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The Courier - July 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 September 2014
All contributions for Courier to Jem Packford, Lower Woolstone, 01367 820631
(jem_packford@lineone.net)

Parish Council

Stanford recycling centre - Have your say

This summer Oxfordshire County Council are going to be conducting a consultation on the County's recycling centres. If you value the centre at Stanford then please take the time to complete a response to this. The County Council's consultations are normally accessible via www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/consultation.

Traffic Issues

There are two major sets of traffic disruption coming up in the next few months. Firstly the A420 by Watchfield will be closed for seven weeks for roadworks from the 23rd July. Secondly, the A417 looks like it will be closed for several months from September at Challow Station. This is due to steps Network Rail are taking to electrify the railway line.

Hedges

This is a perennial issue, but please can everyone make sure their hedges are trimmed back so that they do not grow out over the footpaths or the roads around the Village. Some of the footpaths are very narrow at the best of times, and overgrown hedges end up forcing pedestrians (especially those with buggies, etc) off into the road.

Finally

Uffington is fortunate to have a wide range of voluntary groups doing everything from running the Museum and the Village Hall, to organising clubs for sports, toddlers, etc ... the list is really long. Anyway, the key thing about voluntary groups is that they need volunteers to keep going. So if you have a little time free (even a very little time) then why not see if any of the groups take your fancy. It can be great fun, and is a good way to get to know new people in your community.

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

Thames Valley Police Non-Emergency: 08458 505 505

Emergency: 999

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Tom Brown's School Museum

Our exhibition 'Remembering 1914' has received many compliments including one from AWN. Wilson, John Betjeman's biographer who wrote in our Visitors Book 'the best local museum in England!' I hope you will find time to visit before we close at the end of October.

Although we have found where many of 'Our Men' lived, we still have mysteries to solve - for instance, there is mention of Winfield Smith a captain in the Royal Flying Corps in the Faringdon Advertiser of December 1914. We have found out that Stephen Christopher Winfield Smith was born in Woolstone, Columbo, Ceylon in 1893 and married Florence Crabtree in Woolstone Church in July 1914. But who was the tea planter that emigrated from Woolstone to Ceylon and why did their son return to Woolstone to marry? Please let me know if you have any answers!

The museum is open on weekend and Bank Holiday Monday afternoons from 2.00 –5.00 pm from 19th April to 26th October inclusive. Entry is free!

Sharon Smith

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Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall

Improvements

Ladies and Gentlemen's Toilet Refurbishment

The Hall will be closed from the 4th August until 23rd August for the work to be undertaken, apologies for any inconvenience this causes. It is anticipated that when complete, these improvements will make the location much more attractive to all our various hirers.

New Tables

As a result of an initiative spearheaded by the WI we now have new tables in the hall. This was funded by a combination of specific fund raising by the WI, a grant from the White Horse Show Trust and contribution from Hall funds. The Management Committee would like to thank both the WI & the WH Trust for their efforts and contributions to this initiative. If anyone is interested in buying the old square tables, please contact us as we will be looking to dispose of these.

Gaps in the hedge have been filled with hawthorn saplings and bark chippings laid on the garden surface.

Fuel Store Roof has been recovered with corrugated aluminum and is now more secure.

Hall Events

The Watermill Theatre (On Tour) performed 'Hard Boiled' at the Hall on 13th June and we had 92 in the audience. Although it was a very warm sticky evening, the performance was well received and the conditions helped the bar sales. Almost £400 was made and this will go towards the toilet project. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

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 24th and 25th 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 John Boaler (821016) and adding your name to the marshals list. Each marshal receives a complimentary entry ticket to the show.

Spring Clean Many thanks to those who helped on 14th April.

Management Committee

The management committee desperately needs a secretary. There are only four meetings a year to take minutes so the duties need not be very onerous and sometimes, they can even be fun. If you feel that you could help and influence the running of the Hall, please get in touch.

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

Paul Armishaw

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Uffington School

As another year draws to a close we can look back and celebrate our many achievements.

We are so proud of our year 6 children. For the second year running we have achieved 100% Level 4 plus in our SATS. Our reading results were outstanding with all of our children receiving a level 5.

This term, our year 5/6 pupils had a five day adventure at Yenworthy Lodge in Devon. Everyone enjoyed the surfing, coast-steering and other activities and the course leaders were very impressed by how polite the Uffington children were.

The whole school took part in a science and engineering week. Our pre-school children enjoyed investigating mini-beasts while our older children became forensic scientists and engineers.

Mrs A Carnell

Uffington C of E Primary School
Broad Street, Uffington, SN7 7RA Tel: 01367 820296
e-mail: head.3251@uffington.oxon.sch.uk

School website www.uffington.oxon.sch.uk

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Afternoon Club

We have started the summer season with a coach trip to Windsor followed by a trip up the river to Monkey Island. On the return journey we were served a ploughmans lunch beautifully presented. The beautiful weather certainly helped to make the day [last trip on the river was so cold].

July meeting - Mrs Pat Mildenhall has invited us to have our strawberry tea in her garden, weather permitting.

August - there will be no afternoon meeting as we will have our usual evening mystery tour.

All these things are free to members, why not join the club, you are sure of a warm welcome.

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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Benefice 200 Club

Results of the 4th draw of the year, quarter ending 30th June 2013, held following The Variety Show at The Mill House, Woolstone.

1st Prize	£150	No. 140	Jane Cooper
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2nd Prize	£55	No. 88	SJ Carter
		No. 148	Robert Godfrey
		No. 76	Michael & Gay Green
3rd Prize	£35	No. 84	Mrs Gay Hobson
		No. 112	R Weetch
		No. 186	James Matthews
		No. 127	Kate Dunn
		No. 151	Louise Lewis
4th Prize	£27	No. 96	Juliet Moss
		No. 182	Theo Scott-Watson
		No. 199	Hugh Baxter
		No. 115	Sue Matthews
		No. 13	Harry Jones

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News from your District Council.

Happily it is sunny as I write, because I have only big warnings for you in the next quarter!!

On 23 July County Highways is closing the A420 for 7 weeks from Watchfield roundabout to the Shrivenham /Bourton turnoff. This is to rebuild the road from its under structure to the tarred surface and the only practical effective way to do it is to have access 24 hrs a day to the whole section. We have worked closely with all the Parishes most affected, and hope we've planned the best traffic management possible.

When that work is complete, network rail will close the A417 (Wantage to Faringdon Road) for 4 months to raise and rebuild the Challow Station bridge and access roads. This will affect you much more because traffic will make its way through Fernham and Uffington to get past the closed section. I am still working with Network Rail and the County to try to develop as good a

plan as we have for A420 closure, but I must warn you now to be prepared for disruption and more traffic than you are used to.

I hope you have a lovely sunny summer . . . and maybe a very extended holiday is a good idea!

Cllr Yvonne Constance (tel: 01235 751 475)

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St Mary's Church

The schedule of services for the end of July and August is below - but watch notice boards in case of changes:

- 27th July - 10:00 Benefice Communion, Woolstone
- 3rd August - 10:00 Benefice Communion, Shellingford
- 10th August - 10:00 Benefice Communion, Woolstone
- 17th August - 10:00 Benefice Communion, Baulking
- 24th August - 17:00 Songs of Praise on the White Horse Showground
- 31st August - 10:00 Benefice Communion, Uffington

(This will be Rosanna's final service in the Benefice - I am sure you will all wish to be there!. There will be refreshments after this service during which a leaving gift will be presented to Rosanna. If you would like to make a donation towards this, please do so to a Church Warden in your parish.)

Please note: No Messy Church in July or August.

What is an Interregnum?

As just mentioned, Rosanna, who has been the Priest in Charge of our Benefice for the past 10 years, will be leaving us at the end of August. We wish her and all the Martin family every blessing for the future. This means that there will be an interregnum until a replacement for Rosanna is appointed, with visiting clergy taking services where members of our own Ministry Team are not able to do so.

This gives us an exciting opportunity to look forward and seek ways in which we can grow and develop. If you are not already on the Church Electoral Roll and would like to be able to join some of the inevitable discussions, please ask for a registration form and bring your new ideas with you. With our two Church Wardens completing their terms of office at the end of July, new blood will be especially welcome.

From the Registers:

Baptism:

22nd June - Samuel Saunders
 Sophie Fiona Elizabeth Lord

Marriages:

17th May Leonora May Alexandra Twynam and Edward Cecil Wakefield
7th June Alice Church and Ben Fletcher

R.I.P.

20th May Rachel Baker
2nd June Michael William John Bailey

Bell Ringers! Grandsire Doubles, Plain Hunt, Cloisters and Bob! What on earth are they? They are all bell-ringing methods, and if you are interested in finding out more and help to maintain this unique sound on Sunday mornings, then give it a go. Practices are held on Tuesday from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Ring (on the telephone, that is) Hugh Baxter 820014

Church cleaning and churchyard maintenance? If you can spare one hour per month then please contact Jo Trichler, Tel 820463 for cleaning rota, or Graham Banks, Tel: 820379 for churchyard maintenance - bonfire specialists welcome.

Shiny brass-work or flower arrangement? How about joining the church brass-cleaning or flower rota? Please contact Jackie Wyard on 820647.

The current Parochial Church Council (PCC) comprises Patricia Dalrymple (Secretary), Simon Doyle (Treasurer), Helen Evans (Minutes secretary), Beryl Packer (Deanery Synod representative) and the following ordinary members: Eleanor Banks, Valerie Chapman and Derek Kelsey.

The Ministry Team comprises: Beryl Packer (LLM), Sue Saunders (LLM), Hugh Baxter, Martin Welland and Sue Jennings.

Churchwardens until 31st July: Fay Forster (820363) and Carl Oberman (820230)

The Church Wardens

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Friends of St Mary's

THE FRIENDS OF SAINT MARY'S AND SAINT NICHOLAS INVITE YOU TO

"PACK UP YOUR TROUBLES"

A CELEBRATION OF SONGS FROM THE GREAT WAR
AND

THE LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS

IN THE THOMAS HUGHES MEMORIAL HALL, UFFINGTON
ON 5TH SEPTEMBER 2014

TICKETS WILL INCLUDE SUPPER. A LICENCED BAR WILL BE AVAILABLE

Further Information will be made available later from
Geoff Foster 01367 820668, Derek Kelsey 01367 820393,
Ray Avenell 01367 820242, John Deakin 01367 820542

White Horse Gardening Club

We meet on the first Thursday of the month in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall at 7.30pm

except June, July and August when we are out on visits.

In June we had a tour of several gardens in Uffington, beginning with Norton House, a beautiful cottage style garden with shrubs, herbaceous plants, fruit and veg. Then onto The Walnuts with vast herbaceous borders, views of the hill, a large pond and a chicken run/hutch for privileged birds! A walk through the churchyard with a quick peek inside to admire the flowers, over a stile and onto The Allotments. Here was a lesson to us all on vegetable growing, irrigation and straight lines! The Old Post House was next with its vast lawns and wild grass areas, many specimen trees, grape vines, roses, fruit and veg. All in all a delightful evening, with refreshments at Southview Farm to finish.

July was a visit to Blewbury Manor Gardens with a tour by the head gardener Richard Roslyn. In summary this was the 'perfect' English garden on a 'perfect' summers evening.

August is a visit to the garden of John Sales, former Gardens Adviser to the National Trust at Perrotts' Brook, near Cirencester. Again this is an exceptional garden in a beautiful location. We hope the sun will shine for us again.

September Meeting - Bulbs For Year Round Interest by Sue Bedwell

October Meeting - Ponds and Pond Creation by Rod d'Ayala of the Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust.

November Meeting - 4 Candles and 'oes by Alan Christopher. A guide to the maintenance of our garden tools.

December Meeting - AGM. Followed by The Vines and Wines of Brightwell Vineyards with wine tasting by Carol Nielsen.

Please do come along and join us. Members £8 per year and Visitors £2 per meeting.

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

Pamela Preene

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Uffington, Baulking & Woolstone W.I.

Our first meeting of the New Year, was held on Tuesday January 21st when Doctor Robert Russ provided us with an informative talk on 'Type 2 Diabetes'. It was interesting to learn, that the number of people with the disease is increasing in the UK, as the population in general becomes more overweight. As a result, a balanced diet, portion control and exercise have never been more important in the prevention and treatment of the disease.

The speaker in February was Tess Hingston, who gave us an entertaining insight into her work as a barrister for the Crown Prosecution Service. She told us about the prejudices which she faced in her early years in the profession, as a young female criminal barrister in a male dominated environment. The diversity of her work and challenges brought by each new case, made her job sound fascinating but not for the faint hearted!

'How I cast away 50 people' was the intriguing title of the talk given by Sylvia Vetta in April. She has written an article for the Oxford Times, Limited Edition Magazine since 2008, in which she has interviewed inspiring people from varied walks of life and asked the question 'if you were marooned on a desert island which work of art, object or book would you like to find washed up on the beach?'.

In May we had an excellent interactive evening, courtesy of Sally-Ann Spence and her 'Mini beast Mayhem'. Sally-Ann is an entomologist who has developed an outreach educational roadshow, taking exotic invertebrates, which she researches and breeds in her home, into schools and groups.

June brought an evening of entertainment and participation when Ken Wickens brought a selection of his percussion collection. Ken highlighted how he achieved the many sounds used for his performances in the orchestras around the Reading area. It only went to prove that we will never achieve 'Musician of the Year'.

If you would like to join us please do at our next meeting in the T.H.M.H. on Tuesday 16th September at 7pm to hear Sim Courtie and 'Beatnik Beatles'.

Beverley Buckley

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Uffington Community Garden Association

Summer has finally arrived, lots of sun and a good shower or two in the evenings. English weather can be fabulous - but not very often. The most beautiful time at the community garden is just as the sun is setting. A softness settles on the site at this time and with the White Horse looking down on us nothing could be more peaceful.

We have been busy over the past months. We are harvesting bucket loads of broadbeans, the potatoes are well advanced, the mange toute is lush and although the runner and climbing French beans have taken a while to settle, they are now starting to take off. In fact we have filled most of the beds and have been able to keep the birds of most of the crop.

In April we had the Beavers come and use the site to plant their own potatoes and they will soon be harvesting them. We have also had the Cubs come one evening to help us at the site to work toward their community badge. They built a hedgehog habitat and weeded around the base of a hedge we planted last year - both jobs which we had been wanting to do for ages. They also started to build the base of a Clay oven.

Moving forward from this beginning we are putting an advertisement in the OCVA newsletter asking if anyone from Oxfordshire would like to come and learn how to build a clay oven by helping us build one at the Community Garden on 23rd of August. If anyone from the Villages would like to come as well you are more than welcome. It involves clay, water, straw, stone, brick (which we will provide) and wellies (which you would need to bring). If you are interested call 820364 and we will give you more details.

And finally we have been asked by the White Horse Show Committee if we would like to start up the Uffington Produce Show again but this time hold it at the White Horse Show. We have a good group of people, some involved from the previous Produce Show and some totally new but keen organisers. However as it is the first year it will be much smaller to start off with but if it is successful in time it could certainly grow into a feature of the White Horse Show. There will be posters around the villages in the next little while advertising the Produce Show and

there will be a schedule available from the 1st August in Uffington Village Shop and the pubs of the surrounding villages for those with the prize winning. Check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/uffingtoncommunitygardenassociation for further details when available.

Have a great Summer.

Krista Soper

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Messy Church

Messy Church continues to be enjoyed by lots of local families and supporters. We meet once a month in the THMH on the third 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.

In June we also went over to the village pond to admire the beautiful wild flower garden, which is shaped like a fish, a Christian symbol. However, the daisies were so tall we couldn't see the shape. Thanks to Graham Banks for clearing the area for us, and to all the families who sowed the seed, and to Liz Doyle for the inspiration!

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 themes this next term will be:

- September 19th - 'The Sower'
- October 17th - 'Things that go Bump in the Night',
- November 21st - 'The Best Ever House'.

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

Sue Jennings

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Uffington United Junior Football Club

Coaching Opportunity

We are looking for additional coaching support to enable us to continue to offer regular training sessions (Saturdays 10-11.30am, term time only). Friendly, FA affiliated, non-league club. Current coaching team of 2.

Focus on introducing primary school aged children to 'the beautiful game'. Lovely training ground at Uffington Sports Club.

Would suit someone with previous coaching experience. Alternatively the club would happily support someone looking to gain an FA Level One coaching certificate.

Please contact Trudy (Club Secretary) for further information: 01367 821 121 / trudy.hansen@btinternet.com

Trudy Hansen

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The Uffington Players

The Uffington Players held their A.G.M. on Thursday 12th June. Thank you to those who attended or sent their apologies.

It was decided to put on a production during the October half term week. Look out for further details in the next issue of the Courier and around the village.

The Players will have their usual stand at the White Horse Show over the August bank holiday

weekend. This years display will include items from their production of Calendar Girls and the March Madness open evening.

For further details on productions or for those who would like to get involved on stage or back stage please contact Christine Holley 01367 820474

Christine Holley

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