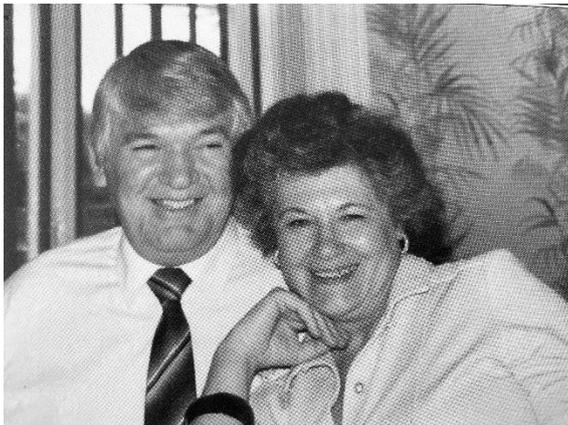


UFTON NEWS

April 2021 Diary

Fri	2	Blue Bin Collection Green Bin – if you have purchased a sticker
Tues	6	Virtual Ufton Parish Council Meeting 8.00 pm
Fri	9	Grey Bin Collection
Fri	16	Blue Bin Collection Green in – if you have purchased a sticker.
Fri	23	Grey Bin Collection
Fri	30	Blue Bin Collection Green Bin - if you have Purchased a sticker.

Ellen Chimes 1927 - 2021



We are sorry to announce the death of Ellen who, with her husband Dave, managed the Village Shop and Post Office as well as the Garage here in Ufton for many years.

We send condolences to their sons, Tim and Nick and their families.

Ellen was born in Poplar, East London in 1927 and at the age of 11 was evacuated, with her siblings Olive and Pearl, to a family in Chipping Campden. They eventually settled in Warwickshire where Ellen met Dave who played the drums in a band where she went dancing after the war.

Ellen was always chatty and often laughing; they were very much a part of village life – indeed they were good-hearted and lovable.

May Elections

Elections are due to take place on Thursday 6th May 2021 for a new County Councillor, following the death of Bob Stevens and Police and Crime Commissioner.

If you do not want to go and vote in person, you can vote via the post.

If you are registered to vote in England or Wales and want to vote by post on 6 May 2021, you must submit a postal vote application form that is received by your local Electoral Registration Office before 5pm on Tuesday 20 April.

The application form can be obtained from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote>

If anyone wants to apply but does not have the facility to download the form, please contact the Parish Clerk, Jackie, and she will provide you with one.

The form must be completed and sent to the local Electoral Role Office at Stratford District Council.

Contributions to Ufton News

Ufton News is solely for the villagers of Ufton and we try to keep you informed of relevant and appropriate items.

If you would like to contribute an article, poem, quiz, recipe, historical information, fun fact or anything else who may feel is of interest please send it to the Parish Clerk, Jackie Chapman via email Uftonpc@gmail.com or to 12 St Michaels Close.

All submissions, in principle will be welcomed.

Parish Council Clerk, Jackie Chapman
uftonpc@gmail.com

Ufton Parish News Editorial/Advertising
uftonpc@gmail.com

Village Hall – Ian Crowther Village Website
ian@account-able.co.uk www.uftonvillage.com

Date for items to be submitted for the April.
Edition – Thursday 25th March 2021.

Steve Dover

Has contributed the following to this month's newsletter. Written 9th May 1981.

When I was a child, my brother and I would return from choir practice at around 7:00pm. In the winter months, it was dark at this time. All streetlamps were tungsten and gave a white light which threw black shadows across the roads and cobbled entries. I was afraid of the dark and my brother continually teased me about the "Bogey Man" who was hiding behind the black chimney pots on the houses, who would come and get me if I wasn't careful. Between this and concentrating on not stepping on the joints in the paving slabs lest I was sucked down into the river Mersey, I was terrified! This was written remembering those dark wet nights. It is:

The Bogeyman

Huddled on a rooftop in the freezing falling rain.
Watching in the twilight the figures in the lane
Of little children playing and splashing in the pools,
Happy joyful voices running home from school.

The Bogey Man sits shivering against the chimney stack,
Sad dish eyes, long thin nose, and a hump upon his back.
The rain it drip drop drips from the brim of his dark hat,
And by his side, his only friend, a black and ghostly cat.

He listens to the children's' shouts, he listens as they fade,
And watches dimming silhouettes of rooftops in night's shade.
He rises up and slinks along and shins on down a drain,
Then makes his lonely weary way along the wet dark lane.

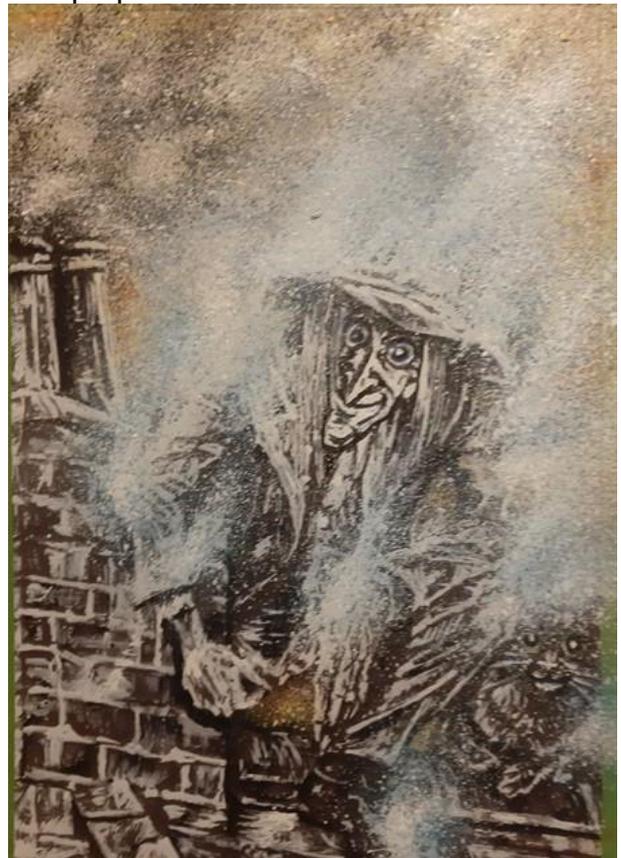
He frightens those who see him, but he really means no harm.
Long ago he fell beneath an evil witch's charm.
And children with you he'd like to sing, your games he'd like to play

But sunlight hurts his eyes so much and he's banished from the day.
Between dark shadows his path it lies to the graveyard at midnight,
And there he meets with other ghosts and demons of great fright.

When at last the night is past and Dawn begins to rise,
Is it a raindrop from his large brimmed hat or a tear from those sad eyes
That rolls to the end of his long thin nose and drops without a sound
To mingle with the other dew that twinkles on the ground.

The Sun she rises hazy and turns the mists to gold,
And the Bogey Man returns to his catacombs dark and cold.
And echoing in his daily dreams are sunlit days of joy
Remembering some distant time when he was just a boy.

Next time you see the Bogey Man, don't run away in fear.
Remember that he'd like to dance and always have you near.
And if you spy a huddled figure leaning on your chimney stack
Spare a thought for the Bogey Man with the hump upon his back.



New residents to Ufton

Recently we have seen a few residents leave the village and new residents move in. The Parish Council welcomes all new residents and we hope you will enjoy living in the village.

The Well, White Hart Lane, Ufton

For those of you who may not have walked down White Hart Lane for a while, do take a stroll and have a look at the well. It has had a make-over! It now boasts a new bucket, planted with flowers and the grass has been replaced by weed-proof liner, covered in gravel, all held back by wooden retainer. Thanks go to Greg Byrne and John Tayler who completed the work.

Oak Tree on the corner of St Michaels Close

The Parish Council is responsible for maintaining the Oak Tree on the corner of St Michaels Close. The Council sought quotes from arborists to have the tree "tidied up". All of the quotes were large, therefore Cllr Greg Byrne volunteered his services for free and undertook the necessary work. Greg's offer and work are very much appreciated.

CSE in Warwickshire – Website Launch

A new website and campaign called 'Something's Not Right' has launched to raise awareness of child exploitation in Warwickshire.

For information on how to spot the signs of child exploitation, visit

<https://www.somethingsnotright.co.uk/spot-the-signs/>

Census 2021 – Support Available

Support is available to households struggling to complete their Census 2021 forms, following National Census day on the 21 March.

Find out the support you can access:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/1862/support-available-to-complete-census-2021>

Ufton Village Precept

Local Council Tax bills have hit our doormats recently and you may have noticed the village precept part has increased by 4%. The amount of money the Parish Council asked for was the same amount as for the year 2020 – 2021.

Stratford District Council advised the following: Whilst the Ufton total precept remained the same for 2021/22 as the previous year at £8,970 the amount that appears on the bill does depend on the taxbase figure.

The taxbase is the number of properties in the parish worked back to a band D figure. The relationship between the bands is shown below and based on 1/9ths.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9

The table shows a band H property pays twice that of a band D and a band A pays 6/9ths. So, for Ufton the taxbase dropped between 2020/21 and 2021/22 from 106.26 to 101.70. The calculation for 2020/21 was £8,970 / 106.26 = £84.41 precept on a band D property bill

For 2021/22 the calculation is £8,970 / 101.70 = £88.20 precept on a band D property bill.

In simple terms the same bill is being divided by a smaller number of people, so each pays a little more.



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EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE, 11AM

We are so pleased to reopen our doors at Easter, for an 11am worship service led by our new vicar Rev Andy!

Whilst there is no need to book, we would like to ask respectfully that you continue to support the covid safe provision we have had in place as before Christmas in terms of social distancing, track and trace, sanitizing and mask wearing. It will be lovely to see those of you who can make it there, as it has been such a long time. And at such a special service too! If you would like to help spruce the church up for Easter, please give us a call so we can ensure that we are coordinated in a covid secure way.

APCM AND ELECTORAL ROLL:

Our annual church meeting (APCM) will take place on 5th May at 8pm, more information in next newsletter but please put in your diaries. Also, if you are not on the church electoral roll (list of church members) please look in the church porch for forms or call Andy the PCC secretary on 711967 if you have any queries.

MESSAGE FROM REV ANDY

As we commemorate the one-year anniversary of lockdown due to the pandemic it seems that we have been surrounded by bad news for the past 12 months. The strain on the NHS, the impact on the economy and education, the loss of loved ones and the enforced isolation has affected us all. Sometimes the focus on Coronavirus has eclipsed all the other things going on in the world. For example, last year category 4 Hurricanes devastated lives and communities in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua; and currently in Australia, New South Wales has been hit by once in a century flooding. A huge explosion in Beirut left over 200 people dead and thousands injured, and as always, a variety of conflicts have continued to cause misery and suffering across the world. Maybe we wonder where God is in all of this. Maybe we are tempted to blame him for allowing these things in the first place.

Of course, much of what we term natural disasters are simply a consequence of our planet Earth being a place where life thrive in the first place. Plate tectonics, the process responsible for earthquakes, also recycles carbon, which stabilises the planets temperature Hurricanes are a natural and recurring consequence of our dynamic climate system, although much of the scientific community believe they are worsening as a result of man-made global warming. Even viruses have played a vital part in the evolution of human beings despite the many deaths they sometimes cause.

God could have created a world where we are protected from all danger, but without risk how dull would life be, and how much wonder and beauty would we lose? A snowstorm can be deadly for anyone caught out in it, but it transforms the landscape around us into something magical. Climbing a mountain, sailing an ocean, exploring the moon are risky endeavours, but that longing for adventure and challenge are part of human nature we celebrate.

Some of the blame for human suffering must lie squarely at our door. Global warming, ethnic cleansing, and famines are something we have caused, or allow to happen. We look the other way while so many live-in conditions which put them at risk, we allow injustice and prejudice to wreck lives and communities. And yet sometimes our response to disaster also brings out the best in us, displayed in courage, compassion, and generosity. We have seen this displayed time and again during the past year.

Maybe in all of this there are lessons we need to learn, maybe we can heed Gods call to make our world a better place by the way in which we care for each other, and take responsibility for one another, something Jesus demonstrated so vividly when he gave up his life for us, his friends.

Vicar Rev Andy Batchelor: telephone 714295 email rev.andyb@gmail.com

PCC email : uftonchurch@gmail.com. Churchwardens Andy & Adelle 711967 / 07815 311374