

Winter 2015/16

Issue 164

Happy New Year to all Members

2016

The Courier



THE COURIER

Produced by J.F.N.Packford

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UFFINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Simon Jenkins (Chair)

The Council

Uffington Parish Council has six councillors. They serve four year terms, with elections next due in 2019. The composition of the Parish Council is now:

Mr Simon Jenkins (Chair) - Tel. 01367 820776

Mr Graham Banks (Vice Chair) - Tel. 01367 820379

Mrs Fenella Oberman - Tel. 01367 820230

Mrs Karen Pilcher - Tel. 01367 820978

Mr Mike Oldnall - Tel: 01367 820369

(Vacancy)

Clerk, Mrs Julia Evans - Tel: 01235 833466

Councillors may be contacted on the above telephone numbers or by e-mail to: parishcouncil@uffington.net

The Council was very pleased to welcome Mike Oldnall to his first meeting as a new Councillor on 14 December.

The Council meets on the second Monday of the month in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, at 7.30pm. A meeting is not always held in August. All residents are welcome to attend these meetings and raise any issues troubling them; we will make it easy for you by having an 'open forum' session early in the meeting. The agenda is published on the Parish Council notice at least three clear days before the meeting.

Casual Vacancy. John Helsby resigned from the Council at the end of October, due to an increased workload as a teacher and the demands of family life. John had been on the Council for nearly 10 years and all residents will be grateful to him for this long period of service to the village. That does however mean that, at the time of writing, we still have a vacancy; we have to utilise the following procedure in order to fill it:

When a councillor resigns the Clerk notifies the District Council.

We then post a notice advertising a casual vacancy and advising people that they can request a poll to elect a new councillor.

The notice must remain in place for 14 days. If during this period a minimum of 10 people request a poll from the District Council then an election will be held within 60 days.

If no poll is requested, or insufficient people request a poll, then the Parish Council is free to co-opt a new councillor.

The Parish Council is NOT obliged to consider the claims of candidates who were unsuccessful at the last election.

Steps 1 to 3 above have been completed for this vacancy and so if there is anyone who would like to join the Council or would like further information on the position of Parish Councillor, please contact any member of the Council, and/or attend one of the monthly meetings. To formally apply for the position please write to the Clerk (e-mail applications are acceptable). Your application must confirm your eligibility for office. To be eligible you must be over 18 years of age; be a registered elector; and have lived or worked in the parish (or within three miles of the parish) for at least 12 months prior to the date of your application.

Oxfordshire Together

This is the unlikely title for the exercise by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) to reduce its budget in response to Government funding reductions; this is 'Austerity'. OCC say that savings of £292M have already been delivered or agreed for the period between 2010/2011 and 2017/2018, but they estimate they will need to save another £50M by 2019/2020. The huge increase in paid and seemingly unaccountable officials in recent years has removed the incentive to do things locally, so one of the ways in which they propose to save money is to give communities more control over local services, where they may be done more efficiently and more economically. This is another way of saying that if local communities (e.g. Uffington) do not take over some of these services, they will not be done at all. So the Parish Council is examining the options open for next financial year, particularly relating to services currently done by OCC Highways, like grass cutting on verges and keeping road junctions safe. At the time of writing, we are awaiting further information from OCC on the detail of what they do at present, and the funding that might be available.

After an interesting discussion at the Parish Council meeting on 14 December, we have decided that, in principle, and subject to the further information requested, we should take on responsibility for those matters which directly affect the village. It appears that the alternative would be for us to accept that public areas of the Parish and its surroundings might become increasingly derelict. This will be on the agenda for forthcoming Parish Council meetings and we will publish more information on the website and notice board when it becomes available.

In another area, we also know that OCC are likely to remove or very substantially reduce both the Dial-a-Ride service and the subsidies given to bus

operators to provide bus services in otherwise unprofitable rural areas.

Final decisions on all these matters are due to be taken by OCC in February, when they set the budget for the forthcoming financial year.

Mobile Library Service

The mobile library visits Uffington village hall on alternate Thursdays from 15:10-15.30pm, from 7 January 2016. The Area Manager for these library services has advised that for some time now there has been little or no use of this stop. Should this low level of use continue, they regret that they will have to discontinue the visits. However, in line with their policy to first try to increase awareness of the service, they have asked for this to be brought to the attention of residents; a poster will be displayed on the Parish Council notice board.

USE IT OR LOSE IT!

The Jubilee Field Spring Tidy

This will take place on Saturday 12 March 2016, from 10.00am; all are welcome. It would be helpful if you could bring normal gardening kit, e.g. gloves, light tools like rakes or secateurs. This will probably run on to Sunday 13 March, so if you can't make Saturday, please try for Sunday at 10.00am.

Community-Led Plan

The Community-Led Plan is based on the completion of a lengthy questionnaire by over 50% of households in Baulking, Uffington and Woolstone last spring. The CLP Steering Group's Report was distributed to all households in all three villages in the first week of December. Copies have also been sent to the County and District Councils and a number of surrounding villages.

The Report is a most impressive piece of work and will inform the life of all three villages and their respective Parish Council/Meetings for many years. A list of 'Actions' emerging from the Report has been accepted by Uffington Parish Council and a report of progress by the Council will be made available on the website and notice board from time to time.

Neighbourhood Plan

The first public meeting to be held by the NP Steering Group is scheduled for 7.30pm on Thursday 21 January in the THMH. It is hoped that as many as possible of the residents of all three villages will attend; this will be the first of a number of consultations to seek your opinions on the scope and (later) the proposed terms of the NP.

Parking on Broad Street by the School

Please do NOT park, for however short a period of time, on the zig zag lines outside the School; they are there for an important purpose - which is to make it possible for children going to School to enter the playground safely. It is a

parking offence to park on these lines and you may be liable for penalties. Unsafe parking outside the school at 3:15pm is a real issue, with cars parked right on the bend towards the Museum. If approaching from the Museum there is absolutely no way of knowing if the road is clear in the other direction.

Parents are reminded not to park beyond the church gate, towards the Museum and Fernham turn.

Major Planning matters

Since the last edition of the Courier, there is the following to report:

Station Road. Work continues on the development of 36 houses on the Station Road site. The Parish Council would like to thank local residents for their forbearance during this construction phase. It is not expected to be complete before the end of 2016, although a number of houses will have been offered for sale before then. The marketing name of the development is 'Jack's Lea', however the development's approved postal addresses will be 'Jacksmeadow'. This name was agreed by the Vale District Council and the developers with the Matthews family, who were one of only two owners of the site previously, over a period of several centuries. (See also the item on Section 106 contributions below).

Land west of Fawler Road. The proposal to build 30 houses by the developer, Gladman Developments, was refused by the District Council in early August. Gladman's appeal against this decision was notified to the Parish Council in early December, and all comments should have been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol by 13 January. Guidance on how to comment on the appeal has been circulated by e-mail and placed on the Parish Council notice board. The Inspector's decision is not anticipated for several months.

New houses in Uffington. The District Council has approved plans to build new houses in the gardens of The Laurels, on Broad Street, and at Shotover Corner Cottage.

Station Road Development Site - Section 106 contributions

Planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, commonly known as S106 agreements, are a mechanism which makes a development proposal acceptable in planning terms, which would not otherwise be acceptable. They are focused on site specific mitigation of the impact of development, particularly the increased population. S106 agreements are often referred to as 'developer contributions'.

As a result of generous agreements between the developers, the Vale District Council and the Matthews family, a number of organizations within the village are set to benefit once S106 contributions from this site become payable. This is not before the occupation of the 12th house, excluding those earmarked for social housing. The list below, which is a very simplified extract from a complicated legal document, shows the principal contributions to various organisations in the Parish of Uffington. Funds only become available following

acceptance of an appropriate case by the District Council.

Parish contribution £100,000; Clubhouse contribution £15,822;
Cricket pitch contribution £2,246; Football pitch contribution £6,123;

Outdoor tennis contribution £7,808; Rugby pitch contribution £1,443 (1)
Note (1): To be used for rugby pitches in the Parish or in Faringdon.

There are other contributions applicable to sports facilities in the vicinity (within 10 miles of the site), or, for example, specifically to be used for the swimming pool in Faringdon. Proper procedures have to be followed in applying to the Vale District Council for these contributions, and guidance and applications forms can be found on the Vale website. The Parish Council is considering what projects to put forward for funding out of the Parish contribution and would welcome constructive ideas; these should be sent to the Clerk at uffingtonpc.clerk@gmail.com. It is important to note that the above contributions are capital sums which cannot be used for repairs or maintenance.

It would be appreciated if the individuals who will be dealing with these contributions on behalf of the above organisations could make themselves known to the Parish Council and we will keep you in touch with our discussions with the Vale District Council.

For the avoidance of any doubt, there is another S106 agreement between the developers, Oxfordshire County Council and the Matthews family which covers developer contributions towards the infrastructure requirements of primary, secondary and special needs education, for Uffington children, amongst other matters.

Communications

Village Web site. The new village website will replace the old one very early in January - possibly before this edition of the Courier is published. We would like to take this opportunity to note that the village is greatly indebted to John Henville for all his work over many years with the village website and for much sound advice as we have worked on this new site. The new website will be found at the same place as the old one at <http://www.uffington.net/> . It is in the ownership of the Parish Council, which will pay the hosting and support charges on behalf of the village. All existing information and links to other websites have been carried over to the new site, but some new features have been added and more can be added, and any incorrect information can be updated very easily. PLEASE CHECK IT OUT. All who have posted information on the site in the past, for example on the Shops and Services page, are asked to check their entries for accuracy and notify any changes to the Clerk, Julia Evans, at uffingtonpc.clerk@gmail.com or parishcouncil@uffington.net

E-mail notices. We have set up an e-mail distribution list which is used to publish notices of general interest to Uffington, Woolstone and Baulking, as and when they occur. If you would like to join it, please call 01367 820776 or send an e-mail with your own details to sjmjenkins@gmail.com. For data protection reasons, individual e-mail addresses are not disclosed.

Roadside hedges and ditches It is the owner's responsibility to ensure that pavements and sight lines are not obscured by the growth of vegetation; there are a few houses where hedges and plants have grown out over the pavement or road to a considerable extent. If the pavement or road are obscured by your hedge and it is held to have caused/contributed to an accident, you may be held liable. Please cut it back to the indicated edge of the road - this is usually clear but if you are unsure please contact the Parish Council.

If you would like some assistance in clearing ditches which are your responsibility of vegetation so that they run freely, please contact the Parish Council at uffingtonpc.clerk@gmail.com or: parishcouncil@uffington.net

Fire Hydrants

The Oxfordshire County Council water officer was in the village in November on a fire hydrant maintenance mission. Please be very careful not to damage any hydrants and marker posts, for example when clearing ditches or cutting hedges.

Good Neighbour Scheme About 25 people said in their response to the CLP questionnaire that they were interested in setting up a Good Neighbour Scheme in the village, and this was therefore accepted as one of the Actions on the Parish Council. It was therefore disappointing that only 8 people attended the meeting with Pat Chirgwin from Volunteer Link Up on 27 October. Pat was very informative and keen to get something going in the village, but no decisions have been taken.

Across Oxfordshire there are more than 50 Good Neighbour schemes offering help in the local community. Most of these groups offer assistance to vulnerable, elderly or isolated people, with, for example, essential transport, taking people to and from hospital and other medical appointments. Some groups offer other services such as befriending, shopping, help with gardening and small DIY jobs. All Good Neighbour Schemes are different and it is up to the residents of the area to decide what services they would like to be available.

The Good Neighbour Scheme Support Service offers advice and support to communities wishing to set up new schemes in any part of the county; specifically:

Help to source start-up grants Free insurance for Good Neighbour Scheme volunteers and Trustee Indemnity Insurance to Good Neighbour Scheme

Network Members Advice on constitutions, policies and procedures

Free Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for volunteers.

To set up a group, one needs 'members' who can take advantage of the free public liability and trustee-type insurance, and the DBS checking offered by Volunteer Link-Up to established groups, and then you need to identify 'clients' who want the service. A 'coordinator' takes messages from the client and dispatches a member who is available and appropriate for the job - i.e., age/sex /driving licence etc. If driving is involved, the member can charge the client up to 45p per mile - this is a rate recognised by HMRC which does not incur any tax liability - or a donation to the Good Neighbour Scheme can be suggested. In Pat Chirgwin's experience, the majority of clients are happy with this sort of charge, which is much less than a taxi.

If a member uses his/her own car, their own insurers should be notified, but there is a convention amongst all insurers that this sort of volunteer work does not affect the premium.

If a Good Neighbour Support Scheme group was to be set up in the village, it would probably need a coordinator and someone to act as secretary/treasurer. Why a treasurer? Because a group can bid for funds for publicity material, stationery etc., and might want to have a dedicated mobile for the coordinator. The titles are not essential, but the functions may be.

However, the point was made at the meeting that lots of good neighbour and be-friending work goes on all the time in the village without much fanfare or formalisation, and there was some reluctance to get into something which might involve more administration.

There is a long established Good Neighbour Scheme in Wantage and the Town Council in Faringdon is setting one up.

Leaflets on setting up a Good Neighbour Scheme are available. If anybody is interested in finding out more about the Good Neighbour Scheme, either as a 'member' or a 'client', or setting up a group locally, or joining in with another group, please contact Simon Jenkins on 01367 820776 or the Parish Council at uffingtonpc.clerk@gmail.com

Stop Press - Save the date!

The Government has set aside the weekend of 11/12 June 2016 for a national celebration of Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday. In coming months the Parish Council will be working with our Churches to mark the occasion. Watch this space!

Congratulations to Sharon Smith

The great contribution Sharon made to the Museum and the village has been publicly recognised. She has been included in the New Year's Honours list and awarded a British Empire Medal for services to History and the community in Uffington, Oxfordshire.

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TOM BROWN'S SCHOOL MUSEUM

Jo Coad

Although Sharon has now moved from the village she has left our museum in excellent form.

We are keeping things ticking over nicely BUT the museum does need a curator and it would be lovely if someone in the village could come forward to take on the task.

Sharon had no previous experience when she took over in 1994. Her successor will have time to grow into the role with the support of the group of Friends Sharon developed; an amazing group of people within the village who are willing to help with all aspects of running the museum.

If you are interested in finding out more please contact Jo Coad (820428) or Karen Pilcher (820978).

The next meeting of the friends will be the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 23rd February 2016 at 7:30pm in Tom Brown's School Museum.

We look forward to seeing you.

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AFTERNOON CLUB

Ann Smith

We would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy 2016.

In November we went by mini bus to Charney Bassett for our Christmas lunch and in December we were entertained by Uffington School children at our Christmas party - as usual their performance was enjoyed by all. Thank you children, thank you teachers and helpers.

We would like to thank the White Horse Show Trustees for their donation of £2000 which helps us to go on trips and have meals - all free to members. We would also like to thank all the mini bus committee and drivers who give their time freely to transport members to the Club.

We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 2pm in the Hall. If you would like to join us you are sure of a warm welcome. For more details please phone Ann on 01367 820511 or Veronica, 01367 820279.

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ELM TREE SURGERY SHRIVENHAM

Pam Coulson

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.

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Improvements

All of the foyer internal doors have now been replaced. Once the various key sets etc have been put together, this short term project will be regarded as complete. Thank you to Wiltshire Woodworking for a good job.

Thanks to Rob and Nick Williamson for decorating the viewing gallery, the Wyard family and Chris Fayle for all their work on the hedge.

Hall Events

Country Music Concert at the Hall on Saturday 13th February.

Uffington Players will be performing 'Beauty and the Beast' during half term week, 18th - 20th February.

The Watermill Theatre on Tour is coming to the Hall on Friday 8th April 2016.

Hall Management

The Hall AGM takes place on Monday 25th January at 8:00 pm, please support this meeting.

Hall website

There is lots of information about the Hall on the website www.thmh.co.uk so do take a look, feedback welcome.

A copy of the booking diary appears on the website to make it easier to see which periods are free for booking.

Conditions of hire are also displayed.

Season's Greetings. Here's wishing all of the many Hall users a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year and every success to the Hall for the future.

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BENEFICE 200 CLUB DRAW

Results of the 2nd Draw [quarter ending 31st December 2015]

Held following Holy Communion

At St Nicholas Church, Baulking

1st Prize	£ 150	No 56	Susie & John McCullough
2nd Prizes	£ 55	No 104	Bobbie Jarvis
		No 84	Mrs Gay Hobson
		No 71	Clive Spinage
3rd Prizes	£ 35	No 33	Beryl Packer
		No 138	Ron McBain
		No 119	Justin Spink
		No 17	Mr & Mrs J Twynham
		No 72	Sheila & Dave Shirley
4th Prizes	£ 27	No 193	David Erwin
		No 89	Linda Lord
		No 12	Sara & Tom Matthews
		No 41	Pat Mildenhall
		No 130	Fiona & Simon Clark

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On 15th September Dave Maycock spoke to the group about the history of medieval brass rubbing. It was interesting to learn from him, the amount of information that can be gained from the brasses, about life at that time. We were able to try our hand at a brass rubbing, using the equipment he provided, to create our own masterpiece to take home.

The evening finished with a glass of wine to toast W.I. day (the 16th September), when 100 years ago the first meeting of the WI was held in Wales.

Tuesday October 20th was the evening when Ian Jones MBE, entertained the ladies with his often amusing talk entitled '40 Years of Bomb Disposal and Still Ten Fingers'.

Ian has been involved with bomb disposal operations for forty years. He began back in 1974 as a corporal in Northern Ireland, becoming a captain and later in 1992 a major, responsible for all bomb disposal operations in the whole of the Province. This was followed by a year in an intelligence post, gathering information on Improvised Devices worldwide. On leaving the Army in 1994 he joined the Anti-terrorist Branch of the Metropolitan Police serving as an Explosives Officer dealing with all incidents involving explosives in London. His fascination with weapons and ammunition dated back to when, as a lad, he made bombs and set them off for fun. However, when as a fourteen year old, a bomb exploded in his pocket resulting in a skin graft at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, his father suggested a career in the army and he has never looked back.

Our November meeting was a talk by Gillian Cane called 'The Miracle of Bletchley Park'. This proved to be a most interesting and informative look at the background to and work carried out at Bletchley Park. The Park was originally privately owned and had at one time had forty full time gardeners but with no heirs to take it on, it had to be sold. At the time MI6 needed somewhere to set up a coding and decoding site and Bletchley Park was eventually taken on, as the ideal place with its good transport links.

All staff, some of whom were debutants, were sworn to secrecy, not able to discuss their work with close family or colleagues working alongside them in the next hut. Gillian entertained us with many amusing stories of the 'eccentric' scientists employed to work on the Enigma Machine.

On December 15th we held our Christmas Party. The Stanford in the Vale hand bell ringers made us feel particularly festive with their renditions including Carols, followed by food and liquid refreshment.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us in the New Year.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

USEFUL NUMBERS

PCSO Maralyn Pack (Mobile - when on duty)	-	07779 586392
E mail - Maralyn.Pack@thames valley.pnn.police.uk		
Thames Valley Police Non Emergency	-	08458 505 505
Emergency	-	999

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UFFINGTON BAULKING AND WOOLSTONE MINIBUS ASSOCIATION

Our community minibus, which seats 16 people plus a driver, exists for use by all within our villages and the surrounding area, for not for profit social and recreational activities. A team of volunteer drivers operates regular shopping trips, and the minibus may be reserved by local groups and individual members of the community for their own purposes.

It is necessary to join the UBW Minibus Association in order to use the minibus. Membership is available to all, and there is no charge to join.

The shopping trips are to Faringdon and Wantage every Tuesday and Friday respectively, and to Swindon on the first Thursday of the month. We leave Patricks Orchard, Uffington at 9.30, picking up and setting down members where convenient for them.

The Association is not run for profit, but there is a modest fare for the shopping trips, and a fee for private bookings, to cover costs. Bus Passes may be used for the shopping trips.

The Association always welcomes new volunteers to join the driver pool or assist with administration. A full car licence is required to drive, and training is provided.

Please call John Hatcher (01367 820417) for further information.

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WHITE HORSE GARDEN CLUB

Pamela Preene

The White Horse Garden Club has grown during 2015 and we now have an average of 70 members! Therefore, all future meetings will take place in the large hall.

The final meeting of 2015 on 3rd December was our Annual General Meeting/Christmas Meeting which included a talk on 'Damson & Gin' by William Parry of Wessex Wild Plum Co. Everyone enjoyed tasting different liqueurs and purchased presents for friends and family. A glass of wine and a mince pie rounded off this festive meeting.

We now look forward to 2016 with an exciting programme planned, as can be seen below. Do do come along and join in - everyone welcome.

WHITE HORSE GARDEN CLUB PROGRAMME 2016:-

Meetings in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington, Faringdon, SN7 7RA 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. Membership per annum £10. Visitors £2.50.

Thursday 4th February 'Gardens of the Cotswold Wildlife Park'

Talk by Tim Miles, Head Gardener for 17 years and RHS Garden Judge.

Pushing back the boundaries of plant hardiness and planting for exotic effect.

Thursday 3rd March 'Maintenance and Manicure of the Green, Green, Grass of Home'. Talk by John Mason, Director of Highfield Garden World, Gloucester.

Lawns, weeds, pests, moss and diseases plus how to scarify, spike & lay a lawn from turf/seed. Plants for sale.

Thursday 7th April 'Unusual edible plants to whet your appetite!'

Talk by Paul Barney, from Edulis Nursery, The Walled Garden, Pangbourne. Rare and interesting plants grown at Edulis Nursery. Plants for Sale.

SATURDAY 14th MAY, 2.30pm - 4.00 pm.

PLANT SALE. Please bring plants for sale. Please support our main fund raising event. If you wish to sell your plants on a 50:50 basis add an extra label with your name and price.

Thursday 2nd June at 6.30pm Visit: The Gardens of Baulking. Followed by refreshments at John and Hilary Deakin's home, Church Farm House, Baulking SN7 7QE

Thursday 7th July at 6.30pm Visit: Radcot House, Faringdon OX18 2SX. 3 acres of dramatic harmonious planting surrounding a Tudor Manor House - a real gem. Tour and Refreshments £7.50 (members £5).

SATURDAY 6TH AUGUST. Coach trip to Stowe Gardens, near Buckingham. Entry £9.50 (NT members free). House (if open) £4.50. Coach costs £17. Departs THMH Car Park at 9am. Departs Stowe 4pm.

Thursday 1st September 'Wildlife Gardening'. Talk by Jenny Steel, author and expert on wildlife gardening, will advise us on how to make our gardens attractive to wildlife.

Thursday 6th October 'Practical propagation: seeds, cuttings and beyond: a practical demonstration'. Talk by Jenny Logue, who specialises in interesting, easy to grow hardy herbaceous perennials at her nursery near Cheltenham.

Thursday 3rd November 'We are all doomed? Trees: legal protection, pests and diseases'. Talk by George Reade, Arboricultural Officer for Swindon Borough Council.

Thursday 1st December AGM /Christmas Meeting. 'The art of craft cider'. Talk by Roy Bailey, proprietor of The Lambourn Valley Cider Company. Tasting and goods for sale. Seasonal Refreshments.

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THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who came to say Hello and have tea with Ernest Dainty when he came back to Uffington on 26th September, he really enjoyed seeing everyone, some he hadn't seen for several years.

Ernest has just celebrated his 100th birthday. He was born 3/10/1915 at The Green then moved to Church Cottage in 1945 when he married. He lived in Uffington until 5 years ago when he moved to Southampton to be nearer family.

I have to say the Forget Me Not teas at the hall were wonderful, I was expecting 6-8 people but we ended up with about 20 of us but they just kept on adding tables and chairs for us all!

All the best and many thanks from Brenda Middleton (daughter)

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Still your County Councillor, I stay in touch with all in Uffington and am so impressed with progress on your Community Led Plan and excellent extended communication network. So there is less to report as I know you are all up-to-date now, but a few items must be mentioned.

Vale COMMUNITY AWARDS : CLAIRE WHITFIELD for her work on Forget-Me-Not teas and Farmers' Market was celebrated for her many contributions to life and community in Uffington.

I was delighted to attend (still District Cllr for next-door ward) to see her so well recognised for her enterprise, energy and enthusiasm. She is an example to us all and I congratulate her!

OXFORDSHIRE TOGETHER : is County Councils plan to stop providing most services - grass cutting and snow clearance - WITHIN the villages as they must find savings to manage with much smaller Gov grant. Your Parish Council has been very active in sorting out any impact in Uffington, and it was on the Agenda for the recent Parish Council meeting in THMH. It seems Uffington will cope well with the many willing volunteers in the village. County will still cut and clear the Highways outside the villages, but 2 cuts per year instead of 4, and snow clearing main routes only.

TALKING OXFORDSHIRE : was County Council's programme to communicate and consult as widely as possible about the major savings and cuts in main services in the County to save £50million.

The main impact here is stopping all BUS SUBSIDIES which will impact Bus 67. Negotiation is still on-going with the bus companies to work out if any re-routing or consolidating services will keep some routes open, and County is clear that rural routes will be the priority if any routes can be saved. Kingston Lisle Parish Council has set up a petition for you to sign to register any loss to you or people you know. It will be important to know how many would be affected by the end of this service, so please sign up . . .the link has been circulated by your excellent Parish Chairman.

STANFORD TIP : is safe until the end of 2017!! Though announced as though it was news, this is really a delay in deciding what to do about the tips; Stanford was always to stay open until end 2017. But I hope we have made it clear how important the tip is in this area, and that the site is an ideal location for expanding the service to cope with new housing and users from any other sites. I may be asking you all to write again by the end of 2017.

Meanwhile I wish you all good company and good community throughout the year ahead. Happy New Year!

UFFINGTON FARMERS MARKET

Lucy Palmer

Established in March 2015 as a not for profit organisation, the Farmers Market runs on the third Sunday of each month from 10 am to 12.30 pm at the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington. Each month visitors enjoy a wide range of food stalls including amongst other things, local meats, fruit and vegetables, cheese and eggs. We usually have approximately fifteen food stalls each month and two or three craft stallholders selling handmade crafts. All of our stallholders live in the Oxfordshire/Wiltshire/Berkshire area.

The market also aims to support local non-profit/charity organisations that require fundraising to continue to operate. This year we have offered fundraising opportunities to groups such as the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, the Community Garden and the Brownies and Guides.

In November 2015, the market was awarded a Vale of the White Horse Community Award for services to the local people and community. The last market of 2015 was on Sunday 20th December 2015 and then the market will close down for January and February 2016, but re-open on March 20th 2016. We hope that the market will continue to grow in strength and popularity and we are keen that it builds on the good work it has done so far to support local businesses, reduce food miles and offer a service to the local community.

We would like to thank everyone who has visited the market and look forward to your continued support. We are keen for your thoughts and feedback, so please contact us via the Uffington Farmers Market Facebook page or by emailing tring_girl@hotmail.com if you have any ideas, thoughts or would like to get involved. Please support your local market. It cannot thrive without you!

Dates for 2016 are: Sundays: 20/03, 17/04, 15/05, 19/06, 17/07, 21/08, 18/09, 16/10, 20/11, 18/12 from 10 am to 12.30 pm.

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UFFINGTON PLAYERS

Christine Holley

The Uffington Players are proud to present the pantomime

'Beauty And The Beast'

by Ben Crocker.

Performances will take place at

The Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall on February 18th, 19th & 20th.

Thursday £8/£6,

Friday & Saturday £12.50/£9 (includes food)

Tickets will be available from mid January from Uffington Stores or on line at www.ticketsource.co.uk

For further information please contact Christine Holley 820474

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SCHOOL NOTICEBOARD

As we come to the end of a very long and busy term, we can look back and reflect on the many successful events that have taken place. Our 'Healthy Me' day was enjoyed by everyone, giving children the opportunity to bake healthy and tasty food that parents sampled in the evening. Parents were given the opportunity to talk to the nutritionist from 'Food With Thought' and we had our eyes opened at the sugar content of some snacks we all considered to be the healthy option. It was a very hands on evening with a chance to do some first aid, see how the digestive system works with our science experiments and an opportunity to talk to both our Home School Link Worker and the Ministry team. An enjoyable and informative evening was had by all.

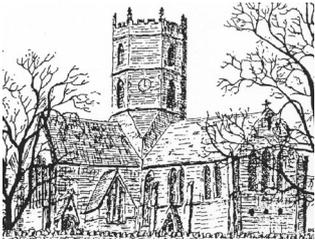
The year 3/4 topic this term was theatre, which was rather apt as this has been a term of many performances. Our year 5/6 children had the opportunity to perform a dance inspired by their WWII topic at The New Theatre in Oxford, our Foundation children have performed their nativity in the church and all classes took part in the Christmas Carol service, followed by the Christmas Market.

Our children are very good at thinking of others and in the last four months we have supported a number of charities, including Macmillan, The Poppy Appeal, Children in Need, The Swindon Food Bank and The Christmas Shoe Box Appeal. We have raised an incredible £592.50. This demonstrates the strong sense of community that we have at the school and makes me feel very proud.

As you may be aware, Mrs Gunter has decided to retire. I know you will all agree that she is a superb teacher that has made a real difference too many children's lives. We wish her much happiness as she moves into the next chapter of her life and spends more time with her family. Many thanks to her for her commitment and endless energy.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
From All the staff and pupils at Uffington CE Primary School

Mrs A Carnell



The pattern of services in the immediate future will be similar to what was previously given but does have some differences:

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

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Classified Advertising

ACCOMMODATION

BED AND BREAKFAST at Norton House, Broad Street, Uffington, SN7 7RA. Contact Fenella or Carl Oberman Tel 01367 820230, e-mail carloberman123@btinternet.com, Website <http://www.smoothhound.co.uk/hotels/nortonfaringdon>.

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01367 821128, karenswash@btinternet.com

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DANCE TUITION

DANZONE - funky freestyle jazz classes. Freestyle Jazz ● Ballet ● Musical Theatre ● Zumba. Classes are available for all ages, kids and adults. Classes in: Nythe, Covingham, Lawns, Central Swindon and UFFINGTON. New Saturday Morning Ballet Classes, Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington with Miss Hayley AISTD BA Hons Dance. New classes starting 2012 - Zumba, Musical Theatre. For Venues & times contact Clare Jones, Tel 07876 256 739 | danzone@tesco.net | www.danzone.co.uk. C.R.B. approved, first aid trained, qualified in America Jazz and fully insured. DANZONE dancers perform in local fetes and events, to request the dancers call Clare.

DECORATING

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THE TEA POT - Home made cream teas. Open Saturdays 3-5:30pm, Sundays & Bank Holidays 3-6:30pm March to December. Coffee, Lunches, Teas, Suppers or Barbecues can be arranged any day of the week for group bookings. Coaches are welcome by prior arrangement. Handcrafted Gifts and greetings cards, Various Gifts and Homemade Cakes on sale in the Tea Room. Britchcombe Farm, Uffington, Tel 01367 820260 (24-hour telephone answering service). We are situated 1/4 mile from the oldest White Horse Monument, on the B4507 near Uffington, Oxon. Nearby places of interest include Wayland Smithy, Blowing Stone, The Ridgeway and the Uffington Museum.

THE VINTAGE TEA ROOM is open Saturdays at the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Broad Street, Uffington, SN7 7SB from 9:30am to 1pm. Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Lemonade and handmade cakes and treats will be available.

EDUCATION

UFFINGTON FOUNDATION CLASS. For 2¹/₂ to 5 year olds. Modern purpose built unit attached to Uffington Primary School. Flexible sessions during term time, Great outdoor play area, Funding is available depending of age, Happy caring atmosphere. For more information please call 01367 820296
www.oxfordshire.schooljotter.com/uffington

FRENCH TUITION. French native experienced teacher gives private French tuition all ages and all levels (including GCSE/A-level tutoring). Conversation class also available. Will travel within 10 miles radius of Uffington. For more information, contact Béatrice Cunnington on 01367 820152 or 07564330260, e-mail beatrice.louchez@hotmail.com.

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HOME HELP

CHAT & CHORES - The 'Family Friend' Service, I am here to stand in for the family for those needing a little assistance when the family are not available whether for an hour, a day or a week - friendly service tailored to your needs. 20 years nursing experience, local and CRB checked. Happy to run errands, help prepare meals, walk the dog, accompany to the shops, GP appointments or simply be a friendly companion. To have a chat about how I may help, please call Claire 01367 820355/07733 338735 laundrylass@hotmail.com

HELPING HANDS Home Care, established in 1989, specialise in the provision of live in care for those who need permanent care and support within their own homes. Those that we look after include the elderly and frail, physically disabled, those with learning difficulties and with mental health conditions. Services can be provided on a long term basis or are available as a temporary measure such as short term respite or convalescence care. The live in service extends across England and Wales. The last CQC rating for our service was 'Excellent'; this means that our inspecting body believe we offer our service users excellent outcome based care. For an informative chat please call Alison on : 0845 5436 302 or email : enquiries@helpinghands.co.uk <http://www.helpinghands.co.uk>

MAIDFORMOTHERS - Local and friendly family run professional service offering domestic housekeeping for busy Mums with hectic lives. Contact us for a chat to discuss your unique requirements in more detail Mobile: 07926 946072 / Email: maidformothers@yahoo.co.uk. References can be provided from Mums already taking advantage of our personal and reliable service!

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