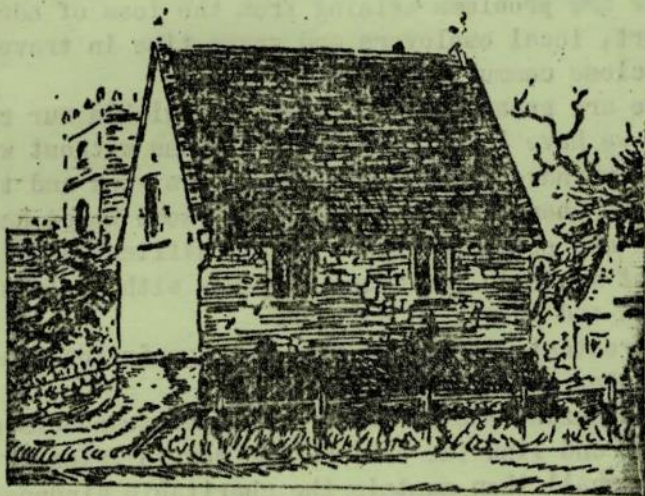


UFFINGTON

PARISH

MAGAZINE



*Items of Local Interest*

PUBLISHED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

Copy date for Issue 201 is Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2025 to the editor  
Giles Dawson, Email [courier@uffington.net](mailto:courier@uffington.net)

## **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 is:

Mike Oldnall (Chair)	01367 820369	<a href="mailto:mike.oldnall@uffington.net">mike.oldnall@uffington.net</a>
Dave Garwood (Vice Chair)		<a href="mailto:dave.garwood@uffington.net">dave.garwood@uffington.net</a>
Richard Charles		<a href="mailto:richard.charles@uffington.net">richard.charles@uffington.net</a>
Kat Foxhall		<a href="mailto:kat.foxhall@uffington.net">kat.foxhall@uffington.net</a>
Fenella Oberman		<a href="mailto:fenella.oberman@uffington.net">fenella.oberman@uffington.net</a>
Nigel Puddicombe		<a href="mailto:nigel.puddicombe@uffington.net">nigel.puddicombe@uffington.net</a>
Robert Purdie		<a href="mailto:Robert.purdie@uffington.net">Robert.purdie@uffington.net</a>
<b>Clerk/RFO</b> - David Hatton	07888203145	<a href="mailto:clerk@uffington.net">clerk@uffington.net</a>

We would like to welcome Councillor Robert Purdie to the Council. Robert was co-opted on 9 December and brings our complement of councillors up to the maximum of 7 allowed.

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 7pm). A digital copy of the Courier is always posted on the Village [website](#) from where the links in each edition are live.

### **200<sup>th</sup> Edition**

We would like to thank all those who have contributed to this 200<sup>th</sup> edition of the Parish Magazine, now called the Courier. Hopefully you will enjoy reading about life in the villages about 50 years ago and reminiscing – if you were around at the time!

**Covers:** *The first edition covers from 1975 – not called the Courier at that time!*

The Courier has gone through several changes in its time. My introduction to it was in the summer of 1987, after Mum and Dad, both on the council at that time, persuaded me to take on the publication, and Joan Little invited me to her home to go through production procedures - Joan's husband, John, having started publication of this quarterly magazine – initially titled 'Uffington Parish Magazine' - 12 years earlier.

Back then, the internet being in its infancy, copy was submitted on paper, either typed or handwritten. Each report was then made up to A5 format and a stencil cut. The stencil was wrapped onto a Gestetner to print the individual pages. At that time the Courier had a circulation of 250; this meant 250 copies of each page needed to be printed. When all pages had been produced, they were collated and stapled together by hand to form the magazine.

The first improvement in presentation came when the stencil cutter failed, and printing was transferred to photocopier. As photocopiers developed, colour became available and printing, collation and stapling could be done in one run.

By the time I relinquished responsibility for publication in 2023, most of the copy was received via e-mail and the magazine put together on a computer and sent electronically to the printers to produce the Courier as we know it today.

From its beginnings, 50 years ago, the Courier's content has been provided by contributors who provide a report on the activities and achievements of their organisations to keep the magazine, and thus its readers, informed on what is happening in and around our villages.

Once printed, the magazine needs to be distributed. This relies on another group of local people who give their time to deliver copies to our homes. With the help of contributors, distributors and the shop, the Courier is available to everyone who wishes to read it. A copy is also available to read on the website.

Today's Courier, now professionally printed, is colourful, informative, easy to read and attractive to advertisers. Thank you to all involved, keep up the good work.

When people talk about the village of Uffington, the list of attractions is long and includes: the oldest White Horse in the country; a fine mediaeval church; a museum; a primary school; a pub; a shop and Post Office; and so much more. Two things that are also frequently mentioned in such lists are the White Horse Show and the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall. Less commonly mentioned is that without one, we wouldn't have the other.

The story goes back over a century. At the end of World War I, the villagers collected money with the intention of using the funds raised to welcome home returning servicemen. However, the servicemen decided against accepting the money, instead using the funds to buy an old Nissen hut from the War Department to act as a village hall. This hut was erected on the land where the current village sign stands at the corner of the High Street and White Horse. It served the village and surrounding villages well. Unfortunately, by the late 1950s the fabric of the building was causing concern; so in April 1960 a building committee was formed to raise money for the building of a new hall.

The committee held a range of fund-raising activities including bingo nights, whist drives and a variety of sweepstakes associated with events such as football matches and horse races. However, it became apparent after about ten years that the funds being raised were not keeping up with inflation, which was often in double figures during this period; the committee was not close to achieving its goal. A new, more ambitious approach was required. Step forward Mr John Little.

John had previously run the 1964 Flower Festival in the three villages which had raised funds to repair St Mary's church roof. The committee asked him for ideas and support - an inspired decision. It was John Little who noted that, with the 150th anniversary of Thomas Hughes' birth approaching, a festival to mark this event would offer a significant fund-raising activity.

The first Show, a three-day event held on the August bank holiday weekend of 1972, was called the Tom Brown's Festival and was held on what is now the Jubilee Field, including the ground that the THMH now occupies and the ground which the Craven Common development now occupies. The Uffington Museum holds copies of the 'Lucky Programme', which for the price of 50p gave entrance to the 'Thomas Hughes Exhibition – Antiques Fair and Village Field'.

Of course, it wasn't as easy as it sounds and, just like today, a significant amount of work and investment was required. The building committee agreed to provide £100 from the monies that had been raised over previous years; the Parish

Council (PC) was approached for matching funds. They responded that they were not able to offer the required sum from PC funds but did have access to £100 which had been left to the village for use towards the building of a new village hall. There seems to have been considerable consternation, as knowledge of this bequest was not widely known. However, a fund of £200 was agreed as working capital to put on the Show.



*Map from 1972 showing notable buildings – no THMH yet!*

Whilst a significant portion of the funds for the initial building of the Hall was generated by the Show, it is important to recognise a number of other significant sources of funds. Professor and Mrs Seton Lloyd of Woolstone donated the profits from the sale of the old school in Woolstone. A Grant Aid donation of £6,875 was received which, in his book 'A Village Show', Brian Tilling credits the MPs Airey Neave (Abingdon) and Douglas Hurd (Witney) for helping to obtain. A further grant of £13,750 was received from the Department of Education and Science. But the most generous of all the fundraising efforts came from John Little, Hugh Shorten and Colonel (later Brigadier) Harry Hopkinson. In order to halt the ever-increasing costs of the proposed build, caused by the rising costs of materials and labour,

these three gentlemen, with (we assume!) the agreement of their families, mortgaged their houses to provide loans to the fund in order to allow the building work to commence. Hands up, anyone who would be willing to do that today. The debt to these three men was eventually discharged following the 1977 Show.

The Hall was officially opened on 29th November 1975 by Mrs Laddie Akroyd, accompanied by her sister, a great-niece of Thomas Hughes, after whom the



Hall is named. Following the official opening Mr Bill Mitchell, the chairman of the Thomas Hughes Trust, handed the building keys to Mr Alec Shand, the recently appointed chairman of the management committee, called the Community Association. Whilst much has changed since the original Show, there are many similarities.

By 1983, with the initial build of the Hall and the addition of the small hall completed, and the White Horse Show Trust was in a position to provide support to other organisations and activities. In his book, Brian Tilling details: resurfacing the Baulking Church walls - £805; Tom Brown School heating system - £425; Red Cross, local disabled and aged – £200; Uffington primary school, re-siting garage and sheds - £600; Uffington Church, towards heating system - £2,000; Craven



Sports Field, towards drainage - £3,000; Tennis Club, towards court - £1,000; and £7,000 for a new community minibus.

A comparison with recent awards made by the White Horse Show Trust demonstrates that the intentions of those who originally started the Show continues; many of the same organisations continue to receive support: Jubilee Field Play equipment - £7,000; THMH – flooring refurbishment - £3,025; John Little Award to the Primary School - £100; an award to the Saunders Trust of £250 for the provision of dictionaries to children graduating from the primary school; £5,000 for the St Mary's church clock; £450 for science equipment for the School; £1000 for the establishment of a table-tennis club.

One thing that has thankfully changed is the provision of toilets: in 'A Village Show' we learn that in the early days of the Show the conveniences were metal buckets in cubicles constructed by tarpaulin sheets in a wooden shed. Members of the organisation committee regularly emptied the buckets into a trench they had built for the purposed. By 1987 the facilities had been upgraded to cubicles constructed of straw bales. Unfortunately, someone using the facilities managed to set fire to them. Thank heavens for the provision of Portaloos (which don't require emptying by the Committee members).

The success of the Show is very much governed by the weather and the support of volunteers. The weather prior to 2024 Show was not kind, with a lot of rain on the days running up to the show. Fortunately, over the two days of the Show, the weather stayed dry. Visitor numbers were a little down on the Sunday but picked up on the Monday and the Trust is pleased to report that after all operating costs have been taken into account a profit of £13,764 was made. This is in addition to profits made by local groups that undertake their own fundraising activities at the Show. Organisations which would like to apply for support from the White Horse Show Trust should visit the Trust's page on the Uffington Parish Council website - [www.uffington.net](http://www.uffington.net) As the 2025 organisation committee works toward another successful show, details will be available on [www.whitehorseshow.co.uk](http://www.whitehorseshow.co.uk).

The Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall continues to act as a focal point for the local villages as the returning servicemen intended the original meeting hall to be, and as John Little and the many volunteers who formed the building committee and Show committee intended the current Hall to be. Details of the facilities available in the Hall and access to the on-line booking system can be found through the Hall website - [www.thmh.co.uk](http://www.thmh.co.uk).

The Uffington Museum has a library of photographs and documents of the building of the Hall and of the Show over the years.

What were our villages like, especially Uffington, in 1975, the year of first publication of this magazine? Happily there is still a fair number of inhabitants who can give us a first-hand account. One historic feature to mention straight away is that this area had been swallowed up by Oxfordshire only one year before, thanks to the 1974 Local Government Act. So quite a few readers must still feel Berkshire in their bones!

***Shops:*** there was Slatter's in Broad Street, on the site where Rose and Dave Holborow now have their new house; the (now Old) Post Office run by Mark Leahy's father until the late '70s; and a general store at Benji's Cottage, run by Philip Burgess.



*The old shop & P.O.*



**Housing:** Patrick's Orchard went up in 1968-9, then Craven Common was developed from 1972-78. So Uffington had started to feel considerably bigger.

**Schools:** the primary school at Kingston Lisle closed in the early 1970s, so pupils at Uffington School can remember numbers suddenly growing when the nearby village children were transferred.

**Hostelries:** by the mid-70s, there were 'only' three public houses; once there were five, if you include the one at Uffington Station (closed in 1964). The survivors were the Baker's Arms, the White Horse and – today, the one and only – Fox & Hounds.

**People:** Beryl Packer and Mervyn Richings were in the same year-group at Uffington School in the 1950s. Beryl's father was Mervyn's first employer; her uncle ran a funeral business. Beryl left the village as a young woman in the 1970s to pursue a career in social work but returned to become a pillar of church, musical and dramatic life here – notably in the Uffington Players, an organisation founded in the 1970s as you will read elsewhere.

Mervyn Richings has continued to live here all his life, marrying Angela (from far-off Childrey) in 1969. By 1975, he was established as a farrier, working for J.B. ('Ernie') Packer for 12 years before going independent. He looks back with special affection on his association with Henrietta Knight's stables at Lockinge and particularly his shoeing of the great steeplechaser Best Mate. Mervyn had a sideline in more decorative metalwork: see his lettering in the THMH and the fine chandelier in St Mary's church. Angela recalls baking a cake for the opening of the THMH – see elsewhere for the story of its foundation in the 1970s.

Robert (born Iles, now Roesch-Iles), although he now lives in Bavaria, remembers much about Uffington in bygone days; and his younger sister Jeanette still lives here. Robert can remember a succession of head teachers at the primary school: Mr George, Peter North and Edith Jeacock who had a long reign, having first been a rank-and-file teacher at the school. Robert has always played the organ and did so on occasions at St Mary's. By the 1970s, the redoubtable Betty Reid would have been the parish organist for half-a-century, and she was to continue until the mid-1980s.

Spot the segue, as that takes us nicely to.....

My knowledge of church life in these 'ere parts in the 1970s is a bit sketchy. I do know, from a trusty copy of Crockford's, that Revd Jim Tillyard was vicar of Uffington with Woolstone and Baulking during that decade, after a long career as an RAF chaplain. Rumour has it that Baulking and Woolstone were once paired in their own right, but that goes back in the mists of time. With the retirement of David Peck (rector of Shellingford, 1963-1983), Shellingford joined the Benefice in the 80s in the time of David Ashburner.

There is a lovely photo, just inside the side door of St Mary's, of the choir on an outing to Stratford-on-Avon in 1962 with Revd James Buchan (whose gravestone, just outside, records his death one year later). That photo, given to the Church by David Mitchell (Bill's son), features such faces as Fred Challis, Tiggy Packford and the redoubtable Betty Read who played the church organ at Uffington (Fenella tells me) for 50 years; there's a target for you Patrick! When she stopped, I guess in the '70s, the likes of Robert Iles junior got a look-in on the keyboard.

There is always a sense in which the stones and surrounds of any church building are imbued with the lives, strengths, and foibles of its local parishioners. A parish church, like its clergy and key officers, can feel almost 'hefted' to the land in which it lies, rather like a flock of Herdwick sheep. This makes the life of the English Church both glorious and quirky, open, and yet vulnerable at times too, as it is today, and as we all are.

In the 1970s, during all the changes of that decade, there will have been baptisms, weddings, funerals, Harvest Festivals, home groups, pantos and carol services, and, yes, a jolly PCC meeting or two! It will have taken all the love, persistence, and prayers of many a local to keep it going, as it does to this day.

These stones, both living people and the fabric of our churches, have been very well cared for over the years by clergy and villager alike, with skills and time generously given, and also by the White Horse Show and the Friends. This is all because people understand the community-building strengths of an open faith, incarnate in a community, both rural yet within commuting distance of London. John Betjeman knew this when he penned his Church poems.

Looking back to the '70s, and forward to uncertain times, I feel we need this open-hearted approach to faith and community as much as ever. You can help us by your financial support (we are hugely grateful to those who give through [www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk) ) but, most importantly, by your presence. Presence, yours and Christ's, is the greatest gift of all, in Season and out of Season.

We moved here in 1978 when building in Craven Common had just finished. The area was very stark and bare and devoid of trees, so Sheila Bowler at No. 2 and myself at No. 4 had a coffee morning for the residents to raise money to rectify the situation. We went to Tuckers Nursery in Faringdon and bought trees to plant on the Mound and elsewhere, including some for the Jubilee Field. We also arranged a rota for grass cutting on Craven Common, collecting money from everyone for mower petrol costs. The Parish Council did not take on responsibility for the grass cutting for several years.

As a point of interest Craven Common was built by two different builders. The first one, 'Days', went broke after the first seven houses. Items of Roman pottery were found in the ground where No. 12 was built. There was a great community in Craven Common when we all moved in with young families, almost all at the same time. Many of us have remained!

The village hall was very new and much smaller than it is now, with no small hall, no kitchen or stage extension. There was very little storage in the hall; the playgroup had to haul their toys by rope over the balcony to store upstairs. The stage was a 'let down' one on big springs which took up about a third of the auditorium space. The THMH car park was a rather 'puddley' sand and gravel area, full of potholes, and there was virtually no play equipment on the field.

The village shop was built in the grounds of Norton House on Broad Street, which at one time had been a butcher's shop. It was a wooden construction and had been a chapel in Swindon which was dismantled and brought to Uffington. It rotted and after a difficult time it was demolished and a new site was negotiated on waste ground near the hall – which has given the village a marvellous shop.

Where Freeman's Close is now, there used to be a coach/bus and lorry station. Waylands' houses are built on the site of Avenell's garage and workshop. The house on the corner of Chapel Lane and High Street was a pub (The Bakers' Arms) that ceased doing business in the late 1970's, and next to it there was the village bakery, which also closed at that time.

## **VAL TOVEY REMEMBERS**

**Fenella Oberman**

I spoke recently with a friend, Val Tovey (formerly Guy) who moved to Craven Common in 1975 with her husband and two-year old son, shortly before their daughter was born that summer. Not surprisingly she was much bound up with child care during the early years, but remembers that the occupants of the new estate became quite a close community but were not made particularly welcome in the village, despite the fact that most of them were young families who went on to make things happen locally – e.g. school PTA, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides, members of the Uffington Players etc, particularly once the new village hall had been built. Val remembers taking her baby to the baby clinic in the old tin village hall situated on the Jubilee Field at the junction of Broad Street and High Street. She remembers the two shops in Broad Street, the Post Office- and-shop run by Mark Leahy's father, (now a private house, The Old Post Office), and Norton Stores, a tin building which had been erected in the garden of Norton House in the 1960s when the shop moved from the house to its own premises. After Mr Leahy senior died, Mark took over the business and soon bought up Norton Stores and amalgamated the two into the only PO-stores in the village.

## **WAY BACK THEN – ‘COST OF LIVING’ NOTE**

**The Editor**

By chance, I was recently re-reading William Boyd's novel 'Any Human Heart'. Some readers will know it; it was also very well dramatized on TV about ten years ago.

Given my current editorial interest in the mid-1970s, it was startling to read the passage which follows.

[The narrator, Logan Mountstewart, is on his uppers in 1974, trying to re-kindle his career in the literary world. He visits his agent's office and starts doing a batch of photocopying.....]

*...Then my agent offered to help, gathering up the loose leaves of paper and checking the counter on the machine. 'Sixty-two copies,' she said '.....that'll be £1.64.' 'Most amusing, Sheila,' I replied..... 'I'd like the money, please, Logan – this is not a charity.'*

[Later, when he has calmed down a bit, he reflects]

*No country house here; no honour-heaped twilight years, no proper respect from a grateful nation, or recompense from a profession I've*

*served for decades. When some bloodsucker like Sheila dares to claim £1.64 off someone like me, then I look on it as a genuine watershed – not because of her temerity, but because I couldn't actually afford to pay her. £1.64 which, judiciously spent, can provide me with food for three days; this is the level to which I have descended.*

And the old boy is (just about) right, if he were to keep to the basics for life support in 1974 when a loaf of bread cost 28p, a pint of milk 17p, the average salary was £2,168 per annum. And so on.

## **A MATTER OF TIME - 50 years as an archaeologist in the Vale David Miles**

I first arrived on White Horse Hill in 1972. As a denizen of the Yorkshire Pennines, I was immediately attracted to these uplands. Here you feel close to the sky; free, able to soar over the Vale like those kites that only came later.

I thought the White Horse itself was wonderful though I did not know at the time that it was listed as a 'Wonder of Britain' in medieval chronicles. A place well known to archaeologists though not well understood.

Richard Ingrams, editor of *Private Eye*, thought it was best left that way: the Horse 'cocks a snook at the historian, the expert and other professional seekers after information... No one who walks along the Ridgeway need feel ignorant. He (sic) is just as knowledgeable as the professional archaeologist.'

When I first gazed across the sinuous white lines of the Horse, this was more or less true. Theories abounded but facts were in short supply.

The Vale itself was also 'terra incognita' archaeologically speaking. W.G.Hoskins *Making of the English Landscape* (1955) saw such landscapes as creations of the medieval period, superimposed with the fields of the enclosure movement. The conventional view of the Vale: soggy, forested, uninhabited. Ancient settlements and burials were confined to the drier chalk uplands.

Between 1975 and 1976 Dr Margaret Gelling produced the pioneering *Place-Names of Berkshire Parts 1,2 and 3*. This demonstrated that the Vale's place-names were a guide to its topography, and showed the existence, in the Anglo-Saxon charters, of long, thin parishes, designed to contain the resources needed by early medieval communities. The charter boundaries notably took advantage of prehistoric features still outstanding in the landscape, such as burial mounds and hillforts.

So the general belief was that the Vale was empty of settlement before the Anglo-Saxons. In 1974 Don Benson, the Oxfordshire County Archaeologist, and I produced *The Upper Thames Valley: an archaeological survey of the river gravels*. The gravel terraces were literally full of prehistoric and Roman settlements visible as a palimpsest of cropmarks. The free-draining gravels are ideal for the production of cropmarks: happy hunting grounds for aerial photographers. The more difficult Vale was skipped over on the way to the Downs.

In recent years the picture has changed. We now know of lots of late prehistoric and Romano-British sites in the Vale - thanks to more systematic aerial survey, the use of drones, fieldwalking, metal detecting and the monitoring of modern development. Key to the last was the introduction of Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 16 Archaeology and planning in 1990 (since replaced by PPS 5: Planning for the Historic Environment in 2010). It is fair to say that these regulations have transformed our knowledge of the British past by making archaeology part of the planning process.

Our knowledge has also been transformed by technical developments. Dating is fundamental to archaeology and fifty years ago we were beginning to penetrate the gloom of the past, thanks to radiocarbon dating. In the early years C14 (Carbon 14 - a radioactive isotope of carbon that is used in radiocarbon dating to determine the age of organic materials) was problematic, until statisticians learnt to calibrate the dates. Further improvements came with Oxford's particle accelerator. A tiny sample of organic material now sufficed, providing more accurate and potentially older dates. More recently Bayesian statistics have fine-tuned the dates even further. So we now know that the earliest phase of the megalithic tomb of Wayland's Smithy was constructed about 3600 BC. Improvements in bone analysis have also revealed an early atrocity – the people in the tomb were slaughtered with arrows. Early farmers were not living in a bucolic Eden.

A new technique (Optical Stimulated Luminescence) has also shed light on the origins of the White Horse, where it was used for the first time in British archaeology. The Horse was more ancient than previously thought dating to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age. In July last year we returned to the Horse, with colleagues from the Oxford Lab, to obtain new samples. In the past 20 years OSL has become more sophisticated. So, we hope for more precise dates, from the restoration work started in 2024.

Other techniques and ideas have further transformed our knowledge of the past. Geophysics combined with excavation and biological sampling have told us



a great deal about the hillforts that dominate the Downs. Alfred's Castle housed a small Iron Age farming community. In contrast Uffington Castle was a grand place for ceremonial gatherings. It appears that the name 'hillfort' covers a multitude of functions.

Finally in this brief roundup, I must mention genetics. The first successful sample of ancient human genetic material was taken from a burial in Abingdon. When I said to a journalist we were looking for 'DNA, he said 'What's DNA?' How times have changed.

Now we can trace our ancestors out of Africa. The first post-glacial humans in Britain had dark skin. The first British farmers crossed the Channel in small boats, bringing sheep, cattle, cereals and pottery. Some of the pots contained milk and the immigrants themselves gave most of us lactose tolerant genes.

*Pace* Richard Ingrams, I find the past is now a more fascinating place, thanks to the seekers after information.

The Horse – then



and now:



(Photos courtesy of  
Uffington Museum  
and Hedley Thorne)

**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](mailto:clerk@uffington.net)) so we can get your name on the list (which is necessary for insurance purposes).

**Hedges and Verges.** The Council has been pleased to see the number of residents who have kept their hedges bordering the pavement cut back and their ditches clear of silt and reeds etc. Given the very wet weather we have been experiencing, please ensure that ditches and culverts under drives are kept clear.

**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](mailto: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**:

- P24/V2221/HH - Tun House Woolstone Road Uffington Faringdon SN7 7RG. Proposed erection of single storey garden store.
- 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.

The following applications **are awaiting determination**:

- P24/V2331/DIS - Banny Hill Farm Baulking Faringdon Oxfordshire SN7 7QE. Discharge of conditions 3 (Parking spaces and turning area) and 4 (Waste storage and collection) on application P23/V1366/FUL (APP/V3120/W/23/3332863) (Change of use of land to form dog exercise field including associated works.)
- P24/V2194/FUL - Oldfield Farm Baulking Faringdon SN7 8NR. Retrospective works to upgrade existing farm track, from hardcore, to concrete sleepers with apron. (Amended location plan and additional supporting information received 9th December 2024)
- P24/V0912/LDP -18 Patricks Orchard Uffington, to construct an extension to the rear of the property.
- P23/V0771/DIS - Dragon Hill Uffington Faringdon SN7 7RE. Discharge of conditions 4(revised tree protection measures), 5(watercourse enhancement), 10(landscape scheme) & 12(Boundary details) on application P22/V2978/S73. (Variation of condition 2 (approved Plans) of application P22/V1141/FUL and removal of condition 7 (Proposed erection of 2no 4 bed detached (self-build) dwellings)).

The following applications have been **refused**: none.

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

The following applications have been **appealed**:

- P23/V0072/DA - Land known as Lakeview Baulking Lane Baulking Oxon SN7 8NR. Without planning permission the undertaking of building, engineering and other operations on the Land comprising: (i) the laying of an hardcore access and hardstanding area (in the approximate location shown hatched black on the Plan); (ii) the laying of concrete bases (in the approximate locations shown crosshatched black on the Plan); (iii) the installation of a septic tank (in the approximate location shown coloured green on the Plan); (iv) the erection of seven outbuildings comprising a

day room, sheds and animal enclosures (in the approximate locations shown coloured blue on the Plan) (VE22/126B)).

- P23/V0071/DA - Land known as Lakeview Baulking Lane Baulking Oxon SN7 8NR. Without planning permission the material change of use of the land from agriculture to a caravan site by the stationing of a mobile home (in the approximate location shown coloured purple on the Plan) and touring caravan for residential use by persons claiming Gypsy and traveller status. (VE22/126(A)).
- Under Appeals Reference APP/V3120/W/21/3273729:
  - P20/V2556/FUL – BAU - Maleficent Meadows Baulking Lane Baulking Faringdon SN7 8NR. Change of use of former mineral workings land to a combined pedigree dog and cat breeding facility including the stationing of a temporary dwelling and associated development including, installing a Klargest tank and hard-standing, for use by Traveller family. (Amended description 3.12.20).

The appeal hearing for P20/V2556/FUL was held from 26-28th Nov 2024. The outcome has not yet been notified but is due imminently.

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 in the Weekly New email bulletin as they are received. 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 included, please let [simon.jenkins@uffington.net](mailto: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 everyone 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 are now in the same situation this winter! We do, however, hope to carry out the dredging as usual as soon as conditions permit.

**Pond/Poplar Area.** We have continued our work to redevelop the area around the pond and where the poplar trees once stood. We are trying to keep the brambles, weeds and suckers from the stumps under control! At the Autumn Field Tidy we started to clear the grassy areas between the stumps ready to start planting some wildflower seeds next year but there is a lot more work to be done to suppress the brambles as we enlarge the area. With the help of the dozen or so volunteers who came to help, we also managed to add more wood chippings to the woodland paths to keep the weeds and mud at bay.

**Picnic Tables.** We have installed one replacement table so far (the one near the circle of oak trees) but are now awaiting the weather being suitable to allow the installation of the additional circular base near the new swings and spacenet so we can install the 2<sup>nd</sup> round table. Both tables will have seating for four or more people, space for a wheelchair and will be made from recycled plastic material, like that used for the seating in and around the play area which should have a much greater lifespan!



*New picnic table on Jubilee Field*

## **Speed Indicating Devices**



As readers will be aware, we have two 20mph speed indication devices in the village. One of these is permanently mounted on the approach from Fawler and the other, although moveable, has been left on the Baulking/Station Road as this is the road where the highest speeds have been recorded on vehicles entering the village. The Council has decided to purchase two permanently sited devices: one to be mounted on White Horse and the other to replace the one on Baulking Road to allow it to be moved between the other locations in the village (on Woolstone and Fernham roads).

## **Allotments**

**Nigel Puddicombe**

The Uffington allotments continue to be busy and the large majority of plots are now let. However, a small number of plots (or half plots) remain available, including one that is “ready to go”, for rent by residents of Uffington, Baulking and Woolstone. These plots each measure roughly 100 square yards and are plots that mainly have not been worked before but offer great potential as a reward for 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 either Barry Godsell ([bandhg@hotmail.com](mailto:bandhg@hotmail.com)) or Nigel Puddicombe ([nigel.puddicombe@uffington.net](mailto: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.

## **NHS / Engage Consult Digital Café**

**David Hatton (Clerk)**

Another successful session, arranged in conjunction with White Horse Medical Practice, to help people understand and navigate the NHS and Engage Consult Apps was held on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Given the popularity of this session and feedback from the defibrillator refresher session held on 31<sup>st</sup> October, the Council is considering running a refresher First Aid course if there is sufficient interest. If you would be interested in attending, please contact the clerk via email [clerk@uffington.net](mailto:clerk@uffington.net) or call 07888 203145.



## **VILLAGE SHOP and POST OFFICE**

Most residents of Uffington and many other local people will be aware that Dave and Rose Holborow are in the process of selling their business of Uffington Post Office and Stores in order to move on into a well-deserved retirement. Dave and Rose will be sorely missed and it is felt that we would all like to express their affection and gratitude for many years of hard work. Many would also like to offer them best wishes for a long and happy retirement and to donate towards a leaving present. Details of how to do this will be published shortly.

## **UFFINGTON COMMUNITY GARDEN**

**Heather Abel**

You would think that at this time of year there was nothing much to do at Uffington Community Garden. But as anyone following our online Advent Calendar on Facebook will have seen (and if you haven't already, please take a look) – there's always plenty to do, but not all of it is work!

A garden can keep you busy in every season but why not stop and just take a breather now and again; admiring our lovely patch of Earth in all its chilly glory. The thin, pale light of winter can seem even more precious as the days get shorter. The outline of bare branches and frosted foliage offers a display that's certainly worth coming outdoors for. Wrap up warm and spend time simply 'being' in the garden, watching out for a friendly robin or a cluster of sheltering ladybirds in the undergrowth. By all means potter about tidying sheds and picking sprouts but don't forget to simply linger too.

With this in mind, we are developing an area as a relaxing space within the garden with natural seating around a central lawn, surrounded by flowers and sensory planting as well as fruit and veg beds. Anyone will be able to just chill and soak-up the atmosphere and it will be a great space for get-togethers, both impromptu and arranged. One such occasion is, of course, our annual RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch – 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> Jan. All welcome; details to be announced nearer the time.

If you would like to volunteer at the garden, membership is free so just come along. It is situated behind the Fox & Hounds; parking in Patrick's Orchard - Saturdays 2-4pm. If you would like to support our work without getting your hands dirty, become a Friend of Uffington Community Garden, for just £20 a year. Get in touch for details. All welcome!

[heather.abel@hotmail.com](mailto:heather.abel@hotmail.com) 01368 820709 or

on Facebook – Uffington Community Garden

## **SERVING UP TABLE TENNIS IN 2025**

**Paul White**



Uffington Table Tennis Club is up and running for the New Year! You are welcome to come and join us as a member or guest every Tuesday evening at the Thomas Hughes Hall from 6pm to 9pm. Adults £4/session, U18s £2/session as guests.

The club aims to provide a friendly atmosphere and guaranteed fun for all levels and ages (10 and upwards). There's guidance for beginners too. This is a great fitness activity for all ages, during those dark winter evenings - two tables for pairs and singles play, all equipment provided. A great way of keeping fit, and making new local friends.

We are looking to book a seasoned tennis player in late January for a demonstration and coaching session to launch the club too!

With great thanks to the White Horse Show Trust for providing the funds to buy the equipment and tables for our village to enjoy, and the Parish Council for its helpful support. You can follow us on our Facebook page.

## **SWIRE ART PRIZE**

**Jane Imbush**

Your Parish will have associations with the Ridgeway National Trail so let me take this opportunity to invite your readers to enter an art competition celebrating the Ridgeway. As an ancient chalk route that extends for 83 miles from Ivinghoe Beacon in the east to Avebury in the west, the topography, views, changing landscapes and vistas make excellent subjects for artists.

There are four sections for the competition: photography, wall art (in any medium), sculpture, written work.

The competition and exhibition on the weekend of April 26 -27 will be held at the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall.

Contact Jane on 07739 644064 or Nathan Boyd on 07936 172815, the joint administrators – or email [swireartprize@gmail.com](mailto:swireartprize@gmail.com)

## WHITE HORSE GARDENING CLUB 2025 PROGRAMME

6 <sup>th</sup> February	Talk – Replant, Propagate, Plant & Prune <b>Star speaker Anne Swithinbank</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> March	Talk – A Buzz in the Garden - Bee Keeping
3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Talk – Primulas & Auricular
1 <sup>st</sup> May	Talk – Unusual Trees & Shrubs for the Modern Garden
17 <sup>th</sup> May	Plant Sale Trail - around Uffington village

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday monthly 7:30pm

Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall Uffington SN7 7SE

Join the gardening club for £20:00 annually – September to August – to attend all the talks for free. Qualify for a 10% discount on plants from Bampton Garden Centre

Contact Hilary [hilarydeakin@me.com](mailto:hilarydeakin@me.com) or 07802 426822



## **ANNUAL VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY**

On 29<sup>th</sup> November the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony organised by the Christmas Tree Committee and the PTA was held in the Village Hall. Despite the dark wet evening, there was a very good turnout. Due to the inclement weather, the first part of the evening was held indoors with several fund-raising stalls, food and drink all being available. After an initial carol singing session accompanied by the Wantage Silver Band, everyone moved outside where, mercifully, it had temporarily stopped raining, for a final few carols and the traditional tree lighting ceremony took place. Thanks are extended to the organisers for arranging an enjoyable community event for young and old alike.



*Bustling crowd enjoying the activities while the band plays carols*



*Final carols outside before the lights are switched on*

## **LIBRARY UNVEILED AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Rachel Cook**

Uffington C of E Primary School is thrilled to announce the completion of its new ELSA/PSHE (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant/Personal, Social, and Health Education) Library. This impressive resource has been made possible through generous donations by the Parish Council and the school's Parent-Teacher Association (PTA).

The newly established library is a fantastic addition to the school, providing our children with a wealth of books and materials focused on emotional literacy, mental health, and the school's core values of love, respect, and resilience. These resources will be utilised across the entire school, within individual classes, and with pupils who require additional support with their feelings, emotions, and overall well-being. The books are being used with the whole school, within classes and with individual pupils to support mental health and well-being, as well as to allow them to understand the pupils around them. They are a fantastic resource - thank you to the PTA and Parish Council for funding this project.

The ELSA/PSHE Library is part of the school's commitment to supporting the holistic development of its children. By providing access to these valuable

resources, the school aims to empower the children to better understand their emotions, build resilience, and foster a nurturing and inclusive environment. As the school community celebrates the completion of this project, we look forward to the positive impact the ELSA/PSHE Library will have on the pupils' emotional literacy, mental health, and overall personal development.

## **CHURCH CLOCK REVIVAL**

**Jeremy Moss**

One Sunday morning last year, a deafening crash rang out from St Mary's across the village and surrounding fields at dead of night. The main clock had jammed, smashing the rewinding mechanism and bringing the clock to a grinding halt ...and prolonged silence.

Three very different clock specialists were contacted. John Smith of Derby, Cumbria Clocks at Penrith and Timsbury Clocks, Wiltshire. All three are highly regarded, offered advice, help and a clear way forward. Two lessons quickly learnt were the importance of regular maintenance and that in future the rewinding needs to be automated.

It soon became apparent that at least £25,000 would need to be raised. A Just Giving website was opened and over £12,700 was raised from members of our village communities. Some remembered the bells in their childhood days at the school, others as they toiled in the fields and others who appreciated the presence of a 13th Century church, which survived a fire and the loss of its spire before being refurbished with its octagonal tower. It is a historic monument loved by visitors from far and wide.

A very big thank you to all those who supported the appeal and thereby ensured the church clock was repaired, fitted with an automatic rewinding mechanism and a new refurbished/ re-gilded face. The response from the village community was amazing and most encouraging.

We are grateful to the Swire Trust, the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, the Friends of St Mary's, the villages' White Horse Show and the tireless efforts of so many current members of the Church for working on fundraising activities in many different formats.

It is important that each year the clock is checked over and maintained (average cost £180) and we will be seeking grant support for this. Cumbria Clocks will do the work. Thank you to all our donors, activists and supporters who have made this restoration possible.



## Community Minibus

### Wednesday and Friday Service

- 9.30 am Uffington (Patricks Orchard)
- Uffington (High Steet)
- 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.

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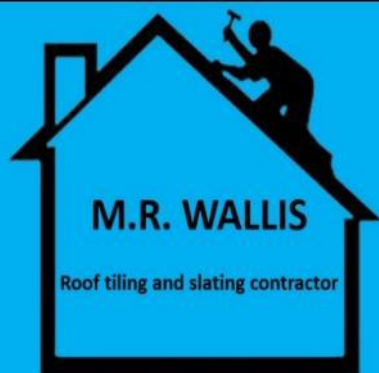
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A photograph of a small, long-haired dog with white and brown patches sitting on a dark brown suitcase. The dog is looking to the left. In the foreground, there is a yellow and black suitcase with a map on it. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

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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	<a href="mailto:Fiona-wright@outlook.com">Fiona-wright@outlook.com</a>
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	<a href="mailto:whitehorsewi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk">whitehorsewi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk</a>
Wednesday	12.30-1.30 pm	Pilates	Adult	Village Hall	<a href="mailto:Fiona-wright@outlook.com">Fiona-wright@outlook.com</a>
Wednesday	6pm	League Cricket 20 overs	14+	Sports Club Fawler Road	Joe Parman <a href="mailto:joeparman@outlook.com">joeparman@outlook.com</a>
Wednesday	6-- 7pm	Yogalates	Adult	Village Hall	Carolyn Courtney 07825414609
Wednesday	7-8.45pm	Guides	Girls aged 10-14	Village Hall	<a href="mailto:Uffingtonguides@gmail.com">Uffingtonguides@gmail.com</a>
Thursday	6:30-8 pm	Cubs	Children 8-10	Village Hall	Michelle Garwood <a href="mailto:mhcgarwood@gmail.com">mhcgarwood@gmail.com</a>
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 <a href="mailto:jessica_mildenhall@hotmail.com">jessica_mildenhall@hotmail.com</a>
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 <a href="mailto:joeparman@outlook.com">joeparman@outlook.com</a>
Saturdays	2-4pm	Community Garden	Adult + accompanied children	Community Garden behind pub	Heather Abel 01367 820709 <a href="mailto:heather.abel@hotmail.com">heather.abel@hotmail.com</a>

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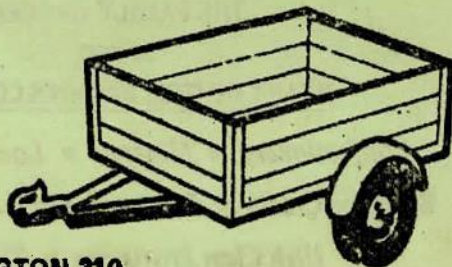
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