

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 restarted with the August meeting. 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 7.00 pm). The agenda is published on the Parish Council website and notice board at least three clear days before the meeting. We particularly welcome residents with planning applications that are to be considered at the meeting, to come and tell us about any pending application and explain any specific points which they may wish to make.

Advertising in the Courier. The policy on Advertising is available on the website - <https://www.uffington.net/> The cost of advertising in four issues of the Courier (one year) AND inclusion in the website on the 'Essential Contacts' page or 'Local Businesses' as appropriate are 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.

Fernham Road closure – September/October/November. The Fernham Road into/out of Uffington was closed on 31 August for a period of up to 12 weeks because the road bridge over the stream (50m from the Museum) has to be replaced. The diversion route has been publicised. In addition to the usual arrangements for vehicle diversions, a temporary route for horses will be made available from the Fernham Road over the stream with a 'bridle bridge' on the footpath through the allotments to the Waylands estate.

Covid 19 (Coronavirus). The roadmap published by the Government, effective from 8 March, has now reached Stage 4 after a short delay – but the current easing of constraints remains subject to the rates of infection being kept under control. At the end of this difficult 18 month period, and as we come out of the worst of Covid, it is worth remembering that people should still be careful and respectful of those who still have to be careful or are still nervous about being around others. Please consider wearing face masks and adopt appropriate social distancing in crowded or busy areas. Whilst the Support Group is not currently active, the Parish Council would like to thank all those who have continued to be prepared to give their time and effort to support the community should it become necessary in future.

Uffington allotments. The Allotment Tenancy Agreement, Code of Conduct and the Allotment Inspection Policy have recently been revised and all tenants and prospective tenants should ensure they are familiar with these documents which

exist to ensure that the interests of all tenants are safeguarded. There are 28 plots available to tenants at the Uffington allotments on the Fernham Road and 24 of them are now occupied. The few spare plots are available to all residents and also to others outside the village in the event of lack of internal demand. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Council at: uffingtonpc.clerk@gmail.com

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. It is essential that the ditches around the village run freely and riparian owners are reminded of their responsibility to keep them clear to minimise the risk of flooding.
- Maintenance. The Parish Council would like to thank the small group of residents who assist with maintenance work around the village, in areas which are the responsibility of the Parish Council.

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 at uffingtonpc.clerk@gmail.com

Jubilee Field Tidy

The second of the biannual Jubilee Field tidies will take place on the weekend of 6/7 November with the 7th a 'reserve' in case of bad weather or over-running tasks. If you'd like to help tidy up the Field before the winter, please just turn up at 10am – the more volunteers the merrier. Full details will be circulated nearer the time.

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

The following are **awaiting determination**:

- P21/V2435/LDP - for development work at Spencer Cottage, Broad Street, Uffington - Proposed single storey rear extension.

- P21/V2473/FUL - development work at Oldlands Copse Station Road, Uffington - Change of use of the existing agricultural building to tourist accommodation.
- P21/V2298/HH - development work at Poachers Cottage, Green Lane, Uffington – Proposed first floor extension.
- P21/V1908/HH – development work at 1 Jacksmeadow Uffington Faringdon SN7 7GN – Proposed 2 storey side extension.
- P21/V2468/AG - development work at Stable Cottage, High Street, Uffington – Proposed agricultural building for lambing and storage of agricultural machinery.
- P21/V2499/FUL - Land at Common Farm, Lower Common, Uffington - Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans), 3 (materials), 4 (landscaping), 5 (arboricultural impact assessment) and 8 (drainage) on application P18/V2990/FUL - erection of 3 dwellings and associated works including new access onto Lower Common.
- P21/V2503/HH - Dragon Hill, Woolstone Road, Uffington - Proposed first floor and side extensions to existing bungalow. Erection of detached garage building with accommodation over.

The following have been **approved**:

- P21/V2000/HH - for development work at the following location: 6A Broad Street, Uffington – Proposed double storey rear extension and single storey rear extension
- P21/V1282/HH - 26 Jacksmeadow Uffington - 2-storey side extension (Amended plans received 30th June 2020).
- P21/V0467/FUL – Dragon Hill, Woolstone Road - Proposed erection of a self build dwelling with new access. (Amended plans received 25th May 2021).

The following have been **withdrawn**:

- P20/V1739/FUL and P20/V1740/LB – Dovecote, Britchcombe Farm. Retrospective application for conversion of dovecote to a dwelling.

- P21/V2464/DIS - for development work at the following location: Land at Common Farm, Lower Common, Uffington - for discharge of conditions 3 (materials) & 4 (landscaping) on application P18/V2990/FUL - erection of 3 dwellings and associated works including new access onto Lower Common.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Opinion

- P21/V1470/SCR - Britchcombe Farm Camp Site. Formal request of a screening opinion for bases for caravans, surfacing for car parking, works for minor internal access roads, the laying of general utilities (water/electricity) & drainage – EIA NOT required.

The live list of 'Current' and 'Decided' Uffington applications can be accessed via the links on the 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. We encourage anyone intending to submit a planning application to the Planning Department at The Vale District Council to discuss it with the Parish Council at an early stage. We may be able to help you to avoid unnecessary errors which serve to downgrade the quality and likely success of the application. There is an opportunity to do this in the Open Forum at every monthly meeting. If in doubt, please contact the clerk or any member of the Council.

Local Business Information. 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 anything you would like to see included in future editions. Please contact simon.jenkins@uffington.net (Tel: 01367 820776), or the Parish Council Clerk at: uffingtonpc.clerk@gmail.com

Village Hall. As a result of the easing of Covid 19 restrictions, the Village Hall is gradually re-opening the activities listed at the back of this edition of the Courier. For Village Hall booking enquiries, please send an e-mail to: booking@thmh.co.uk or you can contact Geoff Rumble on 01367 820036.

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 Clerk, Julia Evans, at uffingtonpc.clerk@gmail.com or through the website.
- Email notices. There is an email network of topical 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@uffington.net. 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 we should put on the page would be welcome.

Queens Platinum Jubilee – 2022. 2022 is the 70th year of the Queen's reign and the country will be holding a range of celebrations to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee. At a national level there are already plans for a chain of torch lightings on 2nd June and a 'big lunch' on 5th June. We would like to form a planning committee with representatives from local clubs, organisations and individuals. Whilst it may seem ages away, we need to get some things booked as it will inevitably get busy during June 2022 when there will be an extra Public Holiday. Anyone or organisation interested in contributing is asked to let the Parish Clerk know - uffingtonpc.clerk@gmail.com

Village Picnic Event – Bank Holiday Monday 30 August. Despite the sun failing to make an appearance on a grey and chilly bank holiday, there was an excellent turnout from the village for the picnic, with groups established around the field with gazebos, windshields, tables chairs and rugs. With the Flying Pig, White Horsebox Pizza, the bar from the Fox and Hounds and the PTA stall all set up on



the car park and the Village Shop open, everything was ready for business from the opening at 3pm, with some still doing good business right to the end! From about 3:30 onwards there was also a range of activities and entertainment for all arranged by village volunteers and groups.

Karen Bolt ensured the children had a hilarious time with a range of games. The younger children taking part in the centre of the Field and the older ones making good use of the multi-user games area (MUGA). Karen seemed to have a magic touch and managed to ensure everyone had the greatest of fun whilst not letting the whole affair deteriorate into chaos



In complete contrast to the children's games, Rodney Calver set up 2 small croquet pitches at the bottom of the field near the big swings and those who ventured down there were shown how to play a simple game. Several groups of adults and children "had a go", most for the first time, and all thoroughly enjoyed it.





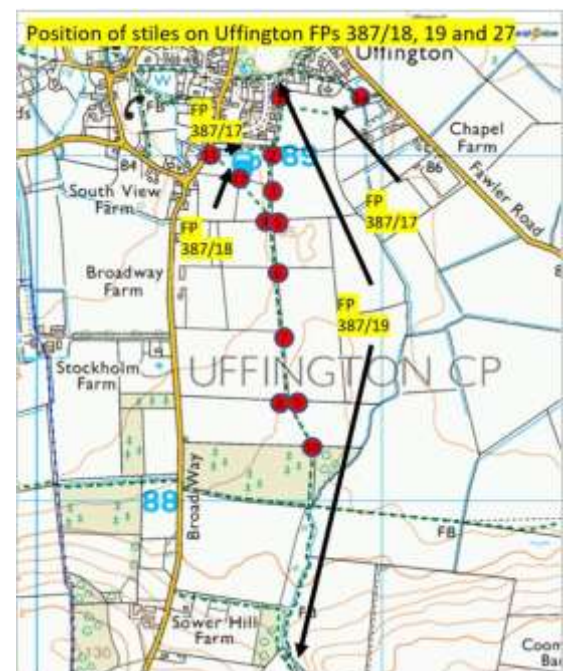
In addition to the entertainment from the Players and an impromptu open-mic sound system, Alex Golec (well known from the shop and the Fox!) came and sang at various times during the afternoon which was really well received.

All-in-all the day was a great success and our thanks go to all those who helped make it so by planning, organising, attending, entertaining or providing food and drink. More than one person has already suggested making it an annual event; please let us know what you feel about this – though obviously we hope the White Horse Show will return on the August Bank Holiday next year – so an alternative date would be necessary so please also suggest when it might best be held. Remember, there is an additional bank holiday for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in June.

Upgrading of Uffington Footpaths 387/17, 18, 19 and 27 - stiles to kissing gates

Thirteen kissing gates were installed by Uffington Parish Council in August 2021 to replace stiles on Uffington Footpaths (FP) 387 / 17, 18, 19 and 27. The sites of the stiles / kissing gates are shown here:

These footpaths are used by local people and visiting walkers to get from the village of Uffington to the Uffington White Horse, Uffington Castle, The Ridgeway and Waylands Smithy, and for circular walks on public rights of way via Woolstone, Fawler and Kingston Lisle.



The newly gated section of FP19 links to an Oxfordshire County Council Ridgeway Circular Walk, which means that there are

now no stiles on the path between the village and the Ridgeway and White Horse Hill.

These routes are now easy to access and walkable by people of all ages. Starting close to the centre of the village, near the village shop, this is excellent for community involvement and therefore beneficial for the health and well-being of our residents.

The project was funded by a number of donors, to all of whom Uffington Parish Council is very grateful; they are (with the amounts):

Trust for Oxfordshire’s Environment (TOE) with funds from Grundon Waste Management Ltd, from their own funds and through the Landfill Communities Fund

£4,000.00

White Horse Show Trust £2,000.00

Oxfordshire County Council – Countryside Access Team £1,000.00

Uffington Parish Council (S106 funds, from the Jacksmeadow estate) £5,000.00

Uffington Parish Council (Reserves) £1,000.00

Uffington Parish Council is also extremely grateful to all the landowners upon whose land the kissing gates have been installed, and who supported the project from the start. They are: Mr and Mrs D Coxhead, Mr and Mrs T Parrott, Mr J Mildenhall and Mrs J Darling. We are also grateful to Pepler Fine Fencing Ltd (of Goosey) who have done a very professional job for us in the installation of all thirteen kissing gates

FP 387/27 - Stile 1



The following pictures, and the map above, provide a ‘before and after’ record of some of the stiles which have been replaced by kissing gates.

Replaced by kissing gate 1



Footpath 387/19 - Stile 2



Replaced by kissing gate 2



Footpath 387/19 - Stiles 4 and 5



Replaced by kissing gates 4 and 5



Footpath 387/19 - Stiles 8 and 9



Replaced by kissing gates 8 and 9



Footpath 387/18 - Stile 11



Replaced by kissing gate 11

Mr and Mrs David Coxhead pictured



Mario and Andi, of Pepler Fine Fencing Ltd, at work on kissing gates 8/9:

We were finally able to re-open the museum on Saturday 24th July and at the time of writing we have welcomed nearly 350 visitors. This has included a number of pre booked group visits during the week and we have received many compliments about the new exhibits. The museum would normally close at the end of October so depending on when the Courier goes to print we may have already completed this short season.

However we are always happy to open up during the week or at the weekend if you missed us.

In the meantime please visit our website www.uffingtonmuseum.co.uk or follow us on Facebook. We will continue to have local merchandise for sale and donations

are always welcome to keep this wonderful village asset up and running. You can also visit us at the monthly Uffington Farmers Market 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. There are always small jobs that need doing so if you are interested in joining us please E-mail uffingtonmuseum@gmail.com or contact me on 01367 820978 for a chat.



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All good things must come to an end, and that includes of course this “wonderful” summer! The nights are starting to draw in and that indicates that colder days cannot be too far away. So, it is time to think about having adequate stocks of fuel oil stored for your home, particularly over the December, January, and February period.

“Community First Oxfordshire” (previously Oxfordshire Rural Community Council) are a registered charity. They have been operating a Bulk Fuel Oil buying scheme since February 2011. Uffington, Baulking and Woolstone were the first to set up a membership and to have a coordinator (me). They also provide many advisory services regarding village halls, community transport systems and village shops which our community have benefited from. There are regular monthly order dates, and you submit your order to the local coordinator or directly to the purchasing agent who negotiates a bulk price with the oil companies. The present purchasing agent is A.F. Affinity (Anglia Farmers) who have substantial purchasing power to get the best possible price from the oil companies. There is a membership subscription that supports CFO but with the bulk order purchasing power that the scheme possesses; this is easily recovered by members resulting in advantageous prices. The scheme has over 900 members in Oxfordshire alone and there are circa fifty in UBW. The smallest order you can place is 500 litres. For this you pay the same price per litre as for the maximum order of 2,399 litres (VAT considerations). This avoids the premium that oil companies invariably put on smaller orders and so helps with your budgeting. Fuel is around 47p/litre, nationally at present, but the trend has only been upwards since last year and likely to continue. The scheme also avoids having to ring around every time you need fuel to be satisfied that you have obtained the best possible deal. The scheme is good for the environment as well with only one tanker from the successful supply company being despatched to blitz the area rather than several different ones.

If you would like further information on the Oil scheme, do not hesitate to contact me (820385). Information is also available on the Community First Oxfordshire website at www.communityfirstoxon.org Follow the “OXOIL” icon. Bulk LPG and bottles are also directly available through CFO.

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enquiries@broughtonrestorations.co.uk**



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Association

Tel 01367 242009

I hope you are all well and have been enjoying this late Summer/early Autumn warm and dry weather. I've certainly managed to get out and play lots of tennis, and I hope you have been able to do the same. The Club has been busy with matches, social games, Summer Camps for the school children and recommencing our coaching programme in September as the children went back to school. If you're interested in any of these activities in the future, do look at the relevant sections of our website for info and contact details.

I have had a number of questions about whether the Club would organise our traditional Annual Tournament this year, and I'm delighted to announce that we will! It is somewhat later than normal, so we do run some risk with the weather, but with the COVID disruption still very much an issue in the early Summer, and then the Summer holidays, it is only now that we have got to set a date of Sunday 17 Oct 21.

I am absolutely delighted that Kenneth and Linda Mitchell have very kindly agreed to provide their superb BBQ again, so we will start play at midday, 1200hrs, aiming to finish the final by 1500hrs, by which time the BBQ will be ready and we should have a couple of hours to socialise before the light fades. We should be finished and heading home by about 1700hrs, and as we're still ahead of the clock change, the afternoon should be long enough hopefully. If you're able to join us, please bring warm clothes for after the tennis and a chair to keep yourself comfortable!

We're adopting a new, simpler, format this year, with slightly increased ticket prices, but now including all drinks, to avoid a cash bar. Entry prices will be £15/ person or £45/family including tennis, BBQ and drinks. We can only accomodate 16 players in the tennis, first come first served, but as many as want to join us for the BBQ will be very welcome. Please email Lynne Artus by end of September on lynne.artus@btinternet.com to register, and make sure you specify if you would like to play, or if you just want to join for the social element. Please include a contact telephone number in case we need to cancel short notice due to weather, and please send payment to the club account at Sort Code 209091, Account Number 20704091. Once we have the full list of people who have registered and paid, we will confirm the play list and final details in early October!

Thank you very much in advance - really looking forward to seeing you all again!

*Robert Hart
Club Chairman*

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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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UBW MINIBUS ASSOCIATION

We regret that our activities remain suspended because of the unacceptable risks to our passengers, volunteers and their contacts at this stage in the pandemic.

John Hatcher remains available on 01367 820417 to discuss any matters of interest or concern to you in regard to the minibus.

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UFFINGTON PLAYERS

Christine Holley

Thank you and well done to everyone who took part in the entertainment on the bank holiday Monday during the village picnic.

We hope to start planning our next pantomime for February 2022 in the coming months.

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



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WHITE HORSE GARDEN CLUB

Verity Cavanagh

veritycavanagh@gmail.com

07975861790

Uffington White Horse Garden Club are delighted to announce that we are returning to live talks in Tom Hughes Memorial Hall.

Appropriate covid precautions will still be in place, so for now this will mean booking places for the talks. (Details will be included with each talk announcement)

Using the hall will be assessed as we progress through the winter months as it is still necessary to have windows and doors open.

As the temperatures drop we may well return to Zoom talks as these were very popular before.

Thursday 7th October

'Where did your Garden Grow – a fascinating history of our familiar garden plants'. www.broadleighbulbs.co.uk By Christine Skelmersdale

Thursday 4th November

In the not so Bleak Winter' by Timothy Walker. www.timothywalker.org.uk.

Thursday 2nd December

AGM & Talk by Woodchester Valley Vineyard from Stroud. www.woodchestervalleyvineyard.co.uk Seasonal refreshments and wines to sample/purchase.

Through the summer our membership numbers have pleasingly continued to climb. We are delighted as this enables us to book more experienced speakers for you.

Our membership Fee is £10 per annum.

Bank transfer: sort code is 090153, account number 28382280, account name - White Horse Gardening Club, reference WHGC + surname.

Please email Patricia (pjdalrymple@btinternet.com) to inform her of your payment - thank you.

Payment by cash/cheque (payable to WHGC) - in envelope with your name on. (Patricia Dalrymple, South View Farm, Uffington SN7 7RQ)

Bampton Garden Centre will give 10% off plants with your membership card.

Any further queries please contact Pamela Preene 01367 820251

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Benefice 200 Club – Draw No. 1 for 2021/2022

To celebrate being able to physically attend church again we held the first draw for the new season before the Benefice Communion at Woolstone on 15th August. This was a well-attended service and was an opportunity for Rev. Jeremy to remind everyone there are still a few numbers left for this year. He also let everyone know that Julia Lycett Green has kindly agreed to take over from Steve Harris as Treasurer, with immediate effect, as he is moving south very soon.

For those unfamiliar with the Club, the season starts on 1st July each year and each of the 200 numbers has an equal chance of winning a prize, each quarter. But it should be noted that the top prize-winning numbers can only win once in the current year.

We try hard to ensure that all 200 numbers have been taken up each year so that after paying for all the prizes the remaining income can be given to the Benefice to help with the upkeep of all four churches. We were able to give the Benefice £6,000 in December 2020, but we would like to give more.

Each number requires a payment of £50 for the year and we encourage participants to sign a standing order form (that they can cancel at any time) to make life easier for all concerned and to keep our costs down. If you would like to join for the 2021/2022 season then please contact: Julia at julia@lycettgreen.co.uk

_This quarter's winners are as follows:

BENEFICE 200 CLUB DRAW

Sunday 15th August 2021

Results of the 1st Draw of the year [quarter ending 30th September 2021]

This draw took place before the United Benefice Holy Communion

At ALL SAINTS CHURCH, WOOLSTONE AT 10.00 am

1 @ £200.00	111	Hilary Deakin
2 @ £100.00	61	Dr Alan King
	86	Sarah Brazier
5 @ £50.00	83	JA & J Reid
	33	Beryl Packer
	35	Ann Kelsey
	113	Alice Matthews
	132	Hilary Deakin

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ST MARY'S CHURCH

Rev Jeremy Goulston



Dear All,

I can't quite believe that another Autumn Term in the Schools is well underway and, as you read this, our Harvest Festivals in all four churches will be over, or nearly so. What a strange year it has already been, and is still proving to be. I do hope we won't be quite so afflicted this year by Covid as last and that we will be able to get together more!

Despite all the mayhem, the Vicarage Damson trees have been fruitful which is always a good sign. Andrew Williams tells me they are in fact plums, and it's always the tree overhanging the road which yields the best crop. It is an encouragement to all of us to share the gifts we have with others. Heneage shared his organisational skills to great effect with the success of the Woolstone Summer BBQ, and Duncan his writing for the 'Revels' on the Jubilee Field at the Uffington Village Picnic – thanks to all who helped organise these and all who came.

If you like a good musical, 'Streetwise', by Ant Stevens and Isabelle Fisher-Michalakakis premieres at the Swindon Arts Centre from 27th – 30th October and I reckon it is going to be a good one!

One of the gifts our Church of England offers is the beauty of its buildings, and I'm very grateful to Fay Forster for getting the Summer Teas going once again in St Mary's; welcoming people from near and far with our wonderful network of tea-makers and their cakes and sandwiches – many a good conversation had and note heard. Singing Club is up and running thanks to Juliet, Veronica, Beryl and Co. It is on Tuesdays 3.15 – 4pm in term time, aimed at children between Years 3-6 from *any* local School, and is designed to eventually link with our new Family Service in St Mary's on the 4th Sunday in the month at 10am. Please do give either, or both, a whirl!

This Summer marks the end of Fay's 16 years as Churchwarden in Uffington. She has served in Season and out of Season, through good times and difficult times and with some very good co-pilots along the way, from Geoffrey Foster, Carl and Fenella Oberman, through to Gordon Gill and Fred Challis. Fay's attention to detail and solid support behind the scenes has kept me, and Uffington Church, on the straight and narrow through many a choppy sea. I am hugely grateful for her forward thinking and memory(!), and for anyone who is prepared to serve our

Churches in this way (thanks also due to Mark who steps down at Baulking, and Michael at Woolstone), but the length and energy of Fay's tenure has been remarkable – **THANK YOU FAY!!!**

I'm glad to know that Fay is not retiring entirely from Church work and will be an assistant to Jeremy Moss for the next year or so. If Churchwarden is a role you think you just may like to give some more thought too, do let me or the other Jeremy know. Meanwhile a huge **thank you**, too, to all those who continue to support us financially – it is particularly appreciated now, and will remain important going forward.

Look out for '**Quiz 'n Chips**' night in St Mary's on Tuesday, 26th October and think about joining/bringing a Team. Please email info@uffingtonbenefice.com for further information.

With Prayers, and warm regards,

Jeremy Goulston.

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THE FRIENDS OF SAINT MARY'S CHURCH

Steve Smith (chairman)

"The Friends of St Mary are very pleased to announce a 'Quiz 'n Chips' fundraising event at St Mary's Church on Tuesday 26th October. Arrival for a 6.30pm start with a break at 7.30/8.00 for Freshly cooked Fish n Chips. The last quiz round and winners award will allow for a departure at 9.30-10.00 latest. There will of course be a Bar for beverages and a Raffle too! We are delighted to confirm that Sean Hargrave has agreed to be our Quizmaster. Entry including food - £12/person. Individuals or teams of up to 6-8 most welcome for a fun filled evening. Your support would be most appreciated. RSVP please via info@uffingtonbenefice.com marked FTAO Steve Smith or Richard Salmon."

* * * * *

HANDYMAN - CRAFTSMAN – GARDENER

Recently moved to Uffington. Hourly rates, references available from established customers in Blewbury with gardens up to 2 ½ acres in size.

Hedging, tree work, lawns, listed and modern building multi-skilled maintenance, renovation, decorating.

Small jobs welcome

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The hall has now been open for several months and is already being used by many of our regular organisations, together with a number of bookings for social gatherings that had not been possible for more than a year. The audio-visual system has been used on several occasions and is expected to become a popular and valuable asset, once we have learnt how it works! If anyone wishes to use it when hiring the main hall, please be sure to arrange a demonstration and to check that any equipment you wish to connect to it is compatible.

New windows for the Ladies and Gents toilets have been fitted, together with a new door for the Plant room, to replace frames that were in a poor condition and to improve the security of the Plant room.

Currently both halls are available for hire but the small hall heating system cannot be used because it does not provide positive ventilation to ensure new fresh air enters the hall and “old” air is not continually recirculated. A powerful extractor fan has been purchased and will be fitted in the end wall of the hall, together with a source of fresh air to overcome this problem and allow the small hall heating system to be used in cold weather without the risk of recirculating covid virus spores. We are most grateful to Paul Pounds for his support with this project.

Our plea in the last Courier and more recently in Simon Jenkins’ newsletter for volunteers has not fallen completely on deaf ears but the Committee remains in a worrying position. To ensure the Memorial Hall can continue to be properly maintained and provide the community facility it currently does, we must find more Committee members to share the work and ensure continuity for the future. Our next meeting is Monday 18th October when the Committee will meet from 7.00 to 8.00pm to discuss hall management issues and then at 8.00pm the “Council” meet to hear from the Management Committee. The “Council” is defined as representatives of hall users and anyone in the three villages of Baulking, Uffington and Woolstone who wishes to hear from the Management Committee and comment on how the hall is being run. If you think you might be able to help in the management and running of the hall, this is an ideal opportunity to find out more. Please feel free to come and listen, comment and better still, offer a small amount of your time by joining the Management team.

* * * * *

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Thank you to all our patients for their co-operation, common sense, and patience in helping us to provide safe and effective primary health care. We have continued to offer full services since March 2020, and indeed have had nearly as many consultations per month than before the lock downs: 2595 in May 2019 and 2566 in May 2021.

It seems that the Covid vaccination programme has been even more successful than we could have hoped and we strongly urge everyone to take up their offers of vaccination when invited.

We are all looking forward to the easing of the Covid restrictions but it is important that we continue to follow the emerging government advice.

As the restrictions ease, we all need to be aware of the continuing issues relating to biosecurity and, here at Elm Tree Surgery, being mindful of this whilst providing our services in our very small building.

We plan to unlock the front door later this summer; however we ask that most patient contact continues to take place through the front window because we will have very limited waiting spaces for elderly and vulnerable within the building, compared to pre-pandemic times, as we have had to make changes in the building to accommodate the extra services that we are offering.

Telephone consultations will continue to be the preferred consultation method, thus allowing us to provide a more efficient and quicker service and enabling patients to remain at home or work, rather than travelling to the surgery, arranging time away from work, or sorting out child care.

Our receptionists will continue to ask for the reason you are requesting an appointment as this enables us to offer timely appointments with the most appropriate clinician, which could be our nurses, physiotherapist, clinical pharmacist, midwives or social prescribers rather than a GP.

Whilst you may have read in the papers that GPs are required to offer face to face consultations on request this is not actually correct - face to face consultations, as now, will be offered if clinically appropriate. This enables us to keep the surgery as clean as possible, to reduce the risk of infection for our patients and staff, and to avoid congestion in communal areas.

Prescriptions and dispensing will continue as it is now. If you can, please use on-line ordering as this is the easiest way to request your medicines.

Rather than coming to the surgery we would request that you use the telephone or on-line services to: make or change appointments order medicines collect medicines, unless you have been advised by us that they are ready for collection make general or other enquiries

If you do have a face to face appointment with one of our clinicians please do not arrive too early for your booked appointment and come alone if possible

and safe. Obviously we would expect a parent to bring a child but, if at all possible, please just bring the child who has the appointment.

We want to open up the surgery without being overwhelmed, overcrowded and unsafe.

The doctors would also like to pay tribute to everyone in the surgery for their dedication and adaptability and sheer hard work during the pandemic.

SUMMARY

Only come into the surgery for:
pre-booked face to face appointments

Go to the Front Window to:
collect medication when you have been advised that they are ready
collect or deliver specimens and letters
collect or deliver registration forms

Use the telephone or on-line for:
all prescription requests
booking or altering appointments
all other enquiries

Appointments can be booked with:

Nurses

Midwives

Physiotherapist

Clinical Pharmacist

Social Prescribers

USEFUL NUMBERS

111 for medical advice or treatment; call this number when the surgery is closed

119 for all Covid vaccine-related queries

999 for medical emergencies - especially chest pain, severe shortness of breath or possible stroke

01793 783336 Shrivenham Pharmacy for advice and treatment of minor ailments and illness

OTHER NEWS

The COVID-19 vaccination status service is now live.

People in England can access their vaccination status via the NHS App, through www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or by telephoning 119 and requesting a letter (COVID-19 vaccination service).

Please do not ask the surgery for this information.

* * * * *

richard james

Village & Country Homes

You may or may not be aware that the market at present is still extremely buoyant and we are seeing record-breaking prices being achieved off the back of a significant increase in demand for houses in Oxfordshire.

In a nutshell, we have more buyers than houses available to buy and need more to satisfy this demand. One of the most recent properties we've sold (subject to contract) is Slate House, an elegant property offering spacious accommodation, full of character.

Now more than ever, it's important to support our local businesses in Faringdon and the surrounding villages. Take a look at our video to find out more about our local areas and what they've got to offer.

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Plumbing and Heating: Peter Abel 820709.
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 (non-Covid)

Village Hall. For Village Hall booking enquiries during the pandemic, please send an e-mail to: booking@thmh.co.uk or you can contact Geoff Rumble on 01367 820036.

Day of week	Time	Activity	Ages	Where	Contact
Mondays	9-10 am	Exercise Class		Village Hall	(If interested, attend the class to make enquiries)
Mondays	7 – 9 pm	Smart Hema		Village Hall	(If interested, attend the class to make enquiries)
Mondays	7:15 – 8:15 pm	Insanity		Village Hall (SH)	Sports Club 2 nd Monday of month
Tuesday Term time	5:45-7pm	Beavers	Children aged 6-8	Village Hall	Dave Barnes 07811 424978
Tuesdays Term time	7:15-8:30 pm	Yoga		Village Hall	Deborah Atkinson 07875 633923
3rd Tuesday each month	7-10pm	W.I.		Village Hall	Mary Plant 241663
Every Tuesday	7.30-9pm	Bell ringing	age 12 and over	St. Mary's Church	Hugh Baxter 820014
Wednesdays	9-10 am	Exercise Class		Village Hall	(If interested, attend the class to make enquiries)
Wednesday Term time	5:30-7:15 pm	Brownies	For girls aged 7-11	Village Hall	Vikki Bond Vikkibond33@mail.com first_uffington_brownies@outlook.com
Wednesday Term time	7.15- 8.45 pm	Guides	For girls aged 10-14	Village Hall (SH)	Shona Webb shonawebb1@outlook.com Elaine Russ elaineruss@hotmail.co.uk
Wednesday	7:30-9pm	Uffington Taekwondo club	From 6 - adults	Village Hall	Duncan Saunders 07790 241891
1st Thursday	7.30 pm.	Gardening Club		Village Hall	Pamela Preene 820251
Thursday Term time	9:30-11am	Baby & Toddlers	0-5 years parents/ carers must stay	Village Hall	Katherine Foxhall katfoxhall@gmail.com facebook @uffingtontoddlers
Thursday Term time	6.30– 8 pm	Cubs	Children 8-10	Village Hall (SH)	Katherine Murkett 820270
Thursday Term time	7- 9 pm	Scouts	Children 10-14 years	Village Hall (SH)	Chris Palmer chris_palmer101@hotmail.co.uk
Fridays	9-10 am	Exercise Class		Village Hall	(If interested, attend the class to make enquiries)
Saturdays		League football	Adults	Sports Club, Fawler Road	Jason Wilkins 870487 or 07810 022127

If you spot any errors or would like new information included please contact Julia Evans, Clerk to Uffington Parish Council on uffingtonpc.clerk@gmail.com)

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