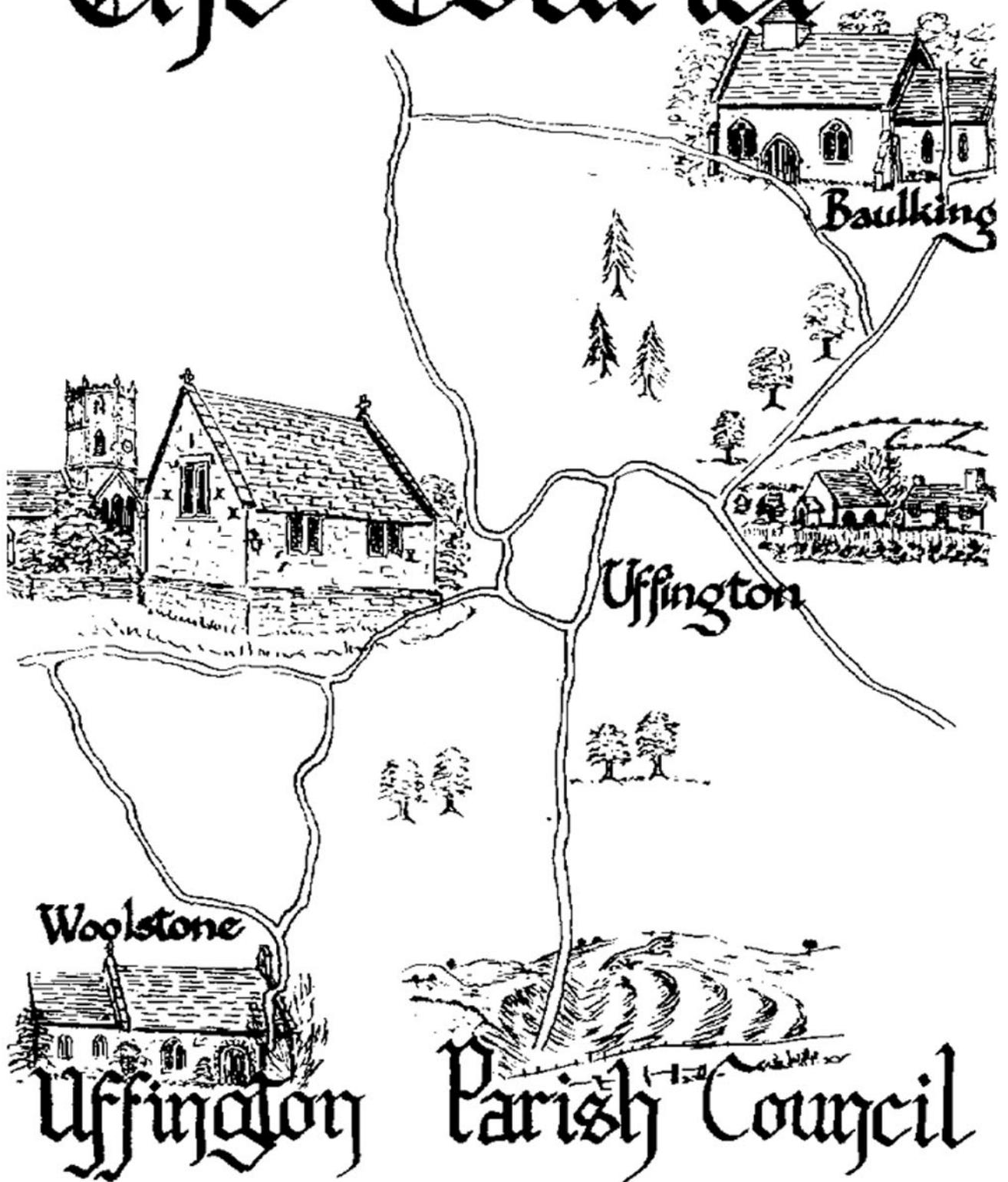


The Courier



THE COURIER

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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 now:

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

Casual Vacancy. We are very pleased to welcome Paul Coad as a Councillor. Paul was co-opted onto the Council at the meeting on 8 August 2016. His appointment fills the vacancy which has existed for some months and brings the Council up to its full complement.

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 troubling them; 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.

Vale News

The Vale of White Horse District Council want to give you more news, more often. Vale News will soon be available for all residents in the district, sent out every two months straight to your email inbox. If you'd like to receive Vale News, simply email communications@southandvale.gov.uk and they'll add you to the subscription list. They won't use your email for anything other than sending you Vale News, so your details are safe with them. Visit www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/yourvalenews to find out more.

Council banning black and coloured sacks in recycling bins

From November, the Vale of White Horse District Council will only empty green wheelie bins if the recycling in them is loose or in clear sacks. Despite a recent

campaign to raise awareness of the issue, some people are still putting in things like food waste and dirty nappies, contaminating whole truckloads of recycling - when these things are put into recycling bins in black or coloured sacks they're not spotted until it's too late.

If there's a sack in a recycling bin and the waste crews can't see what's in it, they'll have to assume it contains contamination and won't empty it. If you do want to use bin-bags in your green bin, you can use clear ones, which are available from most large supermarkets and hardware stores.

"Throughout October we'll leave a note on any bins with the wrong colour sack in it to explain the problem - we'll empty the bin on that occasion, but from November we'll then have to start leaving them unemptied to help us protect everybody else's recycling from getting contaminated."

Buses

As reported earlier, the 67 bus ceased to visit Uffington and other local villages on 23 July. The UBW Community minibus has laid on an additional trip to Wantage each week and is picking up passengers in local villages en route. If you need to know more about this, contact John Hatcher on 01367 820417.

For those who need transport out of the village apart from the UBW minibus, the following have been advertised:

- Oxfordshire Wheels 2 Work provides affordable scooter rental to individuals to enable them to get to places of employment, education or training. To find out more information visit the website www.oxfordshirewheels2work.co.uk or call 01235 797474 and ask to speak with Paddy Tyson. Or send them an email at admin@oxfordshirewheels2work.co.uk
- If you are interested in sharing transport, there is a county-wide lift share scheme which offers a matching service for people (over the age of 18) who live, work and travel in and around Oxfordshire. The site matches people up with potential partners as either a driver or a passenger. Once matched, people can choose to lift share as little or as often as they like. The scheme is only available via the internet and the link to the site is: <https://oxfordshire.liftshare.com/>

The Mobile Library

By the time this edition of the Courier is published, we will have seen the last visit of the Mobile Library. Oxfordshire Libraries have advised us of the following alternative solutions:

- The nearest library building to Uffington is Faringdon; however there are library buildings in Wantage and Grove.
- Our Home library service provides a service for people who are unable to visit the library themselves. Full-time carers and those who might need the service on a short-term basis following debilitating illness or hospitalisation can apply too.

How it works:

Contact us to discuss the kind of books, DVDs, music CDs or audio books that you like to read or enjoy. We then arrange for a library volunteer to deliver these to you in your home. Our volunteers wear identification badges and provide a helpful and friendly service. Whenever possible, we try and arrange for the same

volunteer to visit you each time. Your library materials will be delivered and collected every 3 weeks. The Home Library Service is free of charge, and there is no charge for requests or late returns. To register for this service or for further information call the Home Library Service on 01235 519201 or email homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk

The Jubilee Field Autumn Tidy - Save the Date

The next Tidy up of the Jubilee Field will take place on Saturday 29 / Sunday 30 October. Please assemble on the THMH car park at 10.00 on Saturday 29 October, equipped with gardening tools.

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. We are planning for another Litter Blitz to clear the verges and ditches in March next year.

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 September 2016.

Vale of White Horse District Council Local Plan 2031

The Vale's Local Plan Part 1 was subjected to its Examination in Public in February 2016. In early June, the Inspector informed the Vale that subject to some modifications the Plan was sound. That meant that the Vale could start work on Local Plan Part 2. The situation in September is:

1. The Main Modifications to Local Plan Part 1 (strategic allocations) resulting from the Inspector's comments were out for comment until 14 September. The Vale will pass the responses to the Inspector; a response is then expected in November with the aim of adopting the plan in early 2017.
2. Part 2 (smaller sites) is proceeding and it is intended that a draft will be released for consultation in February 2017.

UBW Neighbourhood Plan

A well-attended public meeting was held on 14 July where the NP Steering Group reminded the villages of the mission and objectives for the NP, updated them on the finances, on progress on the process roadmap and culminated with a focus on the call for sites and the site selection criteria which had been developed to assess them. The Steering Group is grateful to those who provided comments on the draft criteria for selection of sites. Following this the selection criteria were submitted to the District Council (DC) for comment. The DC feedback, while commenting on the selection criteria, gave much more feedback regarding the approach to the NP process, which they advised had not been thorough enough so far. They recommended that the Steering Group should conduct a formal Housing Needs Assessment to arrive at the number of houses which need to be allocated, a Strategic Environmental Assessment to assess the impact any housing allocation may have on the local environment, and a wider land availability assessment to consider all land in the NP designated area, not just that put forward by land owners.

This is a more detailed process than the Steering Group had anticipated or was initially led to believe was necessary by the DC. However, it does set out a

robust and logical approach which will give us a better plan when we finish. The Steering Group is currently ascertaining the likely costs, sources of funding and future timescales for the development of the NP. The increase in scope will delay progress, potentially by as much as 6-12 months meaning the plan may complete in late 2017, as opposed to later this year, but it will make the end result more sound from a legal perspective and better able to withstand challenge from developers in the future, therefore protecting what it is that villagers want for their local area.

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

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 September, the developers reported that 10 units have either been completed or reserved, and that they are on target to be complete by the end of the year.

Drainage. As a result of the long correspondence with Thames Water about the impact on existing systems in the village of the increase of foul water flows from the new houses at Jack's Lea, a senior planning manager from Thames Water made a presentation to the Parish Council on 12 September. The slides are available on the village website. The presentation explained why the need for enhancement of the drainage system as a result of the Jack's Lea development had disappeared. Only time (and the occupation of all 36 houses at Jack's Lea) will tell whether they are correct, but it is vital that any blockages or overflows 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.

New houses in Uffington. A 2 storey rear extension to a previously approved application for one dwelling at Craven Yard, Fernham Road, Uffington SN7 7RD was approved on 17 August 2016.

Changes to the Vale District Council Planning System.

The Vale District Council has with effect from 1 August made some changes to the way in which planning decisions are made by district councillors and officers of the Council. The intention is to strengthen links between the District Council (DC) and parish councils to make sure that people at the heart of the community can help the DC make informed decisions on planning applications. The DC also wishes to cut the costs involved in taking planning applications to the planning committee as a result of a parish council objection; in the majority of these cases the decision goes with the officer's original recommendation, but on average, a planning application considered at committee takes three times the officer's time and three times the cost of an application delegated for

decision.

The changes they have made and an abbreviated list of Material and Non-material planning considerations were made available on the Parish Council notice board and on the village website here: <http://www.uffington.net/parish-council/planning/vale-changes/>

Pre-application discussions. There is no change to the way in which individual applicants may request a preliminary discussion with planning officers; this has the potential to sort out problems and errors before an application is formally submitted. All planning applications within the parish of Uffington are referred to the Parish Council for comment, and are usually discussed at the next monthly meeting; it would therefore be helpful to us if we could be included in any pre-application discussions.

Station Road Development Site - Section 106 contributions

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".

We are pleased to announce that we will shortly be fulfilling that request. Two x Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGA) have been ordered and we anticipate that they will be installed at either end of the tarmac area of the basketball court in late October or early November. Football goals, a cricket wicket and basketball hoops are included in these installations. They have been very largely financed by a successful bid to the Vale District Council for the MUGA contribution of £8,041 in the Jack's Lea S106 agreement. (The existing basketball hoops will be removed and will be for disposal; anybody interested please contact the Parish Council.)

We are continuing to work on the other wishes identified earlier in the year. This includes the 'Public Art' contribution which has to be used to finance a unique work/s of art for the village. Once we have appointed an artist we are keen to involve local people and community groups in the inspiration and making of the works.

Parking on Broad Street by the School

Please do NOT park, for however short a period of time, on the 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. A new white line has been painted on the road to indicate 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.

As autumn 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

Signs around the village

There are sometimes a number of signs in and around the village advertising events which are long gone. It would be appreciated if event sponsors could remove their signs promptly after the event. Please help to maintain the appearance of the village.

Whilst on this subject, there no longer being any bus service, we have asked the bus company to remove their signs!

BT Broadband and Phone problems in the village

There are a number of houses in Uffington which have been experiencing problems with their telephone and internet connections in recent weeks. Problems include crackling on the telephone line and frequent, sometimes prolonged, internet failures.

Steve Ikin has suffered badly and has written to BT at the highest level copying Ed Vaizey and the Ombudsman after collating feedback from over 60 residents. He has requested that the root cause of the poor service is investigated and a plan produced to address the ongoing issues as soon as possible.

He has received a response from Ian Lawrence, who is Director for Network Quality at Openreach, who has confirmed he will investigate the problems - he has promised to provide an update and Steve will share with the communities in due course.

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TOM BROWN'S SCHOOL MUSEUM

Karen Pilcher (Curator)

My name is Karen Pilcher and I was appointed as the new curator of the museum in July following Sharon's departure last year. I have lived in Uffington for nearly 18 years, joined the Parish Council in 2005 and was then appointed as Chair of the Tom Browns School Museum Management Committee & the Jubilee Field Management Committee.

The curator role is completely new to me and it will be a tough challenge following in Sharon's footsteps. Whilst the museum will be closing at the end of October to prepare for next years exhibition, we are very keen to attract more visitors & Friends. Subscriptions are £10 per year per family or £100 for a life membership. Alternatively if you can spare either a Saturday or Sunday between Easter to October & can join the rota then you can become a Friend of the museum for free. Forms are available from myself 820978 or Jo Coad 820428

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AFTERNOON CLUB

Ann Smith

One of our founder member has passed away. Mrs Joyce Watt had help start Afternoon Club nearly 41 years ago .Our condolences go to Elizabeth, Charlotte, William and Victoria.

Joyce was with us took part at our July meeting when we had Laura Galfrey doing chair exercise with us .

August we had an afternoon mystery tour finishing at the village hall for tea served by Forget Me Not tea rooms.

September meeting was cancelled as it was Joyce's funeral, 11 members were present.

New members are always welcome, we meet 2nd Thursday of month at 2pm in village hall.

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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.

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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

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UFFINGTON, BAULKING & WOOLSTONE W.I. Lesley Reid & Jackie Ash

In June Angela Bryant gave a talk on healthy diets and lifestyles which resulted in members promising themselves that they would make changes for the better. The July meeting with Lynda Warren had us all singing along to tunes from a wide variety of musical shows from "Oklahoma" to "Hair" in her fascinating talk entitled "The Golden Age of Musical Theatre". This does not mean that we are now in a trough and perhaps she will be back in the future to get us singing along to some of the new hits from the shows.

Beautiful weather in August blessed the garden party which was held in Tory and Bob Russ's garden. Thank you Tory and our attentive bartender Bob who did a sterling job of keeping our glasses filled. The evening of chat, nibbles & pimm's was a great success.

August was also White Horse Show time and this year we gave up running the coconut shy and instead had a presence in the marquee having a W.I. information table. Many visitors took advantage of finding out more about the modern W.I. groups and I am sure from the interest shown the Oxfordshire membership has grown.

September saw us back in home base at the T.H.M.H. with an exceptional speaker, Alistair Borland, Chairman and blood bike rider, of the Rapid Response Medical Transport Service. They are a group of volunteer motorbike riders who give their time up to deliver blood for emergency transfusions as well as baby milk donated by breast feeding mums to help save the lives of premature babies. They are not a registered charity so get no government funding, they operate on a national level by donations and fundraising events. What a brilliant and informative evening it was and what a magnificent group of people who cover our area of Northants, Bucks, Berks & Oxon. From a team of 126 trained volunteers a coordinator along with 3 or 4 riders are on duty every night, weekends & banks holidays, including Christmas, sometimes leaving family celebrations to help save a life. They are now in their 11th year and need all the help & support they can get so please give them your support if you can. For more info. go to their web site. www.justgiving.com/servobnbloodbikes

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 18th October at the T.H.M.H. again a very worthwhile cause when we will learn more from our speaker Peter King talking about their work 'Dogs for Good'. These are the dogs trained to give support to disabled people and help them with everyday tasks we do and take for granted. If you were at the White Horse Show on Bank Holiday Sunday, you may have seen the demonstration of the training of these remarkable assistance dogs. In November there will be a talk and demonstration by retired goldsmith Trevor Edwards.

Finally for 2016, we have our Christmas party on the 20th.

Meetings are held in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall in Uffington and the notice board outside the Post Office has the up to date information about each meeting. New members are always welcome.

We start our meeting at 7.00pm. with a break for tea/coffee biscuits around 7.30pm. Our speakers usually begin their presentations around 7.45pm. New members guests are welcome to join us and if they wish give a small donation to help our group. More information can be got by calling Jackie on 01367 718978. Requests for catering may be sent to Tory Russ on 01367 820 052. It may seem a bit early, but Happy Christmas !

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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.

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WHITE HORSE GARDEN CLUB

Pamela Preene (Chairman)

The autumn equinox has arrived so the gardening year is beginning to draw to a close.

But we have the pleasure of the trees dressed in beautiful colours and time to stand still and admire what the season brings.

Looking back over the last few months, the Garden Club visited Radcot House in July where we had a tour and refreshments whilst admiring the inspirational spacious planting around the Tudor Manor House.

Unfortunately our trip to Stowe Gardens in August was cancelled due to low numbers.

In September we returned to the hall for meetings.

Thursday 1st September 'Wildlife Gardening' by Jenny Steel, author and expert on wildlife gardening advised us on how to make our gardens attractive to wildlife. Bishopstone Garden Club joined us for this meeting.

We now look forward to the forthcoming talks:

Thursday 6th October. 'Practical propagation: seeds, cuttings and beyond: a practical demonstration. Talk by Victoria Logue, who specialises in easy to grow hardy herbaceous perennials. <http://www.wfplants.co.uk>

Thursday 3rd November 'We are all doomed? Trees: legal protection, pests and diseases'. Talk by George Reade, Arboricultural Officer for Swindon Borough Council.

Thursday 1st December. AGM /Christmas Meeting 'The art of craft cider'. Talk by Roy Bailey, proprietor of The Lambourn Valley Cider Company. Seasonal Refreshments.

At the December meeting our new exciting programme for 2017 will be available.

Please do come along and join The White Horse Garden Club.

Meetings in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington, Faringdon, SN7 7RA 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. Membership per annum £10. Visitors £2.50 Raffle £1 (garden token £10 + other prizes).

Pamela Preene, Chairman WHGC Contact: 01367820251 or parrotspree@aol.com

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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 are:

Sunday 16th October - Usual Market; Sunday 20th November - Early Christmas Market, Extra craft stalls; Sunday 18th December - Late Christmas Market, Extra craft stalls

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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

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The pattern of services in the immediate future will be similar to what was previously given but does have some differences:

Sunday	Uffington 11am	Baulking 8.45am	Shellingford 10.15am	Woolstone 9.45am
1st in month	One Family Service	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	6pm Evensong
2nd in month	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>Morning Prayer</i>	<i>Something Special</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>
3rd in month	Service of the Word	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Croissant Service
4th in month	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>Morning Prayer</i>		<i>Holy Communion</i>
5th in month	10am Benefice Communion in the parishes in turn			

Dear All,

I am just back from a 'transitions in ministry' course for Vicars fairly newly in post. This year it was held at Douai Abbey above Woolhampton in peaceful West Berks countryside. There were clergy from several southern Dioceses, including Winchester, Salisbury, Guildford and Oxford, and from very different churches. We were put into small groups and asked questions about our vision for the future and about the sometimes difficult realities of ministry today. It was very helpful to see that many of us were wrestling with similar issues and could share one another's fears and hopes, and learn from one another.

Deeper, and even more restorative than the shared stories, was the rhythm of prayer going on in the Benedictine monastery which so warmly welcomed us. We were allowed to join the community for Vespers (evening prayer) in their abbey church. The church is a wonderful amalgam of perpendicular and modern concrete and laminated wooden beams; slanting up from white stone floors to white vaulted ceilings. The windows are both ancient and modern stained glass and the acoustics make the weakest of voices sonorous. It is the kind of place where God can be encountered in awe, mystery and majesty; where words tumble into silence, and a real peace can be felt.

We are all richer for such encounters with the numinous, especially in our often noisy and busy lives. Both Jews and Muslims, with their calls to prayer, have as deep an understanding of God as we Christians do. Shimon Peres, whose funeral is being celebrated as I type, had a strong sense of a God who brings hope into the darkest of situations, and he never lost sight of hope for the Middle East. A God of love, awe, and majesty is what the Holy Land, and dare I say, the UK could do with especially as we look forward to the birth of the Christ-child this Christmas. May hope, reconciliation, and a deep peace be yours and a reality for those around you too as we approach this year's end. Come and visit us in any of the four Village Churches, and may you be surprised by joy.

Blessings one & all, Jeremy G.

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MESSY CHURCH

Sue Jennings

In November we will celebrate our 4th anniversary! Anyone is welcome to our Uffington Benefice Messy Church, held the second Friday of each month from 3:30-5:30 pm in the THMH. Up to 40 adults and children usually come along. We explore a bible story for an hour by doing crafts and games, then for 15 minutes enjoy learning more about the theme with drama, a song and prayer; and finish with a 2 course meal. If you would like to be involved in the crafts or catering, do get in touch, it is very light hearted and fun. We welcome those who may never attend church, or just want to 'try us out'. We have babies through to 80 year olds coming regularly.

October 14th will be 'Healing Bartimeus', November 11th 'Remembering Refugees, and All Souls', December 9th will be 'Jesus lighting up the world', and will be at St. Mary's church. Please bring a plate of food to share as we will celebrate Jesus' birthday. For further details please contact Sue Jennings, a member of the Benefice ministry team, 820013 or 07956534478.

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THE FRIENDS OF SAINT MARY'S CHURCH

Geoffrey Foster (chairman)

Over the last twelve months we have continued to fund raise for our current project, which is to restore the derelict Priests Room above the South Porch and convert it into a small, warm and well lit meeting room, suitable to be used by all. Our target for this project is in the region of £35,000, and with thanks to the help of everyone who has attended our events and help from grant giving organisations we are now in sight our goal and hope to be able to start work in the New Year.

Our next event is:-

A Concert by **KIDLINGTON CONCERT BRASS**

On **Saturday 22nd October**

In **Saint Mary's Church**

At 7.30 pm

Tickets: £12.00 (To include a glass of wine and light refreshments)

Tickets available from:

Uffington P.O. Stores; Geoff Foster 01367 820668; Ray Avenell 01367 820242

Geoff Rumble 01367 820036

And please don't forget our very popular Sunday Carvery Lunches which will be held on;-

Sunday 4th December, Sunday 22nd January 2017 and Sunday 5th March 2017.

Book early and don't be disappointed, early booking is essential.

Geoff 01367 820668, Ray 01367 820242, Ann 01367 820393

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SCHOOL NOTICEBOARD

We have had a very exciting start to the new school year. With lots of new members of staff joining the school, we decided to hold a nursery open evening and a 'Meet and Greet' event for years 1 to 6. We were delighted that so many parents came and talked with us about the things worth celebrating in our school, and ideas for our future development. The children have already been working hard on topics such as 'Natural Disasters' and it was a golden opportunity for their work to be displayed. As the new Headteacher, not only have I had the joy of working in such a lovely place as Uffington (what wondrous history to be had at every turn!) but also getting to know the pupils, staff and community who have all been welcoming and kind. Working closely with Reverend Jeremy and the Ministry team has already been very rewarding. Some of our parents have fantastically started new clubs such as netball and our PTA are a truly industrious lot! This term they have organised a disco, all in aid of supporting the growing wish list of items that the pupils are beginning to think of and of course the beneficial extracurricular treats which occur throughout the school year.

Pupils at school are enjoying using our new 'Pupil Voice' box and have been writing about some of the values which are really important to us such as respect, trust and kindness and how we see these about us at break times as well as in class. The school council is busily thinking of charities we could support this year and we are beginning with a Macmillan coffee morning and our Harvest collection will be in aid of The Swindon Food Bank. We are really looking forward to our Harvest service in Church on Wednesday 5th October and each class will be presenting something which they have prepared to show.

Over the coming year we hope to continue to develop further links with the community and look forward to welcoming you into our school.

From All the staff and pupils at Uffington CE Primary School

Mrs Bradbury, Head Teacher

Very recently we have learnt of the sad and quite sudden death of Paul Smythe. Paul lived in Uffington for some thirty years, but was the Treasurer for the Village Hall for about eight of them, resigning in the middle of 2015. He was in office at the time of the Hall's extension and at the time that the Nursery School ceased to use the Hall, an important period in the Hall's development, for which reason alone the Hall - and the Village Community for that matter - has reason to be grateful to him. Paul Armishaw in particular was most appreciative of his expertise over that time. Without such willing volunteers no Village organisation can carry on, let alone flourish, for the benefit of present and future generations..

The Management Committee is also most grateful to all those who helped with the parking and gate over the two days of the White Horse Show, under the leadership of Clive Shanley and Rob Williamson. Carrying out this vital if not all that glamorous service makes a valuable contribution to the Village Hall funds, without which such improvements as the very recent resurfacing of the floor in the larger Hall - see more below - would not be comparatively swiftly and easily achieved - not forgetting of course the tremendous benefits the White Horse Show as a whole brings about for our local community.

Closure of the large Hall advertised in advance, and planned for a time of year when there are usually fewer calls on it, the resurfacing of the floor was carried out on schedule and is now to be appreciated, even admired. Many thanks indeed from all those of us who did not lend practical help to this project to the Man. Com team of five who did. Attention now moves on to easing the access in to, but more likely the exit in emergency out of, the Main Hall and the furniture store between the Hall and the Kitchen area for wheelchair users.

The other major consideration over the last three months, thanks to Geoff Rumble's hard work and capacity for detail, has been the re-vamping of our Hall Booking procedures and the Terms and Conditions for all bookings. This updating is essential every so often - one might wish it was every so seldom - as national laws and / or local bye-laws are changed or added to. We do not consider that we are remotely negligent in such matters, taking advice as we do from the likes of the National Association of Village Halls and Community First Oxfordshire. Thus, in brief, we are not free agents in our policies and requirements and we ask our users whether regular or one-off to be mindful of this state of affairs.

Finally, please remind your diaries that our AGM, to which any / all Village residents and Hall users are most welcome, is booked for Monday 30th January, 2017 at 8.00pm. Before then may we wish all those who benefit from or enjoy the Hall's facilities a mellow and cheerful autumn season.

* * * * *

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.

* * * * *

The headline is that we had a good weekend.

The heavy rain on Saturday put our main car-park out of use on the Sunday so we were very grateful for the last minute support of landowner Sara Murray and farmer Tom Bowlby for allowing us to use the field behind Fawler Farm without which we would have had to cancel - a thought that sends tremors through any organising committee!.

On Monday it all came together with good weather, large crowds and excellent displays making it all worthwhile for all involved and, to all those who are, I extend a full and heartfelt "Thank You".

However, there is no likelihood of us becoming complacent. We rely entirely on volunteers and each year it is a bigger and bigger struggle to replace committee members and find the weekend volunteers. Speaking for myself, I supplement the lack of volunteers by bringing in many family relations some of whom travel over 100 miles to help out. I am not alone in this and it is a sad illustration of the difficulties we face. If this trend continues, the future of the Show is not at all good.

A few facts: The average age of our 20 committee members is 60+. Six live in Uffington, eight in Baulking, none in Woolstone and five outside of the three parishes.

To keep the Show going we need at least 5 more committee members (especially some from Woolstone) to take up roles and to allow for impending retirements. We also need a much better response when the call to arms goes out for volunteers to help as carpark marshals. The work we do can be challenging, demanding and at times thankless but the overall sense of achievement when it all comes together both on the day and in terms of the money we raise, can be hugely rewarding.

The Show has raised close to £750,000 (in today's terms) in the 40 plus years it has been in existence which has ALL gone back into the communities of Uffington, Woolstone and Baulking. The money has and continues to support a wide range of associations and clubs such as the Scouts, Guides, football and tennis, services such as the Community Bus and buildings such as Uffington School, the village halls, the churches, and the Uffington museum to list just a few beneficiaries across the three parishes. But there is no given right for the Show to continue and if the communities are in effect voting with their feet then we will have to accept that it's days are numbered.

If you would like to help, either as a committee member or as a volunteer happy to support the committee (and we have a number of those) please speak to me or any of the committee and we would be very happy to explain what is involved and the further benefits the Show provides. Whatever your interest or skills, there will always be some way you can provide much needed support.

Assuming of course the three parishes want the Show to continue.

Ed Preece - Chairman of the Organising Committee

generalenquiries@whitehorseshow.co.uk; 01367 820068; 07880 728188

* * * * *

In the Summer edition of 'The Courier' it gave a brief coverage of where the funds were raised to build the Thomas Hughes Memorial, but in truth, for the raising of those funds you must go back to April 1960. This stemmed from an open meeting held in the old Village Hall, called by the Parish Council under the Chairmanship at the time of Mr Billy Packer. At this meeting a Committee was formed by volunteers to raise money to build a new Village Hall. Those volunteers were as follows: Mr & Mrs W Adams, Mr & Mrs O Reed, Mr & Mrs M Conners, Mr W Mitchell and Mr B Tilling. The Committee was to be run under the auspices of the Parish Council, who in turn would lend to the Committee a sum of £5 until they could raise enough money to return the same. At the first meeting of this committee Mr W Mitchell was elected to be Chairman, and they would be known as the 'Village Hall Building Fund Committee'. The first money-raising events were entirely a Bingo every Saturday evening, with a Whist Drive on alternative Thursday evenings. After our first Bingo we were able to return to the Parish Council the £5 we had had from them, this of course gave us great satisfaction, and the encouragement to continue with the task we had been set. At the start of the 1960 Football season we decided to have a weekly Football Sweepstake to boost our funds, together with Derby and Grand National Sweepstakes, coupled with a Grand Christmas Draw. This indeed did just that and things were going well until the bad weather of 1963, after which the Football Sweepstake failed to take off again. However, we continued to struggle on. But in 1971, with inflation, we were seeing our funds no more than holding their own.

It was at this time we decided to invite Mr John Little to join our Committee. After attending one meeting he said he would give the invitation some deep thought, above all he would return to our next meeting with suggestions. At the next meeting, with John in attendance, he came forward with some great ideas. First of all he suggested that we should aim for one big push forward with a larger, one-day function. In this way we might be able to raise a fair amount of money without much risk. He then volunteered to organise a one-day event on those lines. The only drawback being that a certain amount of cost would have to be up front to finance that function. John suggested that the Building Fund Committee could commit £100 to that end and he would also approach the Parish Council to match that commitment. Needless to say, the Parish Council pleaded poverty on that suggestion. This led to another public meeting in the old Village Hall which was well attended and was Chaired by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr Philip Burgess. On opening the meeting, the Chairman explained that the reason for calling the meeting was that Mr John Little had approached the Parish Council for permission to organise a Function in the village to raise funds towards the new Hall and at that point he handed the meeting over to John Little to explain the Function he had in mind. This did not take John too long to do and everyone present was in favour, saying what a good thing it would be. But this was the beginning of the disputes, where were the funds going to come from to set up this Function. John was quick to explain

that The Building Fund Committee were happy to supply half the money that John required to get started. Thus The Building Fund Committee were happy to put up £100 as their share, but required the Parish Council to match that amount, to finance the start of this exercise. After going into a huddle, the Parish Council came out with the ultimate answer, which we all had anticipated, they did not have that sort of money to spend. But all was not lost as the Parish Council did have £100 that was left as a legacy by the late Mrs W Wyatt to the village, this money was to be used towards building a new Village Hall. When challenged by the Building Fund Committee as to why this money had not been given over to The Building Fund Committee, the excuses were rather pathetic to say the least, which prompted some very biting remarks from the public that were present. We, as the Building Fund Committee, were extremely angry as we were not informed of this legacy. But we had no objection for that £100 being used for that purpose. Although in fact The Building Fund Committee were left to finance the whole project.

After that meeting John Little made it quite plain that he would endeavour to see The Building Fund Committee would become completely devoid from the Parish Council in the future. This John achieved by having The Building Fund Committee turned into a Trust.

Unfortunately this was not the end of the differences between The Building Fund Committee and the Parish Council. The worst was yet to come over the design of the New Hall, this was 1973, which of course is another story.

* * * * *

UFFINGTON TENNIS CLUB

Ross Heyburn

The tennis club has enjoyed a very successful summer gaining both a significant number of new members and also building a new junior program of coaching. Mark Thomas took over the clubs coaching program in the spring and throughout the summer has run different junior coaching sessions for four different age groups. The program was given a boost by the Davis Cup Legacy funding from the Lawn Tennis Association which allowed us to offer some of these sessions completely free of charge. In total around 40 different children have taken part in the coaching and lessons continue through the autumn. Full details of the coaching being offered including dates, times and prices can be found on the tennis clubs webpage (<http://www.uffingtontennis.co.uk/coaching>). To sign up for junior coaching please contact Mark by email (mark@markthomastennis.co.uk) or you can telephone him (01793 782542 / 07795 517553).

The tennis club continues to compete in the Swindon and District Leagues. Although neither of the teams won their leagues or were promoted, both sides finished above the relegation zone. The ladies team finished 5th in division 3 and the mixed team finished 6th in division 3. A number of friendly matches were also played against local clubs with a total of 31 matches being played by club teams through the summer. The teams will continue to play through the winter.

The season ended with our annual fundraising tournament and BBQ. In a change from previous years, we teamed up with Woolstone Church and held a joint event which proved very successful. 32 players competed in the tournament which was rather embarrassingly eventually won by two of the organisers, myself and Juliet Moss. Around 70 people attended the BBQ which the Spink family very kindly allowed us to hold at Mill House in Woolstone. In total £930 was raised, half of which went to Woolstone Church and half to the tennis club.

* * * * *

A PLEA TO POTENTIAL LIFEBOAT SUPPORTERS

I hope that most people will agree that the RNLI does a fantastic job at saving lives from drowning, in the sea, on the beaches, cliffs, rivers, lakes and even floods during winter storms.

Since its formation in 1824 our Institution (ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION) have saved over 140,000 lives and has always been entirely supported by charitable donations.

Our (Faringdon & District) branch, albeit, further from sea than any other of the other 700 branches around the coast of Britain & Ireland, would like to do our bit. Do you know it costs over £460,000 A DAY to continue to provide this service? Although we are only a small branch we raise close to £10,000 which we forward - every year!

If you would like to help, in any way, we would be VERY grateful.

A couple of hours, once a year - generally in late June, to collect House to House would be very welcome.

If you do not like this direct approach, we have occasional store collections where manning - up two hours - is always appreciated. This only involves offering a collection bucket

WE DESPERATELY NEED MORE ACTIVE SUPPORT IN OUR REGION TO CONTINUE OUR FUNDRAISING FOR THIS INVALUABLE SERVICE.

This includes Uffington, Baulking, Woolstone, Kingston Lisle, Sparsholt and Ashbury.

CAN YOU HELP US TO CONTINUE TO FUNDRAISE FOR THE ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION.

I hope that you will.

Many thanks. Denis Pope (Secretary - Faringdon Branch RNLI)

Tele No 01367 241943; denis.pope@talktalk.net

BENEFICE 200 CLUB DRAW

Results of the 4th Draw [quarter ending 30th June 2016]
Held at the Vicarage Tea Party

1st Prize	£ 150	No	15
2nd Prizes	£ 55	No	164
		No	138
		No	113
3rd Prizes	£ 35	No	69
		No	32
		No	128
		No	174
4th Prizes	£ 27	No	80
		No	22
		No	139
		No	54
		No	180
		No	18

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BENEFICE 200 CLUB DRAW

Results of the 1st Draw [quarter ending 30th September 2016]
Held during Baulking's Big Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care
At St Nicholas Church

1st Prize	£ 150	No	47
2nd Prizes	£ 55	No	166
		No	193
		No	78
3rd Prizes	£ 35	No	135
		No	103
		No	150
		No	42
4th Prizes	£ 27	No	165
		No	107
		No	71
		No	1
		No	172
		No	77

* * * * *

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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.

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