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## The Courier - October 2014

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Please note that any views expressed in these reports are those of the contributors.  
Copy date for Autumn Issue: 27th December 2014  
All contributions for Courier to Jem Packford, Lower Woolstone, 01367 820631  
(jem\_packford@lineone.net)

## **Parish Council**

### **Housing development off Station Road**

You may be wondering what has happened in the time since the District Council approved this planning application.

The main things have been: (1) archaeologists checking over the site (they were using the diggers on the site); (2) Thames Water investigating what work might be needed regarding sewage and sewerage; and (3) the Developers and District Council working on the Section 106 agreement (the legal agreement that determines how much the developers have to contribute to schools, roads, etc). At the moment there is no confirmed date for development to begin, but it is currently thought unlikely to be before the very end of the year.

### **Jubilee Field autumn tidy**

Twice a year volunteers from the Village come together work on the Jubilee Field. This stops it getting overgrown and keeps it as a safe and attractive place for everyone to enjoy. The autumn tidy of the Jubilee Field is going to be at 10.00 on Saturday 22nd November. There are tasks for people of all abilities and you can help for as little (or much) of the morning as you wish.

### **Hedges**

Lots of the hedges that have been overhanging the pavements or roads have been cut back, so thank you to the villagers who have done this. However, there are still some that really need cutting back so it would be much appreciated if you could check your hedges and ensure they aren't obstructing any paths or roads.

### **Allotments**

The village allotments are now well established, but plots do become available. If you are interested then please get in touch ([parishcouncil@uffington.net](mailto:parishcouncil@uffington.net) or 820698) and let us know.

### **Finally**

The next elections for the Parish Council are in May 2015, so there is still plenty of time to decide if you would like to stand for election. In the meantime, if you would like to find out more about the Council and what is involved in serving as a parish councillor then please feel free to get in touch with me ([parishcouncil@uffington.net](mailto:parishcouncil@uffington.net) or 820698) or come along to one of the regular Parish Council meetings.

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](mailto:Maralyn.Pack@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

Thames Valley Police Non-Emergency: 08458 505 505

Emergency: 999

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### Tom Brown's School Museum

Our exhibition this year - Remembering 1914 - has attracted a lot of visitors. In view of the significance of this exhibition in this 100th anniversary of the start of World War 1 we intend to stay open for another few sessions. We are pleased that Uffington Primary School will be using the exhibition as part of their preparations for Remembrance Day on 11th November and also think that visitors to Candida's Memorial Service may like to see the Betjeman Files in the museum.

Consequently we will open on the following days and times:

Saturday and Sunday, 1st and 2nd November: 2.00 - 4.00 pm each day

Saturday and Sunday, 8th and 9th November: 2.00 - 4.00 pm each day

Saturday, 15th November: 12.00 - 3.00

**Cooper Black in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall**

Past Uffington resident, Simon Stafford and his group Cooper Black are returning to Uffington for a concert in aid of Tom Brown's Museum funds on Saturday, 15th November - those who have attended his concerts before will know that they are in for a treat - those yet to experience his eclectic mix of folk/blues/country/pop are sure to want to come along. Tickets £7.50 from [museum@uffington.net](mailto:museum@uffington.net) or 820259.

Sharon Smith

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**Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall****Improvements**

**Ladies and Gentlemen's Toilet Refurbishment.** I am pleased to tell you that this project is now complete and commissioned. I would like to thank the working party for their support with this and also to congratulate R & S Construction for doing a good job, on time and on budget. Note that the Belfast sink has been moved to the old store as a location for emptying/filling mop buckets etc. Thank you for the support from the White Horse Show Trust, South and Vale Community fund and everyone else who contributed.

**Hall Events**

**White Horse Show Car Park.** On behalf of all Hall users, I would like to thank everyone who helped over the August Bank holiday with the White Horse Show car park marshalling. This has earned the Hall much needed funds to go towards the toilet improvements. Thank you again, it is very much appreciated.

**Appeal**

The Hall utilisation is higher than it has ever been. It is clean and it is warm and provides the facilities for numerous community activities at the reduced community rate. However, the management committee are unable to find a replacement secretary and the representation from community groups is so low at Council meetings that there is insufficient attendance to form a quorum. The next scheduled meeting is the AGM on Monday 26th January 2015. Please make a note to remember and support this meeting. Hall website [www.thmh.co.uk](http://www.thmh.co.uk). Please

check it out, feedback always appreciated.

Paul Armishaw

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### **Uffington School**

We have had a fabulous start to the school year with many exciting activities ranging from a visit to Millets Farm for our preschool and reception children, to African storytelling as part of Class 3's African project.

Storytelling is an integral part of curriculum and Class 1 are enjoying exploring this area in depth with a topic based around traditional tales. Class 2 are enjoying finding out about the Victorians and we have some budding civil engineers amongst us who would certainly give Brunel a run for his money. Class 2 have also enjoyed a visit to St Mary's where the children learned about Baptism and Holy Communion. We are very grateful to the dedicated members of the Church who continue to support the school.

At Uffington we pride ourselves in our inclusive ethos, ensuring every child is treated equally and is able to develop independence, confidence and individuality. To celebrate this, we have launched our 'SMARTIES' programme, where every child is recognised to have an aptitude in an area of learning. We will be celebrating this exciting opportunity with a range of exciting opportunities outside of the normal curriculum.

We would also like to give a warm welcome to Mrs Felicity Blockley our new part-time Class 2 teacher and Mrs Helen Reade who joins us as a class teaching assistant.

Mrs A Carnell, Headteacher

Uffington C of E Primary School  
Broad Street, Uffington, SN7 7RA Tel: 01367 820296  
e-mail: [head.3251@uffington.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:head.3251@uffington.oxon.sch.uk)  
School website [www.uffington.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.uffington.oxon.sch.uk)

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### **Afternoon Club**

Our July meeting was in Mrs Pat Mildenhall's garden, a beautiful warm sunny day, and strawberry tea was enjoyed by all - Thank you Pat. In August we had our evening mystery tour when we ended up at Lower Slaughter where most of us enjoyed our evening meal.

For our September meeting we were back in the hall where Mrs Doyle gave a most informative talk on the food bank in Swindon, helping us all to understand why it is required and those who use it - Thank you Liz. We are now looking forward to Christmas lunch and party with entertainment by the Uffington school children.

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

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### **Thomas Saunders Trust**

The Trust has been in existence since the early 1600s when it set up the school in the village for '12 worthy boys' with a building and an endowment for a schoolteacher. It provided education in the village when it was not considered important elsewhere.

Since the state took over provision, the Trust has been used to provide for the extras - e.g. subsidising school trips for those who could not afford them and providing dictionaries for Uffington Primary School leavers before they go on to secondary school.

The Trust only distributes the interest from capital and so we were very grateful to receive a donation from Rosanna's final service and we wish her well in the future. To aid our fund raising we will be holding a coffee morning in Uffington School on Thursday, 13th November. Please come along and support the Trust from 9.30 to 11.30 on that day.

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### **News from your District Council.**

News this quarter must be about road closures!!

**A420 re-opened at end August, a whole week early and within budget too,** and County Highways was justified in celebrating a well-managed project, for the most part. Officers took real trouble over planning the traffic management, meeting with me and the 4 or 5 Parish Councils most affected on at least four occasions to hear about the main trouble spots to get effective diversions. They took care to publicise it properly and wrote to 3,000 businesses to warn them of the need for their drivers to carry ID to get admitted to the closed area. All really impressive . . . and then failed to get all the signs up as agreed It took until the last week to get west-bound traffic properly diverted down the Majors Road/Longcot Road to relieve the queues at the 'pinch point' on Faringdon Road near the High Street, and it seemed to make a difference in time for Shrivenham Fete and White Horse Show which were running over the same weekend. If officers were relieved when it was over, that understates how pleased I was!! Thank all of you for your constant flow of information which enabled me to keep Trading Standards officers and contractors' marshalls functioning most (some?) of the time and get signage improved as the weeks progressed.

**When not fussing with A420 I was trying to get the same attention from Network Rail and County for closure of the A417.**

It is of course a lesser road (used daily by about 6,000 vehicles and not 20,000) but it will be for twice as long and so many villages would be affected. The Challow Bridge closed on 6th September and work is progressing to plan to complete by 5th December.

I attended NR's quarterly up-date this morning and learned (as we know) that Goosey and



Denchworth are taking the main brunt of diverted traffic, and the B4507 (top road) is very busy. I have again requested better signs at Wantage Ham Road roundabouts where HGVs can still turn round; and speed limited to 40mph near villages, which was agreed (I think!). NR has had real trouble keeping vehicles out of the narrow Cow Lane (past Asti Stud) off the Goosey road and is responding constantly with improved ACCESS ONLY signs (now dug into the ground so they can't be dumped in the ditch ) and will place water-filled barriers on the road to exclude all but the residents. Noting the long queues of traffic using Cow Lane, its fair to warn you that vehicles will be sure to find a new way round and that may mean we will see more traffic than we have done so far.

**Uffington Bridge will be 'jacked up' and will need closing for that work, due to be done next January.** There will be a 'drop-in' session with NR personnel in Uffington on 9th October, venue to be confirmed. If you use that bridge and are likely to be affected, do come to speak to the NR people, who are trying to reduce the impacts on as many residents as possible.

**Baulking Bridge requires only to have parapets raised, to be done next year** - possible as early as January. That work does not require road closure.

**Compton Bridge is historic and has been considered for listing.** Only the central arch needs to be raised, so there are still hopes that lowering the tracks might be a solution.

**Shrivenham Bridge will be replaced by a new bridge,** which will be built alongside. Work will start (mainly off site) in January and NR plans limited road closures only to 'tie-in' the road access to the new higher bridge over weekends between April and June.

**Bourton Bridge, which is listed** (decision by English Heritage), will be saved by lowering the tracks as there is confidence that flooding will not disrupt use of the tracks.

So this is the best result we could get for the area, given that 6 bridges require work in 'my' Division. NR is responding well to real problems (like Cow Lane) so it's worth meeting them and keeping them and OCC informed. And the A417 will be complete before they start work on any other bridges in this area, but worth warning you all that Steventon Bridge looks likely to close for 8 months from February and works on the nearby Milton Interchange (starting next month) may not be complete by that start date.

If it weren't for flooding and fast traffic on the available roads, we might all do well to get cycling! More next time about progress on the new Local Transport Plan 4 and on Stanford tip, on which we still await the consultation for planning permission. I am chasing!!!

Cllr Yvonne Constance (tel: 01235 751 475)

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### St Mary's Church

As we are now in the interregnum so that services are not following the pattern to which we were accustomed, here is the Schedule of for Services in the Benefice this Autumn.

#### October

Sunday 5th	Woolstone	6.00pm	Harvest
	Uffington	8.00am	Evensong
		10.00am	Holy
	Shellingford	10.30am	Communion
Sunday 12th	Baulking	10.00am	by extension
	Uffington	10.00am	Family
	Shellingford	10.30am	Harvest
Sunday 19th	Baulking	8.45am	Service
	Woolstone	9.45am	Harvest
	Uffington	10.00am	Service (no
	Shellingford	10.30am	HC)
Sunday 26th	Woolstone	9.45am	Holy
	Shellingford	10.30am	Communion
			Holy
			Communion
			Something
			Special
			Holy
			Communion
			Croissant

			Service Service of the Word Holy Communion by extension Holy Communion Morning Worship
<b>November</b>			
Sunday 2nd	Woolstone	6.00pm	Evensong
	Shellingford	10.00am	Benefice Holy
Sunday 9th	Uffington	10.00am	Communion
	Shellingford	10.30am	Remembrance
Sunday 16th	Baulking	8.45am	Service
	Woolstone	9.45am	Remembrance
	Uffington	10.00am	Holy
Sunday 23rd	Woolstone	9.45am	Communion
	Shellingford	10.30am	Holy
Sunday 30th	Woolstone	6.00pm	Communion
	Uffington	10.00am	Croissant Service Service of the Word Holy Communion Morning Worship Carol Service Benefice Holy Communion
<b>December</b>			
Sunday 7th	Woolstone	6.00pm	Evensong
	Uffington	8.00am	Holy

		10.00am	Communion
Sunday 14th	Uffington	10.00am	by extension
	Shellingford	5.00pm	Family
Sunday 21st	Baulking	8.45am	Service
	Woolstone	9.45am	Holy
	Uffington	6.00pm	Communion
			Carols by candlelight
			Holy
			Communion
			Nativity
			Croissant
			Carol Service

Please look out for notices in case there have to be changes and, in particular, for the arrangements for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

There was a crowded church in Uffington on August 31st for Rosanna's final service as our priest in charge and a very well-attended party afterwards to send her and Peter, Dominic and Helena on their way with our very best wishes.

Messy Church will now resume after the summer break.

From the register:

**Baptism:**

20th July	Noah Alan William Game
27th July	Chloe Rebecca Burton
	Matthew James Burton
17th August	Patrick Keith Roche
14th September	Edie Elizabeth Smith

By now you will probably have received a letter from us inviting you to come and give us any ideas you may have about how the church can serve you and the village in general in future. Meanwhile we thank all those who decorate the church so beautifully with flowers, clean it and polish the brass to make it sparkle and keep the churchyard in trim. All your hard work is

enormously appreciated. If anyone would like to help with these tasks, they would be very, very welcome.

Church Warden

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### **White Horse Gardening Club**

The Garden Club continues to thrive as we see new faces at our meetings. We have recently had a working party to plant daffodil bulbs next to the shop for a beautiful spring display. This was initiated by a kind donation by one of our members which the club matched, resulting in a community benefit.

In September we had a talk on Bulbs for Year Round Interest by Sue Bedwell which was extremely comprehensive and an education on the many different bulbs available both for outdoor and indoor display.

The October meeting was on Ponds and Pond Creation by Rod d'Ayala from the Bucks, Berks and Oxon Wildlife Trust. We were shown the many different types of ponds, plants, and insects/amphibians/animals that inhabit and surround them. A very informative talk followed by many questions on the subject. Thursday 6th November will be a talk on How to Look After Your Garden Tools by Alan Christopher, '4 Candles and 'oes'. Not to be missed as everyone needs to look after their tools.

Thursday 4th December is our AGM (always brief), followed by 'The Vines and Wines of Brightwell Vineyard' by Carol Neilsen. This is the largest vineyard in Oxfordshire, first planted in 1988, the 14 acre site now grows 7 grape varieties to produce red, white and rose wine that are winning awards in international competitions. There will be wine tasting and wines to purchase.

At the AGM our exciting programme for 2015 will be available and we look forward to new members coming along.

We have applied to BBC Gardeners' Question Time to take place here in Uffington and are

awaiting a positive reply.

All our meetings start at 7.30pm in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall. Visitors always welcome at £2 entrance. Raffle £1.

Pamela Preene

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### **Uffington, Baulking & Woolstone W.I.**

The 'Open Evening' held in the Uffington Sports Club proved to be a really good one, with a talk from Malcolm Nelson, based on his experiences during 'Forty years of catching smugglers', the title of his book. Malcolm retired in 2005, after working for HM Customs for forty years, most of that time at Heathrow airport. He provided us with an insight into the job. Just why does an officer decide to stop a particular person, what makes him suspicious? Malcolm suggested it's sometimes just down to the customs officer's experience and intuition.

Our August meeting began with a visit to the Tom Brown's School Museum in Uffington, to view the WW1 Centenary Exhibition. This interesting display highlighted how the Great War impacted on small communities, families and individuals. This was followed by an enjoyable Summer Garden Party, kindly hosted by Gill Avenall, assisted by her husband Ray (doing a wonderful job as barman) and the opportunity to eat tasty nibbles, drink Pimms, and catch up with friends.

The meeting held on September 16th was entitled 'Beatnik Beatles' by Sim Courtie. This was a thoroughly entertaining evening, with Sim proving to be a brilliant story teller. We were all captivated as he told us how he took his wife and three daughters, in a VW camper van on a trip around the world, busking Beatles songs to raise money for UNICEF.

In October we are having a practical evening of 'Corn Dolly Making' with Robert Longstaff. Please come along and join the fun at 7pm in the T.H.M.H. Uffington on Tuesday 21st.

Beverley Buckley

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### **Uffington Community Garden Association**

This summer has certainly been a hectic time for the community gardeners. Some of it has been spent watering the plants but most of it has been about weeding, and finally, finally harvesting. We have had a large variety of produce. Most of the crops we have planted have given us a good return. We have fought many a fight with the birds and pests. We have won against the birds but in some crops the slugs have had the upper hand, not many mind. We have learned lots and are already in the process of trying to improve what we reap next year. Gardening is never static. There is always something new to learn and experience.

Earlier in the summer the Beavers came and harvested their potatoes, and working like their namesakes, got every last potato out of the ground. It was lovely to see everyone so involved with the job at hand. We were also fortunate to have the Cubs come to the garden to help a community group in their neighbourhood. They created a hedgehog habitat and now this autumn a hedgehog or two is going to be very glad of the shelter that the cubs created. They also weeded around a newly planted hedge to give it a good chance to thrive and they started to build our clay oven base. All of this in one summers evening. They were all a credit to the community.

We also tried something new for us, relaunching the Uffington Produce Show at this year's White Horse Show. There was certainly a strong interest from the public to visit the Produce Show - the people's choice award was well received - and the exhibitors who entered and the judges were quite involved. Many thanks to everyone involved. We have decided to hold the Produce Show at the same venue next year, but are looking to alter the format so that more people can enter. Get your growing hats on early! More on this later.

Krista Soper

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## **Messy Church**

Messy Church continues to be enjoyed by lots of local families and supporters. From January 2015 will meet once a month in the THMH on the second Friday of each month from 3:30pm to 5:30 pm.

The service is very informal, with crafts around a bible theme for an hour, a 15 minute celebration with songs and drama, then 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 will have games too, for the energetic ones!

Our dates this next term will be:

January 9th

February 13th

March 13th

Contact Sue Jennings 820013 or Liz Doyle to help with catering 820436

Sue Jennings

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## **Uffington Tennis Club**

Many players from Uffington and surrounding villages have had an enjoyable tennis season particularly with the excellent weather we have enjoyed this summer. Following on from winning Division 6 of the Swindon and District League last winter, the club entered a team in the summer league and again comfortably won the division in which it competed. The club has therefore been promoted up a division for both summer and winter leagues. Given this success we have decided to enter a second team in the league so there will now be an Uffington A and B team playing through the winter. If there is anyone who is not a member of the club that is



interested in playing league tennis matches then please get in touch through the website(<http://www.uffingtontennis.co.uk>) or by telephone on 01367 821048.

Throughout the summer there have been a series of friendly matches with other local clubs, a regular club evening on Wednesdays, and a club morning on Mondays. The clubs coach Chris Hand has also been holding coaching sessions for youngsters at the school (which are continuing through the autumn) and there have also been pre-school sessions for the very young ones. On 6 September we held the club annual fundraising tournament and BBQ. In the end the tournament was won by Ruth and Mark Thomas (Fernham) who are this years club champions with the event raising around £360 for the club.

Ross Heyburn

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### The Uffington Players

The Uffington Players Present - **Murdered To Death** - by Peter Gordon

*"The funniest whodunit Agatha Christie never wrote" What ho chums! **Murdered To Death**, Peter Gordon's 1993 play, is an affectionate pastiche of your Classic Country House Murder Mystery, with shoals of red herrings and a Cluedo Collection of Whodunit suspects and weapons. You'll be guessing, giggling and hopefully howling too all the way to the final revelation. This is absolutely guaranteed to amuse and delightfully bemuse.*

Performance dates October 30th, 31st and November 1st 2014, Doors open at 7pm. Tickets - £12, Concessions - £10

Evening will include Afternoon Tea' served during the interval, included in the ticket price.

Licensed Bar

Tickets will be available from Uffington Post Office 01367 820977 or online. Booking details are [www.uffingtonplayers.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.uffingtonplayers.ticketsource.co.uk)

For further information please contact Christine Holley 01367 820474

Christine Holley

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## 2014 Uffington White Horse Show

On behalf of the Organising Committee, may I thank all of those who supported this year's Show both as volunteers in giving your time as car-parking stewards, on pay-gates, etc. and those attending and hopefully enjoying the Show (with particular appreciation to those who braved the weather on Monday, some of whom were captured on a later BBC clip!).

Whilst we had two very contrasting and for different reasons, challenging days, the over-riding feedback from visitors to the small changes we made for 2014 has been exceedingly positive and we are already starting to plan 2015 with some further new ideas in mind.

However, the key measurement for the Show's success is the level of profit we generate. This year, once the final invoices filter through, we are hopeful of achieving a profit of around £15,000 which I am told by more experienced heads than mine is a respectable figure bearing mind the Monday deluge. When considering the financial success of the Show it is also very important to take into account the money raised by community and village groups through their own fundraising events over the weekend which this year amounted to around £6,500.

The reason the Show exists is to raise money for groups and charities based in the parishes of Baulking, Uffington & Woolstone. Over the last 40 years or so, over £400,000 has been put back into the parishes in this way. If you are involved in a group or charity based in one of the villages and are looking for financial support, please do contact the Trust. Some very helpful guidance notes on making an application can be found on the [Uffington.net](http://Uffington.net) website (click on Clubs and Associations and scroll down to the White Horse Show entry to download the form). Any of the Trustees (listed at the bottom of the form) will be happy to have an informal chat about your application.

Putting on the Show is a big task and we are still looking for volunteers to join the Organising Committee to take on various roles. If you are interested and are free on the 30th and 31st August 2015, please give me a call or send an email. Contact details on [www.whitehorseshow.co.uk](http://www.whitehorseshow.co.uk)

Ed Preece  
Organising Committee Chairman

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