

# UFTON NEWS

## June 2021 Diary

Tues	1	Ufton Parish Council Meeting 7.30 pm overflow car park White Hart Lane.
Fri	4	Grey Bin Collection
Fri	11	Blue Bin Collection Green in – if you have purchased a sticker.
Fri	18	Grey Bin Collection
Fri	25	Blue Bin Collection Green Bin - if you have Purchased a sticker.
Sun	27	Church Service @ 11.00 am

## May Elections – Results

Ufton's new County Councillor is Cllr Chris Kettle  
Phillip Seccombe was re-elected as  
Warwickshire's Police and Crime  
Commissioner.

## Rural Crime Team Continue to Expand Specialist Skills to Address Rural Crime

Warwickshire's Police Rural Crime Team continues to expand the specialist skills of the team with the use of new equipment and expertise. In the past month, two Rural Officers and three officers from the Rural Specials have been trained on two drones purchased for the team by North Warwickshire Borough Council, Stratford District Council and Warwick District Council. The drones will be used on dedicated operations, patrols and responses to incidents, assisting the team in addressing rural crime and the offenders who target rural communities. All deployments will be in line with CAA guidance and for policing purposes only.

In addition to the drones, two further officers from the Rural Crime Team have been trained and are now equipped as part of the force's Dual Purpose Bike Team. Warwickshire Police are one of only a few forces who have a Dual-Purpose Bike Team who assist on the issue of antisocial behaviour caused by off road vehicles such as motorcycles, quad bikes and 4x4 vehicles. This is in addition to the latest

thermal imaging and night vision equipment received by the team. Inspector Allison Wiggin, Rural Crime lead at Warwickshire Police, said: "This is a really exciting time for the Rural Crime team. The drones and dual-purpose bikes will be extremely beneficial to officers and will ensure our capability to tackle rural crime is improved even further. Since its formation in October 2019, the Rural Crime Team have recovered nearly £700,000 worth of agricultural vehicles, plant and tools and this additional equipment will assist them further in targeting criminals affecting farms and rural areas. These additional investments will give us greater ability to fight crime, arrest criminals and keep people safe.

## Smells and flies – again

The Parish Council has asked for this subject to be mentioned on the Parish Newsletter during the summer. The Parish Council asks everyone who is either deluged by flies or inconvenienced by smells to report the matter to the:

## Environmental Agency (EA) 0800 80 70 60

The EA telephone line is manned 24/7 and it takes less than 5 mins to give the information they require.

Please take the time to report either of these problems, to help make Ufton a more pleasant place to live.



Parish Council Clerk, Jackie Chapman  
[uftonpc@gmail.com](mailto:uftonpc@gmail.com)

Ufton Parish News Editorial/Advertising  
[uftonpc@gmail.com](mailto:uftonpc@gmail.com)

Village Hall – Ian Crowther Village Website  
[ian@account-able.co.uk](mailto:ian@account-able.co.uk) [www.uftonvillage.com](http://www.uftonvillage.com)

Date for items to be submitted for the April.  
Edition – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

## Ongoing support for people facing hardship in Warwickshire

Warwickshire County Council's continues to support people experiencing, or at risk of experiencing poverty during the pandemic. The council's Local Welfare Scheme is there for the county's most vulnerable residents at times of unavoidable crisis when they have no other means of help. It can provide financial support and advice for people to meet the costs of food, energy and other essentials. It also signposts to further support available from other services around the county. In addition to crisis support, between December 2020 and April 2021 the Local Welfare Scheme distributed £1.89million of Government funding to families and individuals to support them with the costs of food and fuel. In total, almost 62,500 vouchers were issued to families with children eligible for benefits related free school meals and others in need.

The funding was Warwickshire's allocation of the COVID Winter Grant Scheme from the Government's Department of Work and Pensions. It was a lifeline for thousands of people, helping them to afford to keep their families fed and warm over the winter months. A Warwickshire parent in receipt of support from the scheme said: "The Local Welfare Scheme is offering a brilliant and amazing service, which really helps families like mine." This success has led to a scheme extension and the renamed COVID Local Support Grant will provide further funding of £330,000 to the council to help people until 20 June. Once again, the Local Welfare Scheme will be responsible for administering the grant, and families eligible for free school meals will be prioritised.

People can contact the Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme for a confidential discussion about their circumstance on 01926 359182 or 0800 408 1448. More information about the Scheme can be found at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme)

For information about wider support from the council and other services, go to: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/facinghardship](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/facinghardship)

## Ufton Nature Reserve – Litter

Following a littering incident at Ufton Nature Reserve the Parish Council has established the following:

- Ufton Nature Reserve is owned by Warwickshire County Council. (WCC)
- It is leased to Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT).
- When the lease was first drawn up in 2001, the responsibility for litter bins etc remained with WCC.
- In 2012 the licence was subject to a deed of variation whereby WCC removed this clause and replaced it with a clause that the site would be subject to a no litter/take it home policy.
- WWT has no obligation to litter pick the reserve. However, they manage litter as best as they can with staff and volunteers, but they only do so because of the wider impression it gives the site.

Clearly, this is very unsatisfactory as the no litter/take it home policy is not working. Also, WWT never expected to be spending charitable funds to clear fly tipping etc.

WWT intend to raise these issues with WCC in the next 2 – 3 months and have agreed to keep Ufton Parish Council informed.

## Register your child for the 11+

If your child is year 5 and you would like them to be considered for a grammar school place in 2022, then you will need to register your child to sit the 11+ now.

These are scheduled to be held in September 2021 for those who register by the deadline of 30 June 2021.

Warwickshire operates a shared test with the grammar schools in Birmingham, so if you are interested in applying for either Warwickshire or Birmingham grammar schools, then please register on the online portal at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions) and look out for the updates on testing dates and venues which will follow. Further information on the 11+ is available at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/grammar-schools-11-test](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/grammar-schools-11-test).

## Ufton Night Sky

Hello and welcome to Ufton Night Sky, where I will be keeping you updated on interesting things to see in the night sky every month. I have been an astronomer since childhood, and I have developed that interest into my profession as an Astro Photographer. If you see somebody creeping around with a tripod & camera in the middle of the night, it could be me!

Planets visible to the naked eye for June are:

Jupiter & Saturn are visible in the NE, best viewed at 4.30, so early risers only!

Venus, which is the third brightest object in the sky after the Sun & Moon, is visible after sunset in the ENE until about 22.00

Mars is visible as an evening object low in the NE and appears as a red star, best time to view 21.55.

There is a partial solar eclipse on the morning of 10th June. Starts 10.08, finishes 12.22. Roughly 25 % of the sun will be obscured by the moon at its peak at about 11.10. Look for animals behaving slightly differently, birds often start roosting as the light dims.

Fun Fact: There are at least ten times more stars in the universe than grains of sand on every beach on Earth!

That's all for this month

Clear Skies!

Carl

Light by Night Photography

## A425 Ufton to Southam Road

HS2 – A425 Closure

The A425 is due to be reopened in early August, progress dependant. This is what HS2 have told local councillors today following sustained pressure from representatives around Southam.

Progress is reported to be 'good' for the tunnel entrance construction and a diversion road will be constructed to allow for this route to be opened in line with their original proposed 9-month closure.

The diversion will go through the polo grounds for a distance of 800m and is yet to be built. While it is being built, the original road will be reopened. This is expected to be on the first week of August. Then after 18 months the temporary road will come into use. Going forward, a direct route either on the original or temporary road should be available from Southam to Leamington, although there might have to be some traffic signals from time to time.

Cllr Adam (Long Itchington, Stockton and Ufton District Councillor) said "We welcome this to eventually mitigate the impact to our local communities but will continue to pressure HS2 to go further in meeting the needs of local residents who are still being impacted!"

## PLEASE BE VIGILANT

In late May a garage and shed were broken into in White Hart Lane. Locked doors were jemmied and fortunately nothing was taken, but the upheaval within was most distressing. Please take care and report any strange or unusual incident to Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.



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### **Upcoming services**

**June 27<sup>th</sup> - 11am**

**July 25<sup>th</sup> - 11am**

It would be lovely to have you join us! There is no need to pre-book to join our services, just turn up. On the weeks we do not meet in person at Ufton you can participate in physical services at Harbury and Ladbroke as well as online if you wish. Please join the church mailing list or call us to find out more (contact details at the bottom).

### **Church open for prayer 10-12 on 26<sup>th</sup> June**

In advance of our future vision for the parish session in July, the church will be open at this time to give an opportunity for prayer and reflection. All are welcome.

### **Future vision for the parish session, 10<sup>th</sup> July 10-4, Radford Semele**

A facilitated future vision meeting across Ufton, Harbury and Ladbroke will be held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July 10-4 at Radford Semele church, and all from our church communities are strongly welcomed to attend.

### **Flowers and cleaning rota**

June Shepherd is pulling this together, please call her on 612686 if you are able to help on occasion.

### **Message from Rev Andy**

It's that time of year when many churches conduct their 'APCM' or Annual Parochial church meeting. It's a time to review the past year, thank the many people who contribute to church and parish life in so many different ways, and look to the future.

This year seems particularly significant as we emerge from the pandemic that has impacted all of our lives and closed all our churches for public worship for the first time since the second world war. Many church communities have explored on-line alternatives, such as zoom, Facebook live, and YouTube, and our three churches of Harbury, Ladbroke and Ufton are no exception. Of course, this meant a baptism of fire for many who found themselves having to learn new skills, and invest in new equipment, but it has been remarkable how these initiatives have found a whole new audience in the virtual world. Recognising this, we intend to continue providing a mixed offering of physical worship as well as streaming and recording services for those unable to join us in person, or who simply want to tune in from remote locations. If you would like more information on how to access our services, please do contact me or any of our church wardens and we would be pleased to give you more details.

Here in Ufton we also recognise the particular challenges we face as a small community and our struggle to fill the necessary roles on our PCC and as church wardens. Another significant moment for our churches is our shared 'Vision Day' taking place on the 10<sup>th</sup> July at Radford Semele church where we can assess all the past has brought and look to God's direction for the future. I am looking forward to the greater freedoms the release of lockdown measures will bring, meeting more people in person, and exploring how we can serve our communities and share Gods love with all.

*Vicar Rev Andy Batchelor: telephone 714295 email [rev.andyb@gmail.com](mailto:rev.andyb@gmail.com)*

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