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The Courier - Spring 2015

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

Copy date for Summer Issue: 27th June 2015

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

Parish Council

Elections in May

There are six councillors on the Parish Council and all six places come up for election in May. If six (or fewer) people stand for election then they are elected unopposed. If seven or more people stand for election then there will be a contested election. Voting for this will happen at the same time as the general election on the 7th May. It is still too early to confirm if the election will be contested or not, but a notice will be added to the Parish Council's notice board once this is confirmed.

The May elections will also include elections to the Vale of White Horse District Council. Since the last election there have been changes to the boundaries of the electoral wards. Uffington is now in a ward called Stanford.

Neighbourhood Plan area designation

Currently a group of volunteers are working on a Community Led Plan for our community (the survey for this was distributed recently). Once the Community Led Plan is completed it is possible to create a Neighbourhood Plan (which has more weight in planning matters). The first stage in creating a Neighbourhood Plan is to define the area covered by the Plan and to have this approved by the District Council. Following discussions between the volunteers, the Parish Council and the Parish Meetings for Baulking and Woolstone, it has been agreed to create a single Neighbourhood Plan covering all three villages. This has now been approved by the District Council, so work on the Neighbourhood Plan can go ahead in due course (once the Community Led Plan has progressed further).

Vacancy - Clerk to the Council

Currently I undertake two roles for the Parish Council. These are Clerk to the Council (which is like being secretary to the Council and Responsible Financial Officer (like being treasurer). However over the past four years things have got much busier for me at work and home, so I am stepping down as Clerk (but will continue the finance role). There is therefore a vacancy as Clerk to the Council. This is an interesting role which offers a good way of contributing to the community and learning more about the village. It is a paid role, based on working three hours a week (which can be worked flexibly to fit around other commitments). The core of the role is handling the Council's correspondence and producing the agendas and minutes for the

Council's meetings. No specialist skills or experience is required, just familiarity with normal office software (e.g. Word) and email. If you think you might be interested in the role then please contact me on parishcouncil@uffington.net or 820698 for an informal chat.

John-Paul Roche, Clerk

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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

The Museum re-opens on Saturday, 4th April and is open on weekend afternoons and Bank Holiday Mondays from 2.00 - 5.00 pm up to and including 25th October, 2015. Entry is free.

This year, the exhibition is 'Landscape Reinvented' and describes our changing landscape over time. Also, available will be an interactive computer presentation giving details of the censuses of Uffington in 1901 and 1911.

We are looking forward to hosting Art Weeks again in May - on the weekend of 16 and 17 May and the Bank Holiday weekend of 23-25 May. Please come and see the work of the Uffington Potters.

Sharon Smith

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Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall

Improvements

An additional and larger larder fridge has been obtained, this is located in the new store room. The management committee would like to thank all the associations and individuals that provided this facility.

It was agreed at the AGM that the short term improvement project for this year will be the replacement of all the internal doors. Future fundraising will go towards this project until complete.

The cold water head tank has been re-lagged.

The hedge and adjacent ground between the bins and High St has been cleared to allow a mower to operate over it.

Hall Events

The Watermill Theatre (On Tour) has been engaged for 2015 and will be coming to us on 30th June. They are performing "A Little History of the World". This is a show for the family, meant for all ages, which is different from their more usual adult productions of recent years. Tickets will be £10 and £8 concession. Publicity should be appearing shortly. Please make a note of the date and support this fundraising event.

The annual spring clean will take place on Monday 13th April. The Hall will be open all day so if you can spare one hour to help, please come along.

Hall website www.thmh.co.uk Please check it out, feedback always appreciated.

Paul Armishaw

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Uffington School

The school year is flying by, but I know there have been many memorable events and activities that the children, staff and parents will remember for a very long time. These include a year 3/4 Greek Play, a Class 3 trip to Portsmouth and a Class 1/Foundation trip to Cotswold Wildlife park.

Members of our school council were delighted to be part of the interview process for our new vicar and all the children look forward to welcoming Jeremy Goulston and showing him around our school.

As always we celebrated World Book Day in style and this year it was a delight not only to see the children dress up for World Book Day, but also to see a wide range of vegetables dressed up as story characters. Sport continues to be an important aspect of our school, and this term we had our first inter-house swimming gala as well as our children taking part in football and netball tournaments.

Young people today love the internet and in many cases they are far much more proficient on there than we are. Another important message we have been giving to our pupils is how to stay safe on the internet. We are celebrating Easter this year with a service in the church which includes an Easter Bonnet Parade.

If you want to see these and other activities we have been doing please do look at our website: www.uffington.oxon.sch.uk.

Mrs Amy Carnell
Headteacher

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Afternoon Club

Already we have had three meetings. In January we had Mrs Soper telling us how the

community garden is progressing and in February Mr and Mrs Pete Smith showed slides of the men who went from the village to WWI and the cottages where they lived before going to war; a very interesting afternoon. In March we went to The Chequers at Charney Bassett for our 39th birthday lunch. Two members who were at the first meeting are still members.

In April and May we will be in the hall for our meetings.

April 25th 2pm is our SALE please give us your support.

Ann Smith

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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

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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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Benefice 200 Club

Results of the 2nd draw, quarter ending 31st December 2014. Held at the Friends of St Mary's Carvery Lunch at the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington.

1st Prize	£150	No. 18	Jane Andrews
		No. 95	Jeremy Moss
2nd Prize	£55	No. 189	Gloria & David Forster
		No. 51	James Edgedale

		No. 160	Doug Campling
		No. 164	Nick & Suzanne Johnson
3rd Prize	£35	No. 63	Patricia Complin-Northmore
		No. 166	Carl Oberman
		No. 175	Mark Kelly
		No. 79	Barbara Lloyd
		No. 86	Sarah Brazier
4th Prize	£27	No. 100	Pam Cale
		No. 41	Nick Bird
		No. 70	Michael Hinchliffe

Results of the 3rd draw, quarter ending 31st March 2015 held at Lent Lunch at the Old Stables, Shellingford [courtesy of Janice Sharp].

1st Prize	£150	No. 169	Dominic Martin
		No. 103	Roberta Jarvis
2nd Prize	£55	No. 170	Silvie Gibson
		No. 81	Rosanna Martin
		No. 184	Marcella Seymour
		No. 60	Myra Davis
3rd Prize	£35	No. 164	Nicky & Suzanne Johnson
		No. 43	David & Sue Owen-Smith
		No. 108	George Pope
		No. 38	Nick Bird
4th Prize	£27	No. 100	Pam Cale
		No. 194	Fred Challis

No. 101 Betsy Matthews

No. 45 Vivienne Boaler

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News from your District Council.

The Uffington/Baulking/Woolstone COMMUNITY LED PLAN is making good progress with high response rates (especially in Baulking) and will guide future decisions about the activities and services wanted in the village. The final report is expected by the end of May and I expect the team to press on with the new Parish Council to prepare a full legally binding Neighbourhood Plan which decides land usage in the villages. This is the most important protection for the village and I urge every family to respond later this year.

Gladmans PLANNING APPLICATION: Uffington has had its first experience of a speculative planning application for 42 houses south of the village, between the village and the White Horse Hill, and the Parish Council is aware of other plans in progress. Residents responded robustly to the Gladman application and an impressive case has been put together to defend the 'landscape and character' of that site undisturbed for at least 400 years. We hope to see that application refused by the Vale, but must expect an appeal to Inspectors.

Vales LOCAL PLAN 2013 to 2031: Part 1 was submitted for 'Examination' at end of March. We hope for approval which will decide where 19,560 houses will be built in the strategic sites of 200 or more houses. Part 2 will decide where the final 1,000 houses will go in smaller village sites for 50 to 100 houses. Uffington and our villages will be in Part 2, from January 2016, so new housing will be coming to Uffington, but you can decide where it must go and protect what you value most about your villages.

A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN decides land usage with the same power as the Vale's Local Plan to control developers and protect settlements. A NP would decide, after consulting all, where development will go and what can be built. You can decide how big new houses must be and how many in each category, so it is possible to ensure affordable homes and starter homes in

the villages. And Gov. has decided that where a NP is in place, residents can keep 25% of the new CIL 'development tax' (Community Infrastructure Levy) for the Parish Council to use in their community. The Vale proposes to set the CIL at £85 per sq ft in the western Vale so there can be real money for the village. All good things flow from a NP!!

ELECTIONS on MAY 7th will bring a number of changes to the village. Parish Councillors will be elected for the next period, so do put your name forward if you can serve. There are really important issues for the new Parish Council to decide. And ward boundary changes for the Vale District Council will squeeze me out of a new ward of STANFORD/UFFINGTON into the new ward of RIDGEWAY from Kingston Lisle to East Challow. I will still be your County Councillor until the 2017 County Council election.

I have so enjoyed my time as Vale District Councillor for Craven Ward since 2003. It was a grand new interest in how services are organised and delivered by local government, and these past 4 years with control in the Vale and the duty to progress the Local Plan has been the most interest a retired lady can have! Thank you for your lovely spirit and your active community with so much activity and so many friendly people to enjoy. I will miss you, and send every good wish for speedy progress to a successful Neighbourhood Plan and happy new development!

Cllr. Yvonne Constance

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St Mary's Church

The Church wardens of the parishes of the Uffington Benefice are delighted to announce that The Rev Jeremy Goulston (Team Vicar, Wallingford Team Ministry) has been appointed Vicar of this benefice. I am sure we all wish him well and every happiness as he moves here and takes up his post. He will be licensed on July 21st.

Meanwhile we are enormously grateful to all the visiting priests who have enabled us to keep so nearly to the service schedule to which we were accustomed.

Services for April and May are listed below:-

Wednesday 1st	Uffington	11.30am	Holy Communion
Thursday 2nd	Shellingford	7.30pm	Holy Communion
Friday 3rd	Baulking	2-3pm	Hour at the Cross
	Uffington	10am	Easter Garden Family Service
Easter Day	Baulking	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 5th	Woolstone	10.00am	Family Communion
	Shellingford	10.00am	Holy Communion by ext
	Uffington	8.00am	Holy Communion by ext
	Uffington	10.00am	Family Communion
Sunday 12th	Shellingford	10.00am	Benefice Communion
Sunday 19th	Baulking	8.45am	Holy Communion by ext
	Woolstone	9.45am	Croissant Service
	Uffington	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 26th	Baulking	8.45am	Holy Communion
	Uffington	10.00am	Scouts/Cubs Service
	Shellingford	10.30am	Morning Worship
	May		
Sunday 3rd	Baulking	8.45am	Holy Communion by ext
	Woolstone	6pm	Evening Prayer
	Uffington	8am	Holy Communion
		10.00am	One Family Service

	Shellingford	10.30am	Benefice Communion
Sunday 10th	Baulking	8.45am	Morning Prayer
	Woolstone	9.45am	Holy Communion
	Shellingford	10.30am	Something Special
Ascension Day	Woolstone	7.30pm	Holy Communion
Sunday 17th	Baulking	8.45am	Holy Communion
	Woolstone	9.45am	Croissant Service
	Uffington	10.00am	Service of the Word
Sunday 24th	Baulking	8.45am	Morning Prayer
	Uffington	10.00am	Holy Communion
	Shellingford	10.30am	Morning Worship
		2.00pm	Baptism
Sunday 31st	Woolston	9.45am	Benefice Communion

The Lent lunches that have been served in different homes round the benefice each Wednesday have been well attended and extremely convivial occasions. Many thanks indeed to all the 'hostesses' and their helpers.

We also enjoyed the concert by the Farringdon Singers on Saturday 21st March and were delighted to be able to send a donation of £185 to the Prospect Hospice in Swindon.

Patrick Leavey has joined us as organist. We have very much enjoyed his being with us and hope that he will equally enjoy his time here.

Messy Church continues to be well supported, indeed numbers have recently increased.

Despite having recently welcomed a couple of new ringers, the Tower Captain, Hugh Baxter, is always happy to see more. If you are interested and have not tried this form of exercise, do contact Hugh or go along to the Church on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm.

An alternative (or additional for the really energetic) form of exercise is to be had caring for the churchyard. The Churchyard Working Party meets in the churchyard nine times a year on the morning of the 4th Saturday of the month except for April, August and December, so it will next meet on May 23 and then June 27, July 25, September 26, October 24 and November 28. Do join them for a thoroughly enjoyable and worthwhile time; they would love some new faces.

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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White Horse Gardening Club

The first meeting of the year in February was a talk on 'The Winter Garden' by Val Bourne, well known writer and author. Val's presentation showed that the main brushstrokes of a winter garden rely on woody plants and we should always try to include at least one tree - vital to make the correct choice. An entertaining and informative talk with Q & A afterwards, which initiated an article by Val in the Oxford Times on 'Gardening On Chalk. Uffington was mentioned! At the March meeting. Jon Mason, from Highfield Garden World, Gloucester talked on 'Fruit Trees - pruning, pests, diseases and positioning'. There were plants for sale and many of our members walked away with small trees in hand. Again an informative evening enjoyed by all who attended.

Our next meeting in April is listed below. Timothy Walker is always very entertaining.

2015 Programme

April 2nd - 'Bordering on insanity'. Timothy Walker tells of the trials he and his wife faced when making a border with year round interest, and gives practical advice and recommends plants. Visitors £3.

May 9th (Saturday)- Coach trip to Malvern Spring Show. We still have spaces left and the cost per head is £30.50 (may be less depending on numbers). The coach will leave THMH at 9am.

May 16th (Saturday) 2.30 - 4.00 pm. Our Mega Plant Sale. Bring plants for sale (on a 50:50 basis) pre-priced and labelled. Please support our main fund raising event, and bring your friends.

June 4th 6.30pm. Visit to Childrey gardens, followed by refreshments in Sue & Dick Francis's garden, Fettiplace Cottage, Church Row, Childrey, Oxon. QX12 9UT. Members free. Visitors £2.50.

July 2nd 6.30pm. Visit to Rooksnest and Inholmes, Lambourn. 2 beautiful gardens. Entry and Refreshments. Visitors £7.50. Members £5. Car sharing. RG17 7SB and RG17 7SY.

Aug. 6th 6.00pm. 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.

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 will talk on the fascinating subject of Fungi, followed by:-

Oct.3rd (Saturday). 10.30am Fungus Foray with Michael Jordan at Ashdown Park, with optional lunch at local pub afterwards. Maximum number of 30. Fee £5.00. Car sharing.

Nov. 5th 'Garden Design' by Caroline Tatham from The Cotswold Garden School <http://www.cotswoldgardenschool.co.uk>, who has built a Garden at the Eden project and won awards at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

Dec. 3rd AGM followed by 'Damson + Gin'. A talk by William Parry of Wessex Wild Plum Co. Tasting and products to buy.

Further information - Pamela Preene - 01367-820251 or E: parrottspreene@aol.com

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Uffington United - Junior Football Club

The Club meets 10.00 to 11.30 on Saturday mornings in term-time at Uffington Sports Club. The Club is for boys and girls in years one to six (basically primary children from age five upwards). We take children of all ability, including complete beginners.

For more information please email John-Paul and Simon on uujfc.coaches@gmail.com or find the Club on Facebook.

John-Paul Roche

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Uffington Players

The Uffington Players performed their traditional Pantomime over three nights during the February half term. This was well attended and it was great to hear how much everyone enjoyed it. Well done to everyone involved, particularly the children. We are delighted to hear how much you all enjoyed taking part. Everyone should be particularly proud of themselves as it was all put together in just six weeks!

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped and supported us throughout. A special thank you must go to the front-of-house team. During two of the production nights they cooked and served over 350 hot dogs. We couldn't have done it without you.

Putting on any production takes an army of dedicated people. Those who appear on stage are the end product of a lot of hard work and support from many areas. These roles include back stage crew, set design & painting, lighting, sound, props, make-up, costumes, choreography, director & advertising. If you would like to get involved in any capacity, or would like more information, please contact Christine Holley on 820474.

Christine Holley

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Uffington Tennis Club

Despite the winter traditionally being a quite time for the tennis club, this year has been quite busy with many members playing in the two mixed doubles teams competing in the Swindon and District Leagues. The A team, who played in Division 4, finished as runners-up to Wanborough A. Unfortunately we lost both home and away to Wanborough so they ended up as deserved winners, however the consolation is that we will be promoted up a division for next winter. For the first time this winter a B team was also entered into the league and they finished a respectable 4th in Division 5.

Going forward into this summer season we will be entering a ladies and a mixed team into the league. If anyone is interested in playing then please contact the team captain Ruth Thomas (email: tictoc@nildram.co.uk). We will also continue to play friendly matches with other local dubs. Club evenings start on Wednesday 29 April at 18:30. For the first club night of the season new members are welcome to come along and meet members of the club. Afterwards we will head to the Fox and Hounds for an informal social evening and the club's ballot for Wimbledon tickets. There are also club mornings on Tuesdays at 11am and there will be a fund raising BBQ and tournament on Saturday 11 July.

Full details about all the Club's activities and membership details can either be found on the clubs website (www.uffingtontennis.co.uk) or by contacting me on 01367 821048.

Ross Heyburn

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Uffington Cricket Club

The Spring equinox has just passed - so it must be time to think of Cricket! Once again the club- will be entering two teams in the OCA league. This season begins in May and we will be

competing in Div 4 and Div 8 (the first team gained promotion last season). In addition, we will also field a team in the Downs midweek league.

The first team captain will be Tom Fillery, whilst the second team will be led by Ashley Green. Both are looking forward to what we hope will be a successful season.

The club is always looking to welcome cricketers of all standards and ages. Please do contact me if you are at all interested (details below).

Uffington is fortunate to have good support from the local community in the form of Vice-Presidents. In the last year we benefited from their generosity and we were able to purchase a bowling machine. This season we will need to purchase some form of pitch covering (a requirement of the 1st team having reached Div 4). One of the requirements of playing in the OCA is that the club has to provide an umpire for each team entered. Last season we were grateful to Britford Jeeves and Richard Chamberlain for fulfilling our commitment. If anyone else would like information on either umpiring or scoring please do contact me.

A fixture card with all relevant details of the club and officials is currently being drawn up. If you would like a copy - please let me know. Full details of fixtures/results/player stats etc are available via the OCA website - OxfordshireCricketAssociation.org.uk.

Throughout the summer there will be games most Saturdays at the Sports Ground (Fawler Road) - please do call in to support, chat, and have a drink. T: 01367820251 E: parrottbooks@aol.com.

Howard Preene, Secretary UCC.

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Uffington, Baulking & Woolstone W.I.

After the stresses of the Xmas period we were ready to welcome Lilly Sell Dunkley to our

January meeting, Lilly demonstrated a head and shoulder massage on a very willing volunteer from the group.

We were then encouraged to follow her instruction, with ladies taking turns to perform a head and shoulder massage on each other. Not all the ladies were comfortable having their head massaged. However, those that did try found this to be a relaxing experience. The evening proved to be an enjoyable one, with some members hoping to try out their new skills on friends and family.

The February meeting was an interesting and informative talk by Dr. Robert Russ on 'Post-menopausal gynaecological problems'. So interesting, that his talk overran yet again, thanks to his generosity in giving up his time.

The AGM held in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall on March 17th saw Tory Russ, after six years as President, stand down and Jackie Ash take on the role. The members extended their thanks to Tory for her work and welcomed Jackie and her new committee.

The April meeting will hopefully be a 'hoot' (sorry), as we spend an evening with Chrissie's Owls. Chrissie Harper, accompanied by her owls, will talk to us about the history of owls, their conservation and rescue work.

If you would like to join us at any of our future meetings, please feel free to do so.

Beverley Buckley

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