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The Courier - Spring 2014

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

Copy date for Summer Issue: 30th June 2014

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

Parish Council

Proposed housing development off Station Road

The proposed housing development off Station Road was granted planning permission by the Vale of White Horse District Council's planning committee on the 26th March. This is for 36 houses, of which 14 will be affordable housing (shared ownership or housing association). The details of the application are available on the District Council's online planning portal. The Parish Council is now trying to get more information on what will happen next regarding the planning process and any actual development of the site.

Annual Assembly

Villagers are welcome to attend any of the Parish Council's meetings (these are normally held in the Museum at 19:30 on the third Monday of the month). However once a year there is also an Annual Assembly, which is specifically to provide villagers with an update on issues the Parish Council is working on. The Assembly is normally well-attended, and this year will include updates on: The proposed housing development off Station Road; The refurbishment of the Phonebox; The Allotments; The Post Office and Stores; The dredging of the Pond. The Annual Assembly will be on Tuesday 29th April at 1930 in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall.

Help!

Uffington is a busy Village, and the Parish Council is involved with a wide range of activities within the Village. The Council would therefore like to recruit a Deputy Clerk/s to support the Council's expanding work. The exact number of hours worked and duties performed can be tailored to fit the right individual. Broadly speaking this would be up to three hours a week, and might involve anything from taking minutes at meetings to overseeing particular projects (e.g. replacing the bridge from the High Street into the Jubilee Field). If you think you might be interested and would like an informal chat about this then please email me at

parishcouncil@uffington.net

Litter bin changes

The Vale have changed the regime for litter bins and dog bins, so you can now put litter or dog waste in any of the bins.

Telephone Box refurbishment

You might have seen that the old telephone box opposite the Church is looking shiny and new again. This is being refurbished and will be kitted out inside so that it can serve as an information point (especially useful for visitors to the Village). Thanks to Yvonne Constance (our County Councillor) for the grant that is funding the work.

Postboxes on the move

Now that the Post Office has moved, the Village's two postboxes will be moving as well. One will be near the new shop, and the other near the entrance to Freemans Close

Finally

A big thank you to all the people who have cleared the watercourses around the Village. Because of all this effort the Village coped incredibly well with the wet winter.

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

Our exhibition 'Remembering 1914' opens on Easter Saturday - 19th April. We are very grateful to the help we have been given by local residents in preparing this exhibition. We are commemorating the lives of the men from Uffington, Woolstone and Baulking who served in the Great War and the displays include many photographs and memorabilia. We are also very excited about our new inter-active presentation based on the 1911 Census which shows where the men from Uffington lived together with a photograph of their house from that period.

We are looking forward to hosting Art Weeks on the first two weekends of May - come along and see the Uffington Potters and their friends at the Museum from 12.00 - 5.00 pm on those days.

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

Ladies and Gentlemen's Toilet Refurbishment

A detailed specification has been produced and this has gone out to tender for quotations. It is estimated that the installation will take about three weeks and the Hall will have to be closed while the work is going on. A period from 19th July until 24th August has been chosen to accommodate the closure. When details of the programme are finalised the dates will be advertised.

Improvements

New Henry vacuum cleaner obtained.

Hall Events

The Watermill Theatre (On Tour) has been secured for their 2014 tour. They will be performing 'Hard Boiled', created by Rhum and Clay with Beth Flintoff. This is the same group that brought us the very successful Jekyll and Hyde production last year. They are coming on Friday 13th June so please make a note for your diary. Ticket prices maintained at £10. More information is available on the website.

Management Committee

The management committee is now down to five members. There is very much a need for 'some new blood' and in particular, we need a secretary as soon as possible. There are only four meetings a year so the duties need not be onerous and sometimes, they can be fun. If you feel that you could help and influence the running of the Hall, please get in touch.

Spring Clean

This annual event is planned for the 14th April and will go on all day. If you can spare one hour then come along and get your Hall looking really 'spic and span'.

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

Paul Armishaw

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Uffington School

As we come to the end of a brilliant term filled with a huge range of exciting activities, we can look back with satisfaction at everything the children have achieved.

We celebrated World Book Day with a reading breakfast for our children and parents to share a book over bacon butties. All the children and staff dressed up as a book character and we also had a visit from the children's author Ali Sparks, who inspired us all to go away and read more and to try writing our own stories. We supported Sports relief with our own fun sports day, organised by Abingdon and Witney students who have been working with us this year. We are very proud of all of our sporting activities this term and a huge well done to our KS2 netball team who won the WASPS small schools competition. Well done to everyone for such a

successful term.

Amongst the many exciting events of next term, our year two and year six pupils are working hard in preparation for their SATS. KS2 will be performing 'Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies' and Class 3 will be going off to their residential to Yenworthy. Foundation will be travelling further afield with their topic 'Around the World in 25 days', while KS1 will be exploring 'Space'.

Our school fete is always an enjoyable occasion and we hope you will be able to join us.

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.
Website <http://www.uffington.oxon.sch.uk>

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Afternoon Club

The first meeting of 2014 we had most interesting speakers - Mr Neil Mildenhall and his daughter Jess on their experiences while sailing. Before their first trip of 2014 Neil was badly burnt and at the time of writing is still confined to bed, we wish him a speedy recovery. April meeting our speaker will be Mrs Victoria Russ on her visit to Cuba.

On April 12th is the date for our ANNUAL SALE - please give us your support.

Mrs Pat Painter, one of our members until ill health prevented her from attending our meetings, died peacefully. We send our condolences to her family.

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 3rd draw, quarter ending 31st March 2013. Held following the Friends of St Mary's Carvery Lunch at Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington.

1st Prize	£150	No. 133	Jean Leahy
		No. 66	Debbie Wallis
2nd Prize	£55	No. 131	Rom McBain
		No. 105	Emma & David Mobbs
		No. 116	Sheila Matthews
		No. 93	Hamish McCullough
3rd Prize	£35	No. 180	Rachel Scott-Watson
		No. 153	A&D Campbell
		No. 56	John & Susie McCullough
		No. 98	Rachel & Stephen Greene
4th Prize	£27	No. 78	Richard Radbourne
		No. 7	Tory & Bob Russ

No. 39 Nick Bird
No. 6 Ann Weeks

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News from your District Council.

Life is changing as our quiet rural corner is disturbed by the impacts of new housing requirements, electrification of the railway line, reduction in free HometoSchool Transport, and summer closure of the A420 (21 July to end August) from Watchfield roundabout past Shrivenham.

Summer closure A420 will be first to hit us. The County Council must rebuild a stretch of the road and the only effective way to complete the work is to close the road for 7 weeks. I arranged a meeting with OCC officers and immediately affected villages, which agreed vehicles will be restricted to 7.5 tons (except for local access) and all traffic routed through Shrivenham and Longcot / Majors Road, and through Highworth and the villages on the north of A420 through Faringdon. It will be awful, but the holiday period typically registers 25% less traffic, and we hope even more people go on holiday. Please note the dates.

Free HometoSchool Transport has been limited to the statutory obligation to transport pupils to the 'nearest available school in Oxfordshire' after bitter campaigns across the county. The County Council made the decision very reluctantly, but spending has been limited to statutory requirements in most services, including adult social care, where the impact is greater. Unusually, Uffington is in the catchment area of both King Alfred's in Wantage and Faringdon Community College, but as both are now Academies the 'catchment' does not define admission, and cannot define free transport. I fought very hard for Shrivenham area's 250 pupils to continue transport to Faringdon (and not face the 'unknowns' of closer Highworth outside the county) so I am very aware how well regarded is Faringdon's college. Like KAs it is one of 3 highest performing secondary schools in the County, and schools so good are part of the joy of living here. This change will start in Sept 2015 and will affect only those children starting at a new school or a new phase of education. Free transport will continue till your child makes a change of school.

Network Rail's Electrification programme has been derailed! We will face considerable disruption with 18 bridges to rebuild in the Vale, and there will be huge upheaval locally with rebuilding of Wantage Road and Challow station bridges. Network Rail has delayed its programme to rethink its timetable and communications strategy, after meeting massive opposition to their plan to close Wantage Road (A338) for 6 MONTHS. They will come back with a better plan (we hope . . . like a temporary Bailey bridge or two!) and we must now be sure they make no plans for any work whilst A420 is closed. Ed Vaizey is working closely with all us Cllrs.

NEW HOUSES are on the way. The Vale Planning Committee granted permission for 36 new houses on the Station Road site in Uffington, on 25 March, including 14 'affordable' houses (for co-ownership or renting) and carefully considered conditions to up-grade the sewage and drainage (plans being agreed with Thames Water) and significant contributions to local amenities like the village hall and the playground. I know there is heartfelt opposition from the immediate neighbours, but villages like Uffington are 'permitted' to grow to ensure some regeneration and homes for the next generation, and this site would be suitable for development under the old Local Plan, as well as under the new provisions of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The Vale's Local Plan to 2031 (which must be NPPF compliant) is now in the second stage of consultation, including the results of the SHMA assessment of housing needs in all of Oxfordshire. Shock is widespread! Oxfordshire is required to provide for delivery of 100,000 new houses by 2031, and the Vale's share is 20,560, which is 7,430 more than was planned in Feb 2013 (on the best available evidence at that time). Vale planners have made proposals to allocate these additional houses in major sites (200 or more) and ensure that they encourage rapid delivery of about 4,000 by 2019 to prove a 5yr housing land supply, and regain control of our local development. In the absence of a Local Plan and a 5yr housing supply, the Vale is not able to control development: if refused here by VWHDC, the developers win on Appeal, because government is determined to build much needed houses again, and imposes additional requirements on Districts which have under-delivered in the past. The Vale is a District with a very poor record of actually building houses, and we are having to make good that lack (we have to show 5yrs plus 20% to satisfy the Inspector of our new Local Plan.) 2.5 million new houses are needed in the UK in next decade and all political parties are agreed we must build 200 - to 300,000 in each year for the next ten. Oxfordshire has been noted as the second most

expensive housing market in the UK, and at County Council we are very aware of lack of suitable housing for teachers, health workers, carers and all manner of service providers, and employers report lack of housing as a real reason for slow economic development. The population is growing, and there is 'concealed demand' (adults living at home unable to buy or rent independently); we are living longer, expecting to stay independent at home (County Council predicts 165% increase in 85 plus age group); 1 in 4 marriages ends in divorce and 2 homes are needed for the family; and Science Vale UK (Harwell to Bicester) expects to create 22,000 new jobs by end of 2020s. There will be buyers for these houses!

In this latest phase the Vale has proposed 600 more houses in Shrivenham (on top of 200 speculative applications already and about 200 in Watchfield) as well as 400 more in Faringdon (on top of 200 at Great Coxwell/Faringdon and 200 expected at Steeds Farm) on top of 8,000 houses to be built east of Swindon, making a total of about 11,000 new houses using the A420... and so far there is no proper policy about the A420! But I have been part of getting all 3 Councils to agree a Statement of Common Ground to focus on the traffic problems to be managed, and OCC is developing a new Local Transport Policy which will focus on A420 and A417, so there is real progress.

I'm working to get attention for this west sub-area at every moment. I urge Uffington to value the importance of the work of the Western Vale Villages Consortium (WVVC) and contribute to keeping its work going. They have provided the essential traffic study which has served all co-operation SBC and OCC in the absence of any similar from Swindon or Oxfordshire. They're vital. The Vale has published a very useful leaflet about this second stage of the Local Plan. Pick one up at the shop, or the school so you can see for yourself why we are where we are. You will be glad that Uffington is seen as a smaller village (just!!!) and not earmarked as a strategic site in this stage of the policy.

More later

Cllr. Yvonne Constance

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St Mary's Church

What has happened since the end of December?

- Sunday 19th January and 2nd March - Sunday roast lunch in Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall by The Friends of St. Mary's

What's happening next?

- Wednesday 9th April - Annual Parochial Church Meeting
- Sunday 13th April - Palm Sunday. Procession from All Saints Woolstone to Uffington, assembling at 09:00am
- Friday 18th April - 10:00am Easter Garden Service
- Sunday 20th April -10:00 am Easter service, led by The Reverend John de Wit.
- Sunday 27th April - No service in Uffington - Benefice Holy Communion in Shellingford at 10:00 am.
- Thursday 8th May - Inauguration of Archdeacon of Dorchester in Dorchester Abbey

The schedule of services will be as below for the coming months - but watch notice boards for any changes.

- 1st Sunday of each month - 08:00 Holy Communion (said) and, 10:00 One Family service
- 2nd Sunday - 10:00 Sung Holy Communion
- 3rd Friday each month - Messy Church held in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall.
- 3rd Sunday - 10:00 Service of the Word
- 4th Sunday - 10:00 Sung Holy Communion

When there is a 5th Sunday in the month, a Benefice Holy Communion Service is held in one of the 4 churches within the benefice. The location will be posted on the church gate as appropriate.

You may like to know?

This may come as a surprise - **St. Mary's, as it stands costs approximately £500 per week to run**, and this is borne entirely by the parish - there is no direct financial assistance from the Diocese. This sum is made up from insurance premiums, heating, lighting, water, repairs and maintenance, including the churchyard and last but not least the parish share of the Vicar's stipend - shared between Uffington, Woolstone, Baulking and Shellingford i.e. The Benefice. There were 66 names on the Electoral Roll registered in 2013, but regular churchgoers only

make up 3% of the village population, and their contributions as you will guess do in no way reach anywhere near the £500 per week to keep the church alive. If you wish to be included on the Church Electoral Roll please ask for a registration form.

For over 1000 years St. Mary's Uffington has been within the Berkshire Archdeaconry, with the Bishop of Reading as its 'local' Bishop. We have now been moved into the newly formed Dorchester Archdeaconry to balance the size of the Archdeaconries with the massive expansion of houses falling within the Reading area. The Right Reverend Cohn Fletcher OBE is now our local Suffragan Bishop, the new Archdeaconry will be inaugurated at a service in Dorchester on 8th May, and the Reverend Canon Judy French is to become our new Archdeacon in June. Meanwhile, we remain in the Vale of White Horse Deanery with our Area Dean, the Reverend Charles Draper, Vicar of Faringdon.

From the Register:

RIP Ian Michael Plant, 23rd January

All Change!

The current churchwardens and secretary to the PCC are retiring at the APCM on 9th April 2014 and so are looking out for willing souls to succeed them. This is an opportunity to become more involved in the life of the church, to see how it works, **and perhaps bring some fresh ideas.**

Bell Ringers! Grandshire 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 on the third Saturday of the month 10am - 1pm, except August, December and April - 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 the Vicar, Churchwardens and the following ordinary members:

Michael Lord (Secretary), Eleanor Banks, Valerie Chapman, Patricia Dalrymple, Simon Doyle (Treasurer), Helen Evans (Minutes secretary), Sue Jennings*, Derek Kelsey, Beryl Packer*, Sue Saunders*, Martin Welland* and Jamie Wiltshire. (* = Ministry team member).

Churchwardens: Fay Forster (820363) and Carl Oberman (820230).

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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. It is suitable for all ages, we look forward to seeing you there. Bring your friends from other villagers.

Our themes this term will be: May 16th Daniel; June 20th Love God; July 18th Calming the Storm; August 13th Picnic in the park.

Contact Rev. Rosanna Martin (820633), Sue Jennings (820013) or Liz Doyle (820436) to help with catering .

Sue Jennings

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Friends of St Mary's & St Nicholas

The Friends of St 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.

The event will be held in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington on 5th September, 2014.
Tickets will include supper, and 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

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White Horse Gardening Club

We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the Thomas Hughes Memorial, unless out on a visit - see local advertising.

Our first meeting was in February when Timothy Walker, Director of the Botanic Garden in Oxford gave a talk entitled "Sex, Flies and Putrefaction: there's more to pollination than just bees". In other words the 'sex lives' of plants which proved fascinating and very entertaining.

Next in March, Richard Baldwin, Lecturer at Pershore College talked on "Vegetable Growing in a Small Garden". Again we were truly entertained on the wide variety of vegetables, grown in a wide variety of receptacles, with particular reference to irrigation!

Thursday 3rd April - Peter Gibbs from Wanborough Herb Nursery talked us through the many varieties of herbs grown at the nursery and brought along some for sale.

SATURDAY 17th MAY - MEGA PLANT SALE - 2.30pm - 4pm. Come along, bring friends, relatives, neighbours. Plants for sale on a 50:50 basis. This is our main fund raising event of the year - please support us.

THURSDAY 5TH JUNE 6pm at the village hall. VISITING UFFINGTON GARDENS AND ALLOTMENTS (Stand by your beds) - The Old Post House (courtesy of Mr and Mrs Robson), The

Uffington Allotments, led by Mr Paul Whitfield, The Walnuts (courtesy of Mrs and Mrs Read-Smith) and refreshments at South View Farm (courtesy of Mr and Mrs Dalrymple).

Membership is £8 for the year or £2 for visitors - do come along and join us. Further information from Pamela Preene on T: 01367820251 E-mail: parrottspreene@aol.com

Further information - Pamela Preene - 01367-820251

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Uffington Youth Club Update

Uffington Youth Club continues to meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, except in the summer holidays. We meet in the THMH from 7-9 pm, all 8-16 year olds are welcome to come and enjoy some fun in a relaxed atmosphere. We have crafts, cooking, table tennis, pool, the Wii and tuck shop. Admission is only £1.50 per person.

Dates for this term: April 14 and 28th; May 12th and 26th; June 9th and 23rd, July 14th.

Contact Sue Jennings, lead volunteer for more information, 820013, or if you have skills you would like to pass onto the young people. We would love to meet you!

Sue Jennings

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Uffington Players

On Saturday 1st March the Uffington Players invited adults and children of all ages to 'A Mad March Medley', a chance for people to see what the Players do behind the scenes with an opportunity to get hands on with props and costumes. Thank you to everyone who made it such a great evening. While enjoying drinks & nibbles people were invited to look at the

displays of photos, programmes & posters from past productions. Songs and sketches were performed throughout the evening and members of the audience were given the opportunity to get involved, so well done to those who took part. Thank you to those people who took a few minutes to fill in the questionnaire. This showed us that people particularly enjoy the comedies and pantomimes.

The Players look forward to being back on stage in October and we hope our open evening will have encouraged new members for future productions. There are many elements to putting on a production and these include, back stage, props, costumes, make-up, lighting, sound, front of house, directing & acting.

If you would like to get involved or would like more information then please contact Christine Holley 01367 820474.

Christine Holley

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Memories of Uffington Old

Every month I shall be writing a story in the Faringdon Folly. This mostly about the years 1940's & 1950's in Uffington.

I'm trying to describe life in the village during that time, I haven't time to make it 100% accurate. It's just what I can remember about the people and events. Also I have had help from a number of the 'older' generation. I mention these people in my stories.

I have already shown many photos of Uffington School in the Faringdon Folly, they are to date from 1890 (not a very clear photo), 1903, 1908, 1921, 1926 and some later ones. If anyone wants an 8in x 6in copy of these photos I can supply them FREE.

My first story about Uffington School in the 1940's has already been printed in the Folly. February is a story about 'Boggle Man's Lane'; March - The Green including the pond and the Old Elm Tree; April - Grounds Farm run by Farmer John Wheeler where I worked for more than a year; May - White Horse Hill during the war. June - The Village. All about the people and

events and after that lots more.

Pete and Sharon Smith have been helping me with the typing, I don't know how they make time considering the considerable effort that they are putting in arranging the First World War exhibition in the Museum.

There is incredible amount of history to our village, maybe someone - from the village - will attempt the huge task of writing a book about it. There is so much more to be done.

Pat Gaule

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Dementia Care

Three meetings were held at the THMH to learn about how to create a dementia friendly community. Eight people attended the sessions led by Catharine Arakelian of New Dementia Care. We learnt a bit about how the brain works and the difference between normal memory loss with age and the diseases that go under the umbrella of dementia. We were made aware of the culture of feelings-based approaches to a person living well with dementia and how to enable someone to live well by supporting them in the community with improved communication.

We hope to pass on what we have learnt to anyone else you are interested. Thanks to the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council for organising the course.

Mandy Tilling

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Uffington Tennis Club

With winter out of the way, the summer tennis season is fast approaching. There has however

been some play through the winter. For the first time the club entered a mixed doubles team, captained by Ruth Thomas, into the Swindon and District Tennis League. As new entrants we started in the bottom division winning eleven out of the twelve matches played and finishing top of Division 6. This has been the clubs first foray into competitive local league tennis and we plan to continue entering teams into the Swindon Leagues starting with a summer mixed doubles team. We will also continue to play friendly matches with other local clubs this summer so if you are interested in friendly or competitive tennis please consider joining the club.

Tennis wise, starting in May there will be coaching for adults on Monday evenings, and coaching for juniors both at school and at the tennis club (dates TBC). If anyone wishes to join these sessions then it is best to contact the clubs coach, Chris Hand on 07970 481707.

Wednesday club evenings start on April 30 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. All are most welcome. A fundraising BBQ and tournament will also be held later this year. All funds raised will go towards replenishing the club's funds as the court resurfacing project last year has left them somewhat depleted. Full details about all the club's activities and membership details can either be found on the club's website (<http://www.uffingtontennis.co.uk>) or by contacting me on 01367 821048.

Ross Heyburn

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Uffington Cricket Club

Members of the cricket club are eagerly awaiting the start of the 2014 season.

Once again we have entered two teams in the O.C.A. League (Oxfordshire Cricket Association) and for the first time a team in the Down's Mid-Week league.

The first team has a new captain - Tom Fillery - who is looking to take the club forward and

hopefully push for honours. The second team will no doubt be the usual mixture of youth and experience! A fixture list will be located in the village shop.

We are always looking to welcome new members and players to the club and nets will be running throughout April (contact below for details). In addition we are also actively working to secure the services of an umpire(s). One of the requirements of entry to the O.C.A. is that the club supplies an umpire for each team entered. We are very grateful that Britford Jeeves consistently fills one of these roles - we do however need another umpire.

If anyone feels they could help or contribute in this area please contact me directly for further details (it is paid)! T: 01367820251 E: parrottbooks@aol.com.

Howard Preene, Chairman UCC.

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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 entertaining and 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.

A group of ladies (keeping Doctor Russ' advice in mind I'm sure) met to chat and enjoy the 'beat the January blues lunch' on Thursday January 30th at the Fox and Hound Uffington.

Dr. Natasha Campling came to the February meeting, to tell us about her research work on a European Commission funded study, entitled 'Mobilising the Potential of Active ageing in Europe' which involves looking at what people think of devices and equipment, which aim to help people live actively and independently at home for longer. We were invited to take part in the study, by joining a focus group to share our views on the products.

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 when, thirty seven years ago as a criminal barrister, she was a young woman in a male dominated environment. The diversity of her work and challenges brought by each new case, make her job sound fascinating but not for the faint hearted!

The meeting on March 18th was the AGM.

'How I cast away 50 people' is the intriguing title of the talk to be given by Sylvia Vetta on April 15th at the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall Uffington at 7pm. If you would like to join us, you will be made very welcome.

Beverley Buckley

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Uffington Community Garden Association

The winter months in the garden are supposed to be the quiet time and, yes, we haven't been digging and weeding but instead spending time cleaning up the site, planning and getting ready for the next growing season. All of the beds have been edged and most have been covered with membrane. The ground is drying out well after the enormous amount of rain that we have all had with the new roof on the large shed keeping the building inside lovely and dry.

This year in one of the beds we are going to try growing some Heritage varieties from the Heritage Seed Library. These are types of vegetables that have been grown in the past but are no longer offered for sale by the main seed companies. A lot of these varieties have been taken over by varieties that grow better looking vegetables but are perhaps not as great on flavour. We would like to see if this is in fact true.

However our main interest this year is to grow a larger number and greater variety of

vegetables and to try and protect that plant growth from the birds and the slugs and snails, no small feat and the perennial weeds aren't giving up that easily but we are certainly giving them a hard time.

We still have a bit of pioneering work left to do but we will have more ordinary gardening jobs this year. If you fancy helping us keep on top of things then you are more than welcome. We have changed the day we get together from Sunday to Saturday afternoons from 2 to 4pm and hopefully you will have seen the flyer we have recently sent out showing some of the things we have been up to.

Krista Soper

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