



# The Courier

Serving the Communities of  
Uffington, Baulking, and Woolstone

Issue 201

Spring 2025

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Dawson, Email [courier@uffington.net](mailto:courier@uffington.net)

## **The Council**

Uffington Parish Council can have up to seven councillors. They each serve a maximum of a four-year term before needing to be re-elected to serve for longer. The composition of the Parish Council is:

Mike Oldnall (Chair)	01367 820369	<a href="mailto:mike.oldnall@uffington.net">mike.oldnall@uffington.net</a>
Vacant (Vice Chair)		
Richard Charles		<a href="mailto:richard.charles@uffington.net">richard.charles@uffington.net</a>
Kat Foxhall		<a href="mailto:kat.foxhall@uffington.net">kat.foxhall@uffington.net</a>
Fenella Oberman		<a href="mailto:fenella.oberman@uffington.net">fenella.oberman@uffington.net</a>
Nigel Puddicombe		<a href="mailto:nigel.puddicombe@uffington.net">nigel.puddicombe@uffington.net</a>
Robert Purdie		<a href="mailto:Robert.purdie@uffington.net">Robert.purdie@uffington.net</a>

**Clerk/RFO** - David Hatton    07888203145    [clerk@uffington.net](mailto:clerk@uffington.net)

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

If you are interested in becoming a councillor, or helping the Council without being a councillor, please contact the Clerk or Chair to discuss how you would like to help us.

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 6:45pm). 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:** *Waylands Smithy, with thanks to Mike Oldnall.*

### **Village Maintenance**

**Maintenance Volunteers.** If you would like to join the village maintenance group, please get in touch with the Parish Council Clerk ([clerk@uffington.net](mailto:clerk@uffington.net)) so we can get your name on the list (which is necessary for insurance purposes).

**Hedges and Verges.** The Council has been pleased to see the number of residents who have kept their hedges bordering the pavement cut back but please remember that no further cutting should take place during the nesting season. Some ditches still need to be cleared of silt and reeds etc as the new growth starts.

### **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 is as follows:

- ¼ page or less: £20.00
- ½ page: £40.00
- Full page: £80.00

Please note:

1. The above costs are exclusive of VAT, which will be itemised on invoices.
2. in the event of non-payment, advertisements will appear in only one further issue before being discontinued pending payment.

Anybody wishing to advertise in the Courier should contact the Clerk by email at [courier-ads@uffington.net](mailto:courier-ads@uffington.net). 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.

### **Roadside Litter Pick**

The Spring Roadside Litter Pick will be on Saturday/Sunday 12/13 April. Please sign up for a route on Facebook nearer the day or at the Village Hall on the day.



## **Planning Applications in Uffington since the last Courier**

The following applications **have been granted**:

- P25/V0037/LB, Manor Cottage Uffington Faringdon SN7 7RE.  
Installation of log burner including new chimney pot to existing chimney.
- P25/V0592/T28, for development work at the following location: Station Road Uffington Baulking Faringdon. The application is for: The removal of 3 no. antennas and replacement of 3 no. antennas at 21.30m with the installation of 1 no. GPS node on an existing 20.0m high lattice tower. Internal cabin works at ground level.

The following application **is awaiting determination**:

- P25/V0153/HH, Vale Cottage High Street Uffington Faringdon SN7 7RP  
Installation of freestanding electric vehicle charger

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

The following application has been **withdrawn**:

- P25/V0123/N4B, School House Farm Uffington Faringdon SN7 7QH  
Conversion of existing agricultural barn to convert into a small dwelling under Class Q Permitted Development. Single storey extension New open post and rail fencing to small garden space at rear.

The following application has been **appealed**:

- P24/V1460/PIP, Land off Fernham Road Uffington Faringdon Oxfordshire, Permission in Principle for new self-build dwelling, access and parking for existing allotments, has been appealed and deposited with the District Council as Local Planning Authority. Comments can be seen and made on the Appeals Portal here: <https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

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.

New planning applications are included in the Weekly News email bulletin as they are received. If you are not signed up to this and would like to be included, please let [simon.jenkins@uffington.net](mailto:simon.jenkins@uffington.net) know. Your email address will not be used for any other purpose.

## **Jubilee Field**

After a winter with so much rain, the Jubilee Field has been often flooded in places, and extremely wet underfoot. Thankfully it is now beginning to dry out, and the Council is looking forward to plans for the spring and summer.

An oak tree has been planted on the south-eastern side of the field in memory of Stefan Plant to replace an earlier one which did not survive. We hope this one will do better in a more open and sunny situation. When the ground is sufficiently dry we will be installing an additional circular recycled plastic picnic table, with wheelchair access, near the new climbing frame and swings. We hope this will be in place before the Easter holidays – weather permitting!

**Pond.** We were unable to complete the partial dredging last winter due to the weather conditions at the time. We eventually had a period in February when it was possible to get the digger around the pond to carry out the usual dredging. Given the spread of reed towards the centre, we are hoping that this can be at least partially removed next autumn using a digger with a longer reach.



**Pond/Poplar Area.** We have already been working in the pond area, renewing the woodchippings on the paths, continuing to remove shoots from the felled poplar trees, and taking out brambles. We will be sowing grasses and wildflower seeds on this southern side of the pond, as well as planting a small willow arbour. We have also been donated a memorial bench which will be installed near the pond.

We are extremely grateful to the small band of volunteers who turn out to help with essential maintenance work around the field. If it wasn't for them costs to the village would be much higher, employing someone to do this work regularly. So if you see a mention of a working party or Field Tidy, do please come along and help; it is not all heavy labour, and a sociable couple of hours can quickly pass while fulfilling some worthwhile tasks. Accompanied children are also welcome!

We all know that stiles are the bane of walkers. What you may not know is that one can now walk from Woolstone to Knighton in Compton Beauchamp parish along field paths without being troubled by any stiles. Furthermore, one can also do short circular walks from Woolstone that are stile-free. This is due to the generosity of the Oxford Fieldpaths Society (OFS), Compton Beauchamp Estates and Oxfordshire County Council's Countryside Access department, supported by Woolstone Parish Meeting. Ten stiles have been replaced by gates and two others by gaps.

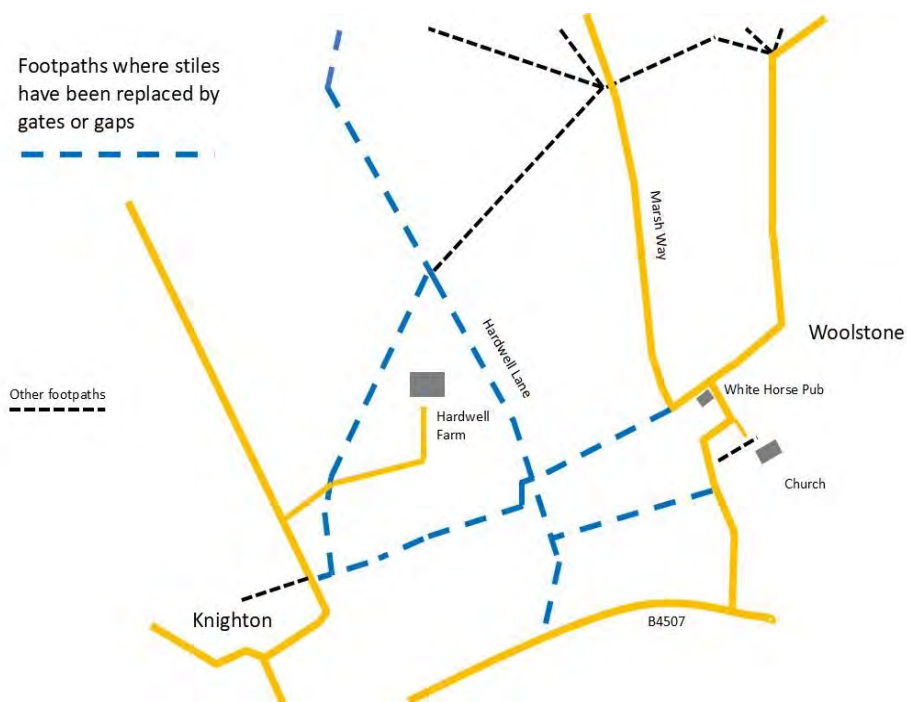
Stiles are awkward things to get over at the best of times. The stiles in question had reached the end of their usable life, becoming very awkward to clamber over, and some had become overgrown by brambles. The OFS was keen to be involved as five of the stiles were on the D'Arcy Dalton Way, the 65-mile trail created in 1986 by the OFS and which stretches from the Ridgeway, near Wayland's Smithy, northwards through Oxfordshire and into Warwickshire.



*Waiting for a kiss.....!*

A walk to Compton Beauchamp would not be complete without a short extension to visit the charming St. Swithun's Church. The new gates also provide the option of a circular walk passing Hardwell Farm on its west side, returning to Woolstone via ancient Hardwell Lane. A much shorter circular walk taking advantage of the new stiles would go from near the White Horse pub in Woolstone to Hardwell Lane, south along it for 150 metres then back along a parallel footpath to the road near All Saints' Church.

Some 30 stiles have been replaced by gates in Uffington in recent years. One outcome is that you can now walk from Uffington to Woolstone and beyond to St. Swithun's Church without encountering a single stile.



*Map showing footpaths with newly replaced stiles*



From the 1948 edition of the National Garden Scheme's annual publication:

*How nice to have a place so large  
That you can make a shilling charge  
And ask your neighbours in to see  
How good their gardens ought to be....*

Well, it costs a bit more than a shilling [5p] nowadays; but as devotees of the county 'Yellow Books' will know, the NGS is still going very strong. This is due to an army of hosts and hostesses who throw open their garden gates – sometimes five or six times in spring and summer – to the general garden-loving public.

One prominent local example is Penny Spink, chatelaine of Midsummer Cottage, Woolstone. She got the one-acre garden started only in 2015 after moving with her husband Anthony from Mill House the year before. "We first opened that garden in 1980" says Penny, "every Wednesday, all through the summer." In those days, £2 in the bowl at the entrance was the going rate. An article by Elspeth Thomson in the *Daily Telegraph* must have helped to attract the thousand visitors who turned up in that first summer.





After 33 years of opening the garden at Mill House, the senior Spinks greatly benefitted from the professional eye of their son Justin, now long-established as a garden designer, in organising and planning the new garden at the Cottage. From 2018 Mike and Anne Collins have continued to design and plant there. Asked whether there have been any pitfalls in opening for the NGS for the best part of half a century, Penny is happy to report none: "NGS people are marvellous; I have never had anyone here I didn't like." This tallies with what Oxfordshire author Penelope Lively once wrote: "...hundreds of people trooped through, always impeccably mannered, never dropping a cigarette or a sweetie paper."

Penny Spink's role as hostess extend to the baking of excellent cakes and plenty of tea. The £5 collected at the entrance covers these refreshments, the cash all going towards the total of nearly £75 million that has been raised country-wide since the foundation of the NGS in 1927; the money is traditionally divided between nursing and health charities.

*The first NGS opening of the season at Midsummer Cottage, Woolstone is on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, then on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June, Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July, Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August, Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October – always 2pm-5pm – children free.*

*The garden at Mill House, Uffington, will be open (11.30-5) on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June – again, admission for an adult is £5, children free.*

## **COW MUCK PROMOTIONS COMING UP**

We are all sorted out for this coming year with shows in Baulking and Uffington featuring the likes of Lucy Farrell and Catherine MacClellen, Sam Sweeny, the Aldbourne Brass Band, Malin Lewis, The Heather Ferrier Trio and John Spires and Jackie Oates. We will give details of each show as they come up.

The first event will be at St Nicholas Church, Baulking on **Friday 25th April** and is a talk by Faringdon Town Crier and self-proclaimed Tolkien expert, Sjoerd Vogt, entitled "Tolkien and The Folly Tower". Is Faringdon Folly actually Hobbiten Hill? Is The Folly Tower the Tower of Isengard? Baulking is in the middle of the Shire - as in Tolkien's Middle Earth? Seriously? Come and decide for yourself.

Tickets are £5 each with all the money going to the Restoration Fund for the Folly Tower. Doors and bar open at 7.30pm and the talk begins at 8.00pm.

*Uffington Museum SN7 7RA*



## *Pride and Patronage*

*2025 is the 250th anniversary of the birth of Jane Austen. Our exhibition celebrates the connections that link the world of Jane, via her closest friends and family, to places within the Vale of White Horse*

*Every Saturday, Sunday and BH Monday*

*Easter to end of October*

*2pm to 5pm*

JANE  
AUSTEN  250



UFFINGTON  
MUSEUM

VALE OF THE WHITE HORSE

## **UFFINGTON CRICKET CLUB – NEW SEASON**

**Joe Parman**

The new cricket season is almost upon us! The club are readying themselves for life in Division 7 of the Cherwell League after winning the Division 8 title last season. Machinery is away being serviced. Balls and kit have been ordered. The AGM has been held and the Committee is in place. Most if not all of last season's players are returning, as well as the odd new face, but we always have room for more new faces. With indoor nets taking place throughout April and then Saturday and Wednesday league matches starting in early May and running through until early September, there are plenty of opportunities to be involved.

If you want to get involved in any way with the club, be that playing, umpiring, coaching, sponsorship or just coming along to watch, please do get in touch, or stop by the ground when you see us out there (in hopefully glorious sunny weather). A huge thanks to our sponsors, Paul Pounds Glazing and Mouldex - their kind and hugely welcome support allowed us to provide our players with fantastic new playing shirts for both Saturdays (whites) and Wednesdays (coloured kit). As a small club with only one team and around 20-25 members, sponsors' support is invaluable.

Finally - the club will be supporting Uffington Primary School during their Sports Week in May by providing a morning of cricket coaching. We're delighted to be able to get involved with the local community and hope the children enjoy the session and that it inspires them to want to play more cricket. Bring on the sunshine and the sound of leather on willow! [joeparman@outlook.com](mailto:joeparman@outlook.com)

## **THE MEMORIAL HALL IN ITS 50<sup>th</sup> YEAR**

**Gillian Ward**

The Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, located in the heart of the village, provides a high-quality venue for both private and public events. Since the Hall was first opened in 1975 it has been extended and its facilities refurbished several times; the current Management Committee continues to look to enhance the facilities. Over the last year we have undertaken over £15,000 worth of improvement projects. These included new flooring, enhancements to the fire alarm system and improvements to the audio-visual equipment in both the large and small Halls.

Funding for these activities comes from the hire charges and grants from the White Horse Show, the Parish Council and (in the case of the large hall audio-visual equipment) the Uffington Players. Without the support of these organisations these upgrades would not have been possible.



Usage of the Hall has increased year on year, with the Hall being used for 'one-off' events such as children's birthday parties, wedding anniversaries and more. Additionally, new regularly recurring events have joined the calendar such as Tuesday table tennis. The Hall is also used as a Polling Station with the small hall next booked for the local elections coming up on May 1st. We welcome new bookings for both single and recurring events. If you want to know when the Hall is available for an event, or just want to know what's on, the calendar can be accessed from our website [www.thmh.co.uk](http://www.thmh.co.uk).

The Management Committee is made up of volunteers and we are always looking for support. We currently have vacancies for a Secretary, Caretaker and someone to help with the webpage and Facebook sites. In general, the Committee meets once a month; we try to ensure that no meeting last more than 90 minutes. If you don't wish to take on the formal responsibility of a position on the Management Committee but do feel able to support on a less formal basis, we are looking to establish a list of volunteers who can be called upon as required. Help needed can range from simply volunteering to support a 'spring clean', through to door repairs, regular maintenance checks and lots in-between. If you feel you can help please email: [Information@THMH.co.uk](mailto:Information@THMH.co.uk)

**WHITE HORSE GARDENING CLUB  
2025 PROGRAMME**

3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Talk – Primulas & Auricula
1 <sup>st</sup> May	Talk – Unusual Trees & Shrubs for the Modern Garden
17 <sup>th</sup> May	Plant Sale Trail - around Uffington village
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Uffington Open Gardens – anyone wishing to open their garden to the public please contact <a href="mailto:karen.pilcher@btinternet.com">karen.pilcher@btinternet.com</a> or 07391 516149
3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Visit – Letcombe Regis Gardens

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday monthly 7:30pm in Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall

Join the gardening club for £20.00 annually – September to August – to attend all the talks for free & qualify for a 10% discount on plants from Bampton Garden Centre

Raffle at every talk & occasional plants from speakers



THE WHITE HORSE  
GARDENING CLUB

Contact Hilary [hilarydeakin@me.com](mailto:hilarydeakin@me.com) or 07802 426822

## TABLE TENNIS CLUB LAUNCHED

**Paul White**



The Club has enjoyed a very pleasing start in Uffington since launching in the new year. Three months have flown by. We now have a regular community of over 20 guests including energetic youngsters through to those of a more 'experienced' age. Everyone wears a broad smile on their face!

Our Exhibition Coaching and MatchPlay evening in February, led by two experienced players, was a wild success. We had some esteemed guests along - see if you can spot one "having a go" in our photos!

We have a sustainable club developing now; it is all credit to the enthusiastic support of The White Horse Show and Parish Council in greatly supporting us in establishing this new community project. We will be continuing throughout the year with Table Tennis Tuesdays, with perhaps a month's break in August. Our fledgling club has flown the nest...come fly with us!





The Community Graden is situated behind the Fox & Hounds/Patrick's Orchard and meets on Saturdays from 2-4pm. New volunteers are always welcome and Volunteer membership is free. Check Facebook Uffington Community Garden, or just come along, or become a Friend of the Garden without getting your hands dirty (£20 p.a.)!

The following events are currently planned:

- Friends tour of the Garden – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 11am-12.30pm + coffee & cake
- Friends Summer Garden Party – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 12noon-2pm

To be a gardener you have to be: ever the optimist, not take yourself too seriously and enjoy what you are doing. So – here's a bit of whimsy! Make time in your life for a bit of light-hearted nonsense. Come and join us at the Community Garden on a Saturday afternoon – though I can't promise you'll find every herb mentioned here...



## A HERBY POEM<sup>1</sup>

As I was going to Scarborough Fayre  
I quickened every stride;  
I'd heard a herbalist was there -  
I'd seek her far and wide.

The rustle of the lemon grass,  
the odour of the rue,  
towering angelica  
as all came into view.

I think she saw me coming...  
I cried, "Show me, what you got."  
She said, "Empty out your credit  
cards  
And you shall have the lot!"

Though I was full of eagerness  
I politely did decline.  
"Please show me maybe one or two,  
If you have got the thyme".

"We've tarragon and lovage,  
and lesser celandine...  
dark berries of sambucus,  
for elderberry wine.

"You will not find any chafer grubs  
Within my pots of dirt.  
Excuse me Sir,  
You've sticky wicket, cleaving to your  
shirt.

"Would coriander suit you, Sir?  
Or maybe cilantro?  
We've wrinkled, aged sage plants  
Or soft oregano.

"Is parsley to your liking, Sir?  
We've curly, moss or flat.  
Here, stuff it in your pockets now  
or underneath your hat."

"Now stall holder, I must insist,  
I'll put them in my sack."  
"Oh come now, Sir,  
Bend low and I will heap them on  
your back.

"Here's pennywort, a pound a pot  
And honesty, no lie!  
You can make a bouquet-garni,  
bake it in a pie.

There's sorrel, dill and marjoram  
tansy and blue borage,  
Grind them for your breakfast, Sir  
And make a herby porridge.

"There's lemon balm, melissa  
and cool, refreshing mint;  
There's some that knit your bones  
again  
And maybe fix a squint.

"Valerian and chamomile  
will soothe you off to sleep  
and not forgetting rosemary -  
sweet memories to keep.

"Bright petals of calendula  
to sprinkle on your lunch  
and daisy flowers of feverfew  
Here, take a great big bunch.

"Are you comfy with that comfrey  
if I tie it round your waist?  
And aniseed is such a funny  
fennel kind of taste."

As I was leaving Scarborough Fayre,  
I'd herbs of every sort;  
I could barely count them all  
So many had I bought.

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<sup>1</sup> This poem is © the author and may not be reproduced or used with permission.

I had to hail a taxi man  
No longer could I tarry,  
I wanted to get home again  
But oh! So much to carry.

The taxi man demanded,  
“Now show me first your penny!”  
But I turned out my empty purse,  
“Indeed I have not any!”

Such a sorry sight, I made;  
He did, at last take pity.  
He said that he would be well paid  
If I would write this ditty

When I return to Scarborough Fayre  
I'll know what not to do  
And leave that herb stall well alone -  
I've now got quite a few!

### *HOW MANY HERBS DID YOU SPOT?*

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#### **Mr PETER SMITH**



One of Uffington's older residents, Peter Smith, celebrated his 90th birthday on 8<sup>th</sup> March. He was born in Uffington and lives here to this day.

The day was marked by a surprise party in the Fox and Hounds which was made extra special for him by the presence of a collection of vintage tractors.

During a slightly drier spell during the winter, the Parish Council has made improvements to the allotments car parking area. This work included laying a medium weight reinforcement mesh over the grass area, to extend the parking season and to protect the grass, particularly in wet weather, and installing a proper post and chain fence to deter unauthorised parking.



The warmer weather of the last couple of weeks has brought clear signs of renewed activity among allotment holders, as we prepare the ground for the new season that is now beginning. We all have our fingers firmly crossed for a good season this year! Already we have seen a couple of new tenants taking up plots for the season; now is really an excellent time to be starting out. There remain a couple of vacant plots and half-plots which have been worked before and should require relatively little work to get into production- so if you fancy a great way to get exercise while growing your own fruit and veg, get in touch with either Barry Godsell ([bandhg@hotmail.com](mailto:bandhg@hotmail.com)) or Nigel Puddicombe ([Nigel.puddicombe@uffington.net](mailto:Nigel.puddicombe@uffington.net)). We'll be pleased to try to help.



Regular visitors to Uffington Gorse will have seen the ongoing work by the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust (WBCT) volunteers. Although our primary aim is to restore the canal and towpath, we are also committed to maintaining the woods on behalf of the Woodland Trust and our local communities. To that end, we have a draft Woodland Management Plan which is in the final stages of completion with Woodland Trust and Forestry England input. An ongoing nature survey in support of the plan has thrown up a few recent surprises such as a Woodcock and a pair of Gadwall ducks.

In September, following an Uffington Gorse tree safety survey, with the help of a volunteer forestry team we managed over one weekend to fell and clear all of the dead or dying trees along the towpath and around the woods. Unfortunately, due to the high-water level, many of the trees in or across the canal were out of reach.



*Volunteers in February around the wood-chipper at Uffington Gorse*

Later, in early October, 1st Stanford in the Vale Scouts visited Uffington Gorse for two early evening sessions. Two footpath bridges were enthusiastically constructed by them across a newly cleared drainage ditch using sections of pipe, logs and a covering of dug clay. Despite the wet weather over the winter, there is no doubt that their work has helped keep the footpaths passable, and we hope to see them back again some time.

Over the last few months we have fully cleared the towpath from end to end, including felling a dangerously hanging tree that we hoped the winter storms might have brought down for us. We have twice had an industrial chipper operating in the woods, manned by our qualified volunteers, which allowed us to remove a lot of brash and to use the wood chips to improve some of the muddier paths. Our volunteers have also been learning hedge laying skills and have planted whips along Moor Mill Road to repair and develop the existing hedgerow. Due to the bird nesting season we are now limiting our work in the woods and will be turning our attention back to the canal for the summer.

Most of the Uffington Gorse volunteers either live locally or have local connections, and we have a variety of backgrounds, ages and skills. We meet every Wednesday, between 9.30 and 1pm in the woods just off Station Road (by the blue containers). So, if you would like to drop by just to see what we are up to, or to discuss our work in the woods, or think you might like to volunteer, then you will be most welcome (our coffee break is at 11am!); or just send me an email. As well as preserving our historical heritage and natural environment, volunteering outdoors with the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust is an opportunity to meet people, to keep fit, to learn new skills and to give something back to our local community. Please contact [simon.j.knapper@gmail.com](mailto:simon.j.knapper@gmail.com)

## **UFFINGTON PLAYERS**

**Christine Holley**

The Players would like to apologise to their audience for having to postpone the pantomime this year. This was due to unforeseen circumstances. We are planning to resume rehearsals later in the year, ready for February 2026.

If you think you would like to be involved in this or future productions or would like information, please contact Christine Holley [christineholley28@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:christineholley28@hotmail.co.uk) or visit our website at [uffingtonplayers.co.uk](http://uffingtonplayers.co.uk)



# **Uffy PicnicFest 2025!**

**Saturday 19th July**

**Jubilee Field & Village Hall  
Uffington**



**Late afternoon to twilight  
Games, music, food & drink  
Summer fun for friends &  
family**



**Would you like to help shape the  
event? - please contact Paul White  
07799 525453 or  
[paulwhite.smp@me.com](mailto:paulwhite.smp@me.com)**



**"Save the date!"**





It was a privilege to have a guided tour of the Defence Academy recently with Patrick Mabhunu and other clergy from the Deanery. Rob, the current base Chaplain, greeted us in his navy jump suit and blue beret with the mark of a submariner.

You have to be fairly tough to be a submariner, and you have to be fairly tender hearted to be a military chaplain; it is a good combination for times like these – tough head, tender heart. Rob showed us round parts of the huge site, not least the instruction sheds where a group of young majors were learning the effects of modern shells on armour. Up the end of the shed was a Tornado (now outdated) and round the corner was a Leopard tank in section.

On our way to the tanks we passed a decommissioned military satellite, about 1 metre across. It reminded us all how far modern warfare has come, and yet not come - war is war, and the solution, in the end, lies in the hearts and minds of people like you and me. Rowan Williams, an expert on the Orthodox Church, has been discussing the importance of seeing below the culture wars to what unites us as people of faith.

I am re-visiting some of my favourite Lenten reading for the heart. 'Tokens of Trust' and 'Silence and Honey Cakes', both by Rowan Williams, are high up on my list. If you want to do some hard thinking about our place in Europe today you could also try Oliver Moody's 'Baltic, the future of Europe' for a bracing outlook.

Whilst visiting Rev. Patrick and others at Shrivenham's Messy Church last week, I was reminded of the beauty and practicality of their building – they, like us, have a loo and somewhere to heat simple food for the children and offer hospitality. They also have what is the mark of many a 'sunny side of centre' Anglican Church – a crucifix with Christ dressed as a King on the cross.

This Lent, deeper than the 'culture wars' (and the actual wars) we may wish to be wiser about, there is no substitute for finding that margin of silence (cf. Vladimir Lossky) in which to seek the way of the heart; walking with Christ in the wilderness and perhaps joining others as you do so.

Getting out in nature can help with the above so do look out for our first 'Green Gym' outside St Mary's on 12<sup>th</sup> April, and our Palm Sunday walk to St Nicholas'.

May I wish you all an enlightening Lent, and a very Happy Easter when it comes!



# QUIZ NIGHT

**MONDAY 9th JUNE - 6:00pm**

**Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall**

- Fish & Chip Dinner at 6:15pm
- Quiz starts promptly at 7:00pm
- Come as a team or make one up on the night  
(Max 8 people per team)
- Prize for the winning team
- Bring your own booze 🍷
- Raffle
- Homemade sweet treats on sale

**£20 per person**

**Tickets available from the Uffington stores or please contact  
Kirsty on 07743 957504**

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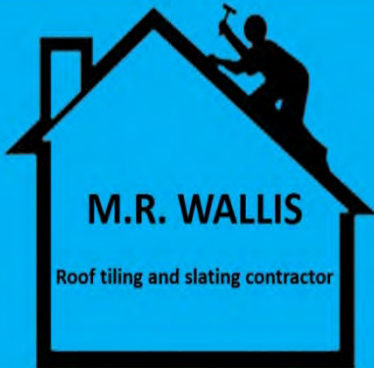
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- Woolstone (prior request)
- Uffington (Village Shop)
- Uffington Station (prior request)
- Baulking (prior request)
- 9.50 am Kingston Lisle (bottom of Hill View)
- 9.55 am Sparsholt (Bus shelter)
- 10.00 am Childrey (Village Hall)
- 10.10 am Wantage Market Square (upon request)
- 10.15 am Wantage Sainsburys
- 10.20 am Wantage Health Centre (upon request)

Return journeys 12.00 pm— Wednesday  
11.30 am—Friday

Please speak to the driver for further details on the day.

Prices £5.00 return (care assistant—no charge)  
Bus passes may be used  
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#### Private Bookings

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## Scheduled regular local activity information

Day of week	Time	Activity	Ages	Where	Contact
Mondays	8:30--9:30 am	Circuits	Adult	Village Hall	Lucinda 07967 157620
Mondays	6.45-8pm	Fitness	Adult	Village Hall	Michelle Southey 07826 524463
Tuesday	10-11am	Tai Chi Qigong	Adult	Village Hall	If interested, attend to make enquiries
Tuesday	11.30- 12.30pm	Pilates	Adult	Village Hall	<a href="mailto:Fiona-wright@outlook.com">Fiona-wright@outlook.com</a>
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
4th Wednesday of month	7-9:30pm	WI	Adult	Village Hall	<a href="mailto:whitehorsewi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk">whitehorsewi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk</a>
Wednesday	12.30-1.30 pm	Pilates	Adult	Village Hall	<a href="mailto:Fiona-wright@outlook.com">Fiona-wright@outlook.com</a>
Wednesday	6pm	League Cricket 20 overs	14+	Sports Club Fawler Road	Joe Parman <a href="mailto:joeparman@outlook.com">joeparman@outlook.com</a>
Wednesday	6– 7pm	Yogalates	Adult	Village Hall	Carolyn Courtney 07825414609
Wednesday	7-8.45pm	Guides	Girls aged 10-14	Village Hall	<a href="mailto:Uffingtonguides@gmail.com">Uffingtonguides@gmail.com</a>
Thursday	6:30-8 pm	Cubs	Children 8-10	Village Hall	Michelle Garwood <a href="mailto:mhcgarwood@gmail.com">mhcgarwood@gmail.com</a>
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 <a href="mailto:jessica_mildenhall@hotmail.com">jessica_mildenhall@hotmail.com</a>
Friday	1-2 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 <a href="mailto:joeparman@outlook.com">joeparman@outlook.com</a>
Saturdays	2-4pm	Community Garden	Adult + accomp anied children	Community Garden behind pub	Heather Abel 01367 820709 <a href="mailto:heather.abel@hotmail.com">heather.abel@hotmail.com</a>

For Village Hall booking enquiries, go to website [thmh.co.uk](http://thmh.co.uk) and use the new Hallmaster booking link or contact Geoff Rumble 07747 846197

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