, established in 1989, specialise in the provision of live in care for those who need permanent care and support within their own homes. Those that we look after include the elderly and frail, physically disabled, those with learning difficulties and with mental health conditions. Services can be provided on a long term basis or are available as a temporary measure such as short term respite or convalescence care. The live in service extends across England and Wales. The last CQC rating for our service was 'Excellent'; this means that our inspecting body believe we offer our service users excellent outcome based care. For an informative chat please call Alison on : 0845 5436 302 or email : enquiries@helpinghands.co.uk <http://www.helpinghands.co.uk>

MAIDFORMOTHERS - Local and friendly family run professional service offering domestic housekeeping for busy Mums with hectic lives. Contact us for a chat to discuss your unique requirements in more detail Mobile: 07926 946072 / Email: maidformothers@yahoo.co.uk. References can be provided from Mums already taking advantage of our personal and reliable service!

PEST CONTROL

VALE GAME - Specialists in all aspects Pest Control, Agricultural, Industrial, Domestic. For a Pest Free Environment call 01367 820333. Fax 01367 821115, e-mail info@valegame.co.uk. www.valegame.co.uk

PETS

WOOFY DO'S - professional dog grooming service carried out in your home. Stress free for your dog and convenient for you. Clipping, handstripping, puppy cuts etc. please call Sarah-Jane 07753 856446 www.oxfordshiremobiledoggrooming.co.uk

POTTERY

UFFINGTON POTTERS - Handmade domestic stoneware and sculptural pieces. Perfect for gifts or for the home. Call Jo Marshall or Louise Remington on 1366 820955/820762. <http://www.uffingtonpotters.co.uk>

PUBLIC ADDRESS

M+S SOUNDSYSTEMS - Public address, Radio Communication hire and install. All events catered for, small or large. Tel/Fax 01367 820605, Mobile 07836 314770, Station House, Uffington, Oxon, SN7 7QD.

ROOFING

M. R. WALLIS - Roof tiling & slating contractor. All work guaranteed. For free estimate phone 01367 718099, Booker House, Baulking Grange, Faringdon, Oxfordshire.

TREE MAINTENANCE

TROTTER TREWORKS. Ian Trotter - arborist NC Arb, ISA Cert Arb. Tree crown reductions/ thinning/lifting/reshaping; pollarding; tree felling/dismantling; fruit tree pruning; hedge trimming/removals. tel: 01235258575. mob: 07771 538575. www.trottertreeworks.co.uk

WEDDING CAR

WHITE ROLLS ROYCE SILVER SHADOW available for wedding hire or that 'special' occasion. Cream leather, air conditioning. Packages designed to your requirements Reasonable rates for local hire. e-mail davidjshirley@yahoo.com for pictures or call 01367820661

WOODBURNERS

SAREN ENERGY is a family company based in Collingbourne Ducis, near Marlborough. We sell wood burning stoves, biomass heaters, hearths, surrounds and fireplace accessories. Sarsen Energy Ltd, Unit 1 Garlands Trading Estate Cadley Road, Collingbourne Ducis Marlborough, Wilts, SN8 3EB Tel: 01264 850742, Fax: 01264 850549 Email: info@sarsenenergy.co.uk <http://www.sarsenenergy.co.uk>

Premier Express
Amazing Value Locally

UFFINGTON STORES

White Horse, Uffington, Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 7SE

Come and visit your new Premier Express Store, and see all our new products

Special offers every month with Premier Express

- Groceries, dairy products, frozen food, bread
- Large range of fruit and vegetables
- Wines and beers
- Newspapers and magazines
- Post Office services
- Parcel and mail collection service
- Prescription service

We are now
open on
Sundays,
until 5.00pm

OPENING HOURS:

Monday to Saturday, 7.00am to 6.00pm - Sunday, 8.00am to 5.00pm

Phone: 01367 820977

email: uffington.shop@gmail.com