

The Courier

Serving the Communities of
Uffington, Baulking and Woolstone



Issue 206

Summer 2026

The Council

Uffington Parish Council can have up to seven councillors. They each serve a maximum of a four-year term before needing to be re-elected to serve for longer. The composition of the Parish Council from July 2026 is:

Robert Purdie (Chair)	robert.purdie@uffingtonparish.gov.uk
Ross Kuklinski (Vice-Chair)	ross.kuklinski@uffingtonparish.gov.uk
Mike Oldnall	mike.oldnall@uffingtonparish.gov.uk
Fenella Oberman	fenella.oberman@uffingtonparish.gov.uk
Kat Foxhall	kat.foxhall@uffingtonparish.gov.uk
Suzie Metcalfe-Hatton	suzie.metcalfehatton@uffingtonparish.gov.uk
Sarah Puleston	sarah.puleston@uffingtonparish.gov.uk
David Hatton (Clerk/RFO)	clerk@uffingtonparish.gov.uk
	07888 203145

The Council would like to request that all initial contact made is via the Clerk at either the above email address or by telephone. This helps to ensure that all enquiries are dealt with or directed to the correct individual.

If you are interested in becoming a councillor, or helping the Council without being a councillor, please contact the Clerk or Chair to discuss how you would like to help us.

The Council meets on the second Monday of the month in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, at 6.30pm.

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 6:45pm). We particularly encourage anyone intending to submit a planning application to come and discuss it with the Council before submission.

Cover Photo: *Thanks to Karen Pilcher for the picture of the recent Mikron Theatre performance on Sunday July 12th at 2pm in Marcy fields.*

Council News

All Council documents such as agendas and minutes are available at www.uffingtonparish.gov.uk .



Weekly Newsletter

Simon Jenkins has been the driving force behind the weekly newsletter since its inception. He has advised the Council that he now feels it is time to take a step back and hand over the reins. The newsletter is an integral part of the village communications, so the Council would welcome any enquiries from individuals willing to take on this role. Please email clerk@uffingtonparish.gov.uk if this is of interest. If you wish to be included in the circulation please contact simjenkins@gmail.com . Email addresses held are for distribution of the newsletter only.

Facebook

Did you know that Uffington Parish Council has its own Facebook page?

In today's world of social media, as well as traditional routes the Parish Council posts news and articles on Facebook to reach a broader audience and provide an additional method of communicating information.

You can find the page at <https://facebook.com/uffentun>

Village Maintenance

Maintenance Volunteers. If you would like to help with village maintenance, please contact the Clerk who can arrange for you to be added to the list of volunteers (necessary for insurance purposes).

Hedges and Verges. As always, the Council would like to thank residents for maintaining their property boundaries and as we head into the 'wet' season would ask residents to ensure that all drainage points are kept clear to avoid the risk of localised flooding.

Courier Magazine Advertising

The policy on Advertising is available on the website at <https://www.uffingtonparish.gov.uk/community/uffington-parish-council-20878/courier/> . The cost of advertising in four issues of the Courier (one year):

- ¼ page or less: £20.00
- ½ page: £40.00
- Full page: £80.00

All prices shown are subject to VAT.

Anybody wishing to advertise in the Courier should contact the Clerk by email at clerk@uffingtonparish.gov.uk . Copies of the Courier are distributed to a number of local shops, pubs and other outlets outside just 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.

Previous editions of the Courier can also be found on the website at <https://www.uffingtonparish.gov.uk/community/uffington-parish-council-20878/courier/>

Courier no.207 – Editorial Contributions

Please send contributions to the Editor, Giles Dawson, on courier@uffington.net by Sunday 13th September. Any photos (always welcome!) should be sent separately from your written articles.

Planning Applications

Planning applications are published as they are received in the weekly newsletter and are reviewed monthly at Parish Council meetings.

A log of all applications can be found on the parish website at <https://www.uffingtonparish.gov.uk/community/uffington-parish-council-20878/planning-applications/> which is updated monthly.

The master reference for planning applications is held by the Vale of White Horse District Council and can be viewed at <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/planning-and-development/planning-registers/planning-application-register/> .

Many thanks to all those who have taken the time and effort to comment favourably on the work that the Management Committee has done on the Small Hall exit and the path. Like many of the committees and groups supporting village activities, the Management Committee is made up entirely of volunteers and the occasional message of support is greatly appreciated.

Since the work on the exit, we have concentrated our efforts on several internal projects on a self-help basis. Both the men's and women's toilets have been repainted, and (at the time of writing) work on the disabled toilet is just waiting for slightly cooler weather so that we can repair the handrail and complete the painting in there.

Conversely, we have been waiting for the warmer weather, so that we can turn off the heating system in order to install an automated system. The system is designed to work with our online booking system and will automatically align the heating with the bookings. This should mean that the Hall is warm when people arrive and that the heating is not left on overnight.

We are always looking for volunteers to help us run the Hall and keep it tidy. We have a vacancy for the Secretary of the Management Committee. We meet once a month on Monday evenings for about 90 minutes. We are also looking for someone who is handy with a pair of secateurs and a watering can to keep the greenery around the Hall under control. If you think you can help, please email: information.thmh@uffington.net or speak with a member of the team. To book the Hall please see our website www.thmh.co.uk

WHITE HORSE SHOW 2026

Gillian Ward

The arrangements for the 2026 White Horse Show are at an advanced stage; we look forward to welcoming you all over the August Bank Holiday weekend on the 30th and 31st. Regular visitors and participants will find a new layout and new attractions alongside old favourites such as Professor Crump and the ever-popular dog show.

The Show has an impressive new website, whitehorseshow.co.uk, which gives details of what to expect, how to participate and how to buy advance tickets. Additionally, through the same link, local organisations can find details of how to apply for a grant from the White Horse Show Trust.



All Steps – see them at this year's Show!

The White Horse Show has, since its inception in 1972, been organised and managed by a group of hardworking and very dedicated volunteers. For a very long time the core of this group was made up of founding members – those that came together in the early years. The White Horse Show Trust is very sad to report that we have recently lost Mr Bill Mattingly who was, until his recent death, both the last surviving member of the original group and an active member of the current Organising Committee. He is remembered fondly by all who knew him and very sadly missed. It is a tribute to his dedication and commitment that we are busy trying to find people to deal with everything for which we relied upon him. He is irreplaceable.

We have also sadly lost the Secretary of the Awards Committee, Mrs Ann Kelsey. Ann's late husband Derek joined the Organising Committee back in 1982 bringing Ann's unwavering support along with him, and she never left. Ann's business background has been of great benefit to the Awards Committee in recent years when she worked with organisations looking to apply for a grant or award to ensure success. Her attention to detail was legendary.



A 'daredevil' attraction this year – Stannage Stunt Team

We have also recently had a few very long-standing former trustees/directors retire: Jim Matthews as Chair of the Awards Committee with Ray and Clive Avenell who were also key members of the Organising Committee – Ray as Treasurer. They have recently stepped back after 35 plus years, although we know that their hearts are still with us.

In the last ten years there have been several other long-standing members of the Committee who have moved on and have been replaced by new faces. Anyone who has worked with these dedicated volunteers and every organisation which has benefited from the money they were instrumental in raising will want to raise a glass in thanks for their dedication to our community.

Without the support of those who give their time, the Show would not be possible. Anyone who would like to volunteer their support should contact: info@whitehorseshow.co.uk

It is always great to have lots of people visiting Uffington Community Garden. So far this year we have had lots of children coming over – both with their families and also with different groups. Uffington Primary School children have visited to sow beans and find out all about the growing process and will be coming over again to make a mixed salad with a difference, including colourful, edible flowers.

Anyone visiting during the Garden Club plant sale will know we've quite an interesting range of flowers this year; and thank you for supporting us yet again. The school children will be visiting again at the end of June as part of their special week, looking at Justice and Responsibility. We are very proud of their visits and the way they totally embrace our ethos at the garden – looking after our little patch of Earth as well as possible, whilst helping people to feel good and grow good food in the process.



Stanford Beavers return to the Community Garden

We've also hosted the Beaver Groups of Uffington and Stanford-in-the- Vale, both together and separately in a joint project to sow, plant, maintain and hopefully harvest a whole bed of Halloween pumpkins. Fingers crossed!

Anyone is welcome to come along to see what is going on and to join in whenever and however, they choose. We are there on Saturday afternoons for anyone to just turn up; but we also go down at other times too. So if Saturdays are not possible, there will be other times to suit.

No experience necessary – no membership fee – behind the Fox & Hounds Pub every Saturday from 2 – 4pm. Come and say hello!

www.uffingtongarden.wordpress.net

It's been three months since we launched our 2026 exhibition **Myths, Monuments & Memory** curated by Lauren and Jane Golding and we've already welcomed over 300 visitors. The exhibition has been very well received since 40 Friends and visitors joined us for the launch in April. As well as this year's exhibition, our displays include the history of the school which started in the museum building, our literary connections John Betjeman and Thomas Hughes and of course our famous White Horse.

Why not combine a museum visit with homemade tea and cake in Uffington church next door, served every Sunday until the end of September, 2.30pm to 5pm? We are open every weekend 2-5pm and Bank Holiday Mondays from now until the last weekend in October. There are monthly talks in the Memorial Hall, Uffington at 7.30pm; £5, £3 Friends.

We've had record attendance this year at these talks and most recently we welcomed Mike White on Monday 6th July who told us about **Oxfordshire's Highwaymen**. Everyone has heard tales of Dick Turpin and other dashing villains, but Oxfordshire boasts its own home-grown rogues. Mike shared stories about both famous and lesser-known highwaymen who terrorised the county: which highwayman only stole from enemies of the King, which dandy danced with his lady victims, which rogue single-handedly robbed the army payroll, which rode to York in a single day; and which bad boy was a Bishop.

Our upcoming talks and recordings of past talks are available to view on our [website](#). You can also refer to the timetable printed in the Courier.

Small Changes, Big Difference - Exploring a more Neurodivergent-Friendly Museum.

Museums are places where everyone can feel welcome, comfortable and inspired. With support and funding from Museum Development South-East we are looking at how our spaces, displays and activities can better support people with neurodivergent experiences. The resulting Visual Story will appear on our website in the next few months.

Thank you to our volunteers

This month we held a gathering in the Museum to thank our volunteers who welcome visitors every weekend afternoon – we couldn't open without them! We had an enjoyable evening getting to know each other and exchanging war stories. If you think you might like to become a volunteer for us, please do email our curator using the details below. For anything museum related please email our curator Karen Pilcher at uffingtonmuseum@gmail.com

The Gardening Club continues to welcome excellent speakers to entertain our nearly 100 members with a variety of subjects. In April Helen Picton spoke about the renaissance of daisies in her fascinating talk 'Daisy Days' and in May Colin Roberts, head gardener of Adwell House in Thame, described some of the nearly 900 species of salvias - the plants he brought on the night were all sold.

We were very lucky with the weather when we held our annual plant sale trail in May; thanks to the stall holders, plant growers and buyers we raised a fantastic £1,219.90. Not only will these funds go towards arranging more speakers, but we were able to make two donations to a national charity and local organisation.

The Great Dixter Charitable Trust provides learning opportunities to educate people to become top level gardeners and ensure the conservation of the Great Dixter estate. Fern Meadows in Faringdon have just started their own gardening club for residents; our donation will allow them to buy much needed gardening equipment.

In June we had the first of our garden visits, being treated to tours of four lovely gardens in Fernham - with thanks to the owners who welcomed nearly 40 people on what turned out to be another surprisingly dry evening. The event finished with wine and nibbles supplied by the gardening club committee. Our events during the summer will see us visit Cadenham Manor in Chippenham and Adwell House in Thame.

A date for your diary with another Thame connection – Rachel de Thame is our guest speaker on October 1st. The talk will be included as part of members' subscription, with non-members welcome at a cost of £10.00.

Club meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month excluding January and August. The venue is the Memorial Hall in Uffington from 7.30pm to approx. 9pm with plenty of parking available. The hall opens at 7pm and there is always a raffle. Annual subscription is £20 from September to August; members receive a 10% discount off plants at Bampton Garden Centre. Non-members are very welcome at a charge of £5, unless otherwise advertised, although membership is more cost effective.

For further information or a membership application form please contact Hilary at hilarydeakin@me.com or 07802 426822. Follow us on Facebook – Whitehorse Gardening Club - and watch out for our new website coming soon.

POP ALONG FOR PING-PONG

Hilary Deakin

Uffington Table Tennis Club meets every Tuesday night at the Memorial Hall between 6pm and 9pm. We have a regular group of ten players with a further ten + who come as and when they can.



We'd particularly welcome younger players: only £2 a session for under-18s and £4 for adults. Just drop in and give it a try. All equipment provided. We always have fun, and a few socials too.

Our Club has been running for 18 months, with four indoor tables and one for outdoors. We've all improved since starting! It's gentle exercise and promotes great friendship. Come along and try us... as one member says, "What can more fun than Table Tennis on a Tuesday evening?"

COMMUNITY MINIBUS

John Hatcher

There is very good news that since our plea for volunteers to join the Management Committee of the Minibus Association: Hugh Baxter, Robert and Jenni Purdie have done so. Hugh and Robert will be very familiar to regular users of our Wantage services, for which they take a share of the driving. Hugh is taking the Chair; Robert is to be Vehicle Manager and Jenni Treasurer. They join Gillian Ward, our Administrator, to form the team undertaking all the regular activities which keep us on the road.

John Hatcher, Tom Scrivens and Tony Osborne have held these posts for a long time and felt it was time to make way for fresh blood, as also have David White and Bill Mawle, active members of the committee for a similarly lengthy period. There are no changes to the ways in which the minibus serves the community. Details and contact information are in our regular advertisement which is in this edition. One result of the changes is that there are vacancies for two volunteers to sit on the committee and bring it back to an ideal six members. It would be extremely good to have representatives of our users, regular or occasional, to provide a different dimension to the committee. If you feel you could make a contribution, we will be delighted to hear from you: Ubwminibus@outlook.com

FARMERS' MARKET BOOMING

Karen Pilcher

The market continues to go from strength to strength and we are very grateful to all our stallholders and visitors who join us. With over 50 local stalls registered and between 20 and 25 attending each month, we now have a full complement of food stalls with bakery, butchery, eggs, veg, jams & preserves, cheese, oils, honey, olives & Greek food, truffles, sweets and craft beer. The artisan stalls sell crafts & gifts ranging from greetings cards, candles, art, lampshades, crochet and knitted items, flowers and bouquets, jewellery, children's books, scented soaps, colourful bags and clothes and handmade woodwork.

Outside we have Gary's Garden Metalwork, The Blade Sharpening Co, Bob's Herbs and Plants and Oxford Cycle Surgery – the latter available for small repairs on the day. In April we gave away over 50 Easter eggs to children who attended the market and the PTA of Uffington CofE Primary School ran a raffle to raise funds for the school. The café is always very popular – the cakes are home-made by Lin who receives lots of compliments, not forgetting Chris and Sam who run the kitchen, supplying us all with tea, coffee and bacon or sausage baps. What better way to start a Sunday morning than catching up with friends and having a natter over coffee and cake?

Thank you to everyone that continues to support the market – we are all volunteers, profits are invested back into publicity and admin together with donations to local clubs and charities. In May we made a further donation to Cancer Research Witney. We are especially grateful to all our lovely stallholders who make the market such a success. If you haven't visited us yet then please come and see what we have on offer and support local businesses – there is always something new to try.

As a reminder, the market runs on the first Sunday of every month excluding January, in the Memorial Hall from 10am to 12:30pm. Further details and an application form if you would like to trade, are available from uffingtonmarket@icloud.com, or follow us on Facebook – Uffington Market.

I want to begin this report by saying how honoured I am to have been elected as the new District Councillor for the Stanford ward, which includes Uffington, Woolstone and Baulking.

As your Councillor, my number one priority will always be to stand up for the best interests of this ward. At times, that will mean agreeing with the ruling administration. Often, it will mean challenging them, as constructively and positively as I can, to make sure that areas like ours are being well served by the District Council.

In that spirit, at my first meeting I asked questions about the way rural pubs can be protected through the Asset of Community Value scheme; the impact of local government reorganisation on essential services such as bin collections and the importance of protecting our natural environment, especially chalk streams.

At the next Council meeting, I'll be raising the Vale of White Horse's response to the County Council's new rules for using the tip. These are rules that I have challenged as a County Councillor, not least because I think they will reduce recycling rates and potentially even lead to more fly-tipping, especially in rural areas. I don't believe the District Council should remain silent on these issues, and so I've worked with an Independent Councillor to get the issue on the agenda.

One of the most contentious matters handled by the District Council is planning. My priority will always be to ensure that local voices are heard, that there is transparency over the way applications are decided, and that - whether we agree with the outcome or not - planning is handled in a way that means we can all have confidence in the integrity of the process.

That's why, when residents raised with me the Fawler Road planning application (P26/V0100/O), and I saw the comments on the application, I asked for it to be 'called in'. That means that, unlike the vast majority of planning applications that are determined by Council staff, this application would (prior to any Council approval) be considered by the Planning Committee - with the meeting, and the discussion, held in public.

That's a very brief snapshot of what I've been up to in my first months as your local representative. If you would like to find out more about my work as your District Councillor, please visit my website at www.LeeEvans.uk And if there is anything I can do to help, please get in touch at lee.evans@whitehorsedc.gov.uk or on 07724 601 096, or via Facebook.com/LeeEvansOxfordshire. Thank you.

FROM THE VICARAGE

It was good to see some familiar faces in St Thomas' Goring on a hot Wednesday afternoon at the end of May, but the occasion was a sad one. Aurelia Broadbent-White, whom I married to James Broadbent nearly ten years ago, had succumbed to cancer at far too young an age. As I looked out over a sea of faces, including old and young Uffington panto supporters, the scenery of which she had helped to paint, I spoke of the problem of pain, and the mystery of its link to our happiness. The play 'Shadowlands' is a fine portrayal of how the dark areas of our lives interweave with the brighter threads and must be taken as a whole. These things were also in evidence at the funeral, in St Mary's recently, of Cynthia Bulpitt.

Our hobbies and interests, often so neglected but so vital to who we are, reveal much about us and who we're called to be. We are blessed in Uffington to have many good causes. The Museum, Gardening Club, the tennis, cricket and football clubs, the White Horse Show, Picnic Fest and Parish Council among others, all point towards a community which knows about the benefits of striving and playing together for something greater.

If ecology and the Church interest you, then you are most welcome to come along and help make the churchyard a beautiful place, thriving with all the variety of nature. We meet on Saturday mornings, often towards the end of the month – we strim, mow and weed and, most importantly, have refreshments together, and it is fun too. Thanks to Chris and Gilly for joining us recently and to Simon Jenkins for all the work you do in the Churchyard and for the wider village; your weekly emails have been so much to the benefit of key village events and news, and they have helped us all so much.

The Church needs a bit of 'TLC' inside too, with cobwebs gathering, and a space or two on the Parochial Church Council. My thanks to all who help clean her on a regular basis, and all who have volunteered afresh for Teas this year! People from far and wide welcome this time to enjoy tea inside our wonderful building, and we really appreciate the support too.

*'A serious house on serious earth it is,
In whose blent air all our compulsions meet'*

Philip Larkin's lines from his poem 'Churchgoing' speak so much truth still. And if you want to read something new - and hopeful - about the C of E you might try Angela Tilby's new book 'Good Faith', about how the often 'unspoken' norms of liturgy and ministry, still available today, can enable the national church to live creatively with different theologies and practices, and help us to be better humans in the process. With every blessing, Jeremy.



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MYTHS, MONUMENTS & MEMORY

UFFINGTON MUSEUM, SN7 7RA

Our 2026 exhibition explores the myths and legends woven into the Uffington White Horse landscape, from Saint George and the Dragon to the story of Weland the Smith. It highlights how this landscape and its monuments have carried significance from prehistory to the present day.

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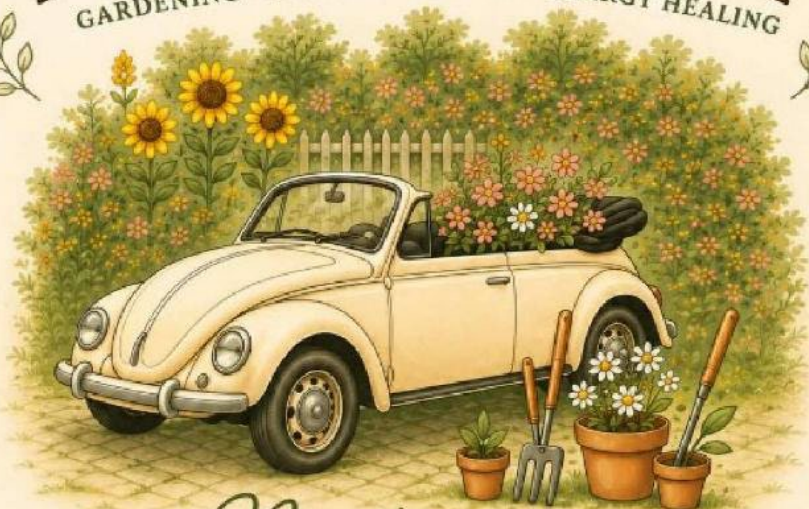
As part of this exhibition, we are collecting community memories of local legends and personal stories connected with the Uffington White Horse landscape.

**Share your story through our online form or by
contacting us at uffingtonmuseum@gmail.com**



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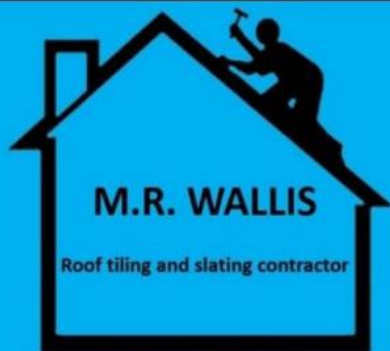


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Day of week	Time	Activity	Ages	Where	Contact
Mondays	8:30-9:30am	Circuits	Adult	Village Hall	Lucinda 07967 157620
Tuesday	10-11am	Tai Chi Qigong	Adult	Village Hall	If interested, attend to make enquiries
Tuesday	11.30- 12.30pm	Pilates	Adult	Village Hall	Fiona-wright@outlook.com
Tuesday	6-7.15pm	Beavers	6-8	Village Hall	Dave Barnes 07811 424978
Tuesday	6-9pm	Table Tennis	All ages	Village Hall	Paul White, paulwhite.smp@me.com
Tuesday	7.30-9pm	Bell Ringing	12+	St. Mary's Church	Hugh Baxter 820014
4th Wednes- day of month	7-9:30pm	WI	Adult	Village Hall	whitehorsewi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk
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
Thursday	6-7pm	Legs, bums and tums	All	Village Hall	Carolyn Courtney 07825414609
Thursday	6:30-8 pm	Cubs	Children 8-10	Village Hall	Michelle Garwood mhcgarwood@gmail.com
Thursday	7:15-9pm	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 stay	Jessica Mildenhall jessica_mildenhall@hotmail.com
Friday	12:30-1:30 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)	14+	Sports Club, Fawler Road	Joe Parman joeparman@outlook.com
Saturdays	2-4pm	Community Garden	Adult + accompani ed children	Community Garden	Heather Abel 01367 820709 heather.abel@hotmail.com
1st Sunday of month	10-12:30	Uffington Market	All	Car Park And Hall	uffingtonmarket@hotmail.com or Facebook

For Village Hall booking enquiries, go to website thmh.co.uk and use the new Hallmaster booking [link](#) or contact Geoff Rumble on 01367 301204.

Any necessary amendments, please notify the Clerk (clerk@uffingtonparish.gov.uk).

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