

UFTON NEWS



January 2021 Diary

Sat	1	Grey Bin Collection
Tues	5	Virtual Ufton Parish Council Meeting 8.00 pm
Fri	8	Blue & Green Bin Collection
Fri	15	Grey Bin Collection
Mon	22	Blue & Green Bin Collection
Sat	29	Grey Bin Collection

'Update on proposed pedestrian crossing in Ufton'.

Your Parish Councillors and Clerk had a teleconference with Warwickshire County Council on 18 December to discuss HS2's proposal to locate the crossing on the A425, on the right-hand side as, one exits from White Hart Lane (opposite the Sandwich shop).

We stated we are **strongly** opposed to the proposed location on safety grounds, as it will be too close to the roundabout. We all know some vehicles approaching Ufton from Leamington's direction do not obey the speed limit and so under some circumstances might not see a pedestrian on the crossing until too late. The Parish Council are also of the opinion the two businesses would suffer.

We have stated the crossing should instead be on the left as one exits from White Hart Lane, and before the entrance to the Private Road. This would reduce these risks (and act as a traffic calming measure for vehicles approaching from Southam). We also confirmed the pavement is wider at this point and better suits the installation of the control system.

We will keep you informed of any updates via the Newsletter.

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CHRISTMAS TURKEY RAFFLE PROVES TO BE A WIN-WIN!

Cockerel Voucher belonged to Kam Chambay in St Michaels Close, but our village proved to be a winner too.

The flyers that were distributed around the village also asked for volunteers for three organisations that were running on reduced numbers and we are delighted to report that our "Call to Arms" has been a great success. The following expressions of interest were received back with raffle entries: **2** for the Parish Council, **3** for the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and **9** for the Village Hall – all of which are being followed up individually – thank you!



All that glitters is not gold.

When Shakespeare wrote that line in The Merchant of Venice the January Sales would not have figured in his thoughts at all, but our

contributor took it on board when he spotted this 2017 "bargain" on that mecca of designer stores: The Kings Road, London

Households Facing Hardship This Winter

WCC are asking councils to help publicise the support that is available for those in financial need. Advice and support is available for anyone who may be feeling the pinch. Go to www.warwickshire.gov.uk/moneyanddebt for information.

For those in crisis Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme may be able to help, call 0800 408 1448 or 01926359182

Households struggling to pay bills or manage energy debt can call the Act On Energy helpline on 0800 988 2881 or visit www.actonenergy.org.uk for advice.

For more information and support for households facing hardship please visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/facinghardship

Warwickshire's Local Welfare Scheme can offer help to vulnerable families and individuals particularly affected by the pandemic this winter with access to food or with energy and water bills. Contact the Scheme to find out more about this and other support by calling 0800 407 1448 or 01926 359182 at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme

Resolutions When I Come to be Old

by Jonathan Swift

Not to marry a young woman.
Not to keep young Company unless they really desire it
Not to be peevish or morose, or suspicious.
Not to scorn present Ways, or Wits, or Fashions, or Men, or War, etc
Not to be fond of Children, or let them come near me hardly.
Not to tell the same story over and over to the same people.
Not to be covetous
Not to neglect decency, or cleanliness, for fear of falling into Nastiness.
Not to be over severe with young People but give Allowances for their youthful follies and Weaknesses.
Not to be influenced by, or give ear to knavish tattling Servants, or others.
Not to be too free of advise nor trouble any but those that desire it.
To desire some good Friends to inform me which of these Resolutions I break, or neglect, & wherein: and reform accordingly.
Not to talk much, nor of my self.
Not to boast of my former beauty, or strength, or favour with ladies, etc.
Not to hearken to Flatteries, nor conceive I can be loved by a young woman. et eos qui hereditatem captant odisse ac vitare.
Not to be positive or opinionated.
Not to sett up for observing all these Rules, for fear I should observe none.

Police and Crime Commissioners Consultation

The current Police and Crime Commissioner, Philip Seccombe is running a public consultation to give everyone the chance to give their views as he starts the process of setting the budget for policing across the next financial year. The 'Your Police, Your Views' survey aims to get your opinions on what you feel are the funding priorities for Warwickshire and how support services and community safety initiatives should be financed through grants and commissioning.

It comes as the Government set out its spending plans for 2021/22 in the Spending Review, announced last month by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak. This confirmed funding remained in place for forces to continue to deliver the recruitment of 20,000 new police officers nationally, while also providing additional new money to tackle violent crime, money laundering and increased counter-terrorism policing.

The Chancellor's announcement also signalled additional detail of how local police forces will be funded over the next financial year, with core central government grants likely to remain the same as this year, providing a flat-cash settlement. Police and Crime Commissioners will be given flexibility to raise the portion of Council Tax which pays for policing, known as the Police Precept, by up to £15 for a Band D property.

The continued economic uncertainty, the ongoing challenges of the pandemic and increasing costs and other pressures do however mean that changes will be needed in order to set a balanced budget for the years ahead.

That's why your views are more crucial than ever, so please do spend a few moments to fill in the survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WPFundingSurvey>

Census Day is Sunday 21 March

The census will soon be here. It is a survey which is undertaken by the Office of National Statistics every 10 years and it aims to give the most accurate estimate of people and households in England and Wales. All kinds of organisations, from local authorities to charities, use the information to help provide the services we all need, including transport, education and healthcare. Without the census, it would be much more difficult to do this.

Early in the New Year, households will receive a letter about the Census with a unique access code allowing them to complete the questionnaire online on their computers, phones or tablets. Paper questionnaires will be available on request. Census Day is Sunday 21 March, but you can fill yours in as soon as you get your access code in the post. Your answers should be about the people who usually live in your household on this date – even if you are filling it in before then. If your household circumstances change on Census Day, you can let the Office of National Statistics know.

If you cannot fill in your census questionnaire online, there will be a wide range of support services to make it easy for you, whatever your needs including:

- guidance and support in many languages and formats
- help over the phone, in a web chat or on social media
- a paper version of the questionnaire if you prefer
- accessible census guidance, for example, in braille

More information regarding this will be in your census letter.



Did you spot the deliberate mistake on the front page of the November issue?

Praise is due to those eagle-eyed readers who gave it their best shot. James and Ruth Edge, together with Becky Flinn thought it was: - The word **Collection** was missing from **Fri 27 Blue & Green Bin Co.** Closer still, were Diane Birch and Dennis Peaty who suggested: - **The clock is missing on the photo of the church**

Before we give the answer though, let's give you some background information to that photographic image.

A parishioner who spotted it on the wall of a café in Kenilworth, captured it on his mobile phone and went to see Colin Baldwin, Ufton's very own archivist. Both agreed it was St Michael & All Angel's Church and all was set to include such an important piece of our history in the November issue of Ufton News

....

And then the parishioner took a closer look. With wry humour in the narrative, he included the line "**They say the camera never lies or does it?**" and added "**the most appropriate comment wins a bottle of Prosecco**" because sadly, closer inspection reveals that it is **NOT** Ufton Church at all....

The windows either side of the porch as well as the roofline reveal it to be an imposter, but it's still a pretty good imitation of Ufton Hill isn't it? The original photo will be displayed on the village notice board throughout January so you can see for yourself how Ian Crowther and Colin got caught out.

Since the **actual deliberate mistake** wasn't spotted the prize should remain unclaimed, but as it was a December Competition and Christmas is a time for giving, we are delighted to report that both Becky and Dennis will soon find a bottle of Prosecco speeding their way with our every good wish for 2021.

Gillian Priestley

Very sadly Gill died on Saturday 19th December 2020, following a period of illness. Ufton Parish Council offers Gill's family theirs and the villages condolences at this sad time.

UBUS Community Transport Service

If you need to make an essential journey and it is difficult for you to use Public Transport due to mobility issues, or you live in an area with little or no public transport, UBUS may be able to help you.

Concessionary passes are valid for travel; fares on the service are £4 single and £6 return. For information or to register, please call 01789 264491.

NB: Face coverings must be worn unless exempt.

January Parish Council Meeting

Ufton Parish Council is still meeting during the pandemic, albeit it, it is done via Zoom meetings. The next Parish Council is due to be held on Tuesday 5th January 2021 @ 8.00 pm. At this meeting, the Council will be discussing the planned expenditure, budget required and the precept to be levied via Council Tax bills for 2021 – 2022. The planned expenditure will include the cost of cutting the grass in the Church cemetery

If any residents wish to attend the meeting, via Zoom please contact the Clerk before 4.00 pm on day concerned, so you can be sent the appropriate access information.



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ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH, UFTON

Christmas day service

When Andy and I took on the roles of churchwarden in 2017, having to take a call on cancelling a Christmas Day service was one we never thought we would have to make. Apologies to those who had been looking forward to joining, but we are in unprecedented times and felt in our hearts it was the best decision for the congregation's safety at this time. We are thankful to have been supported by Revs Andy and Bob and the PCC in this decision. We are looking forward to meeting again in church when circumstances feel more under control from a coronavirus perspective. Thank you to Ann and Rachel for decorating the church as a sign that we still celebrate Christmas although we can't be together in person to do it this year.

A virtual nativity was produced across the three parishes, well done to the Ufton participants, this can be viewed linked from allsaintsharbury.org or by visiting <https://youtu.be/-VWh4DMBeDw> directly.

Next service – 31st January at 11:00 led by Rev Andy (note revised time)

We are hopeful that this will be able to go ahead. However, given the changing nature of any restrictions we will need to keep this matter under review. The easiest way to get across cancellation messages is via email and please consider joining our mailing list by emailing uftonchurch@gmail.com as our alternative is phoning round the numbers we have and we always worry we may have missed someone.

Online services – Please visit allsaintsharbury.org for details on how to join virtual services in the parish.

Church opening for private prayer – Please let us know if you would be interested this.

MESSAGE FROM REV ANDY

One of the things I missed most about living on an island for the last 7 years was the lack of extreme weather. Our local climate was moderated by the sea, and so in the winter we were generally a few degrees warmer than other places, and in the summer a few degrees cooler. I love tropical days and balmy nights, just as I love thunderstorms and winter snowfall, and they were few and far between, although we had more than our fair share of rain and wind!

Climatologists tell us that we are heading for a time when lying snow will more or less disappear across the UK due to global warming, and indeed, snowfall, particularly at Christmas, has been very much a rarity in recent years. It seems that Philip North, the Bishop of Burnley shares my love of the white stuff as he recently tweeted how a white Christmas would help to cheer people after this trying year, we have all experienced. A covering of snow can transform the environment around us, renew our sense of wonder in the beauty of creation, and bring us joy as we see and hear the excitement of children indulging in snowball fights, building snowmen, or sledging. It's a simple but profound delight.

And really, even though so many plans and arrangements have had to be cancelled or postponed this year, even though reunions and parties have been frustrated, the simple message of Christmas can still bring us unexpected joy and warm our hearts even in the most difficult of days.

In Jesus God came to us, lived with us, experienced everything that being human brings, and promised to never leave us. Through his spirit we experience the presence of the creator each day, and no matter what we face we can be assured he is right there with us.

So, may you and those you love experience that simple but life changing encounter anew this Christmas and New Year and discover all the blessings God has in store for you.

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