



The Courier

Serving the Communities of
Uffington, Baulking, and Woolstone

Issue 191

Autumn 2022

The Courier

Produced by J.F.N.Packford

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(to Jem Packford, Lower Woolstone. Tel: Uffington 820631 or

e-mail jem_packford@lineone.net)



HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926 — 2022

We were deeply saddened by the news of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September 2022; may she Rest in Peace. We extend our deepest sympathies and offer our condolences to His Majesty, The King and all members of the Royal Family.

Cover photo: In memory of Jim Soden who planted these trees at Sower Hill Uffington and who died earlier this year. *Photo courtesy of Leighton Brant who was the adult winner of the Tom Brown's School Museum photo competition (with another photo).*

The Council

Uffington Parish Council has six councillors. They serve four-year terms, with elections next due in May 2023. The composition of the Parish Council is:

Mr Mike Oldnall (Chair)	01367 820369	mike.oldnall@uffington.net
Mr Simon Jenkins (Vice Chair)	01367 820776	simon.jenkins@uffington.net
Mr Graham Banks		graham.banks@uffington.net
Mrs Fenella Oberman		fenella.oberman@uffington.net
Mr Dale Pilchowski		dale.pilchowski@uffington.net
Mr Nigel Puddicombe		nigel.puddicombe@uffington.net

Clerk

Mrs Julia Evans	01235 833466	clerk@uffington.net (NEW)
Mrs Julia Evans (Alternative)		parishcouncil@uffington.net

The Chair and Clerk may be contacted on the above telephone numbers or email addresses - **Please note new email address for the Clerk.** Other Councillors may be contacted on the email addresses above.

The Council is pleased to say that face-to-face meetings continue in 2022. The Council normally meet on the second Monday of the month in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, at 6.30pm. Please check the website or notice board for confirmation and the agenda. All residents are most welcome to attend these meetings and raise and discuss any issues during the "Open Forum" session early in the meeting (normally 7pm). The agenda is published on the Parish Council website and notice board at least three clear days before the meeting. We particularly encourage anyone intending to submit a planning application to come and discuss it with the Parish Council at an early stage. We may be able to help you to avoid unnecessary errors and suggest things you may wish to include to improve the likelihood of success of the application. If you have any doubts about this, please contact the Clerk or any member of the Council.

A digital copy of the Courier is always posted on the [Village website](#) from where the links in each edition are live.

The Courier Magazine - is changing

In the last issue of the Courier we sought views on the distribution of the Courier by asking which of the following distribution options you would prefer (response percentages in brackets):

- Receive a paper copy through your door (25%)
- Collect a paper copy from the village shop (25%)
- Download a copy as required or read online (50%)
- Other – please let us know what this might be

Disappointingly, only 13 responses were received with approximately 50% wishing to retain a paper copy and of those about half wished for it to be delivered with the remainder happy to collect a copy from the Shop. 50% preferred to have an electronic copy notified by email or Facebook and made available for download/reading online. In this edition of the Courier is a short survey (with the 20mph survey) asking the same questions as above. We would be very grateful if you could **complete this and return it to the box in the shop by 30 October or complete the online version which will be linked from Facebook and the Village News email.**

We will continue to monitor these delivery options whilst we continue to make changes to the Courier itself – starting with this issue! Please let us know what you think and please feel free to submit articles which you feel will be of interest to our villagers. As part of these changes, we thought it was time to refresh the front cover and to replace the picture of our Churches. Whilst the four churches of Uffington Benefice are a very important part of the life of our villages, the Courier is a Parish Council publication for all sections of our community. To make it a better record for future generations of what actually goes on in Uffington, Baulking and Woolstone, and more representative of the wide cross section of activities, we encourage all residents and organisations to submit short articles and photographs for future editions.

Also changing is our organiser for the deliveries! Our grateful thanks go to Helen Godsell for carrying out this task for over 20 years! Helen has asked to be relieved due to family commitments and to give someone else a chance! Many of her team have agreed to continue to carry out deliveries and our thanks go to them and the new volunteers for their continued support.

Parish Council Grants

The Council budgets for a limited amount of money each year to provide grants for village organisations. Subject to funds being available and suitably justified, the Council is committed to providing assistance and support to local groups which are set up to promote and improve community life for local residents. The Council will look more favourably on organisations / causes located in Uffington whose activities are provided for the general benefit of residents in Uffington, rather than elsewhere (for which a more limited sum is reserved for making donations).

Applications should be submitted by 30 October each year to be considered for payment by 30 March the following year or inclusion in the following year's budget. Full details are contained in the Grants and Donations Policy which is available on the website along with the application form. The Clerk or any member of the Council is available to assist with completing the form if help is required.

Advertising in the Courier. The policy on Advertising is available on the [website](#) The cost of advertising in four issues of the Courier (one year) AND inclusion on

the website on the 'Essential Contacts' page or 'Local Businesses' as appropriate is very modest.

Anybody wishing to advertise should please contact either the Clerk or the Chairman of the Council – contact details are above. Copies of the Courier are distributed to a number of shops, pubs and other outlets outside of the UBW villages making it more attractive to advertisers.

Lists of local tradesmen and businesses which you may need and of scheduled local activities in the village are included on the inside back pages of the Courier. The majority of these are also listed on the village website. We should be pleased to learn of any errors, omissions, or any additional categories of advertisement you would like to see included in future editions. Please contact [Simon Jenkins](#) (Tel: 01367 820776), or the [Clerk](#)

Uffington Allotments

If you already enjoy gardening but want more space, or if you want to take on the challenges and exercise involved in growing your own produce, please contact either [Barry Godsell](#) or [Nigel Puddicombe](#), who will be happy to show you round on behalf of the Uffington Allotments Association and give you more details to help you choose the best option. Once you are ready or if you just want to proceed, please contact the [Parish Council](#).

Village Maintenance

The regular roadside litter pick and Jubilee field tidy will take place on the following dates – **please get in your diary!** Full details will be published nearer the date.

- Roadside Litter Pick 22-23 October
- Jubilee Field Tidy 5-6 November (6th reserve day)

If you need assistance with hedges, verges or ditches, or would like to join the maintenance group, please get in touch with the [Parish Council](#).

Jubilee Field.

The Jubilee Field continues to be well used and we are constantly working to keep it tidy, the grass cut and the trees maintained in a safe state. The last tree survey in March this year found that several of the ash trees were showing signs of ash die-back so they will have to be felled in due course. When mature trees are felled, we always aim to replace them with another native species tree. We continue to monitor the huge poplar trees on Upper Common near the pond. These trees, which were assessed as healthy in the latest tree survey, will need to be either pollarded or felled and replaced (with a different native species) at some stage. Whilst pollarding retains the original trees, it does need repeating regularly. Given the size of the trees either option will be expensive (thousands of pounds!) – if you have any views on the options, please let us know.

Litter Awareness



The children's (for under 12s) Litter Bug Trail designed to increase litter and recycling awareness operated by the District Council for children was open during the summer holidays during August. Each child, who sent in the correct answer, could request a personalised Litter Bug Detectives certificate. They were also entered into a prize draw – one draw for each council – for £20 vouchers for themselves and a bench for their school. Unfortunately the winner was not from Uffington which submitted 8 of the 48 Vale of White Horse entries - the most from any single parish.

Planning applications in Uffington (with Vale reference number) – since the last edition of the Courier

The following applications are **awaiting determination**:

- P22/V1684/HH - Hendra Broad Street Uffington Faringdon SN7 7RA. Proposed garage carport with associated store, proposed porch and conversion of house integral garage to habitable accommodation.
- P22/V0345/FUL - Sowerhill Farm Uffington Faringdon SN7 7QH. Installation of an outdoor arena with lights change of use from agricultural to equestrian.
- P22/V1141/FUL - Dragon Hill Woolstone Road Uffington Faringdon SN7 7RE. Proposed erection of 2no 4 bed detached (self-build) dwellings.
- P22/V1042/FUL - Land North of Baulking Lane Baulking Lane Baulking SN7 8NR. Permission is sort (sic) for change of use of land to residential, for one Gypsy Traveller family. The development to comprise one static caravan, one touring caravan, parking for two vehicles, associated hardstanding and infrastructure (retrospective).
- P22/V1003/FUL - The Fairmile, Farm Land at Baulking Lane Baulking SN7 8NR. Retrospective change of use to 1 no. Gypsy/Traveller pitch, comprising 1 no. (static) caravan and 1no. (touring) caravan and associated works.

The following applications have been **approved**:

- P22/V1788/HH and P22/V1789/LB - The Vale Cottage High Street Uffington Faringdon SN7 7RP - Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey replacement extension. Installation of solar panels to rear roof slope and of new garage doors
- P22/V1782/HH - 16 Jacksmeadow Uffington Faringdon SN7 7GN. Single storey side and rear extension
- P22/V1771/HH - Threeways Woolstone Corner Uffington Faringdon SN7 7RF. Proposed extension to balcony

- P22/V1619/HH - Meadowbrook 4 Fawler Road Uffington Faringdon SN7 7SD. Proposed detached garage.
- P22/V1507/LDE - 4 Jacksmeadow Uffington Faringdon SN7 7GN. Erection of outbuilding to form summer house.
- P22/V1436/HH - Zaremba Broad Street Uffington Faringdon SN7 7RA. Loft conversion & relocation of front door.
- P22/V1363/T28 - Prior notification for proposed installation under telecommunications code system operators of eighteen 11m wooden poles. The pole will be installed with 9m above ground. *Afternote: only 6 new poles were installed with 2 replacing unusable BT poles.*

The following applications have been **refused**:

- P22/V1285/FUL - The Old Police House Woolstone Road Uffington Faringdon SN7 7RQ. Variation of Conditions application on P18/V2052/FUL to vary condition 2 (approved plans) to remove the condition of planting new hedges behind the newly installed post and rail fence.

The following applications have been **withdrawn – none**

The following applications have been **appealed - none**

The live list of 'Current' and 'Decided' Uffington applications can be accessed via the links on the VOWHDC website here: <https://www.uffington.net/parish-council/planning/> along with the latest details of the main 'Material' factors considered (and not considered) when assessing applications.

Traffic Calming in Uffington – 20mph limit

Disappointingly, only a few people responded to our previous question regarding the possibility of a 20mph scheme being introduced into the village. There have since been a few comments on Facebook which favour the idea. One key aspect of deciding whether the village could or should proceed with a 20mph scheme, is the cost. We now understand from Oxfordshire County Council that the costs of 'signing and lining' will be borne by themselves which is good news. It is likely that the default conversion is to simply replace all 30mph signs with 20 mph ones. Uffington is at the end of Phase 1 (8 villages) and should be assessed for feasibility of the scheme by mid-2023 but progress is slow as there are 78 villages in Oxfordshire which have expressed an interest. In advance of any OCC assessment, we are conducting a short consultation with village residents before any final decision is made. In this copy, along with the Courier questions, is a simple questionnaire asking whether you would like to see Uffington made a 20mph village or not. We would be very grateful if you could **complete this and return it to the box in the shop by 30 October or complete the online version** which will be linked from Facebook and Village News email.

Speedwatch

The number of volunteers is now sufficient to warrant reinstating the Speedwatch programme and a new group for Uffington has been set up with Simon Jenkins as the 'Coordinator' and who has gone through the mandatory training. Six potential speed watch sites have been submitted for evaluation by Police. They are:

- 2 on Fernham Road by (allotments and sewage works) to look both ways
- 2 on Fawler Road at the junction with the Upper Common Lane footpath, to look both ways
- 1 at the junction of Station Road and Fox Cover View, to look towards Baulking
- 1 at Shotover, in the open area of drive by Stonehaven and Shotover House, looking south up Broadway

Further locations can be considered – please let Simon know if you have any suggestions. More volunteers are always welcome and can join the group after completing a short online training course.

As well as encouraging more responsible speed behaviour in the village, the Speedwatch group would play an important part if the 20mph scheme is introduced. As the availability of police resources to enforce the limit is limited, Speedwatch will be the only practical means of enforcement.

Winter Lunches – Volunteers Required

The Parish Council is hoping that a person, or group of people, might volunteer to ORGANISE simple lunches in the THMH along the lines of the Winter Lunches which took place in the Hall before the pandemic. We feel that with the coming problems that are looming this winter this would create somewhere warm to come and meet others and enjoy a simple meal. They could be run monthly/fortnightly or even weekly, on any day of the week that the Hall was available. People were asked to make a modest donation towards costs if they felt able, and although there was always a profit at the end of the winter to give to charity, this was never the original intention.

If there was someone, or a small group of people, who might take this on there are several people who have already volunteered to help on occasions, but no one able to do the overall organisation - could this be YOU? If you are interested or would like to discuss options please contact the [Clerk](#) in the first instance.

'Thank-you' Tea Party for Dave and Rose Holborrow

On August 14th, Rupert and Julia Lycett-Green hosted a tea party to celebrate and thank Dave and Rose Holborrow for their sterling support to the village during the pandemic. The shop continued to operate as normally as possible and provided an essential service for many villagers, especially during the periods when movement was restricted. Now the pandemic has passed, let's hope that the

village shop gets the support it deserves in these difficult times so that we can all benefit from it for the next 25 years – or more!



Footpath 26 – Three Stiles to Kissing Gates

Footpath 26 (FP26) is used by many people to get from one side of the village to the other – from the Church, primary school and Tom Brown's School Museum to the Woolstone Road – by walking across the iconic small fields in the heart of the Uffington Conservation Area. FP 26 runs from opposite St Mary's Church, beside the former telephone box, south to the Woolstone Road beside the Old Police House. It crosses two paddocks and the kissing gates have replaced three stiles. As part of the project, the ancient stone footbridge over the stream at the southern end has also been repaired using as much of the old sarsen stone structure as possible. The route is now much easier to access and walkable by people of all ages so we hope more villagers will enjoy using this footpath.

We are very grateful to Dibbles and Ann Coxhead for their support for the project and to Anthony and Maxine Parson who repaired their historic stile at the entrance to Packers Lane at the same time. Pepler Fine Fencing Ltd (of Goosey) did a very professional job for us in the installation of the three kissing gates on what was one of the hottest days of the year!

The whole of the project was funded by Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) with funds from Grundon Waste Management Ltd, from their own funds and through the Landfill Communities Fund, with a grant of £3,657.80. Uffington Parish Council is extremely grateful to TOE and Grundon Waste Management Ltd without whose support this project would not have been possible. The photos below show some before and after views along with the work being undertaken.



Full Fibre Broadband Update

By now we were hoping to have good news about the 'superfast' or fibre to the premises (FTTP) roll-out and availability but, unfortunately, there is little positive news. With BT never providing us with a revised quote (due in October 2022!) we are left with Airband having rolled out fibre in and around Uffington – largely at their own commercial risk. Based on this roll-out there will be two schemes available to provide FTTP connections.

Firstly, there is the OCC funded Business in Rural Oxfordshire (BiRO) programme of some 35 businesses premises in the Uffington/Woolstone/Baulking area and identified as eligible by OCC, which DO now have FTTP connections available to connect to. As at the time of writing, as far as we are aware, none have actually taken out contracts yet – but it is imminent!

Secondly, there is the Airband scheme that will become available to most residents in Uffington. Following the 'debacle' over the number of new posts required, we discussed this with Airband and got it reduced it to just 6, 2 of which are replacements for unusable old BT posts. We now understand from engineers on the ground that the basic fibre backbone has now been installed and tested (it's just an extension of the BiRO network). We are now waiting for Airband to sort out the commercial arrangements so that households can purchase these services. SO 'are we nearly there yet? – Yes, but we're sure not far it is to go' sums up the current situation.

Looking After THE White Horse

Dave Cavanagh

Would you fancy spending half an hour on your knees pounding chalk with a heavy club hammer? A surprisingly large number of adults and children do this every year during August Bank Holiday week – on Whitehorse Hill. The occasion is the annual scrub-up of the Uffington White Horse. Some went to the Horse specifically to spruce it up, others just happened to be visiting and were inveigled by Ranger Andy Foley and his band of National Trust Volunteers to pitch in. This year, as previously, was a joyous occasion – the chalking of the Horse pitching disparate people together in common endeavour. The public pounded into the surface the lumps of chalk that the Volunteers had added last year, keeping the Horse not only topped-up but also gleaming white. Once people had gone, the Volunteers covered the Horse with fresh lumps of chalk, discretely quarried just a short distance away. The lumps break up the flow of rainwater, minimising erosion.

That the Uffington White Horse is still with us, some 3000 years since its creation, is down to at least two factors. One, the way it was constructed; not simply the result of cutting back the overlying turf. Rather, trenches, up to a metre deep, were cut into the chalk in the shape of the Horse, then back-filled, making it difficult – though not impossible - for plants to re-establish themselves. Two, teams of local people must have scoured (weeded) and re-chalked the Horse from time to time over the course of three millennia. Whether they were Ancient Brits, Romanised locals, Anglo-Saxons, survivors of the Norman invasion, or English folk since, the Horse meant sufficient to all of them such that they repeatedly groomed it. The Horse will be there on the hill next August Bank Holiday. Will you!

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SCHOOL NOTICEBOARD

We are delighted to share with you the results of our Ofsted inspection, which took place at the end of the summer term. We were graded “Good” overall but “Outstanding” for personal development. The inspection team wrote that: Pupils are proud of their unique local heritage. For instance, they regularly clear out the weeds at White Horse Hill and help look after the community garden. Every year, pupils write letters about their school experiences. These are then stored in a ‘special box of memories’ at the museum, which was the original schoolhouse. Pupils write neighbourly messages to residents in the local care home and sing at events in

the village. They routinely raise funds for the charities they support. Leaders’ work to develop pupils’ character and prepare pupils for life in modern Britain is exemplary.

I am very proud of all of the staff, children and Governors in achieving this marvellous outcome!

This Autumn we continue to be busy, firstly with our Macmillan coffee morning organised by our Year 5 and 6 and then with our Harvest service in St Mary’s church on 5th October. This year we are collecting food items for the local foodbank. Our sports teams are competing in Dodgeball and Tag rugby tournaments against other local schools. Our School council are making plans to develop our pond area and our Collective Worship Crew are creating ideas for shared worship.

If you would like to know more about all of the things we are up to then please take a look: <https://www.uffingtonprimary.org/>

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Part of a museum's role is to preserve the past for future generations, but the recent passing of Queen Elizabeth II brings home to the nation not just a sense of loss but a tangible feeling that we are now experiencing momentous times; we are living in history. All associated with the Museum join in sending our thoughts and prayers to the Royal family in their time of grief.

Uffington's Museum is, like society at large, starting to emerge from the confines of COVID. Over the past year our visitor numbers have gradually increased and arranged group visits have seen a most welcome return, notably through our strong links with Uffington Primary School and their annual celebration of Founder's Day. Most of you will know the Museum has, shall we say, limited space, yet more than 100 pupils and staff comfortably converged on the Museum where the solemn ceremony of remembering Thomas Saunders, patron of Uffington's old school, was undertaken and letters composed by all the school's pupils were presented to the Museum for safe keeping over the coming year. As the Museum's new curator, this was my first experience of Founder's Day and I have to say how impressed I was with the impeccable behaviour of the children (and staff!).

Staying with a post-COVID theme, the Museum is in the process of finalising a survey that will be posted to every household in Uffington. Drawing on the title of one of my favourite books, living in the time of COVID has seen the biggest impact on society over the past 100 years (save WWII?). As indicated above, a museum is obliged to preserve the past for future generations and it is to this end we ask that you share with us your memories of lockdown. Feel free to contribute as little, or as much, as you wish but please bear in mind that generations in the future will look back at this time of extraordinary events and seek to understand the impact it had on everyday life. We hope to have our survey drop on your doorstep in the coming weeks.

Friends of the Museum have recently reinstated a programme of monthly talks which are open to all in the community. Our first event was a phenomenal success with over 100 people in Uffington's Memorial Hall to hear Professor Gary Lock enlighten us on the development and varied roles of local hill-forts during the iron age. This year's remaining talks include The Venerable David Meara, Archdeacon Emeritus of London exploring our built environment as celebrated through the evocative writing and unique vision of Sir John Betjeman. Closing the 2022 Programme we invite you to join Mike Heaney of Oxford's Bodleian Library for a guided tour of Percy Manning's Oxfordshire -- its local history and unique customs

spanning the nineteenth century. Mike's talk will take place at the Memorial Hall, Uffington on Monday 7 November, 7.30pm and is titled **The Man Who Collected Oxfordshire: The Antiquary Percy Manning**. Tickets available on the door from 7pm.

Finally, on a personal note, I've been fortunate to have taken over the role of curator from Karen Pilcher who has, with our volunteers, provided a sound foundation for the Museum. Karen continues as Chair of the Museum Trustees and I can only count myself fortunate that those who have gone before me have undertaken so much of the hard yards that are, typically, unseen to most of our visitors.

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UBW MINIBUS ASSOCIATION

Our regular services to Wantage continue, with appropriate Covid precautions, thanks to the support of our volunteer driver team.

The services start from Uffington at 9.30 on Wednesday and Friday, returning before lunchtime, and several calls are made on the way at points convenient for our passengers. Bus passes may be used, or alternatively there is a modest cash fare to cover our costs. Villagers not already familiar with our services are welcome to call 01367 820417 for further details.

The bus is available for villagers and local groups to use for their own social, educational and recreational purposes, customarily on a self drive basis. Please call the above number for details.

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ELM TREE SURGERY SHRIVENHAM PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION SERVICE

Will patients ordering repeat prescriptions from the Surgery please note that they should now do so before 3pm on Friday, earlier orders would of course be welcomed. Prescriptions will then be available in the Post Office on the following Thursday. The repeat prescription telephone line at Elm Tree Surgery is open between 1.30-3pm each day.

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THE 2022 WHITE HORSE SHOW

White Horse Show Committee

In the Spring edition of the Courier, we said “We are very pleased to report that after an enforced absence of 2 years, the White Horse Show will be returning on Sunday 28th and Monday 29th – August Bank Holiday weekend”.

In the Summer edition, we kept quiet.

Perhaps we were too busy trying to remember how to put the Show together or perhaps we didn't want to shout too loudly about an event that might or might not be a success? Whatever, the reason for our modesty, I am now extremely pleased to say that we came back to life with a bang and here are a few pictures to remind us of those two great days, courtesy of photographers Mags Hudgell and Mick Lyons.



This was the 50th year since the Show began in 1972 and there have been good and bad times, including several years in the 1990s when the Show made a loss. On the plus side, there have been seven years when the Show profit exceeded £30,000. At the time of writing, the final figure for the 2022 Show is a few weeks away but who knows - maybe there have now been eight years when the profit exceeded £30,000?





So why was the Show so popular this year? Was it the release everyone is beginning to experience after two years of physical isolation? Perhaps it was the incredible weather, which at times had been much too hot but for the Show, proved ideal. The car-park was certainly not the quagmire it

has been in some years! All we can say is that it certainly went well and thank you to everyone who volunteered and stepped forward to make it happen.



Thank you also to the many thousands of people who came to the Show on both days and thank you for all the kind words we have received, saying how good the Show was.



The next step is to start planning the 2023 Show but we all need to bear in mind that a number of key people stepped out of retirement to make the 2022 Show happen and they will not be available for 2023. Their knowledge and advice may be available but they will be looking to step back and hand on the baton. If you were persuaded to help in any way with the Show this year or if you simply came and enjoyed the experience, please get in touch and join the committee. No special skills are needed. We meet once a month, allocate jobs and cross our fingers that we can create another Show like 2022.

* * * * *

WHITE HORSE GARDENING CLUB PROGRAMME

Verity Cavanagh
veritycavanagh@gmail.com

OCTOBER 6th

TALK: Botanical Tales from the East – Japanese Gardens

Nicholas Wray, Curator of Bristol Botanic Gardens

This lecture looks at the history and evolution of Japanese gardening styles and highlights some of the key features and links between gardens and Japanese culture. The focus is on gardens in Tokyo, Nara and the cultural capital city of Kyoto.

OCTOBER 13TH

VISIT: Harcourt Arboretum Tour with Ben Jones TBC

NOVEMBER 3rd

TALK: ROSES

Stewart Pocock of Pococks Roses, Romsey, SO51 0QA

Established in 1984, every year produce in excess of 60,000 rose plants in a range of over 450 varieties. Plants for Sale

DECEMBER 1st

TALK: by Woodchester Valley Vineyard from

Stroud. www.woodchestervalleyvineyard.co.uk

Seasonal refreshments and wines to sample/purchase

A reminder that membership fees have been increased to £15 per annum.

Visitors fees are £3.00 for talks and visits. (except 1/09/22 - £5)

The WHGC programme (accounting year) will change to the academic calendar (Sept - Sept) as of 2023.

Therefore to enable a smooth transition the fee payable as of **1st January is £20 per member** which will be membership for one and a half years.

i.e. Next AGM and fees payable will be September 2023.

A reminder that WHGC Membership cards provide 10% off plants at Bampton Garden Centre.

All enquiries please contact Pamela Preene: parrottspreene@aol.com

Verity Cavanagh

veritycavanagh@gmail.com

07975861790

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Local Artist Leila Anderson

invites you to join her at Thomas Hughes Hall,
Uffington

For her Solo Art Show...**Finding New Pathways**

Preview 14 October's 6-8 & Saturday 15th 10-5

“ after two years of uncertainty, fear and despair, when it was hard to see any way forward it's now time to find new ways of doing things. Our world has changed, and we have to move with those changes, to navigate our way ahead....

.....**Finding New Pathways** is my way of expressing this, looking at familiar landscapes with a fresh eye and a glad heart.” I do hope you'll join me.

Leila (*more info* Leila.artstudio@gmail.com)

Call 07794 357503 To visit my studio



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BENEFICE 200 CLUB DRAW

**Results of the Benefice 200 draw which took place on Sunday 18th
September after the Harvest Thanksgiving Service at Baulking**

1 @ £200.00	Ball 23	Mike Thomas
2 @ £100.00	Ball 142	Linda Walker
	Ball 25	LDE Hollingworth
5 @ £50.00	Ball 69	Viv Manton
	Ball 200	Elaine Baber
	Ball 18	Barbara Schofield
	Ball 84	Sheena Florey
	Ball 99	Jeremy & Sarah Cale

The next draw will take place in early December

* * * * *

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As memories of record breaking, high temperatures, scorched grasslands and the early harvest fade, we have cooler autumnal breezes, inflationary driven higher costs and other very important issues of the day. However, St Mary's has continued working and making hay! Teas on Sunday afternoon have thrived thanks to the dedicated helpers as well as the pianist! The White

Horse Show humming and buzzing in the sun with big crowds and excellent organisation enabled the church to unleash a congregation of fifty plus accompanied by the Wantage Silver Band to sing three hymns, a few words and prayers led by the Vicar as the first day came to an end. Guide me O thou Great Redeemer (Cum Rhondha) reverberated around the main arena! Most certainly the glorious weather contributed to everyone's humour and very many thanks indeed to the WHS team for its superb management and hard work.

The Church Cake stall thrived and the cakes ran out on the first day resulting in loyal helpers baking late in to the night. The return exceeded all expectations and a massive thank you to all our supporters.

Just after the Show, the Church suffered a blow as the magnificent clock in the old octagonal tower broke down. The damage is being assessed by a specialist company and almost certainly a second opinion will be required. The PCC faces the daunting prospect of a significant cost (yet to be defined) to restore the chimes and time to the clock (sometimes referred to as the 'heartbeat' of the village). The PCC is setting up a Clock Restoration Fund appealing to friends, potential private donors and local charitable and regional trusts. We expect we will need £20,000 but it is still too early to quantify.

In October there will be scaffolding in the south transept as long -standing electrical repairs are due to be fixed. This damage has been done in recent years by the squirrels. The PCC has also been discussing its response to the National Synod request for the Church to lead in demanding a more green approach and to demonstrate its wish to care for the Planet. We are taking it seriously and will be instituting changes in how we operate.

St Mary's Harvest Festival (plus children's choir hopefully) is on Sunday 25 September, Fish & Chips Quiz evening on Thursday 3rd November, Christmas

Carol Concert by Avebury Vocal Ensemble on 14 December and we hope with wide support that these functions will contribute to our fundraising. Times may sound difficult and certainly there are challenges but St Mary's has existed for eight hundred years plus....we will restore 'the heartbeat' and keep it open.

At the time of going to press, we have heard the very sad news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II. St Mary's has opened a book of condolences to remember our past much loved Queen and encourage all to visit the church and sign the book thereby thanking God for her life and service.

God Save the King.

* * * * *



Christmas Wreath Workshop With Bubbles & Festive Treats:

Please join me for festive celebrations, creating memorable wreaths which you can use as, festive door wreaths, gifts or table centrepieces.



- On arrival you will be joyfully greeted and there will be refreshments with a selection of festive treats.
- On the tables will be a beautiful selection of festive and traditional materials.
- There are limited spaces, so please contact me to book or to discuss anymore details, payment will be required upon booking. I look forward to celebrating this festive season with you all. Please see below all available dates.

Location = Uffington (exact location given upon booking)

£50 Per Person

Dates: Saturday 3/12/2022 10:00 - 12:30

Saturday 3/12/2022 18:00 - 20:30

Saturday 10/12/2022 10:00 - 12:30

Saturday 10/12/2022 18:00 - 20:30

MORE DATES TO FOLLOW!

Contact: Claire 07867517161 cwfloristry@gmail.com

* * * * *



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THOMAS HUGHES MEMORIAL HALL

Geoff Rumble

With the removal of covid restrictions earlier in the year the Memorial Hall has been in steady use throughout the Spring and Summer, with bookings only dropping, as they traditionally do, in the holiday period of late July and August. It was pleasing to see the building used for a number of private functions and a notable booking was a visit by the Bullnose Morris Club, when the car park hosted thirty lovingly maintained cars, all manufactured prior to 1931. These had been driven from far and wide and came to Uffington as part of a weekend event.



After a fairly desperate period in 2021, when we were very worried about the lack of committee members to efficiently manage and run the Memorial Hall, the situation improved to some extent, after the AGM in January but we still lacked general support outside of the Management Committee. This became a problem when the Hall was called upon to carry out its traditional role to organise car-parking for the White Horse Show. We were very grateful when the Uffington School PTA offered to share the role and jointly we were able to put together a large enough team for the job.

As we move into Autumn and the record hot, dry first half of the year finally gives way to cooler weather and some much-needed rain, the Hall booking diary is already looking busy and enquiries and reservations are being made for 2023.

The Solar Panels and good thermal insulation installed five years ago will hopefully mitigate the expected rise in the cost of gas and electricity. At the moment, we have no plans to increase hall booking charges but will obviously need to review the cost of running the building if energy costs spiral - as we are continually reminded by the more hysterical members of the fourth estate!

The Hall holds three meetings each year plus an AGM in January. These meetings are an opportunity for organisations that hire the building to hear from and direct the management during the year and to appoint a management committee at the AGM. The meeting in July this year was attended by only one representative and while this may have been influenced by the extreme heat, it was very much a disappointment for the Management Committee. There are several projects on the list of repairs and improvements and we would like to make a start with planning when these can take place. Sadly, with the current level of support, this is unlikely to happen. If you are able to become involved in driving a project, please let us know. We are also lacking financial support from fundraising. While the Hall is currently not short of funds, it is only possible to maintain and improve the Hall and to keep hire charges low if there are fundraising events each year to supplement the income from hiring. Please remember, it is your community building and it needs your help to ensure it remains modern, comfortable and a pleasure to use.

The Hall is on Facebook and has a website www.thmh.co.uk where information and contact details are available, including a calendar as a first check for potential booking availability.

* * * * *

The 2022 season started with the somewhat lowly aspiration of getting 11 players on the pitch for every game...after a few seasons of decline and the disruption caused by COVID there was a real danger of the club petering out.

However after a recruitment drive a number of new players, ranging in age from 16 to mid 50s, joined the club alongside the existing group of hardy regulars, and it's immensely pleasing to say the club completed nearly 40 fixtures through the season with the full compliment of players in every game. In fact selection meetings were needed some weeks to pick a side from all the players who had made themselves available!

Things started slowly with losses in our first matches in both the Downs League Division 3 North (Wednesday) and Cherwell League Division 8C (Saturday) – no doubt related to our complete lack of pre season practice (to be rectified next season!). But from then on we never looked back, not losing again in the Cherwell League for the rest of the season, securing a 3rd place finish - just 11 points behind the winners - and promotion to Division 7 next season. Our Wednesday form wasn't quite as spectacular, losing a couple more games through the season but we still did enough to secure 2nd place behind a very strong Challow outfit and promotion to Division 2 next season.

We also entered the Cherwell League's Keith Crump Memorial Cup (for teams in Tier 8 of the league pyramid) and comfortable victories against Great & Little Tew 2s, East & Wet Hendred 3s and Ascott-under-Wychwood put us into the final. On a gloriously hot Sunday in early August we played Witney Mills 3s at Great & Little Tew in front of a sizeable crowd (perhaps helped by Oxfordshire vs Cumbria playing at the same time on the other pitch), scoring 239-4 batting first and bowling the opposition out for 192 to become champions. It was a terrific game of cricket played in exactly the right spirit and the win was heartily celebrated!!!

So as we pack away the whites and willow for the winter and reflect on the season now gone, there's no doubt it's been a season where we've exceeded any and every expectation we had, and there's no reason we can't do something similar next season. It's been a terrific year and the players have enjoyed themselves immensely throughout, playing some really good competitive cricket but always with a smile on their faces and not taking ourselves too seriously! Roll on May 2023.

If you are interested in getting involved with the club next season, as a player, coach, umpire or sponsor, please contact Joe Parman – joeparman@outlook.com

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UFFINGTON PLAYERS

Christine Holley

The Players are currently rehearsing for the Murder Mystery evenings planned for October. These will take place on Friday 28th & Saturday 29th.

Further information will be sent out once details have been finalised.

If you think you would like to be involved in these or future productions, or would like further information, please contact Christine Holley 01367 820474 or email christineholley28@hotmail.co.uk

* * * * *

richard james

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THANKS GIVING FOR THE QUEEN

Rev Jeremy Goulston

Stop all the clocks, - news of the Queen's death reached me as I was contemplating a eulogy for St Mary's clock, and now something much deeper is happening... - 'It is the structure' she replied 'it is the political balance whereby our monarch underpins our constitutional democracy but doesn't intervene or meddle in it' – It takes quite a lot of both innate and accumulated wisdom, and restraint, to know how not to meddle, because we are all drawn to such things at times. But the Queen has never shown this tendency. 'In a way' Harman went on 'she represents British values but does not intervene in British policy or British politics – it seems to work very well...'

Praps it has works so well because she came to know her role very well, like she knew her race horses. She knew that it was a role she inhabited rather than boasted – witness her encounter with an American tourist, who failed to recognise her one day whilst out walking near Balmoral with her bodyguard, Richard Griffin...

'Where do you live?' the tourist asked her,

'Well I live in London she replied but I've got a house just over the hills' He then said, 'How often have you been coming here? Oh, she said, I've been coming up here ever since I was a little girl, so over 80 years.'

'He said well if you've been coming up here for 80 years you must have met the Queen.

'As quick as a flash she said: 'Well I haven't, but Dickie here meets her regularly. The American turns to the bodyguard and says 'You've met the Queen? What's she like?'

To which he replied 'She can be very cantankerous at times but she's got a lovely sense of humour...'

This combination of wisdom, humour and grace is a rare one

- She was open to sharing something of herself but at the same time recognised that wisdom precluded her from saying everything.

She knew that her purpose was to enable her country to shine like the sparkling of a Crown. The light is more effective for being diffuse, dispersed amongst this land. There is not a constituency of our islands which she has not visited several times; she knew she was at her most effective when she was sharing her presence with her people. And, in all of this, the Queen has kept most of her thoughts to herself.

But she knew there were times where what was needed was the sharing of compassion. It has been recounted recently how moved she was by her visit to Grenfell Towers, and how afterwards she chose to make a rare statement – one of

solidarity with those who had lost loved ones or were suffering themselves. It reminds us of the Queen Mother visiting bomb sites in the East End – an emphasis

of being with and amongst rather than aloof.

And then there was the taxi-driver parked up with many others along the Mall earlier in the week saying 'She was like a second mum to me, I grew up with that feeling'. And the Chelsea Pensioner moved to tears as he tried to express his gratitude for the Queen as Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother.

I have spoken before of Major-General Bruce, now Governor of Edinburgh Castle, who had interviewed the Queen about her coronation; he said; 'I imagine the Queen doesn't set out thinking, 'I am the mother of the nation.' We project that on to her. But there is also the sense in which her soldiers fight, and sometimes die for her and she must carry that as a bit of a burden. Where do you take that?'

She took it to God.

Her faith was understated, and all the more encouraging and real for that. The quiet way in which she spoke of it persisted in her Christmas broadcasts. In the millennial celebratory year she said that; 'the true measure of Christ's influence is not only in the lives of the saints but also in the good works quietly done by millions of men and women day in and day out throughout the centuries.'

We admired her because we sensed here was a person unspoiled by position, power and money. There was a sort of expectation across the country that she would continue to honour the things in our society which were unsung but which we were hugely grateful for.

Major-General Bruce again, 'She knew that we project what we want to, and it's not for her to choose what is projected upon her. That's the nature of constitutional kingship. She didn't follow some political agenda that we can either like or hate. She was just the ropes around the boxing ring. When the collisions of politics landed against her, it was her job to just spring back into place and provide a canvas for the nation to move forward.'

Because she empathised *with* us, we were supportive of her. She and we understood that, through the annus horribilis of 1992 and beyond; into the difficult days of Covid and today, that *compassion*; walking with understanding and solidarity through seemingly impossible situations, is one of the best ways possible to build us up as individuals, and as a people. More than a Defender, she has been an *Advocate* for all of us and we gather today simply to say '**thank you, ma'am**'.

Thank you for helping us keep the sense of Common Good active on local as well as international stages.

Thank you for reminding us what true service is and for encouraging us to serve too. For our villages and churches require, and are thankful for, people who serve in quiet ways; people who keep open the channels of communication or put up the

hymn numbers; people who are prepared to meet and represent community and Christian values in our neighbourhood.

As our northern poet laureate and republican turned monarchist, Simon Armitage puts it in his poem;

Queenhood,

*It is an honouring, but also an honour.
In the flare and blur of an old film
ghostly knights and chess-piece bishops deliver
the unearthly orb, with its pearly equator
and polished realms, into your open palm;
and pass you the sceptre and rod of mercy
and justice, one bearing the cross, one plumed
with a white dove; and load your fourth finger
with a ring that makes you the nation's bride;*

He talks in that poem of those parts of the coronation service which were unseen; the anointing of hands, head and heart – and the taking of communion.

Over the ninety-six of her life she has in many ways redefined what majesty is and anchored it in the service of others...

And she has done all these things as a woman, at a time when we were living very much in a man's world.

The seeming serenity she displayed at her coronation is revisited in the last words of the poem. It is a serenity which she managed to sustain into the very last days of her reign;

The dream life and the documentary, a truthful fantasy.

For generations we will not know such majesty.

Your Majesty, we thank you with all our hearts, for what you have been and done, and ask that we too are blessed, as we bless your son Charles for the years to come.

* * * * *

Summer is now fading into autumn but what an unusual summer it has been. After a slow, cold and dry spring, seeds had to be sown and re-sown. Fresh spring showers usually sustain seeds sown directly and once we have watered them in, they are on their own, but not this year! Rain has been in short supply and even our extra-large, rain-water storage tanks were getting dangerously low. Apart from the greenhouses, very little else has been watered and yet things have survived!

We planted with plenty of compost which acted like a sponge and struggling plants were mulched after a good drink, with anything available to hold in the moisture. As temperatures soared, we longed for rain and now, at last it has come! All that sunshine and making the plants work harder, with strong roots meant that e.g. our strawberries and tomatoes have been delicious. This year, our own usual broad beans had shorter and fuller pods, with no wasted space – just packed with delicious beans. Maybe they are becoming drought-tolerant, adapting to the conditions. Our neighbours in Patrick's orchard noticed first and they've eaten more broad beans than you've had hot dinners... or something like that! We will definitely plant them again and watch with interest next year!

In times of drought, flowers produce less pollen and, it takes longer to refill the flowers again, meaning that bees can go hungry and breed smaller colonies, meaning fewer bees next year too. By planting flowers at the ends of the beds, the bees need to travel less and don't waste energy. Different types of flowers appeal to different insects and this year we've had plenty of variety such as feverfew, poppies, nasturtiums, oregano and thyme. The phacelia has now reseeded again and acts as a green manure over winter to condition the soil.

The more people we have, the more beautiful and productive we can make the site. Gardening is such an enjoyable pastime and now known to be really beneficial for physical and mental well-being. Whatever your age, ability or preference there will be something worth-while you can do.

We are delighted to have been kindly given, Fenella's, apple press which will soon see action providing fresh apple juice. Good apples and clean plastic milk bottles needed please! We are all volunteers and rely on donations and fund-raising to keep going. We will be at the Farmers market on 25th Sep. with further details and will advertise in the shop and on the weekly bulletin.

Anyone is welcome to come to the community garden, behind the Fox & Hounds. The organic produce is grown to share and the garden is a space to feel good, meet new people, and spend some quality time together. There is no time commitment nor membership fee – just drop by, most Saturdays 2 – 4pm or get in touch 820709.

Thanks go to Northfields for their compost, Paul Bailey for the hessian and to Sarah and Tony's Pop Up Café for spreading the word! And others...



* * * * *

Local businesses (Telephone numbers are all 01367
unless shown otherwise or mobile numbers)

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Scheduled local activity information

Day of week	Time	Activity	Ages	Where	Contact
Mondays	9-10 am	Circuits	Adult	Village Hall	Lucinda 07967 157620
Mondays	7-8pm	Fitness	Adult	Village Hall	Michelle Southey 07826 524463
2nd Monday of month	6.15-8.30 pm	Parish Council		Village Hall	Parish Clerk clerk@uffington.net
Tuesday	10-11am	Tai Chi	Adult	Village Hall	If interested, attend to make enquiries
Tuesday	12.30-1.30pm	Pilates	Adult	Village Hall	Fiona-wright@outlook.com
Tuesday	6-7.15pm	Beavers	Children 6-8	Village Hall	Dave Barnes 07811 424978
Tuesday	7.30-9pm	Bell Ringing	12 and over	St. Mary's Church	Hugh Baxter 820014
Wednesday	6pm	League Cricket 20 overs	14+	Sports Club Fawler Road	Joe Parman joeparman@outlook.com
Wednesday	5.45– 7pm	Yoga	Adult	Village Hall	Sophie Khan 07788 418469
Wednesday	7-8.30pm	Guides	Girls aged 10-14	Village Hall	Uffingtonguides@gmail.com
Wednesday	7-8pm	Fitness	Adult	Village Hall	Michelle Southey 07826 524463
Thursday	8.30-9.30 am	Box Fit	Adult	Village Hall	Lucinda 07967 157620
Thursday	6:30-8 pm	Cubs	Children 8-10	Village Hall	Katharine Murkett 820270
Thursday	7-9pm	Scouts	Children 10-14	Village Hall	Nathan Reade 07768 073363 Katharine Murkett 820270
1st Thursday of month	7.30-9pm	Gardening Club	Adult	Village Hall	Pamela Preene 820251
Friday	9.30-11am	Baby & Toddler	Children 0-5 Parents must stay	Village Hall	Michelle Garwood mhcgarwood@gmail.com
Saturday		League football	Adults	Sports Club, Fawler Road	Jason Wilkins 870487
Saturday	1pm	League Cricket (40 overs/side)	14+	Sports Club, Fawler Road	Joe Parman joeparman@outlook.com
Saturdays	2-4pm	Community Garden	Adult + accompanied children	Community Garden behind Fox & Hounds pub	Heather Abel 01367 820709 heather.abel@hotmail.com

For Village Hall booking enquiries, please contact Uffington Shop on 01367 820977 or check in the Hall booking calendar booking website www.thmh.co.uk

If you spot any errors or would like new information included please contact Julia Evans the [Parish Council Clerk](#)

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