



The Courier

Serving the Communities of
Uffington, Baulking, and Woolstone

Issue 199

Autumn 2024

Copy date for **Issue 200** is Saturday 7th December 2024 to the editor
Giles Dawson, Email courier@uffington.net

The Council

Uffington Parish Council now can have up to seven councillors. They each serve a maximum of a four-year term. The composition of the Parish Council is:

TBC (Chair)

Mike Oldnall (Vice Chair) 01367 820369

Richard Charles

Kat Foxhall

Dave Garwood

Fenella Oberman

Nigel Puddicombe

mike.oldnall@uffington.net

richard.charles@uffington.net

kat.foxhall@uffington.net

dave.garwood@uffington.net

fenella.oberman@uffington.net

nigel.puddicombe@uffington.net

Clerk/RFO - David
Hatton

07888203145

clerk@uffington.net

The Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk/RFO may be contacted on the above telephone numbers or email addresses. Other Councillors may be contacted on the email addresses above.

The Council normally meets on the second Monday of the month in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, at 6.30pm. Please check the website or notice board for confirmation. The agenda is published on the Parish Council website and notice board at least three clear days before the meeting. All residents are most welcome to attend these meetings and raise and discuss any issues during the "Open Forum" session early in the meeting (normally 6.45 pm). We particularly encourage anyone intending to submit a planning application to come and discuss it with the Council before submission. A digital copy of the Courier is always posted on the Village [website](#) from where the links in each edition are live.

Cover photo: Thanks to Robert Oldnall for this sunrise picture of Whitehorse Hill.

Councillor Simon Jenkins

Simon, who has been a councillor for almost 10 years, stood down as a councillor and Chairman of the Council on 20 September 2024. On behalf of the village and Council we would all like to thank him sincerely for his dedication and hard work both as Chairman and his wider significant contributions to the village.

The current composition of the Council is shown on the inside front cover of this edition of the Courier. As a result of Simon's resignation from the Council, there is now a vacancy and the Council is seeking a replacement as soon as possible. Further information will be made available on the notice board by the Shop and in the weekly newsletter confirming the process to be followed. The new Chair and Vice Chair will be appointed at the Council meeting on 14 October.

Clerk and RFO to the Council

David Hatton. David was appointed as Clerk to Uffington Parish Council at the AGM in May, following the resignation of Sandy Adams, and took over from Julia Evans as RFO in September. David lives in Uffington and I'm sure many residents will have already noticed his increased use of social media to publicise the Council's and other related activities. David can be contacted by email using the clerk@uffington.net address or on 07888 203145.

Julia Evans. Julia has moved on after 9 years and we would like to thank her for her for all she has done for the Council during that time. Julia has taken up the post of Wantage Town Clerk where she will be able to put her knowledge and experience to good effect in a larger organisation. We wish her every success in this new appointment.

Village Maintenance

Maintenance Volunteers. If you would like to join the village maintenance group, please get in touch with the Parish Council Clerk (clerk@uffington.net) so we can get your name on the list (which is necessary for insurance purposes).

Hedges and Verges. The Council continued to minimise its ecological impact by leaving the hedges and verges uncut for as long as possible – except for junction splays where it would be dangerous to leave the verge uncut. The autumn hedge cut will take place shortly.

Uffington

Parish Council

Would you
Like to make
A difference?
Have you ever
Considered becoming
A Parish
Councillor?



Parish Councils are the ground level tier of local government and are the closest to the communities they represent.

Uffington Parish Council consists of 7 Councillors whose aim is to improve the quality of life and facilities within the Parish through the management of its available funds.

Parish Councillors get involved in many ways, whether its commenting on planning applications, making decisions about improving play areas, green spaces and footpaths, or agreeing to grants for local groups.

No previous experience or specific expertise is required. All that we ask is for few hours each month and the desire to help support and improve the community we live in.

Training facilities covering a wide range of Council responsibilities is available.

Most importantly of all you will be helping to make Uffington a better place to live!

If you would like to know more about becoming a Councillor please contact the clerk—clerk@uffington.net

With the next edition we reach our double century. The magazine will have been going for 50 years. Issue 200 will look back at the three villages and the wider world in 1975 and how what we try to provide has changed over the years.

Please write in or send any suggestions, contributions or anything that strikes you that might be of interest to other readers. Please send any ideas or material to the Editor at courier@uffington.net

Courier Magazine Advertising

The [policy](#) on Advertising is available on the website. The cost of advertising in four issues of the Courier (one year) AND inclusion on the website on the 'Essential Contacts' page or 'Local Businesses' as appropriate is very modest and is as follows:

- ¼ page or less: £20.00
- ½ page: £40.00
- Full page: £80.00
- Website entry: £10.00 (Free of charge for Courier advertisers). Links to external commercial websites are acceptable at the discretion of the Council

Please note:

1. The above costs are exclusive of VAT, which will be itemised on invoices.
2. in the event of non-payment, advertisements will appear in only one further issue before being discontinued pending payment.

Anybody wishing to advertise in the Courier should contact the Clerk by email at courier-ads@uffington.net. Copies of the Courier are distributed to a number of local shops, pubs and other outlets outside of the UBW villages making it more attractive to advertisers. We would be pleased to learn of any errors, omissions, or any additional categories of advertisement you would like to see included in future editions.

Planning Applications in Uffington since the last Courier

The following applications **have been granted**:

- P23/V1740/LB and P23/V1739/HH - Lilac Cottage Woolstone Road Uffington FARINGDON SN7 7RF. Two storey rear extension to create larger kitchen to ground floor, and master bedroom with balcony.
- P24/V0912/LDP -18 Patricks Orchard Uffington, to construct an extension to the rear of the property.

The following applications **are awaiting determination**:

- P22/V2630/NM, Moor Mill Farm, Uffington. Amended Plans.

The following applications have been **refused**:

- P24/V1460/PIP - Land off Fernham Road Uffington Faringdon Oxfordshire for development work.

The following applications have been **withdrawn**: – none

The following applications have been **appealed**:

- Under Appeals References: APP/V3120/C/23/3314399 and APP/V3120/C/23/3314401:
 - P22/V1042/FUL - Land North of Baulking Lane Baulking Lane Baulking SN7 8NR. Permission is sought for change of use of land to residential, for one Gypsy Traveller family. The development to comprise one static caravan, one touring caravan, parking for two vehicles, associated hardstanding and infrastructure (retrospective).
 - P22/V1003/FUL - The Fairmile, Farm Land at Baulking Lane Baulking SN7 8NR. Retrospective change of use to 1 no. Gypsy/Traveller pitch, comprising 1 no. (static) caravan and 1no. (touring) caravan and associated works.

The much-delayed appeal hearing for these applications had been due to start on 11 June 2024, but shortly before that we were notified that they had been delayed yet again.

The live list of 'Current' and 'Decided' Uffington applications can be accessed via the links on the VOWHDC website here: <https://www.uffington.net/parish-council/planning/> along with the latest details of the main 'Material' factors considered (and not considered) when assessing applications.

New planning applications are included as they are received, in the weekly email bulletin. We wish, over time, to get to the position that all residents of Uffington receive the bulletin which, in addition to weekly local news, we also use for the occasional dissemination of urgent/emergency information. If you are not signed up to this and would like to be, please let simon.jenkins@uffington.net know. Your email address will not be used for any other purpose.

Jubilee Field

The Council continues to maintain and improve the Jubilee Field facilities for all and suggestions for improvements are always welcome.

Pond. The pond has become very overgrown during the past year as we were unable to complete the partial dredging last winter due to the weather conditions at the time. We hope to carry out the dredging as usual this winter.

Pond Area. We have continued the slow process of redeveloping the area around the pond and where the poplar trees have been felled. Many of you will have noticed that the area has been levelled and we are now trying to keep the brambles, weeds and suckers from one of the stumps under control! We have recently had the whole area sprayed with a special weedkiller which can be used near the pond and which becomes harmless on contact with the soil. We have also added more wood chippings to the woodland paths to keep the weeds and mud at bay.

Circular Tables. We will be installing two new circular tables in the near future (one may even have been installed by the time you read this!). One will replace the rotting table near the footpath through to Craven Common and the other will be near the new play equipment. Both tables will have seating for 4 or more people, space for a wheelchair and will be made from recycled plastic material, like that used in and around the play area and should have a much greater lifespan!

Jubilee Field Tidy and Roadside Litter Pick.

The next Jubilee Field Tidy is planned for Saturday and Sunday 26/27th October, with the autumn Roadside Litter Pick on Saturday 2nd November.

Allotments

Nigel Puddicombe

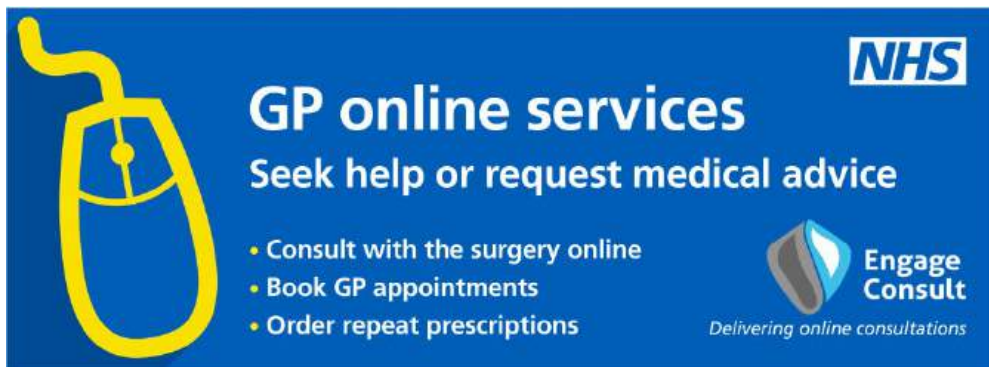
The Uffington allotments continue to be busy and the large majority of plots are let. However, 5 plots and 2 half plots remain available for rent by residents of Uffington, Baulking and Woolstone. These plots each measure roughly 100 square yards and are mainly plots that have been worked within the last year but all the available plots offer great potential as a reward for some initial hard work. If you are a keen gardener or wish merely to enjoy the benefits of healthy exercise and growing your own fruit and vegetables, please contact Barry Godsell (bandhg@hotmail.com) or Nigel Puddicombe (nigel.puddicombe@uffington.net), who will be happy to show you round and give you more details. The annual rental is £25 per full plot or £12.50 for a half plot.

Defibrillator Training

It has been some time since the initial defibrillator training sessions held immediately after they were installed a few years ago. We have therefore arranged some further refresher training on **31 October at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall**.

NHS / Engage Consult Digital Café

On Thursday 12th September 2024 the Parish Council arranged for a team from the White Horse Medical Practice to conduct a training session to help people understand and navigate the NHS and Engage Consult Apps. The session was very popular and appreciated by everyone who attended. As a result of the popularity, a further event is planned (provisionally 12 December 10:30 – 12:30). If you would be interested in attending, and so we can get a feel for the number of likely attendees, we would appreciate if you would contact the clerk via email clerk@uffington.net or call 07888 203145.



The banner features a blue background. On the left is a large yellow icon of a computer mouse. To its right, the text 'GP online services' is written in large white font, followed by 'Seek help or request medical advice' in a slightly smaller white font. Below this, a list of services is provided in yellow bullet points. In the top right corner is the NHS logo. In the bottom right corner is the Engage Consult logo, which includes a stylized icon of a person and the text 'Engage Consult' and 'Delivering online consultations'.

NHS

GP online services

Seek help or request medical advice

- Consult with the surgery online
- Book GP appointments
- Order repeat prescriptions

Engage Consult
Delivering online consultations

FREE

Defibrillator Awareness Training



Thursday 31st October 7:30pm
Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall
Uffington SN7 7RE
Open to all residents of UBW villages
No booking required – everyone welcome

THOMAS HUGHES MEMORIAL HALL The Management Committee



As is normal over the summer period the Hall had a quiet August. Fortunately, this enabled the changeover of the booking system from the Village Shop to Hallmaster, the on-line system. This work is now complete and working well. The new system is accessed through our website www.thmh.co.uk. Once the “make a booking” page has been selected, guidance for use and the Terms and Conditions of use are given.

One of the most significant improvements offered by the on-line system is that users view the calendar showing all bookings that have been confirmed or requested and therefore can see at a glance the vacant time slots. Users who are unable to use this system can email booking@thmh.co.uk. The preferred payment methods are now bank transfer or Stripe (credit card). Our thanks go to Rose and Sarah in the shop for all their hard work in the past managing bookings, invoicing and payments.

The Hall Committee is very pleased to confirm that Robert Purdie has been co-opted onto the Management Committee into the vacant position of Health & Safety Manager. This appointment will be formalised at the next AGM. Robert brings valuable experience in building design and maintenance; he is working closely with our caretaker, Paul Armishaw, on a review of all our facilities and a strategy for ensuring that the Hall remains a safe facility for all users.

We are still hoping to find a volunteer to manage our communications. It is increasingly important for the Hall to be ‘visible’ in a world of social media and this role would be a good opportunity for a young person to develop their skills in advertising and promotion. If you are interested, please contact one of the Management Committee; its members are listed on the information page of the website.

The Committee has managed several improvement projects this year. Those of you who may have noticed a grey coating on the lobby and storeroom floor can expect this to be soon transformed into a wood-effect laminate surface to complement the floors in the two halls.

A sub-committee is looking at the Hall Constitution, which was initially drawn up in 1974 so now needs an update to reflect modern practices. We hope to have a document ready to present to the Hall Council at the AGM prior to submission to the Charity Commission.

The Hall Committee is pleased to announce that we have several new regular hires. The Walfinch care organisation has run a successful art class on Wednesday morning for a year and has now introduced a seated exercise class on Thursday morning. NCT, a charity for parents, is now a regular hirer of the small hall for its classes. A Wednesday morning Zumba class has started in the large hall; plans are in hand for table tennis on Tuesday evening in the small hall, starting in January.

Finally, a reminder that we have audio-visual equipment in both halls which can be used for a variety of activities. The systems in both halls also have Amazon Firesticks and can be used for live or free-to-view television. They also offer the opportunity of a film club – it just needs a volunteer!

WHITE HORSE SHOW REPORT

Geoff Rumble



The White Horse Show returned over the August bank holiday weekend, entertaining crowds of visitors who came to enjoy the fantastic attractions and wide variety of food on offer. With exciting arena displays, clay pigeon shooting, classic vehicles, lots of animals and a great range of trade stands, not forgetting the steam engines, dog show and many more things to see and do, there was something for everyone, providing a wonderful family day out.

This year saw visitors getting involved in the Lamb National, with children and some very keen adults racing against Bob Hogg's sheep. Safe to say the sheep were victorious! Millets Falconry brought a selection of their birds of prey, treating us to a stunning flying display, Rebellion Reenactment entertained with their 'skill at arms' show and the unmissable Pedal v's Parkour team showed off their incredible skill and balance with some daredevil stunts.

Away from the main arena, we had a marvellous turnout in the dog show, with prizes being awarded in classes including Waggiest Tail, Lovely Rescues and Best Trick. You've got a year to teach your dog a new trick for the next show! Many thanks to the Armed Forces Equine Charity who did a great job running the dog show.

While we are busily preparing the accounts for this year's show, you can rest assured that every penny of profit will be used to support our local community. Look out for more details about how much we raised and how it has been distributed in the next edition of the Courier.

A huge thank you to everyone who came to the White Horse Show this year. We hope you'll join us again next year. You can even book your tickets online now and get 20% off in our early bird offer – don't miss out!

The continued success of the White Horse Show is down to a dedicated group of volunteers who give up their time to plan, organise and run the show. A heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped this year – we couldn't do it without you!

UFFINGTON CRICKET CLUB

Joe Parman

The 2024 season saw Uffington back in Division 8 after the disappointment of relegation by 1 point the previous season, with a burning ambition to go straight back up. That ambition was fulfilled with 4 games of the season remaining, and the league title was sealed with a game to spare - the first time Uffington CC have won a division since 2004. The team won 15 of our 18 games, drew one, lost one and had only 1 lost to the weather (we were very lucky here given how wet the summer was) for a total of 421 points, which was the highest of all 189 teams in the Cherwell Cricket League...a tremendous achievement. All done with our customary attitude that it's only a game and having fun is the main thing!

Several of our players made the top 20 batters and / or bowlers in the division, with a special mention for Hassan Safdar who with 513 runs was the league's leading run scorer by over 200 runs and with 30 wickets was pipped by 1 wicket to taking the bowling top spot as well. Our cup run was ended at the semi-final

stage by a dubiously strong Kingston Bagpuize 3rd XI but we got our revenge on them the very next weekend in the league at least. And in the T20 Wednesday night league we won 6 of our 10 games for a solid second place finish.

All in all it was a very successful and enjoyable season. We are a very small club of around 16 regular players and a few others who play occasionally. Adding a few more to those numbers would be amazing, so if anyone of any age or ability wants to get involved, please do get in touch. We are very grateful to our sponsors, Paul Pounds Glazing and Mouldex, whose generous support allowed the club to heavily subsidise the cost of new playing shirts, with the new Wednesday kit being the first time we've had coloured kits...and very smart they look too! The club also wishes to thank the White Horse Show who provided significant funding, alongside some Section 106 money from the Jacksmeadow development and money saved up by the club, to allow us to invest in brand new machinery to prepare and maintain the playing square for many more years to come.





Time to put our feet up for a few months, then it's back to it in March preparing for next season!

UFFINGTON COMMUNITY GARDEN

Heather Abel

Thank you to all who support us with enthusiasm, kind words and donations; it is much appreciated. We will be setting up a **'Friends of Uffington Community Garden' membership** very soon, for those who value and want to support our efforts without actually getting their hands dirty! There are many ways to get involved so please come over, watch out for our postings and follow us on Facebook if you like.

Some will have seen us recently pressing apples at the Farmers Market and serving the freshest juice you've ever tasted! **We will be apple pressing again at the October Farmers Market (Sunday 20th) so be sure to come and say hello and put your surplus apples to good use.** The squished apple pulp goes to local Uffington free-range pigs too, so nothing is wasted. We also have fresh-picked produce on the day.



Growing organic fruit, veg and flowers, we are increasingly aware of the need for diversity. We have group membership of the **Heritage Seed Library**, entitling us to obtain long forgotten varieties that have simply been lost or are deemed not commercially viable. Supermarkets and growers tend to find one variety that 'does the job' with tough, travel-worthy skins and a long shelf life and stick to it regardless – often resulting in mediocre but reliable crops. That's not good for choice but it's also not good for food security.

Sowing different varieties can mean that they won't all succumb to the same pests and diseases; we can extend the season with various crops coming to fruition at different times and of course, you have a range of qualities and tastes to suit more people! Not everyone's favourite apple is Golden Delicious! Some people like Russet, Cox or Granny Smith. Pollinators also want to extend the growing season and different flowers produce different pollen. Gosh, it's complicated! But actually, we don't have to know everything; we just have to hedge our bets and grow as many varieties as possible – for everyone's and everything's well-being.

Some of our heritage varieties this year have been 'Favourite' cucumber – sweet, juicy and thin-skinned. Renowned in the past for cucumber sandwiches on British

seaside holidays, complete with a sprinkling of sand, no doubt! ‘Mummy’ peas, reputedly from those found and grown-on from Tutenkhamun’s tomb (we at least doubled our peas so will try again next year!) and ‘Hero of Lockinge’ melon – developed by Lord Wantage’s head gardener Mr Atkins. Just one from many little fruitlets this year but it’s a whopper and we can’t wait to share a ceremonial tasting! Thank you, Guides, for your enthusiastic sowing – up for a tasting?

Look out for our seed packs nearer Christmas! Great stocking fillers!

Situated behind the Fox & Hounds, we welcome volunteers of all ages and abilities. Saturdays from 2 – 4 pm. If you would like to come and see what we do – just turn up and we’ll be happy to show you round. Children are welcome with a responsible adult. See us on Facebook!

UFFINGTON PLAYERS

Christine Holley

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent AGM and video party. It is with some sadness that we will not be able to put a production in October, but we hope to be able to put something on in October 2025. We are now planning our next Pantomime for February 2025. If you think you would like to be involved on- or back-stage, or would like further information, please contact Christine Holley at christineholley28@hotmail.co.uk

Community Minibus

Wednesday and Friday Service

- 9.30 am Uffington (Patrick's Orchard)
- Uffington (High Street)
- Woolstone (prior request)
- Uffington (Village Shop)
- Uffington Station (prior request)
- Baulking (prior request)
- 9.50 am Kingston Lisle (bottom of Hill View)
- 9.55 am Sparsholt (Bus shelter)
- 10.00 am Childrey (Village Hall)
- 10.10 am Wantage Market Square (upon request)
- 10.15 am Wantage Sainsburys
- 10.20 am Wantage Health Centre (upon request)

Return journeys 12.00 pm— Wednesday
11.30 am—Friday

Please speak to the driver for further details on the day.

Prices £5.00 return (care assistant—no charge)
Bus passes may be used
Children under 16 years of age £2.50 return

Private Bookings

The minibus is also available for private use by residents and local non profit organisations on a self drive basis. The charge includes fuel and insurance.

Fees - £20.00 fixed per day
plus 90p per mile
covered during the
hire period.*

* subject to VAT where applicable.



The route and times shown are a guideline and may be subject to variation on the day.
For enquires about our services, membership and making bookings email : ubwminibus@outlook.com

Whitehorse Hill is legally protected for its ancient monuments, as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is the responsibility of Historic England, English Heritage and Natural England, while the land is managed by the owners, the National Trust.

Something must be done!

A few years ago, the diminishing visibility of the Horse was noticed. In 1965 it looked like this:



In 2021, it looked like this:



Concerned by this shrinkage, in 2022 archaeologists from Oxford Archaeology carried out a detailed survey of the Horse, using a drone, and compared this with earlier images taken from aerial photographs and surveys. This new survey suggested that the lines of the Horse had shrunk, particularly in the head and neck area, by as much as 40 percent in recent years.

In 2023, the archaeologists dug narrow trenches across some of the lines of the hill-figure and confirmed the aerial survey results. The Horse was indeed shrinking, as soils and turf had been allowed to grow over, and obscure, its chalk lines. Also in 2023, proposals were agreed with Historic England, Natural England, and the National Trust to undertake preliminary investigations to:

- Remove the turf and topsoil soil from around parts of the Horse to ‘ground test’ the results of the survey, and
- Establish how much of earlier extents of the Horse were visible immediately beneath the turf.

It was known from the 1990s investigations that below the modern topsoil the stratigraphic layering of earlier rammed chalk and eroded chalk-wash were complex and therefore not to be disturbed lightly, so it was decided to initially target the head and neck where those more significant changes could be seen.

In 2024 the team from Oxford Archaeology, led by David Miles (the former Chief Archaeologist at English Heritage and author of *The Land of the White Horse* (2019)) and Simon Palmer, (recently retired Chief Financial Officer at Oxford Archaeology) who carried out the research project from 1989-1995, with support from the National Trust, began the restoration of the Horse by trenching the topsoil further.

In July 2024, the team was back in Uffington for another season of fieldwork. This time, the purpose was to restore the hill-figure to its size and shape of about 40 years ago and, ultimately, to make it more visible. In the past year, it had been agreed that the head and neck should be widened to reflect the findings of the 2023 trenches and drone survey. This would involve the removal of the turf to a pre-set outline (based on what was revealed in 2023), recording the archaeology beneath the topsoil and then infilling with new chalk. This is akin to picture restoration where minimal, if any, disturbance is made to the original paint and what is newly added can be easily reversed.

It is hoped that this work will lead to the agreement of a ‘Management Plan’ for the future maintenance of the Horse, to improve the future management, and also lead to more accurate dating. In the 1990s optically stimulated luminescence dating (OSL) was used to date soil layers below the Horse, to between 1380 and

210 BC – later Bronze Age or Iron Age. The old excavation trenches were reopened to acquire more dating samples which will be analysed by OSL again – but with over 30 years of scientific development improving the technique. The work is principally funded by Oxford Archaeology and by a generous donation from Ian Godfrey and Lecki Ord, Australian lovers of The Horse. Following the work in July 2024, the Horse now looks like this:



Is the restoration of the White Horse complete? No, it is not. Centuries of soil erosion, hill-wash, has changed the profile of the hillside effectively flattening the slope that the Horse gallops across. While this build up is a boon for archaeologist since it preserves hidden layers (as revealed and sampled in the excavations of the 1990s), it is to the detriment of those viewing from below.

Obviously, the slope that the Horse is framed upon cannot now be changed, but the erosion can be reduced, slowing the buildup, and the angle of the actual chalk infill of the body steepened. This will be achieved by reducing the height of the chalk body, built up by several decades of unnecessary re-chalking, or scourings, and which now stands proud of the surrounding turf. The chalk will be reduced down so it is lower than the turf line, to create a clear edge along the Horse's belly (which was originally there) to slow the run-off of eroded chalk on to the slope below.

Study of the survey results also show that there has been a shortening of some legs and the tail. These will be lengthened to ensure that the Horse maintains its traditional extent. This will again be achieved by the removal of the turf and infilling with chalk. All lovers of the Horse will now be looking forward to the next phase of restoration – in 2025?

[Thanks to Hedley Thorne and Uffington Museum for photographs]

By the time this edition of the Courier goes to press we will have welcomed over 1000 visitors to the museum. Our last weekend opening for this season will be Saturday and Sunday 26th and 27th October so make sure you plan some time to visit. This year's exhibition, featuring the Wellington Bomber DV595 that crashed in a field outside Uffington in 1942 with the loss of six lives, has proved very popular. It displays the personal accounts by two Uffington residents who remember the event and who captured their memories for the museum – Brian Tilling and Jim Jones. Together with memorabilia loaned from RAF Welford and the Wellington Aviation Museum, the exhibition details the events on that fateful night.

Jane Golding, who helped curate the exhibition, gave a talk in the village hall which again was very well attended. She later ran a follow-up workshop on Saturday 5th October in the village hall to record details of other local military aircraft crash sites. janegolding57tt@gmail.com

The museum continues to exhibit the history and archaeology of the area including the White Horse and Wayland's Smithy. We have permanent displays on Thomas Hughes and Tom Brown's Schooldays and also the time that the late poet laureate Sir John Betjeman lived in the village. We have a mock Victorian Schoolroom and continue to record the changes in village life in Uffington with nearly half the collection consisting of photographs and articles from the late 1800s to the present day.

In July we welcomed over 100 children from the primary school to help them celebrate White Horse week, learning about the local area, reading poems and stories as well as putting on a treasure hunt and a quiz.

As a reminder, the museum is run entirely by volunteers and is one of the smallest in Oxfordshire. It was granted accreditation status in 2013 by Arts Council England and successfully renewed in 2017. We would love to see more visitors from the local area - it is after all a village asset, with the building owned by the Parish Council and therefore maintained with financial contributions from the council precept.

In 2025 Uffington Museum will be open 2pm-5pm every Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday from Easter (April 19th) until the end of October and entry is FREE. We have local merchandise for sale and donations are always welcome to keep the museum up and running. You can visit us at the Uffington Farmers Market and the wonderful White Horse in steel art is available to purchase – it makes an

excellent gift. Please don't miss the opportunity to visit this 'little gem' of a museum and see the Wellington Bomber exhibition before we close.

Uffington Museum, Broad Street, Uffington SN7 7RA

www.uffingtonmuseum.co.uk




**UFFINGTON
MUSEUM**
VALE OF THE WHITE HORSE

Broad Street
Uffington
SN7 7SE

FREE ENTRY



www.uffingtonmuseum.co.uk

**FLIGHT
DV595
UFFINGTON
25/08/1942**

**The story of a
Wellington bomber
and her crew**

30 March to 29 October
2024 2.00-5.00pm
Saturday, Sunday and
Bank Holiday Mondays

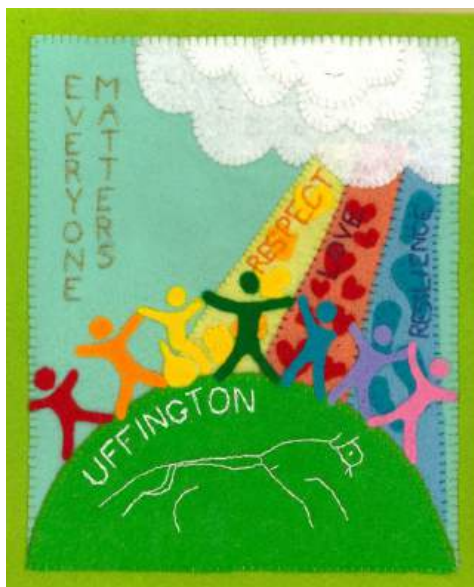
Uffington C of E Primary School is thrilled to welcome back all of our wonderful pupils for the start of the new academic year. It has been lovely to see the children's smiling faces as they have settled back into the school routines over the past few days.

During the first days of term, our pupils have spent time exploring our school's behaviour curriculum, which is rooted in our Christian vision and values. The core of this curriculum is our three simple rules: Be Loving, Be Respectful, and Be Resilient. These guidelines help our children grow in kindness, consideration for others, and the ability to persevere when faced with challenges. We are so proud of how quickly our pupils have embraced these core values. They are already demonstrating these qualities in their interactions with their teachers and classmates.

Members of the Uffington community are invited to attend Uffington C of E Primary's Open Morning on Wednesday, October 9th from 9:30-11:30 am. This is a wonderful opportunity to tour the school, see the pupils in action, and learn more about the enriching educational experience we provide.

We still have limited spaces available in our preschool, reception, and Key Stage 1 classes. If you are interested in enrolling your child, please contact the school office to arrange a personal tour or we would love to see you at our open morning.

We are excited to embark on this new chapter and can't wait to see what the year ahead has in store!



Every time I visit Uffington Gorse, I am reminded how very special this site is with its beautiful woodland and the historic Wilts & Berkshire canal and towpath. There is always something new and exciting to discover such as glorious foxgloves and water dwelling yellow irises.



The West Vale Branch of the WBCT and other volunteers have been very busy at Uffington Gorse over the last seven months, progressing with plans to restore the 200m of canal and towpath and maintain the beautiful woodland for everyone to enjoy. However, as the woodland continues to age and grow, we are aware of the constant need to monitor and maintain the site not only to increase biodiversity but for the safety of everyone that enjoys this site.



In response to this we have submitted a 10yr woodland management plan with a vision "to develop a highly ecologically and structurally diverse mixed native woodland" at Uffington Gorse to be reviewed by Forestry England. To achieve this one of the proposals is to create a number of small "coupes" or clearings over the coming 5-10 years to improve age diversity by introducing a range of different native woodland trees and shrubs. It is hoped that this will enrich and enhance the woodland environment so that with a mixture of different aged trees and shrubs it will be more attractive to a greater number of wildlife species such as birds, insects and mammals.

Following a survey to assess the condition of all of the trees, we have felled a number of those which posed a significant hazard to health and safety. Other tasks such as the tidy-up of the newly cleared towpath remain an ongoing activity. As you can see from the photograph, the hard work by all the volunteers is definitely worth it! Over the next few months we will be removing trees from the canal bed and across the towpath so there is plenty of hard work ahead. If you would like to join our team as a 'muddy boots' or 'working from home' volunteer, or could offer any assistance or comment on towards our plans, please contact us via the email address below. westvale.branch@wbct.org.uk. I wish you all a fantastic and happy Autumn 2024. Clare is Project Manager, Uffington Gorse.

GREETINGS FROM UFFINGTON VICARAGE

Jeremy Goulston

I have been back from my Sabbatical for a while now but, I hope, the good effects will stay with me for some time to come. We explored Scotland in our campervan, partly for the scenery and great camping and partly to acquire a bit more knowledge of 'Celtic Christianity'. The latter is rather an amorphous subject but, armed with a little local knowledge (thank you Prof. Wendy Davies for some inside information), some good books, and a desire to visit Melrose Abbey, I felt I got a bit deeper into an area which is shrouded in the mists of time.

Melrose Abbey is associated both with St Aidan and his successor St Cuthbert, and it was from this place that they were called to evangelise the Northumbrians, and to settle on the island of Lindisfarne. Aidan, we're told, was much kinder than his predecessor Corman - the first of the monks of Iona to be sent to help King Oswald with spiritual matters - he became a good friend to the King and to the locals alike.

If it is not too much of a leap; I sense that it is a similar capacity for building abiding friendships and also a good dose of innate talent, which has propelled Volodymyr Zelensky to the presidency of his currently embattled Ukraine.

Coming from the little-known industrial city of Kryvi Rih, his career as a film producer and comedian has stood him in good stead, it seems, for the trial of leading his country in wartime. The recent BBC documentary, 'The Zelensky Story', brings us great insight from his life to date and shows what it has taken for him to become a true 'Servant of the People'.

Service for the common good is something we will remember Jo and Grant Trichler for, with gratitude, as they wend their way north to Hexham. Grant was a Churchwarden here for several years and Jo did many essential things behind the scenes; she drew up the cleaning rota for St Mary's, helped at Summer Teas, printed the weekly sheet and set up the Ride and Stride each year.

We are looking for people who would like to help us with these tasks which allow us to move forward. I do hope you will want, on reflection, to volunteer a little of your time to help us?

A big THANK YOU to Fay for organising Summer Teas and Show Cake Stall again this year and to her amazing band of helpers, to the Mosses and others for help with Quiz 'n' Chips, and Amelia Wright for her work on all things 'Sunday School'. Please come and join us for any of our services or events - not least our 'Quiz 'n Chips', Harvest Festival and Remembrance services.



Vicar - apprehended by the long legs of the law....

REMINDER!!

COURIER – 200th EDITION

With the next edition we reach our double century. The magazine will have been going for 50 years. Issue 200 will look back at the three villages and the wider world in 1975 and how what we try to provide has changed over the years.

Please write in or send any suggestions, contributions or anything that strikes you that might be of interest to other readers. Please send any ideas or material to the Editor at courier@uffington.net

A photograph of a small, scruffy dog with white and brown fur sitting on a dark brown suitcase. To the left of the dog is a yellow clock and a map. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

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5 th December	Talk & Christmas Meeting - The Twelve Plants of Christmas
6 th February	Talk – Replant, Propagate, Plant & Prune Star speaker Anne Swithinbank
6 th March	Talk – A Buzz in the Garden - Bee Keeping
3 rd April	Talk – Primulas & Auricular
1 st May	Talk – Unusual Trees & Shrubs for the Modern Garden
17 th May	Plant Sale - Trail around Uffington village

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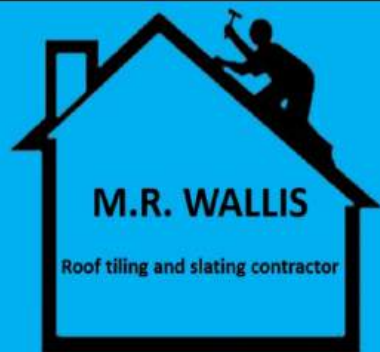
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Scheduled regular local activity information

Day of week	Time	Activity	Ages	Where	Contact
Mondays	8:30--9:30 am	Circuits	Adult	Village Hall	Lucinda 07967 157620
Mondays	6.45-8pm	Fitness	Adult	Village Hall	Michelle Southey 07826 524463
Tuesday	10-11am	Tai Chi Qigong	Adult	Village Hall	If interested, attend to make enquiries
Tuesday	11.30- 12.30pm	Pilates	Adult	Village Hall	Fiona-wright@outlook.com
Tuesday	6-7.15pm	Beavers	6-8	Village Hall	Dave Barnes 07811 424978
Tuesday	7.30-9pm	Bell Ringing	12+	St. Mary's Church	Hugh Baxter 820014
4th Wednesday of month	7-9:30pm	WI	Adult	Village Hall	whitehorsewi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk
Wednesday	11:15-12:15	Zumba	Adult	Village Hall	zumbanancy@yahoo.com
Wednesday	12.30-1.30 pm	Pilates	Adult	Village Hall	Fiona-wright@outlook.com
Wednesday	6pm	League Cricket 20 overs	14+	Sports Club Fawler Road	Joe Parman joeparman@outlook.com
Wednesday	6-- 7pm	Yogalates	Adult	Village Hall	Carolyn Courtney 07825414609
Wednesday	7-8.45pm	Guides	Girls age 10-14	Village Hall	Uffingtonguides@gmail.com
Thursday	6:30-8 pm	Cubs	Children 8-10	Village Hall	Michelle Garwood mhcgarwood@gmail.com
Thursday	7-9pm	Scouts	10-14	Village Hall	Nathan Reade 07768 073363 Katharine Murkett 820270
1st Thursday of month	7.30-9pm	Gardening Club	Adult	Village Hall	Pamela Preene 820251
Friday	9.30-11am	Baby & Toddler	Children 0-5	Village Hall Parents must stay	Jessica Mildenhall jessica_mildenhall@hotmail.com
Friday	1-2 pm	Yogalates	Adults	Village Hall	Carolyn Courtney 07825414609
Saturday		League football	Adults	Sports Club, Fawler Road	Jason Wilkins 870487
Saturday	1pm	League Cricket (40 overs/side)	14+	Sports Club, Fawler Road	Joe Parman joeparman@outlook.com
Saturdays	2-4pm	Community Garden	Adult + accompanied children	Community Garden behind pub	Heather Abel 01367 820709 heather.abel@hotmail.com

For Village Hall booking enquiries, go to website thmh.co.uk and use the new Hallmaster booking link or contact Geoff Rumble 07747 846197

If you spot any errors or would like new information included, please contact the Council [Clerk](#)

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