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The Courier - Summer 2015

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Please note that any views expressed in these reports are those of the contributors.

Copy date for Autumn Issue: 26th September 2015

All contributions for Courier to Jem Packford, Lower Woolstone, 01367 820631 (jem_packford@lineone.net)

Parish Council

The Council

Uffington Parish Council has six councillors. They serve four year terms, with elections next due in 2019. As a result of the elections held on 7 May 2015, the composition of the Parish Council is now:

Mr Simon Jenkins (Chair) Tel. 820776;

Mr Graham Banks (Vice Chair) Tel. 820379;

Mr John Helsby;

Mrs Fenella Oberman Tel. 820230;

Mrs Karen Pilcher Tel. 820978;

Mrs Sharon Smith Tel. 820259.

The Council now meets on the second Monday of the month in the Museum, at 7.30pm. There are no meetings in August or December. All residents are welcome to attend these meetings and raise any issues troubling them; we will make it easy for you by having a 'public question time' session at the start. Councillors may be contacted on the above telephone numbers or by e-mail to: parishcouncil@ufflnton.net.

Graham Banks

The Council unanimously recorded a Vote of Thanks to Graham Banks at the meeting on 11 May, for his very long and outstanding period of service to the village as Chair of the Council; it is good for the village that he remains on the Council, and we can therefore continue to draw on his wisdom and experience of local matters.

Parish Clerk

John-Paul Roche has decided to stand down as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) to the Council. He started as Clerk shortly after the last elections in 2011. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to him for all the work that he has put in on behalf of the village, and wish him and his family all the best for the future. John-Paul would like to express his own thanks to the many people in the village (including the Councillors) who have been so helpful while he has been in the role.

The Council is pleased to report that Julia Evans has accepted an offer of employment as Clerk and RFO. Her employment will commence on 6 July, and she will be working closely with John-Paul initially in a handover period. During this period, please continue to send any

Parish Council correspondence to John-Paul in the usual way and we will let you know when the handover is complete.

Council Responsibilities

The Council has the following main responsibilities:

It owns and maintains the Jubilee Field (including the Playground), the Old Schoolroom which houses Tom Brown's School Museum, the nondenominational burial ground (behind St Mary's burial ground), the Village allotments and some small pieces of land in Craven Common.

It leases and administers a photocopier that is used by local groups, businesses and the Primary School.

It provides regular grants to assist key village organisations (e.g. the Hall), and one-off grants to assist other local groups (e.g. grants have recently been given to assist with the re-establishment of Beaver, Cub and Scout groups for the Village).

It responds to relevant planning applications to express a view on any applications that will have a positive or negative impact on the Village.

It supports the provision of amenities within the Village.

Outside of this the Parish Council tries to support any initiatives that will help Uffington continue to thrive as a community. The Council also undertakes a number of one-off projects each year; in recent years this has included:

Work to improve pedestrian safety in the Village Hall's car park.

Replacing the footbridge into the Jubilee Field.

Refurbishing the disused telephone box to serve as an information point.

Work to control the flow of water into the Village and reduce the risk of flooding.

The Jubilee Field Autumn Tidy

This will take place on Sunday 25th October from 10.00am; all are welcome. It would be helpful if you could bring normal gardening kit, e.g. gloves, light tools like rakes or secateurs.

Annual Assembly on 1 June

Many thanks to all those who attended; it was standing room only. After introducing the new Council and discussing what it does (see above), we discussed a number of points, most of which constitute our agenda for the year. In particular, planning matters will occupy a lot of time. Matters raised were:

Station Road.

The long-standing development of 36 houses on the Station Road site received approval to proceed on 28 May 2015. We currently expect work to start on site in August 2015.

Land west of Fowler Road.

The original proposal to develop 42 houses has been reduced to 30 houses by the developer, Gladman. Full details are available on the District Council website. The Parish Council has objected very strongly to these proposals and we await determination by the District Council.

Community-led Plan.

Although not strictly a planning matter, the CLP Group led by Rob Hart will shortly be finalising its report, which will be presented to the Parish Council and Parish Meetings of Woolstone and Baulking. It is intended that all households will receive a copy of the Report.

Neighbourhood Plan.

The CLP Group will move on shortly to start work on a Neighbourhood Plan to cover Uffington, Woolstone and Baulking. This is very important for our three villages, as it will allow us, with agreement from the District Council, to say where we would like to see development in the future - out to 2031. It will provide protection against speculative planning applications, like the Gladman one above.

Communications.

We would like to improve communications in the village, and are working on:

E-mail notices. We have set up an e-mail distribution list which is used to publish notices of general interest to Uffington, Woolstone and Baulking, as and when they occur. There are currently c120 people on this list; if you would like to join it please send an e-mail with your own details to sjmjenkins@gmail.com For data protection reasons, individual e-mail addresses are not disclosed.

Village Web site. We will shortly be starting work on an upgrade or rebuild of the village website <http://www.uffington.net/> If you have some technical knowledge or ideas, and would like to assist with this initiative, please let the Parish Council know.

The Courier.

Jem Packford has been producing the Courier for no less than 27 years! That is a wonderful record of service to the community. However, it is a quarterly publication and we feel that a more frequent publication - possibly distributed by e-mail - would be useful. If you would like to help with a monthly publication of some sort, please contact the Parish Council. This does NOT mean any change to the quarterly Courier.

Notice boards.

Very shortly the Parish Council notice board and the notice board at the back of the Shop will be relocated to new positions outside the Shop. These new boards will be much more prominent and easier to read than the current ones.

Roadside verges and sight lines.

We have learnt that Oxford CC (Highways Department) is withdrawing from any commitment to keeping the verges tidy within the villages, although they are continuing to do those beyond the village boundaries - which explains why some sight lines are currently obscured. The Parish Council is looking into taking over this job.

Some residents have already taken action to tidy up roadside verges near where they live, and we are very grateful for that. However, you should be aware that our Councillors (Yvonne Constance and Robert Sharp) are clarifying the insurance position; we will let you know about this in due course. Currently, for example, if your mower or strimmer throws up a stone which damages a car window or a cyclist's eye, you may not be covered by the Parish Council's insurance policy. So please take all possible care if you help in this way.

Transparency Code.

This Code for smaller authorities (with a budget of less than £25,000 per annum) has been introduced by the Government and is effective from 1 July. It means that we will be required to publish a lot more information, and is one reason for improving the web site.

Personal security.

Anybody can sign up to receive personal alerts from the Thames Valley Police Alert system; you can do this on the TVP website as follows:

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/thames-valley-alert>. Please remember to pass any relevant messages to elderly / vulnerable neighbours and to those without access to the Internet.

Speeding in the Village.

If you would like to volunteer for the Community Speedwatch initiative, or get some more information about it, please contact the Parish Council and we will notify our PCSO Maralyn Pack. Since the Annual Assembly, we have received the names of three volunteers.

John-Paul Roche, Clerk

[top](#)

Neighbourhood Watch

Useful Numbers:

PCSO Maralyn Pack (mobile when on duty) 07779 586392 EMail:

Maralyn.Pack@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Non-Emergency: 08458 505 505

Emergency: 999

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Tom Brown's School Museum

Please visit the museum and see our exhibition on 'Landscape Reinvented' which describes our changing landscape over time. Also available, is an interactive computer presentation giving details of the censuses of Uffington in 1901 and 1911.

The Museum is open on Saturdays and Sundays, and Bank Holiday Mondays from 2.00 - 5.00 pm up to and including 25th October, 2015. Entry is free. If you would like to become a Friend of the Museum and receive regular newsletters, please contact Sharon (820259) or Jo (820428).

Sharon Smith

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Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall

Improvements

We are on course to undertake the short term improvement project for this year which is the replacement of all the internal doors. Existing fundraising, that derived from the Watermill visit and subsequent undertakings will go towards this project until complete. If anyone should wish to make a donation to this project, it would be very much appreciated. Please contact a member of the management committee.

The combination key safe for providing access to the Hall has been moved. It is now adjacent to the main entrance door. All associations should have been advised of the new combination but if you are unaware, please contact me. A bulkhead light with a PIR sensor has been installed above the key safe. This should make gaining access to the key safe easier and also unlocking the door when it is dark.

Hall Events

We have had another successful Grand National Draw, raising in excess of £400. The Watermill Theatre (On Tour) comes to us on 30th June with their performance of 'A Little History of the World'. This will have passed by the time this appears but ticket sales are going well for a mid week function and we are optimistic that it will be a success.

White Horse Show Car Park

The Hall is undertaking the car park marshalling again this year to raise funds towards improvements. The show dates are 30th and 31st August (Bank holiday Sunday and Monday). If you feel you could spare two hours on either or both of those days, please support us by contacting Rob Williamson (821190) or Clive Shanley (820671) and add your name to the marshals list. Each marshal receives a complimentary entry ticket to the show.

The annual spring clean

This took place on Monday 13th April. Support was rather limited but I would like to thank those who helped with this vital tidy up.

Hall Management

I am delighted to tell you that the Hall committee has a new secretary. Pam Preene has agreed to undertake this important role, welcome aboard Pam. After many years of sterling service as Hall Treasurer, Paul Smythe has given up this position. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Paul on behalf of all the many people who use the Hall for all his hard work over the years, particularly through the period when the extensions were being undertaken. This means that the Hall now needs a treasurer as soon as possible and this role obviously requires financial skills. Anyone who would like more information on undertaking this invaluable role, please contact me or a member of the management committee.

Hall website

Please take a look, feedback is always appreciated. Note that a copy of the booking diary appears on the website to make it easy to see which periods are free for booking if required.

Paul Armishaw

[top](#)

Uffington School

As our school year comes to an end, we can reflect back on another busy and successful year.

You may have seen us walking around the village in our Big Walk. This was part of our Safety Week event, where children learnt about fire safety, road safety first aid and e-safety. The children had a chance to go in a fire engine and try on a real firemen's helmet.

Another highlight of our term has been learning how to play Quidditch, a fast moving game that the children really enjoyed. For the first time, we have taken our KS1 children swimming. This has been a great addition to our curriculum and the children have thoroughly enjoyed it. We are now looking forward to their 'Great Fire of London' end of year play. Class 2 had a very exciting Dragon Camp at Court Hill residential centre. The feedback from the centre about our children was what a really pleasant, well behaved and really nice group of young people they were.

Year 6 have worked very hard during the lead up to SAT's and Class 3 are now enjoying a range of activities based around Michael Morpurgo's Kensuke's Kingdom. They are now looking forward to our end of year celebrations, including a picnic after Founders Day.

The staff and I would like to thank everyone who has supported the school throughout the last academic year.

www.uffington.oxon.sch.uk

Mrs Amy Carnell
Headteacher

[top](#)

Afternoon Club

We had a very successful sale in April raising nearly £450. Thank you to all who supported us in any way.

Our April meeting was very interesting. Mr Geoff Evans told us about repatriation of people abroad after a disaster. We all are sorry about a disaster but we don't think about getting bodies [or bits] back to their loved ones.

In May our speaker was PCSO Maralyn Pack on being safe in our homes and in June we went to The Ferryman Inn at Bablock Hythe nr Northmoor. July we are back in the hall and August will be our evening mystery tour.

Ann Smith

[top](#)

Elm Tree Surgery

Prescription Collection Service

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

Pam Coulson

[top](#)

Uffington, Baulking and Woolstone Minibus

Do you know that our community minibus makes weekly trips to Faringdon and Wantage on Tuesday and Friday mornings respectively, leaving Uffington at 9.30 and picking up passengers on the way at points convenient for them? We also alternate between Swindon and Witney with a monthly Thursday morning trip. Passengers are set down at convenient points including the Medical Centre in Faringdon.

The minibus may be used by all members of the UBW Minibus Association, and membership of the Association is open all villagers. There is a modest fare to contribute to the cost of running the minibus. Bus passes may be used in lieu of payment.

We would like to hear from you:-

- if you would like to use the minibus and need more information.
- if you have decided against it for any reason but could help us with any suggestions for enhancements or changes to our community services which may make them more attractive for you.
- if you feel you may like to join the pool of volunteer drivers, who each do a trip about once a month.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Contacts -

- John Hatcher 01367 820417
- Michael Lord 01367 820134

John Hatcher

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St Mary's Church

Excitement is growing throughout the Benefice as we prepare for the Installation of our Vicar, the Rev Jeremy Goulston, in St Mary's on July 21st at 7 30 pm, a service to which all are most cordially invited.

It is the Vicar's intention that each parish shall have two services of Holy Communion a month and that he will attend as many of the services in the Benefice each week as he can manage. To this end he has devised the service schedule below:

Sunday	Uffington 11am	Baulking 8.45am	Shellingford 9.30am	Woolstone 10.15am
1st in month	8am Holy Communion One Family Service	Holy Communion	Something Special	Holy Communion
2nd in month	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Croissant Service
3rd in month	Service of the Word	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Holy Communion
4th in month	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	6pm Evensong
5th in month	10am Benefice Communion in the parishes in turn			

While he will, once in office, be glad to hear any comments folk may have on this schedule, he hopes that it will be allowed to run for a year or so before being reviewed.

However, before that there is August when we customarily have one Benefice Communion each week while so many people are on holiday. This year these will take place at 10am on August 2nd in Baulking, August 9th in Shellingford, August 16th in Woolstone, August 23rd in Uffington and on August 30th in Shellingford before 'Songs of Praise' at 5pm at the

Showground of the White Horse Show.

Meanwhile, Summer Lunches in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall at 12.30 on Wednesdays during June and July have started. If you are in Uffington on a Wednesday, do come in to enjoy a choice of hot or cold main courses with vegetables and salads and a range of the puddings for which Uffington is famed. Tea or coffee will round off your meal and give an opportunity for a chat with those you come in with and those whom you meet once inside.

Sunday Teas are also under way, and will continue until the end of September, in Uffington Church between 3.30pm and 5.30pm. You will find sandwiches and home-made cakes aplenty, just what the doctor ordered after a bracing walk on the Ridgeway or an afternoon's gardening.

At the time of writing, the Vicar is setting off for a summer holiday walking in Italy before taking up his duties at the end of July. We wish him a most enjoyable and refreshing break.

We are planning a Harvest Supper in the THMHall on September 25th as a further opportunity for anyone who has not yet met the Vicar to come and do so. All village organisations will be invited to showcase their activities and contacts on posters (that the Vicar can take away for future reference) and in person to enable newcomers to see just how much goes on.

Church Wardens

SINGALONG SUPPER
WITH DEREK JAMES AT THE KEYBOARD
At the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall
Friday 4th September 6:30 for 7:00

Tickets £20.00 each from:
John 01367 820542; Jim 01367 820559
Geoff 01367 820668; Ray 01367 820242

Two course supper including our delicious puddings, licensed bar.
Promoted by the Friends of St Mary's & St Nicholas Churches.

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Messy Church

Messy Church is a fun way to learn more about God and be with other people. If you are not sure what you believe, and want to explore the Christian faith, do come and try us out. We are part of the Uffington Benefice of churches. We meet in the THMH on the second Friday of each month from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. The event is very informal, with crafts around a bible theme for an hour, a 15 minute celebration with songs and drama, then we sit down for a 2 course meal.

We welcome donations of cakes and money. To arrive late is fine.

Messy Church is enjoyed by all ages, we look forward to seeing you there. Bring your friends from other villages. We have games too, for the energetic ones!

Our themes this next quarter will be:

July 10th -'The story of Ruth';

August - 30/31st - In the Prayer tent at the White Horse Show. If you would like to help with the craft, let Sue know, and receive a free ticket to the Show.

September 11th- 'The Philippian Jailer' and welcome the new vicar, Rev. Jeremy Goulston.

Fundraiser for the Leprosy Mission.

Also, on Friday 14th August, we plan a picnic and walk in the Jubilee field, to raise funds for the Leprosy Mission. The suggested donation is £10 per family, which will pay for a pair of shoes to protect the feet of a person affected by leprosy in Mozambique. We will meet at the THMH at 3:30pm, so bring a picnic to share, and be prepared for fun and games.

Contact Sue Jennings 820013, or Liz Doyle to help with catering for Messy Church 820436

Sue Jennings

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White Horse Gardening Club

The White Horse Garden Club meets on the first Thursday in the month at 7.30pm in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall (unless otherwise stated). Now is the time to ENJOY your garden. Relax in a comfortable chair with a cool drink and admire all your hard work!

The Garden Club continues to thrive with nearly 60 members!

During the Spring we had three excellent, entertaining, informative talks from Val Bourne (The Winter Garden), John Mason (Fruit Trees), Timothy Walker (Bordering on Insanity). May was the Mega Plant Sale, where thanks to everyone who donated and bought plants we made a record £442.35 profit which we can now invest in next year's programme. So thanks again to everyone who helped, donated and attended.

In May we also had a coach trip to the Malvern Show which was well attended and much enjoyed by all. The coach was brimming with plants and garden equipment on the way home!

June brought our second coach trip this time to Brightwell Vineyard, Nr Wallingford for wine tasting. A follow up after the brilliant talk we had last December. We toured the vineyard where we were shown the many types of vines grown, their training and maintenance. Followed by wine tasting with a comprehensive talk on its production process. There was much 'clinking' of bottles on the return journey.

In the Summertime our visits to gardens are always popular with members and Visitors. June - Childrey Gardens on a beautiful summer's evening included the famous Childrey Cedar and refreshments at Fettyplace Cottage.

July 2nd - Rooksnest and Inholmes, Lambourn. 2 beautiful gardens. £7.50 (members £5) to include tour and refreshments.

August 6th at 6.00 pm. Visit to The Old Rectory Farnborough, nr. Wantage, OX12 8NX. Mrs Todhunter's beautiful garden on the Downs. Entry and refreshments. Visitors £7. Members £5.

Car sharing.

In the autumn we return to the hall with the exception of the 'mushroom foray' as follows:
Sept. 3rd 'Choice shrubs for the garden'. Paul Green of Green's Leaves, Newent. Paul will illustrate his talk with plants for sale.

Oct. 1st 'The good, the bad and the ugly'. Michael Jordan from the Association of British Fungus Groups who will talk on the fascinating subject of 'Fungi', followed by:

October 3rd - Saturday at 10.30am A Fungus Foray with Michael Jordon at Ashdown Park, with optional lunch at local pub afterwards. Max number 30. Fee £5.

Please do come along and join The Club - All Very WELCOME.

Pamela Preene (Contact E: parrottspreene@aol.com T: 01367-820251)

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Uffington Community Garden Association

Summer is certainly in full swing. We can't complain about the lack of sunshine this year. Like the proper farmers when you grow your own vegetables you really begin to understand the narrow weather window that plants need to thrive and flourish in. Too much or too little of either water or sun is disastrous. Every year the crops we harvest are different. This year the strawberries are fabulous and the squash are struggling and we are actually hoping that we do get a bit more rain so they can start to take off.

The Beavers have again been working away on the site, carrying out all the tasks that you have to go through to get a crop and the Cubs are actually growing wheat to eventually make their own pizza dough which will be cooked in our new clay oven. It's amazing how much work a group of young people can do in a very short amount of time, and in such good humour. If there are other groups that would like to become involved with the Community Garden then let us know. This resource is for all of Uffington. It is a beautiful place.

We are hosting the Produce Show again at the White Horse Show on Sunday 30 August. Everyone should be getting a leaflet delivered to your home in the next little while for more

details. This year we are going to include some fun as well as the more traditional categories. Also the White Horse Show have kindly offered to donate a free White Horse Show ticket for exhibitors who submit five or more exhibits to the Produce Show. So get going and start nurturing your flowers and produce. We need exhibits. Let's show the rest of Oxfordshire and beyond what is growing in Uffington. I'll bet some of your runner beans are better than ours.

Everyone is welcome to come and join in at the garden on Saturdays from 2:00 'til 4:00pm. Hope to see you there.

Krista Soper

[top](#)

Uffington United - Junior Football Club

Do you have children (or grandchildren) who love football and would like to play more, or who want to start playing?

We are a small football club for primary school boys and girls in years one to six (age 5/6+). We provide a friendly, supportive environment where children can learn about football and enjoy playing it without the pressure of league games. We take children of all levels of ability, including those who have never played before.

We are based at Uffington Sports Club and meet Saturdays during term-time between 10.00 and 11.30am. Each week we focus on developing a different skill and then help the kids to use that in a match between ourselves.

If you would like to know more then please contact John-Paul or Simon by phone on 820698, or email at ujfc.coaches@gmail.com, or via the Club's Facebook page.

John-Paul Roche

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Uffington Players

The Uffington Players held their A.G.M on Thursday 25th June. Thank you to everyone who attended or sent their apologies. It was decided that we would not be able to put on a production in October this year. We do hope to be back on stage in February 2016 with a traditional Pantomime. For further information or if you think you might like to get involved in future productions, please contact Christine Holley 820474

<http://www.uffingtonplayers.co.uk/>

Christine Holley

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Uffington, Baulking & Woolstone W.I.

On May 19th the WI ladies who had tickets for Trinny & Suzannah's 'What not to Wear' had a great dilemma, what should they wear! The Annual meeting of the Vale Group WI hosted by the Folly Dollies in Faringdon was a great success. Trinny & Suzannah were very relaxed in their presentation, which was reflected in the way that members of the audience (including a gentleman) were prepared to go on stage and voice their concerns about the way they were dressed, warranted or otherwise. I'm sure that we all came away with some tips on how to make the most of our 'body shapes', necklines and colour that are flattering, plus much more.

The June meeting took place on Tuesday 16th at the THMH Uffington and we learnt about the History & Memories of Witney Blankets from our speaker Valerie Burton.

On July 28th our open meeting will be held at The Sports Club, Fawler Road, Uffington. Simon Jones, known for his 'Antiques Road Show' connections, will be giving his expert opinion on some of the treasured items we have taken along for him to examine. A friendly welcome awaits if you would like to join us for this event. We will start at 7.30pm there will be a raffle & the bar will be open. Guests donations are gratefully accepted to help cover our costs.

The U.B. & W W.I. invite you to come along and enjoy a Village Party in the T.H.M.H to celebrate their Centenary on Sunday 6th September. Entertainment by 'The White Horse Whisperers' folk group and entry will be free - full details nearer the date so look for the posters. Tea & cake will be served by the St. Mary's' Church ladies who will be moving to the hall for this Sunday afternoon.

Please try and come and make it a happy afternoon we are hoping to find amusements for the children and of course their play area is just outside if the weather is nice. More information will be put on the posters later.

Jackie Ash

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Uffington Farmers Market

Future dates for the market are:-

5th July, 2nd August, 20th September, 18th October,

15th November and 20th December 2015

At the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall,

Broad Street, Uffington 5N7 75B

from 10:30am to 12:30pm

Find us on Facebook

Lucy Palmer

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