



The Courier

Serving the Communities of
Uffington, Baulking, and Woolstone

Issue 194

Summer 2023

Copy date for Autumn issue Friday 15th September 2023
to Giles Dawson, Tel: or email courier@uffington.net

The Council

Uffington Parish Council now has six councillors and is seeking to coopt a seventh. They serve four-year terms. The composition of the Parish Council is:

Mike Oldnall (Chair) 820369 mike.oldnall@uffington.net

Simon Jenkins (Vice Chair) 820776 simon.jenkins@uffington.net

Richard Charles richard.charles@uffington.net

Kat Foxhall kat.foxhall@uffington.net

Fenella Oberman fenella.oberman@uffington.net

Nigel Puddicombe nigel.puddicombe@uffington.net

Clerk

Mrs Julia Evans 01235 833466 clerk@uffington.net

Mrs Julia Evans (Alternative) parishcouncil@uffington.net

The Chair and Clerk may be contacted on the above telephone numbers or email addresses. Other Councillors may be contacted on the email addresses above.

The Council normally meets 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. The agenda is published on the Parish Council website and notice board at least three clear days before the meeting. 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). We particularly encourage anyone intending to submit a planning application to come and discuss it with the Council before submission. A digital copy of the Courier is always posted on the Village [website](#) from where the links in each edition are live.

Cover photo: *Many thanks to Karen Pilcher for the delightful photograph of the summer solstice sun setting with summer wild flowers in the foreground .*

Council Elections

At the May 2023 elections 5 councillors were appointed, 3 existing and 2 new, without an election as there were fewer nominations than the 7 vacancies. Subsequently, at the June Council meeting, one additional volunteer was co-opted as a councillor leaving just one vacancy. The names of the 6 councillors are on the inside cover of this issue of the Courier. If you are interested in becoming a councillor or helping the Council in any other way, please contact the [Clerk](#).

Graham Banks - Valedictory: One of the councillors who stood down at the 2023 elections was Graham Banks – after more than 30 years' service on the Parish Council including a considerable period as Chairman. During his time as Chairman Graham worked hard and his achievements were many and varied and I would like to highlight some of the more recent ones with which many readers will be familiar.

- New Shop – Graham and Helen Godsell worked hard with the lawyers to achieve an amendment of the Jubilee Field Trust Deed, in order that the present village shop might be built on its current site at the end of the car park. Keeping the shop was, and still is, vital to the wellbeing of the village and it took some doing to persuade Rose and Dave to stick with us through the prolonged negotiations.
- Jacksmeadow – the biggest single development in the Village involved a great deal of negotiating to keep the number of houses down and the spacing between them up. Graham also negotiated the S106 money to be paid by the developer and which is still being spent on village projects.
- Allotments - taking up the offer from the Avenell family to use the donated land for the Parish Allotments.
- Parish Burial Ground – Graham took over the management when Sharon Smith left the village in 2015, with responsibility for over 100 graves, records etc
- Trustee and Treasurer of the Uffington Museum Trust.
- And who could forget the many Jubilee Field Tidies where Graham has been master of the bonfire!

Despite retiring from the Council, Graham continues to contribute to the village and is an active contributor and supporter of the church as the 'winder of the clock' and tidier of the graveyard. We all wish him well in his 'retirement'.

Parish Clerk – upcoming vacancy

After more than 7 years in the post, Julia, our Parish Clerk is moving onward and upward. Whilst this is good news for Julia it is not good news for the Council! The Council is therefore looking for a replacement clerk to take over at the end of September. The Person Specification for the post is as follows:

1. Previous relevant administrative experience.
2. Competent user of Microsoft Office (365) suite of programs, especially Word and Excel.
3. After training, be able to operate the Council's chosen accounting software and Government VAT submission programs.
4. To be CILCA qualified or prepared to achieve this qualification within 1 year of appointment.
5. Able to demonstrate a pro-active, flexible and problem-solving approach to tasks.
6. Good verbal and written communication skills, particularly the ability to communicate with audiences at different levels.
7. Ability to work efficiently and under minimal supervision, organising and prioritising their own workload and taking personal responsibility for meeting deadlines.
8. Proven ability to work with tact and discretion, particularly as the Clerk deals with personal data and with people from different backgrounds with different needs.
9. Demonstrable experience of working effectively with others, co-operating positively with colleagues and building productive relationships with other stakeholders.

The job is home-based and part-time (30 hours per month) and a laptop will be provided but the incumbent will need an internet connection. The salary will be based on the National Agreement on Salaries and Conditions of Service of Local Council Clerks in England and Wales. The starting salary will be approximately £13 per hour (depending on skill and experience) and which will be increased to approximately £15 per hour on satisfactory completion of the probationary period and achievement of the Certificate in Local Council Administration (which takes approximately a year).

If you are interested in being considered for this post, please let the Clerk (who can also provide further information) or any councillor know.

The Courier Magazine

Advertising. 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 and as follows:

- ¼ page or less: £20.00
- ½ page: £40.00
- Full page: £75.00
- Advertisements on the website only: £10.00 (Links to external commercial sites are acceptable, at the discretion of the Council)

Please note that in the event of non-payment, advertisements will appear in only one further issue before being discontinued pending payment.

Anybody wishing to advertise should contact the [Clerk](#). Copies of the Courier are distributed to a number of local shops, pubs and other outlets outside of the UBW villages making it more attractive to advertisers. We would be pleased to learn of any errors, omissions, or any additional categories of advertisement you would like to see included in future editions.

Distribution: If you don't want a paper copy delivered, **please email mike.oldnall@uffington.net with your house address** so we can remove you from the next distribution.

Planning Applications in Uffington since the last Courier

The following applications are **awaiting determination**:

- P22/V2252/HH - Slate House Upper Common Uffington Faringdon SN7 7RU. Proposed rear extension and associated alterations. (As amended by parking plan received 1st November 2022).
- P22/V0345/FUL - Sowerhill Farm Uffington Faringdon SN7 7QH. Installation of an outdoor arena with lights change of use from agricultural to equestrian.

The following applications have been **approved**:

- P23/V0585/HH - 7 Jacksmeadow Uffington Faringdon SN7 7GN. Dormer loft conversion and front porch extension.
- P22/V2978/S73 - Dragon Hill Uffington Faringdon SN7 7RE. Variation of condition 2 (approved Plans) of application P22/V1141/FUL and removal of condition 7 Proposed erection of 2no 4 bed detached (self-build) dwellings.
- P23/V0142/LB - Tamerlane Cottage Packers Lane High Street Uffington SN7 7RT. Proposed replacement of flue liner which serves a woodburning stove. Raise height of the chimney stack and replace existing pot.
- P23/V0786/HH – 4 Jacksmeadow. Single storey front and rear extensions

The following applications have been **refused**: - **none**

The following applications have been withdrawn: – none

The following applications have been appealed:

- Under Appeals References: APP/V3120/C/23/3314399 and APP/V3120/C/23/3314401:
 - P22/V1042/FUL - Land North of Baulking Lane Baulking Lane Baulking SN7 8NR. Permission is sought 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.

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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.

Jubilee Field

Poplars. In the last edition of the Courier, we announced that the Parish Council had decided that the centre poplar only, at this time, should be removed. This work was carried out in early May. The general opinion following the felling, is that the area around the pond has been much improved by letting in more light. Some of the logs and chippings from the felled tree have been used to improve the path on the west (High Street) side of the pond making it much less muddy and, hopefully, stopping the bank sliding into the pond! The brambles etc around the site of the former poplar tree are to be removed and the area left

to settle for use as a wildlife area. The Council plans to continue to develop the area as a wildlife area as time and funds permit. If you have any ideas for this area please let the Council know.



Village Maintenance

Hedges and Ditches. The Council supported the ‘No mow May’ concept by leaving the hedges and verges uncut for as long as possible – except for junction splays where it would be dangerous to leave the verge uncut. The first cut of the village’s verges has now taken place; the second cut and the hedge cutting will follow in the autumn, once the bird nesting period is over. 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 [Clerk](#).

Traffic Calming in Uffington

20 mph limit. Following the decision to go ahead and notifying OCC that Uffington wished to be made a 20mph village, the new signs and road markings were completed, ahead of the expected July date, in May. The electronic speed signs have also been adjusted to

show the new speed limits. Whilst the 20mph limit is very unlikely to be enforced by the police as was acknowledged in OCC's press release on 27th April, which stated: *"While the council has been working alongside Thames Valley Police, the emphasis is on drivers adhering to the new limits through a change of mindset, rather than enforcement. It is hoped that as 20mph areas become more common, breaking the limit will become socially unacceptable for drivers."* In order to encourage this mindset in Uffington the Speedwatch initiative (see below) will continue and the data from the electronic sign analysed to see if there are any noticeable changes in average speeds.



Speedwatch

Simon Jenkins

The Speedwatch group consists of 8 volunteers and there are now 9 sites in and around the village from which the group can operate. Since January, 27 drivers have been reported to Thames Valley Police for driving at speeds in excess of the speed limit – now 20 mph - within the village. Despite the publicity for the introduction of the 20 mph limit, new signs, the Speedwatch warning notices and the presence of a group of people on the side of the road in high vis jackets with something resembling a hair drier, there are still drivers travelling at speeds in excess of 40 mph.

So, more volunteers would allow more sessions, a greater deterrence factor and greater protection of other road users, including pedestrians; if you would like to help, please contact simon.jenkins@uffington.net

Allotments

Nigel Puddicombe

The Uffington allotments continue to be busy and we are looking forward to the new growing season and all the challenges that will no doubt bring. The Parish Council has provided 2 more large water storage tanks spaced across the allotments for use by plot tenants to help to manage dry periods. The large majority of plots are now let, however a small number of plots remain available for rent by residents of Uffington, Baulking and Woolstone. These plots each measure roughly 100 square yards and are plots that mainly have not been worked before but offer great potential as a reward for the initial hard work that will be required. If you are a keen gardener who wants to enjoy the benefits both of healthy exercise and of growing their own fruit and vegetables, please contact either Barry Godsell (bandhg@hotmail.com) or Nigel Puddicombe (nigel.puddicombe@uffington.net), 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 way forward. The current annual rental is £25 per plot.

Uffington Village Shop – Security Appeal

Following the break-in in May, the following notice was circulated on 15 June 2023:

“Many of you will know the Village Shop was broken into in the early hours of 9 May and that it was not the first time it has been attacked. Sadly, this was a particularly nasty break-in.

This attack could not have occurred at a worse time as Rose and Dave Holborow are in the process of completing the sale of their house in Swindon and moving into the bungalow they have had built in Uffington. They have been looking to retire while ensuring the Shop continues to provide the service to our community it has done so well for so many years. This latest attack has certainly been a disaster for them.

The Shop was “back to normal” within a few days and some may think the term “disaster” is over dramatic. However, the cost to Rose and Dave of this attack, mentally and financially, will be considerable. Insurance may not cover the full cost of repairs and they will need to find funds to pay for improved security, such as a metal shutter for the main entrance to prevent yet another attack, and to be able to continue to insure the business.

The Shop is a lifeline for many people in the community, providing a range of services (prescription deliveries, dry cleaning, plants in season etc), in addition to selling food and

household materials. The Post Office, including banking facilities, is particularly valuable as banks and post offices continue to disappear from high streets. We should not forget the fact the Shop remained open throughout the covid pandemic and proved invaluable for those who could not leave the village. In short, there are incalculable social benefits to the residents of Uffington and other local villages in the continuing success of the Shop; the more we all use it, the better!

It is now known that the cost of installing a new front door (the current one was a temporary stop-gap to get the business opened again) and metal shutters to improve security will be in the region of £5,000. There is obviously a need to get these repairs completed as quickly as possible. It is thought that there are many people in Uffington and surrounding villages who would wish to show their appreciation of Dave and Rose's work for us over many years by contributing to the repairs. We are therefore setting up an 'Appeal Fund' to raise funds and to show Rose and Dave that their long-term support to our community is much appreciated.

The Appeal will be open for 2 weeks only from today, and the names of those who contributed will be passed to Dave and Rose, unless contributions are made anonymously.

For accounting and audit transparency reasons, Uffington Parish Council is running the project and seeking to raise the necessary funds, both through this appeal and via other grant-making bodies, as we feel it essential that Rose and Dave should be able to complete the work in the shortest possible time, almost certainly before the insurance claim has been processed. It is therefore difficult to know what the final sum required will amount to. However, the Parish Council is willing to ensure that the total cost of repairs and new shutters is available immediately, even if part of this is a loan until the insurance company has paid up.

Please consider donating as generously as possible, to help Rose and Dave get back on their feet and allow the Shop to continue providing a much-appreciated service to our community."

Outcome

There was a rapid and extraordinarily generous response to this appeal, which raised over £5,000 by 30 June **and is now closed**. These donations enabled the Parish Council, working closely with Dave and Rose, to place an order for a new front door (complete with frame) and steel roller shutters, both of which were installed on 11 July. At the time of

writing, the Council is considering with Dave and Rose what further security enhancements might be worth installing with any remaining cash.

Dave and Rose are extremely grateful to all those who have made this improvement to the security of the shop; the names of all those who contributed will be given to them shortly.

STOP PRESS!

Just as the Courier was going to print, the work was completed!



CORONATION PICNIC – Sunday 7th May

Following the successful Jubilee Picnic in 2022, the village held a similar event to celebrate the King's coronation in conjunction with the national 'Big Lunch' celebration on Sunday 7th May.

The weather was kind and a range of activities, including eating (PTA Barbeque and Church Teas) and drinking (Sports Club bar), was arranged for the afternoon. It was a wonderful village occasion and the Parish Council would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of the day and helped the PTA to raise over £400 for the school.





THOMAS HUGHES MEMORIAL HALL

Geoff Rumble

Our community hall continues to be busy with regular weekly and monthly bookings for clubs and groups (see the inside back cover for details) and increasingly with annual bookings such as the Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize and the Little Coxwell Quilters exhibitions in April. The bookings diary is already filling up later in the year with the Uffington Players planning another theatrical extravaganza in October after their pantomime success in February.



Swire Ridgeway exhibition

The building was a focal point for the Sunday post-Coronation Party in May, with the PTA doing a brisk trade outside on their barbecue and Coronation mugs (by St Mary's Church) for sale in the main hall. The church also supplied tea and cakes from the kitchen and the Sports Club ran a bar from the ground floor storage area. The event finished with the televised concert at Windsor showing on the hall's big screen.



A busy time at the school PTA's barbecue outside the Hall on May 7th



Coronation Mugs (not Beryl and Victoria!!)

Please note: the hall now has Wi-Fi and a TV licence and it is possible to run TV programmes on the audio-visual system with a recently-acquired Amazon Firestick, complete with Alexa voice control.

In April the Hall said goodbye and a big 'Thank You' to Ray Avenell, who has kept our finances straight for many years, chasing late payments and making sure we were never overcharged. It is thanks to the diligence and attention to detail of Ray that we have a comfortable bank balance and have been able to keep hire charges the same for the last five years.

We welcome Jonathan DeWilton as our new Treasurer and, we now have a modest-sized management team and a full complement of Trustees, which means the overall administration of the building is under control. However, impressions can be deceptive and while things are running well currently, it is very apparent we have lost much of the "support team" of people who, in the past, were available to carry out the wide range of maintenance jobs needed to keep the hall building in good condition. These jobs range from regular checking for problems to general maintenance and repair of the equipment in and the fabric of the building.

The need for volunteers to help maintain the building has been mentioned in several issues of the Courier as well as in the weekly newsletter but people have busy lives today and availability of volunteers may now be a thing of the past. We will continue to look for help from within the community but we may have to allocate funds to bring in contract help for general maintenance.

Changes to the hire charges is something we would wish to avoid; so if possible and if there is anyone in the three villages who could help us to avoid this by volunteering their time to carry out routine maintenance activities, please get in contact with me or one of the committee members and trustees.

Don't forget, the Hall has a website **thmh.co.uk** for any booking or general information queries and it includes a booking calendar. Always double-check with the shop diary for availability but the website calendar is regularly updated. We also have a Facebook page - **thomas hughes memorial hall uffington**.

If you have any suggestions or queries about the Hall, please contact Geoff Rumble: geoff.rumble@btinternet.com 07747 846197

THE WHITE HORSE SHOW – Sunday 27th & Monday 28th August

After two barren 'Covid' years, the Show came back to life in 2022 and, against the odds, did very well. The number of people who attended was an all-time record for recent years, and the profit from the Show gave a welcome boost to the funds available to the Grants Committee to support local projects and organisations.

This was achieved with the support of several Show committee members who decided to 'do one more' before – hopefully – passing the baton to some new faces. Several key roles on the committee need filling; it is very encouraging to report that quite a new team is now in place to give the 2023 Show a facelift. At the time of writing, final details are being ironed out; but you can expect quite a few subtle changes while many of the popular events and displays have been retained.

As many will know, the Show cannot take place without the support of a considerable number of helpers to manage entry gates, direct car parking and to set up, help run and then dismantle the show. There will soon be a call for volunteers, so please keep the end of August clear and be ready to give your time for this popular and rewarding event.



If you would like to join the management team which organises the Show, it is not too late for this year's; but if not, remember that two hours of your time helping at the Show gets you free entry. The days are rushing by. Don't miss out on a great weekend and don't forget to remind friends and family of the dates. In return, we promise to have some more catering stands this year to reduce the queues we had in 2022. Our apologies – we were victims of our own success.

Finally – don't forget to bring the sunshine. We had it last year and look forward to having it again. See you there!



Images from White Horse Show 2022

A VISIT TO COLESHILL

The Friends of Uffington Museum were treated to an insightful 'Behind the Scenes' tour at the National Trust's Coleshill Model Farm on June 7th, hosted by Sarah Hannis from the National Trust and by their guide, Liza Dibble, who herself is experienced organic farmer.

Liza began by explaining that Coleshill was an exemplar farm formerly owned by the Earl of Radnor, that made use of the natural slope of the hillside along with the latest technology and best agricultural practices of the day. The harvested grain would have been stored in the rickyard in neat rows of thatched 'ricks' sat on limestone staddle stones to keep them off the damp ground and away from vermin. Liza then took us to the threshing barn sat high on the slope of the farm. To the front of the barn was a small brick outbuilding that once housed a steam engine to run the machinery inside. The barn has been sympathetically restored, retaining a magnificent collared queen-post truss roof with an octagonal lantern at its centre.

Another mechanical innovation was the use of tram carts. The track ran below the barn so that bags of grain and feed could be lowered through trap doors above to the awaiting carts and, with the help of gravity, the feed could be efficiently distributed around the farm.

The courtyard, formerly the poultry yard, is a real sun-trap - especially on the day we arrived. Low level animal sheds that enclose the yard have also been restored and retain their unusual 'rattrap' brick pattern and wooden fresh air louvres and skylights, so that even on the hot day when we were there, they were unexpectedly light and airy inside. The original animal pens, which are surprisingly large, have also thankfully been saved but they now contain exhibits and information about the former Coleshill Country House built by Sir Roger Pratt, but sadly demolished after a fire in 1952.



The courtyard is a great open space and is a regular venue for the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) which runs lime plastering workshops. Many of the outbuildings have been repurposed as a Heritage Skills Centre that promotes and supports traditional crafts and skills which is so important today as so many are now under threat of being lost.

The Friends were shown the workshops of some of their resident craftspeople including blacksmithing, stain glass and heddle loom weaving. One workshop we visited was that of Tom Ball, a professional wood and stone carver. Tom's work has included the restoration of 17th century wood carvings from Trinity College Oxford that were made by the celebrated artist, Grinling Gibbons.

Coleshill also supports local community enterprises such as the Highworth Community Shed, it brings people together that may also be suffering from mental illness or loneliness as well as being a great place to learn new skills such as wood turning.

THE SAUNDERS TRUST

Maxine Parsons, Trustee

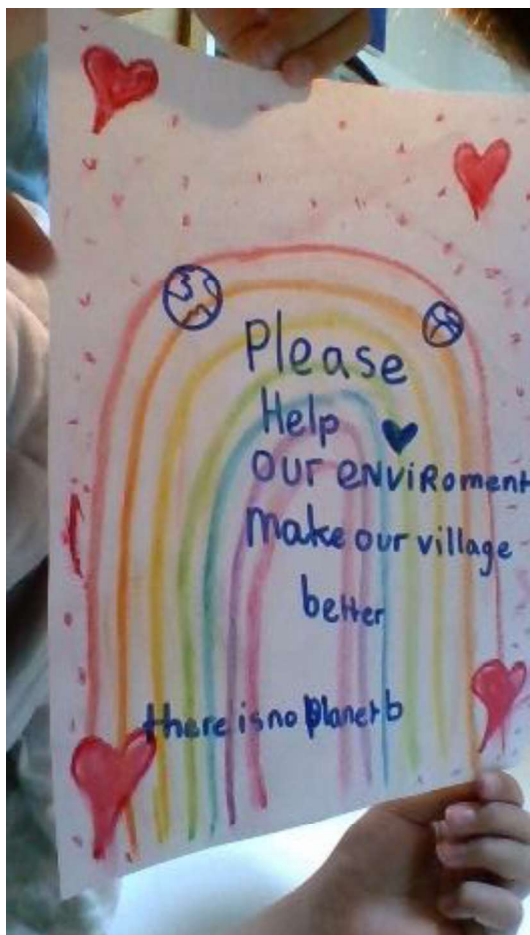
Readers may like to look out for a procession which takes place in Uffington on Thursday 20th July. This annual event honours the educational philanthropy of a long-ago local landowner. Thomas Saunders was a wealthy gentleman from Woolstone who founded the original Uffington School for 12 boys in 1617. The Saunders Trust was founded in 1644 by his son, also called Thomas Saunders. He endowed the school with land and a house to provide in perpetuity for a schoolmaster. The schoolroom is now Tom Brown's Museum. In 2017, the 400th year since the founding of the school, the Saunders Trust commissioned a memorial plaque which is mounted on the wall of the museum.

The Trust nowadays exists to provide financial help to some pupils at Uffington School for educational trips and other necessities. The Trust also presents dictionaries for the Year 6 pupils at a Founders Day Service at the end of the school year. The children go in procession from school to the Old Schoolroom (now Museum) to give thanks to Thomas Saunders for founding the original school and to lay flowers on his grave in Uffington Church. This is followed by a presentation in the church to those pupils who will be leaving.

The Saunders Trust is a registered charity and is managed by representatives from Uffington and Woolstone; chaired by the Vicar. We spend the interest on the capital, to continue to support children into the future at Uffington School.

The Founders Day Service is one that is long remembered by those children who take part in it and it is hoped that this will continue for many years to come. The trustees would be grateful for any donations given after the service on Founders Day in the envelopes provided. Everyone is welcome to the service, which starts at 11am,

As I write, we are currently having our annual White Horse Week. This year it had an environmental theme. Not only did the children support the National Trust by scouring the White Horse but we also looked at water and solar energy with Science Oxford. Alongside this, the children are designing a new pond for school which is made possible by donations from our PTA. The children will create two brand new plays in a day for parents to view; 'Paradise Beach' covers themes such as habitats, littering & caring for our environment, while 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' looks at waste management, saving energy and pollution.



Our special visitor this year, talking about women in science, was Mary McIntyre, a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. We concluded the week by holding a science fair.

Our assistant head teacher Mrs Sheppard spent a week in June at the Houses of Parliament, having successfully bid for a place on a programme which enables teachers from across the country to learn more about teaching children about democracy and our system of government.

As you probably know, we sadly lost some of our trees around the story chair a few months ago because of ash dieback. However, I am glad to say that having completed an application to the Woodland Trust we have successfully been awarded thirty trees, which will be delivered in the autumn, to replace those that we have lost (albeit different varieties). Look out for calls to form a planting party!

From all at Uffington Primary School, we wish you a pleasant summer.

A heartfelt message from local school-children

FROM UFFINGTON VICARAGE

Jeremy Goulston

It is hard to believe we are half-way through the year, and yet plenty has been happening recently.

In these secular times it is good to know that people still wish their loved ones to be buried in the churchyard. I have been helping people inter ashes recently - of George Smith in Uffington, where nearly 30 people came to the interment. They called themselves, rather tongue-in-cheek, the 'Graveyard Committee', since at the end of April each year, on the anniversary of a much-loved grandmother's death, they gather in the churchyard and afterwards at a local hostelry to celebrate lives long-lived and their own kinship.

I am glad people still do this. Funerals are one of the few occasions, like marriages, that we take the chance to gather as friends and family to celebrate all that we are, and the ties of blood and love which bind us.

The medieval church often talked about the 'Cloud of Witnesses' which refers to the Church over time. I sometimes tell people to look outside their church, at the gravestones which surround it, and see their lives in much wider terms; supported by many more than simply those whom they know and love who are alive.

It is in this wider context of trust and love that we have remembered recently and will continue to remember Bob Iles, Graeme Clark, Edward Seymour, Elizabeth Rosser, Margaret Gantlett and Stefan Plant. All of these folk were more loved than it is possible for any single individual to be conscious of, and we thank God for each one of them and their unique gifts as well as foibles.

It is encouraging to me that, despite living in an increasingly sceptical Western world, people still wish to be confirmed in the C of E. I type this on the eve of a Confirmation service in St Andrew's Shrevenham at which six people of a variety of ages were be confirmed by the new(ish) Bishop of Dorchester, Gavin Collins. Three of these come from our Benefice, and I took them through an all-too-quick course (which I hope to improve on in future).

My faith in human nature, as many of you know, is amply increased by drinking tea and eating cake with people! We had great opportunity for that, and for viewing some lovely gardens, on June 11th at the Uffington Gardens Open Day, Dog Show and Games. My sincere thanks to all who came and to all who helped.

I extend these thanks also to the small committee which is busy raising money for the Church Clock. Please do visit our website and give if you can:

www.justgiving.com/campaign/St-Marys-UCCRF

I also extend these thanks to Fay and her helpers as the new season of Church Teas has begun.

Hope to see you at something soon and never feel matters of faith are off the table! As Rowan Williams writes in his brilliantly concise book 'Tokens of Trust' (which I gave to our adult Confirmation candidates): 'To say "I believe" is to open oneself to a vast reality that the Creeds only attempt to codify. It is to make the startling discovery that they are not just about ensuring we have a proper idea of God, but about how we learn that we are the focus of an eternally trustworthy, unchanging love, and how we begin to live in the light of such knowledge.' Amen to that!

All prayers to you and yours as the year continues to unfold, and may you be refreshed this summer in unfathomable ways.

WHITE HORSE GARDENING CLUB

Karen Pilcher

The White Horse Gardening Club in Uffington is held on the first Thursday of every month, excluding January and August. Meetings take place at Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall in Uffington SN7 7RA from 7:30pm to approx. 9pm with plenty of parking available. The hall opens at 7pm and there is always a raffle. Annual subscription is £15 and members receive a 10% discount off plants at Bampton Garden Centre. Non-members are very welcome at a charge of £3 although membership is more cost effective!

In June we held our first Open Gardens in nearly 20 years, raising funds for the Gardening Club and St Mary's Church. We had glorious weather and together with refreshments in the village hall, and children's games and a dog show on the Jubilee Field, it was a very successful day. Thank you to everyone who opened their beautiful gardens, volunteered to help on the day and, of course, to all our visitors.

During the summer months the talks give way to garden visits for an additional cost and usually include a stop for refreshments.

The calendar for the coming few months:

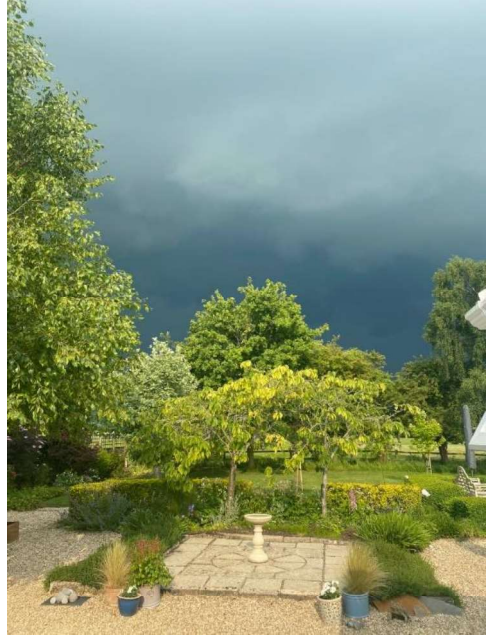
September 7th – Kew Gardens. Talk by Matthew Biggs, broadcaster and author of books including 'Secrets of the Great Botanists'

For further information please contact:

Pamela at parrottspreene@aol.com or 01367 820251.

Membership applications available from:

Patricia at pjdalrymple@btinternet.com or 01367 821063



UFFINGTON COMMUNITY GARDEN

Heather Abel



Now that warmth and sunshine has finally arrived, we have produce sprouting all around us at the garden. The purple sprouting kept going for ages but is now off the menu. Once we stopped eating it, we uncovered them, so that the lovely yellow flowers can be enjoyed by bees and any passing butterfly can lay eggs on the leaves for their caterpillars' food.

This year's brassicas will be well covered when they go in the ground but in the meantime, our struggling butterflies need a helping hand! Our re-sown broad beans are tender and delicious and the inevitable blackfly hasn't affected the yield and will soon be eaten by the ladybirds and lacewings. There has been evidence of saw fly on the gooseberries this year but since we no longer net our fruit, the birds must have had a feast – as they're all gone now and left plenty of fruit for us too. Sparrows and blue tits in particular, need plenty of caterpillars to feed their young so don't be in a rush to try to eliminate them. Working in harmony with nature means more of everything to go around and it's such a joy to be in a buzzing, thriving garden on a beautiful summer's day.

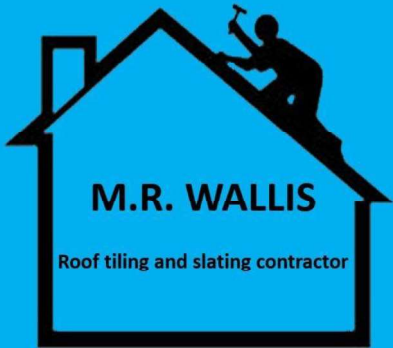
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Scheduled local activity information

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	6-8	Village Hall	Dave Barnes 07811 424978
Tuesday	7.30-9pm	Bell Ringing	12+	St. Mary's Church	Hugh Baxter 820014
Wednesday	6pm	League Cricket 20 overs	14+	Sports Club Fawler Road	Joe Parman joeparman@outlook.com
Wednesday	6- 7pm	Yogalates	Adult	Village Hall	Carolyn Courtney 07825414609
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	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	Village Hall Parents must stay	Jessica Mildenhall jessi-ca_mildenhall@hotmail.com
Friday	1 pm	Yogalates	Adults	Village Hall	Carolyn Courtney 07825414609
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 + accompa- nied children	Community Garden behind 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

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