

The Courier



Uffington Parish Council

The Courier

Produced by J.F.N.Packford

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UFFINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Mike Oldnall

The Council

Uffington Parish Council has six councillors. They serve four-year terms, with elections next due in May 2023. The composition of the Parish Council is:

Mr Mike Oldnall (Chair)	01367 820369	mike.oldnall@uffington.net
Mr Simon Jenkins (Vice Chair)	01367 820776	simon.jenkins@uffington.net
Mr Graham Banks		graham.banks@uffington.net
Mrs Fenella Oberman		fenella.oberman@uffington.net
Mr Dale Pilchowski		dale.pilchowski@uffington.net
Mr Nigel Puddicombe		nigel.puddicombe@uffington.net

Clerk

Mrs Julia Evans	01235 833466	uffingtonpc.clerk@gmail.com
Mrs Julia Evans (Alternative)		parishcouncil@uffington.net

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

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The Council is pleased to say that face-to-face meetings continue in 2022. The Council meets on the second Monday of the month in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, at 6.30pm. All residents are welcome to attend these meetings and raise and discuss any issues during the "Open Forum" session early in the meeting (normally 7pm). The agenda is published on the Parish Council website and notice board at least three clear days before the meeting. We particularly encourage anyone intending to submit a planning application to come and discuss it with the Parish Council at an early stage. We may be able to help you to avoid unnecessary errors and suggest things you may wish to include to improve the likelihood of success of the application. If you have any doubts about this, please contact the Clerk or any member of the Council.

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

Advertising in the Courier. 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 as follows:

- ¼ page or less: £20.00
- ½ page: £40.00
- Full page: £75.00
- Advertisements on the website only: £10.00 (Links to external commercial sites are acceptable, at the discretion of the Council)

Anybody wishing to advertise should please contact either the Clerk or the Chairman of the Council – contact details are above. Copies of the Courier are distributed to a number of shops, pubs and other outlets outside of the UBW villages making it more attractive to advertisers.

Lists of local tradesmen and businesses which you may need and of scheduled local activities in the village are included on the inside back pages of the Courier. The majority of these are also listed on the village website. We should be pleased to learn of any errors, omissions, or any additional categories of advertisement you would like to see included in future editions. Please contact simon.jenkins@uffington.net (Tel: 01367 820776), or the [Parish Council Clerk](#).

Uffington allotments – Calling all keen gardeners!

Uffington Parish Council has 29 allotments, located next to the footpath leading from Waylands to the Fernham Road. Plots are of roughly 100 square yards each. There is currently a small number of vacant plots, which are available to residents of Uffington, Baulking and Woolstone. There are also a couple of the, newly introduced, vacant half plots. Annual rentals are £25 for a full plot and £12.50 for half plots. The allotment year started on October 1st, so now is the right time to

start planting for this year!

If you already enjoy gardening but want more space, or if you want to take on the challenges and exercise involved in growing your own produce, please contact either Barry Godsell (barry.godsell@btinternet.com) or Nigel Puddicombe (nigel.puddicombe@uffington.net), who will be happy to show you round on behalf of the Uffington Allotments Association, give you more details and help you choose the best option. If you just want to proceed, please contact the Parish Council.

Village Maintenance

- **Hedges and verges.** The general condition of hedges and verges around the village is currently good and householders are thanked for keeping these under control. Householders are reminded that they are responsible for ensuring their hedges and verges do not overhang pavements, footpaths or roads beyond the boundary of their property. In order to facilitate their use by pedestrians, we would be grateful if all residents would continue play their part in this to avoid the need for formal enforcement action.
- **Ditches.** The ditches are running very well at present and thanks go to riparian owners for keeping them clear. We hope this will continue through the year to minimise the risk of flooding.
- **Maintenance.** The Parish Council would like to thank the small group of residents who continue assist with maintenance work around the village, in areas which are the responsibility of the Parish Council.
- **Pond Dredging.** I expect most readers will have noticed that the pond has had a 'partial dredging' recently. This is done to keep the reeds and mud at bay and allow the pond to remain as a pond! Each dredging only clears about half the pond to allow time for wildlife to re-establish itself in time for the breeding season. Whilst the dredged contents look a mess initially, they soon rot down and fertilise the surrounding banks. If you would like a limited amount of this rich soil, please help yourself.

If you need assistance with hedges, verges or ditches, or would like to join the maintenance group, please get in touch with the Parish Council.



Jubilee Field Tidy

The first biannual Jubilee Field Tidy took place on 26 March – many thanks to the few volunteers that attended to help keep the place tidy. A great deal of dead wood was burnt, the new hedge line on Upper Common weeded and a lot of ivy removed from tree trunks.



Biannual Roadside Litter Pick

The spring roadside litter pick will take place on 9/10 April – please get the date in your diary! This will cover the verges of the roads surrounding the village. ‘Picking’ equipment (Hi-vis vests, bags and ‘grippers’) will be available from the Village Hall over the weekend. Detailed timings and routes will be published on the weekly email nearer the time.

Planning applications in Uffington (with Vale reference number) – since the last edition of the Courier

The following applications are **awaiting determination**:

- P22/V0486/FUL - Moor Mill Barn Moor Mill Farm Uffington. The application is for: Full planning application for change of use of an agricultural barn to a dwelling, together with associated external alterations, Formation of a garden, provision of parking, installation of ground source heat pump and mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR) unit, roof-mounted solar panels and boundary treatment. Note: this will supersede P21/V3366/N4B (see below) if approved.
- P22/V0641/HH, for development work at the following location: Symes Cottage Broad Street Uffington Faringdon. Proposed single storey rear extension.
- P22/V0090/LB – The Baker’s Arms, High Street. To mount an additional wall mounted aluminium street name plate beneath and existing street name place containing additional information to side elevation of an existing building. (this is to indicate the way to Hill View)
- P21/V3056/HH, for development work at the following location: 9 Jacksmeadow Uffington Faringdon - Extension to existing fence.

The following applications have been **granted**

- P22/V0163/DIS – Dragon Hill, Woolstone Road. Discharge of condition 4 - surface water drainage.
- P21/V3477/FUL – Border Meadows, Woolstone Road. Variation of condition 2 on application P19/V2064/FUL - raise the ridge line for the centre section of the build.
- P21/V3366/N4B, for development work at the following location: Moor Mill Barn Moor Mill Farm Uffington - Proposed change of use of agricultural buildings to dwelling house.
- P21/V2645/HH, for development work at the following location: The Clock House High Street Uffington Faringdon - Extension to existing outbuilding.

- P22/V0010/HH – Broadway Farm. Revision to application P21/V0360/HH in order to create a detached annex. The proposal seeks planning permission to revise the previously agreed application to create an attached annex, to now make the annex detached from the rear of the garage, in effect moving the building by 1.5m and establish a walkway in between the two buildings. The purpose will remain the same as will the materials being used.

The following applications have been **declined** - none

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

The following applications have been **Appealed**

- P21/V0009/HH. An appeal has been made against the refusal by the District Council for development work at Gate Cottage, Road Alongside Lower Common, Uffington. **Appeal Allowed**

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.

Village Communications

- Village Web site. The village website can be found at <http://www.uffington.net/> The site is owned by the Parish Council, which pays the hosting and support charges on behalf of the village. Requests for additions and changes should be made to the [Parish Council Clerk](#), Julia Evans or through the website. The website also hosts electronic copies of the Courier which allow readers to follow the links.
- Email News. There is an email network of topical news and information which is sent weekly to those who have signed up for it. If you wish to join please notify Simon Jenkins on 820776 or email [Simon Jenkins](#) For data protection reasons, email addresses are held securely and not disclosed to anybody else, or used for anything apart from Parish Council notifications and other information thought to be of general interest to residents, in accordance with our Privacy Notice.
- Village notice boards. These are at Uffington Post Office and Stores.

- [Facebook page for Uffington Parish Council](#). The Parish Council now has its own Facebook page. This is gradually being improved and will complement the information available listed above. In particular, short-notice information will be added whenever possible. Any ideas for other information you would like to see on the page would be welcome.

Whitehorse Hill

On 21 February 2022, Mr David Miles, formerly Director of Oxford Archaeology, Chief Archaeologist of English Heritage, author of the book 'The Land of the White Horse' and who knows a huge amount about our local area, gave an illustrated talk entitled "Caring for The White Horse - 3,000 years of a British icon" which was attended and enjoyed by over 50 people.

Following a presentation at the Council meeting on 14 March 2022 by Evelyn Godfrey of Uffington Heritage Watch, the Parish Council agreed in principle to support the application to inscribe the Landscape of the White Horse as a World Heritage site pending further clarification of the process.

Traffic Calming in Uffington

In the Winter 2021 edition of The Courier we asked for any thoughts on potential traffic calming measures. We would like to thank the very few who replied.

- **Speedwatch.** We now have 4 people interested in helping with the Speedwatch but we need a few more to really make it viable and keep individual commitments to a minimum. Further details are in the previous Courier or can be obtained from [Simon Jenkins](#). Anyone else interested is requested to let the [Parish Council Clerk](#) know.
- **20mph for Uffington.** Only a few people responded to this and those who expressed their views were strongly polarised. Views were split about 50/50 for and against but informal conversations lead us to believe more are against the scheme than for it. As a result, we have decided not to pursue it any further but will revisit the idea when we have more definite information on costs and funding from OCC. In the interim if you have any points, or other ideas for traffic calming, please just let us know.

Fix My Street

[FixMyStreet](#) is an independent website, built by the charity mySociety that makes it easier to report problems in our community, even if you don't know who those reports should go to. **FixMyStreet is primarily for reporting things which are**

broken or dirty or damaged or dumped, and need fixing, cleaning or clearing, like graffiti, dog fouling, potholes or streetlights that don't work. Reported problems are added to a map that can be viewed by anyone via a website or phone app so that others in the community can read, discuss, and offer advice where needed. FixMyStreet covers the whole of the UK. No matter where you are, the only thing you ever have to remember is the web address – FixMyStreet.com.

Reporting using FixMyStreet is very simple. You can sign up for an account and receive messages about your reported problems or you can just report problems anonymously and, ideally, accompanied by a photo of the damage. Please **DO NOT** report non-physical things: For issues such as noise pollution, barking dogs, fires, missing wheelie bins or missed rubbish collections, proposals for speed bumps or pedestrian crossings, or complaining about the council itself, please contact the Vale of the White Horse District Council directly.

We encourage everyone to use FixMyStreet rather than just complaining on social media – which does not get to those responsible. If you have reported something on FixMyStreet and still not received a resolution, please let the [Parish Council Clerk](#) know so we can follow it up.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee – 2-5 Jun 2022

In 2022, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee after seventy years of service. An extended bank holiday, from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June, will provide an opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom to come together to celebrate the historic milestone. The four days of celebrations will include public events and community activities, as well as national moments of reflection on The Queen's 70 years of service.

- 2nd June. The National Trust will be lighting a bonfire/beacon in the evening on Whitehorse Hill as part of a national chain.
- 5th June. The Parish Council will be sponsoring a 'Village Picnic' as part of the national 'Big Lunch' initiative, to be run along similar lines to the successful Open Day on the 2021 August Bank Holiday. We need the support of the community groups and individuals to make this a success and we are still open to ideas so if you have any, please pass them to any member of the Parish Council or come to a meeting. A tug-of-war and games for the children have already been suggested as activities.
- The Parish Council has agreed to purchase a memorial tree and plaque to be planted on the Jubilee Field during the holiday period.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Heather Abel 01367 820709

Did you know that in Uffington there is the most wonderful [Community Garden](#)? Everyone is welcome to come along and someone is there to meet you virtually every Saturday from 2 until 4pm. It is situated behind the Fox & Hounds pub (High St.) there is also an entrance via the small car park in Patrick's Orchard – through the wide gate.

The garden was started in 2012 by a group of enthusiasts who wanted to make it possible for anyone to come along and help grow healthy and delicious fruit and veg for us all to share. And you will go home with produce as it is available! For free! Since then, we have broadened our vision to value looking after the environment as much as possible. For that reason, you might be sowing wild meadow seeds or building a nest-box too for example. But there is a third leg to our vision too and that is to do with community! We want anyone to come and just share their time with us, regardless of ability etc. Feeling that this is YOUR space to be is just as important as what we grow here and how beautiful a place we try to make it.

Healthy Produce, Healthy Environment and Healthy, Happy People! That's what we're about!

We don't use any nasty chemicals for any reason, onsite. You don't need to already know all about growing – as we will show you how. We always have a range of jobs to do from very light and simple e.g. popping seeds into a seed packet or sowing seeds into little trays - to hard graft such as shifting compost or digging out potatoes! Whichever you fancy and that can change every time you come! We want it to be as accessible to all as possible and that means it's rather different from most groups you'll come across as:

- We don't charge a membership fee
- We don't expect full commitment (come when you can – you're always welcome) Once we've met you, you can come on other days, not just Saturdays. You'll get addicted!!!
- You can bring your children along if you want to (but they are your responsibility onsite – obviously!) or escape them for an hour or two!
- We have all our own tools for anyone to use.

Please wear old clothes and wellies, boots, crocs or similar if you have them. If you have any spare wellies in good condition in average sizes you can donate it would be good to have a small supply for people to borrow when they turn up.



We have a small regular band of volunteers of all ages who decide what's happening onsite and I'm generally the overseer of what is grown – both organically (without chemicals) and biodynamically (according to the moon etc.). But please bring your ideas along with you as new suggestions are always welcome.

We already have visits from the Beavers, Cubs and Guides and so if your group isn't yet involved and wants to be – give us a call or just turn up to discuss. Individuals, couples or families are all welcome. Please don't hesitate – we need your input – whether large or small. It's your garden so please come along.

turn up to discuss. Individuals, couples or families are all welcome. Please
Leeks – all shapes and sizes! Young and not-so-young relocating native tree seeds

On Feb. 21st this year, we won a prestigious award from the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire in recognition of our valuable work as Climate Action Heroes!

We were awarded £500 to help towards facilitating our work here in the community. The award ceremony is shown below with Heather and Kat in the front row (to the right of lady in uniform).



Come and see what we're up to or look us up on our [website](#) or on [Facebook](#). We'd love to meet you, especially if you're new to the village. Out in the fresh air, pottering about is a great way to de-stress. Come and say hello! We use fundraising to cover our costs – so please help in whatever way you can. Donations are always welcome too. Thank you.

Cricket

Players Wanted! Uffington Cricket Club will always welcome new players of any age or level of ability. We play league matches throughout the summer on Saturdays (40 overs per side) and Wednesday evenings (20 overs per side), with occasional Sunday friendly games as well. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Joe Parman - joeparman@outlook.com.

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UFFINGTON BAULKING and WOOLSTONE WI

For want of a nail

Our institute was formed In 1928 and has run continuously through good times and bad during the last 94 years. However, on Tuesday Uffington Baulking and Woolstone Women's Institute was suspended for want of a committee.

The WI provides a chance to meet new people and make new friends. Over the years U.B.W. WI has enjoyed, pilates, quizzes, craft demonstrations, talks, walks, outings and theatre visits.

At county and national level there are even more opportunities to learn new skills. The WI also has a proud history of campaigning, from equal pay for equal work, cervical screening, plastic pollution, all topics chosen by the members and effecting women.

Is there anybody out there who thinks that belonging to such an interesting and outgoing organisation might bring more sparkle to their lives and would be willing to help get the group up and running again? if so please contact :-

Catherine.blaxhall@btinternet.com

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SCHOOL NOTICEBOARD



We are having a super spring time at school! Our new Trim Trail (see picture above) grand opening is on Friday 25th March. The children have also been working on developing our eco garden (see pictures below) by planting, making wind chimes from old CD's and painting decorative pebbles.

We are all looking forward to our Easter service in church on 8th April and are busy rehearsing hymns and songs now in preparation. We wish you all a very happy Easter!





I'm delighted to report that we can at last re-open the museum at our usual start of the season – Easter weekend commencing Saturday 16th April from 2pm to 5pm. Entry continues to be free and this year's exhibition 'Village Celebrations' coincides with the Platinum Jubilee, with displays of photographs and artefacts from over 100 years of events.

The permanent collection consists of material on the life and works of Thomas Hughes, the author of Tom Brown's Schooldays who was born and spent his early life in the village. The museum also contains information on Sir John Betjeman who lived in the village from 1934 to 1945 and is privileged to hold copies of correspondence by him which has been loaned by his family.

The museum also holds information on the Uffington White Horse, Waylands Smithy and other sites of historical interest in the area as well as a small number of items of local interest. Our 2000 year old human skull, relevant to White Horse Hill and on long term loan from Oxfordshire Museums, is a popular item with the children!

A small area of the ground floor has been recreated to show a Victorian schoolroom with school desks and chairs and clothing of the period. The artefacts form part of the handling collection and visitors, especially young children, are encouraged to explore and use the items.

During the winter period we have been busy cataloguing photographs, newspaper articles and artefacts and we have finally cleared the backlog of items that have been donated to the museum. Many are now on display and compliment the thousands of items that we already hold for research purposes. We have provided information to people tracing their family tree and whose ancestors lived in Uffington and the local area.

We hope to see many visitors this year following our COVID closures and also hope this will include residents of our local villages. This is a wonderful village asset, run entirely by volunteers and is a great way to spend an hour at the weekend – learning about the history of the village, The White Horse and the story of education in Uffington back to 1617.

Please visit our website www.uffingtonmuseum.co.uk for more information or follow us on Facebook. We will continue to have local merchandise for sale and donations are always welcome to keep the museum up and running. You can also visit us at the Uffington Farmers Market from March onwards and the wonderful White Horse in steel art is still available to purchase – they make excellent gifts.

We continue to welcome new members and volunteers and for £10 a year or a life membership of £100, a family can join the Friends of Tom Brown's School Museum.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to your visit.

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UBW MINIBUS ASSOCIATION

We are delighted that our regular services to Wantage have resumed with appropriate Covid precautions. We have not restarted runs to Faringdon because we believe there is very little demand for them.

The resumption was made possible by the marvellous response to our plea for new volunteers to drive, and the very welcome return of some familiar faces. We know our returning passengers will wish us to thank them all very much.

The services start from Uffington at 9.30 on Wednesday and Friday, returning before lunchtime, and several calls are made on the way at points convenient for our passengers. Bus passes may be used, or alternatively there is a modest cash fare to cover our costs. Villagers not already familiar with our services are welcome to call 01367 820417 for further details.

The bus is also available again for villagers and local groups to use for their own social, educational and recreational purposes, customarily on a self drive basis. Please call the above number for details.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity sincerely to thank those volunteers who have given their time to the association for a number of years but for various good reasons have reluctantly taken the decision to finish driving the bus. They contributed much to keeping us on the road when drivers were sometimes hard to find.

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Snow drops, Crocuses, Daffodils, aconites and Hellebores abound as we welcome Spring back into our gardens and look forward to another gardening year.

APRIL 7th. TALK: HELLEBORES

Mike Byford from Hazles Cross Farm Nursery www.hazlescrosfarmnursery.co.uk

The nursery is home to the National Collection of Hellebores. Propagate and sell all hellebore species.

MAY 5th. Two VISITS:

Morning – 10.30am. Blackland House, Calne, Wiltshire SN11 8UQ.

£15 per head to include tour and refreshments. (25 max)

www.bayntunflowers.co.uk

A flower lover's garden at the foot of the Marlborough Downs, where owner Polly Nicholson runs her organic flower business Bayntun Flowers.

Lunch: Picnic/pub/cafe

Afternoon - Iford Manor, Bradford on Avon BA15 2BA

www.ifordmanor.co.uk. £12.50 per head includes tour

15.30 – Arrival and Walled Garden Tour with either the owner or head gardener

16.00 – Refreshments available in café (not included)

MAY 14th. PLANT SALE TRAIL

JUNE 2nd VISIT: WOOLSTONE GARDENS

6pm Start with refreshments served. £3 visitors

JUNE 16TH TWO VISITS:

Morning: 10.30am £10 Tour.

ROCKCLIFFE GARDENS, Upper Slaughter, Nr Cheltenham GL54 2JW.

NB: No refreshments available, bring your own or stop on the way.

LUNCH: Picnic/pub/cafe.

Afternoon: 2.30pm *£23.00 Tour and Afternoon Tea

UPTON WOLD GARDEN, Northwick Estate, Moreton In the Marsh, GL56 9TR

National collection of Juglans and Pterocarya, 14 acres of unusual and interesting plants, shrubs and trees. *Expensive but well worth it!

JULY 7th TWO VISITS:

Morning - **Andy McIndoe's Garden** at Sandhill Farm SO51 6JY

10am for 10.30am start. £10 Tour & Refreshments. (Min 25, max 50)

Lunch: Picnic/pub/cafe

Afternoon – **Harold Hillier Gardens**, Ampfield SO51 OQA (Max 25)

2pm. £12.50 to include tour.

AUGUST – free

SEPTEMBER 1st. TALK: 'Scent in the Garden'

Stephen Lacey is a garden writer, lecturer, broadcaster and plantsman, with a particular interest in planting design. He is a long-standing columnist and feature writer for The Daily Telegraph and contributes to many other publications including House and Garden, the RHS Journal and Horticulture Magazine.

www.stephenlacey.com £5 visitors.

OCTOBER 6th. TALK: Botanical Tales from the East – Japanese Gardens

Nicholas Wray, Curator of Bristol Botanic Gardens

This lecture looks at the history and evolution of Japanese gardening styles and highlights some of the key features and links between gardens and Japanese culture.

The focus is on gardens in Tokyo, Nara and the cultural capital city of Kyoto.

OCTOBER 13TH. VISIT: Harcourt Arboretum Tour with Ben Jones TBC

NOVEMBER 3rd. TALK: ROSES

Stewart Pocock of Pococks Roses, Romsey, SO51 0QA

Established in 1984, every year produce in excess of 60,000 rose plants in a range of over 450 varieties. Plants for Sale

DECEMBER 1st TALK: by Woodchester Valley Vineyard from Stroud. www.woodchestervalleyvineyard.co.uk

Seasonal refreshments and wines to sample/purchase

A reminder that membership fees have been increased to £15 per annum.

Visitors fees are £3.00 for talks and visits. (except 1/09/22 - £5)

The WHGC programme (accounting year) will change to the academic calendar (Sept - Sept) as of 2023.

Therefore to enable a smooth transition the fee payable as of **1st January is £20 per member** which will be membership for one and a half years.

i.e. Next AGM and fees payable will be September 2023.

NB: WHGC Membership cards provide 10% off plants at Bampton Garden Centre.

All enquiries please contact Pamela Preene: parrottspreene@aol.com

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UFFINGTON STORES—25 Years

On the 30th April we celebrate 25 years of trading in Uffington. We wish to thank our customers for their support despite the numerous problems, especially Covid, in recent years.

Please help us to maintain our service to you by continuing to support us during these tough economic times.

Dave & Rose Holbrow

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ELM TREE SURGERY SHRIVENHAM PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION SERVICE

Will patients ordering repeat prescriptions from the Surgery please note that they should now do so before 3pm on Friday, earlier orders would of course be welcomed. Prescriptions will then be available in the Post Office on the following Thursday. The repeat prescription telephone line at Elm Tree Surgery is open between 1.30-3pm each

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We Clean Ovens

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ST MARY'S CHURCH

Rev Jeremy Goulston



Dear All,

There is something ironic about Putin putting the 'fascist' label onto the Ukrainians. It was our previous Archbishop and theologian Rowan Williams who was always quick to point out, usually with reference to people of differing Church views, that in any divergence of opinion it is always easier to see in others the traits which we are in danger of displaying ourselves. He called it 'mirroring' and we all do it at times.

The Russian Orthodox Church is dangerously aligned with the Russian state at this moment in its history. Since the enthronement of Patriarch Kirill in 2009, the leading figures of the Moscow Patriarchate, as well as spokespersons of the Russian State, have continually drawn on principles of *Ruski Mir* or the *Russian World* to thwart the theological basis of Orthodox unity.

This teaching states that there is a transnational Russian sphere or civilization, called Holy Russia or Holy Rus', which includes Russia, Ukraine and Belarus (and sometimes Moldova and Kazakhstan), as well as ethnic Russians and Russian-speaking people throughout the world. Against this "Russian world" (so the teaching goes) stands the corrupt West, led by the United States and Western European nations, which has capitulated to "liberalism" and to "globalisation".

But Kiev itself was never cut off in this way. Rather it became a prosperous medieval kingdom, being originally founded by Vikings and Slavs, and capitalising on the trade that flowed along the Dnieper river, with close links to Byzantium, from where Christianity came formally to Kyiv during the reign of Prince Vladimir. He married a princess from there, and was baptised, along with many of his people, in the Dnieper by Kyiv in 988. So any claim for one strain of Orthodoxy being somehow 'holier' than any other are always blown away by a look at the multifarious history of any place. As Adam Gopnik noted recently, Russia has always been influenced, often for good, by the West – witness the French connections made manifest in 'War and Peace' and other great novels throughout its literature.

Bob Marley famously sang; 'If you know your history, you will know where you're comin' from' and, I dare say, you will be continually delighted and surprised by it.

The real heroes of this dark hour are not only the Ukrainian people but also the 300 Russian Orthodox priests who have signed a statement condemning the war and urging peace. "Silence in the face of great evil is morally indefensible," says Archpriest Stephen Platt of St Nicholas the Wonderworker, a Russian Orthodox Church in Oxford (ask Andrew Williams about this). "The priests in Russia have the courage, the humility, to stand up and speak the truth, they have my real admiration and honour," says Platt. May they have ours, too, this Lent

and Eastertide, and do come and celebrate with us if you are around.

Easter Blessings to you and all your families,

Jeremy Goulston.

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THE WHITE HORSE SHOW

CALLUM SKEAT

I am very pleased to report that after an enforced absence of 2 years, the White Horse Show will be returning on Sunday 28th and Monday 29th – August Bank Holiday weekend.

The first White Horse Show was held in 1972 and had been held every year until covid19 forced a cancellation in 2020 - the first time the Show had not been held for over 40 years. It was cancelled again in 2021 as covid19 continued to cause illness and we were forced to avoid spreading the virus by meeting in groups. After raising well over half a million pounds to provide funds towards building the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall and grants to organisations in our three villages, the closure for two years was a bitter blow.

Finally, this year we are able to consider holding the Show once again and allow thousands of supporters to come to a traditional country show that will have our regular activities – classic vehicles, stationary engines, animals, clay shoot and a wide range of exhibits, stalls and traders plus our regular arena events for those who like to sit and watch.

The Show is still being planned and we cannot give a detailed list of every activity and exhibit at this stage but can confirm it will be a return to what we have come to expect and enjoy.

The Show Committee will be looking for help and support from the three villages to ensure it is a success after the bleak two years we have had to endure. We will be looking for volunteers to give their time to support the many activities that ensure tickets are sold, cars are parked, litter is picked.....

Please put the dates in your diary and help us make the return of the White Horse Show a success. There are many community groups that know how valuable the money can be from the Show Grants Committee, which is the fundamental reason for making sure the Show rises from the ashes of covid and continues to generate income for our community.

* * * * *

We have an exciting schedule of activities and matches this year, as the nights get lighter and the days get warmer. Our courts are in excellent condition so let's hope we can put covid behind us and look forward to an uninterrupted season!

You can find all information on club activities on our website hosted by the LTA's Clubspark platform. <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/UffingtonLawnTennisClub>.

The LTA has made some changes to the way players log in to the LTA ClubSpark platform.

In future, you will only need to remember one login to access all LTA digital systems.

The process is simple - please follow this helpful link...

<https://preview.mailerlite.com/g116e3s2y2/1891952199605425223/o5x1/>

Running through our planned activities, we have:

Summer Ladies League - Tuesday nights. The ladies team has made great progress in recent seasons and is now in Division 2. I would encourage all who are interested in playing in matches to contact Anne Hollingworth - anne@woolstonelodge.co.uk

Friendly Summer Mixed Matches: We welcome newcomers to these popular fixtures. If you would like to join our friendly mixed matches please contact Jo Parman - parmanjoanna@gmail.com

Club Nights: New date now on Thursdays beginning on 14th April 6pm onwards with

Wimbledon ballot, sale of used tennis balls £1 and drinks.

Subscription Renewals: A reminder that these are due for renewal from 1st April.

Adult £50, Family £105 (two adults and children under 18) Student £20 age 11-18 or in full time education, Junior under age 11 £10

Open Day: Will take place on Saturday 23rd April 10.30-12.30 – it'll be a warm welcome to the club, and the coaching team will be offering some fun games ... families, individuals, beginners to accomplished players, all welcome!

Summer Term's Coaching: Will start on Wednesday afternoons from 27th April going on to the 13th July. The groups will start at 4.30pm for primary school ages, 5.30pm for teenagers and all secondary school ages, plus a fab adult group from 6.30pm

AGM: Wednesday 4th May 6.30pm at Woolstone Lodge.

Tournament/BBQ: Sunday 11th September 12noon.

Enjoy your tennis, and a big welcome to our new members.

* * * * *



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Things are looking up – Those who read the Winter Courier will know the future for the Memorial Hall was decidedly uncertain last year when the number of members of the management committee became dangerously low. I am pleased to say that our plea for help did not fall on deaf ears and we have had several offers of help. Our next meeting is on 25th April, when we expect to confirm a management committee with eight members. This is good news but we must not become complacent and if you think you can help with the running and maintenance of the hall, please let us know.

We thank Douglas Dalrymple and Geoff Keene for “helping to keep the ship afloat” by staying with the committee long after their expressed wishes to retire.

A glance at the booking calendar on our website www.thmh.co.uk will show you that the building is now in regular use by local organisations and for many private hires, which reflects the easing and release from restrictions placed on everyone by covid. It was a big disappointment when this came too late for the pantomime, which had to be cancelled but a second glance at the booking calendar will show the Players are back in the Autumn and a production is planned for October.

The audio-visual equipment in the large hall is increasingly being used by hirers as they realise its value. We are learning some of the “quirks” that accompany this type of equipment and ask, if you want to use it, that we arrange a trial in advance of your booking. Laptops need to be able to “talk” to the system, using a microphone is not as simple as you might think and DVDs can have hidden formatting to trip you up! The good news is the AV system works well and we can usually overcome “quirks” with a run-through in advance of the booking date.

With more volunteers helping to run the Memorial Hall, we will be looking at ways to maintain and improve the building and the facilities, for which we will need money. The hire charges for the building have remained unchanged since 2018 and it is hoped to keep them the same for a while yet and rely on fund raising to pay for projects. With the hoped-for return of the White Horse Show, there will be the opportunity to obtain a donation from the Show by taking on the management of car parking. This requires a significant number of volunteers to organise and operate the car parking over two days. Please let a member of the management committee know if you can be available to help with this.

Good news – The Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall has a new facebook page, which can be accessed with the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=thomas%20hughes%20memorial%20hall%2C%20uffington>

* * * * *

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UFFINGTON PLAYERS

Christine Holley

The Players had to make the decision to postpone the pantomime in February.

We are now planning to move the production to the October half term.

Further information about dates and ticket will be sent out nearer the time.

If you think you would like to be involved in this or future productions or would like further information, please contact Christine Holley 01367 820474 or email christineholley28@hotmail.co.uk

* * * * *

richard james

Village & Country Homes

Since the beginning of the new year, we've been incredibly busy across all of our Village & Country offices and have hit the ground running with clients who are looking to move this Spring. It's always been a popular time to move for many reasons, such as the association with fresh starts and the increasing number of property listings hitting the market.

With that in mind, we wondered if you had considered our 'Home Swapping Service' to help get you moving? Like yourself, many people are reluctant to put their property on the market until they have found a suitable property to buy, which causes a shortage of available properties and frustration.

On this new scheme, we have been able to put together a chain of clients who have managed to indirectly swap homes. To the right is a video of our Village & Country Homes Director, Ross Sutton, demonstrating how this scheme could work for you.

If you're considering a move in 2022, contact us today on **01367 300 370**.



Ross Sutton
Director



Jessica Bradley-McHugh
Director



Grace Harmer-Woodage
Team Co-ordinator



Joanna Hill-Brown
Lettings Manager

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139 High Street | SN4 7AY

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* * * * *

Local businesses (Telephone numbers are all 01367
unless shown otherwise or mobile numbers)

Bookkeeping: Karen Swash 821128.
Building and Garden maintenance: Ricky Thorpe 07877 589438.
Catering: 'Famished Flamingo Event Catering' Chris Higgs: 07884 167800 chris_higgs@live.com
Car & light commercial vehicle servicing and repairs: Deaconz Auto Services: 820285, www.trackdaytoyz.co.uk Alex Jonas, 07980 818369. alxjonas@aol.com
Carpentry & Property Maintenance: Wiltshire Woodworking Jamie Wiltshire 01793 271899 or 07771 953803.
Glazing: Paul Pounds Traditional Glazing 07879 016386. info@paulpoundsglazing.co.uk https://www.paulpoundsglazing.co.uk/
Pest Control: Vale Game. 820333
Pottery: Uffington Potters, Louise Remington 820762 or 07796 210264.
Public Address systems: M&S Sound Systems. Bill Mattingly 820605. https://www.yell.com/biz/m-and-s-sound-systems-public-address-faringdon-88205/
Public Houses (including B & B): Fox & Hounds, Uffington: 820680 The White Horse, Woolstone: 820726
Purpose-made Joinery: Carter & McArthur. 820487.
Residential Estate Agents: Ed and Jenny Preece, Waymark. 820070 or 07880 728188. www.waymarkproperty.co.uk
Roofing: MR Wallis 07785 308760.

Scheduled local activity information

Day of week	Time	Activity	Ages	Where	Contact
Mondays	9-10 am	Circuits	Adult	Village Hall	Lucinda 07967 157620
Mondays	7-8pm	Fitness	Adult	Village Hall	Michelle Southerly 07826 524463
2nd Monday of month	6.15-8.30 pm	Parish Council		Village Hall	Parish Clerk Uffingtonpc.clerk@gmail.com
Tuesday	10-11am	Tai Chi	Adult	Village Hall	If interested, attend to make enquiries
Tuesday	12.30-1.30pm	Pilates	Adult	Village Hall	Fiona-wright@outlook.com
Tuesday	6-7.15pm	Beavers	Children 6-8	Village Hall	Dave Barnes 07811 424978
Tuesday	7.30-9pm	Bell Ringing	12 and over	St. Mary's Church	
Wednesday	6pm	League Cricket 20 overs	14+	Sports Club Fawler Road	Joe Parman joeparman@outlook.com
Wednesday	5.45- 7pm	Yoga	Adult	Village Hall	Sophie Khan 07788 418469
Wednesday	7-8.30pm	Guides	Girls aged 10-14	Village Hall	Uffingtonguides@gmail.com
Wednesday	7-8pm	Fitness	Adult	Village Hall	Michelle Southerly 07826 524463
Thursday	8.30-9.30 am	Box Fit	Adult	Village Hall	Lucinda 07967 157620
Thursday	6:30-8 pm	Cubs	Children 8-10	Village Hall	Katharine Murkett 820270
Thursday	7-.9pm	Scouts	Children 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 Parents must stay	Village Hall	Michelle Garwood mhcgarwood@gmail.com
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

For Village Hall booking enquiries, please contact Uffington Shop on 07957 361481 or website www.thmh.co.uk

If you spot any errors or would like new information included please contact Julia Evans, the Parish Council Clerk

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