

# UFTON NEWS

## October 2021 Diary

Fri	1	Blue and Green Bin Collection
Mon	4	Tai Chi Village Hall (7.30 – 9.00 pm)
Tues	5	Ufton Parish Council 8.00 pm Village Hall.
Fri	8	Grey Bin Collection
Sat	9	Men's Breakfast Village Hall
Sun	10	Private Function Village Hall (11.00 am – 5.00 pm)
Mon	11	Tai Chi Village Hall (7.30 – 9.00 pm)
Fri	15	Blue and Green Bin Collection
Sat	16	Private Function Village Hall (1.00 – 5.00 pm)
Sun	17	Harvest Festival Ufton Church 11.00 am
Mon	18	Tai Chi Village Hall (7.30 – 9.00 pm)
Fri	22	Grey Bin Collection
Mon	26	Tai Chi Village Hall (7.30 – 9.00 pm)
Fri	29	Blue and Green Bin Collection
Sun	31	Church Service Ufton Church 11.00 a

## THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY IN WARWICKSHIRE

Warwickshire County Council and the Warwickshire Lieutenancy, invite you to take part in The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC), a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee."

Everyone from individuals, schools, care homes and early year providers, to faith groups, charities, businesses and more will be encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees from October, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022.

With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage the planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations. It is hoped that as many people as possible will be able to support this inclusive and far-reaching initiative.

Warwickshire County Council and the Warwickshire Lieutenancy are encouraging the planting of as many trees as possible across Warwickshire. We are doing this, firstly, to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee for the remarkable 70 years of service she has given us, and secondly, as an important initiative to tackle climate change.

To get involved in The Queen's Green Canopy, visit

<https://queensgreencanopy.org/get-involved/>

### GET INVOLVED

- To find out more about The Queen's Green Canopy, visit [www.queensgreencanopy.org](http://www.queensgreencanopy.org)
- From October 2021, add your tree to the QGC map, which will be presented to Her Majesty on her Jubilee <https://queensgreencanopy.org/map-education-hub/qgc-map/#/>

### DID YOU KNOW? \*

1. British oak trees support an estimated 2,300 species, an incredible variety of wildlife.
2. A mature tree can absorb up to 150kg of CO<sub>2</sub> a year.
3. UK Green spaces remove up to 1.3 billion kg of air pollutants each year.
4. Just 13% of the UK is covered in trees, compared with an average 37% in other European countries.
5. Spending time around trees can improve out physical and mental health. Trees release chemicals called phytoncides, which have been proven to reduce blood pressure, lower anxiety levels and increase pain threshold when we breath them in.
6. A study has shown that housing developments surrounded by trees and greenery have 52% fewer crimes than those in nearby identical housing surrounded by barren land.
7. Urban trees capture around 55-110kgs of particulate pollution, such as dust, dirt and soot each year.
8. Street trees block noise by using their leaves, twigs, and branches to absorb and deflect sound waves.
9. While trees only cover around 30% of Earth's land surface, they are home to 80% of the world's known terrestrial biodiversity.

10. A mature evergreen tree can intercept more than 15,000 litres of water per year, helping to reduce the risk of flooding.

\*Source: [www.hvoss.org.uk/media/114151/List-of-general-facts-about-trees.pdf](http://www.hvoss.org.uk/media/114151/List-of-general-facts-about-trees.pdf)

## **MENS BREAKFAST 8.30am Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October in the Village Hall**

Undoubtedly it has been a long time coming, but we are delighted to invite you to join us in the Village Hall at 8.30am on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October for one of Roger's incomparable "Full English for a fiver". As before, numbers are limited to 30 and responses will be accepted on a first come, first served basis by Barry so please get in touch with him **this minute** on 811254 or (preferably) by email to [champagnebuff@gmail.com](mailto:champagnebuff@gmail.com)

At our next **Breakfast** on 13<sup>th</sup> November, we shall have a Speaker as usual, but for this our first post-Covid event it will be an opportunity to catch up, to meet friends both old and new and to remember with fondness those who sadly are no longer with us:

Tony Brown, Dennis Peaty, Bob Stevens, Reg Swain and Ralph Trollope.

We do hope you will be able to join us on the 9<sup>th</sup> and to drink a toast to Absent Friends.

## **VILLAGE HALL UPDATE**

Whilst we are pleased to be able to open the Village Hall for bookings, whether regular or one-off, sport or recreation, it is a sad fact that the COVID effect still lingers on.

In consequence, regular weekly events such as Pilates, Sugarcraft and Yoga are unfortunately not yet available, but we are delighted that Bob Sherman is able to welcome you to his Tai Chi event on Monday evenings between 7.30 and 9.00pm. If you require further information, please contact him via [shermanbob55@gmail.com](mailto:shermanbob55@gmail.com)

The replacement chairs (purchased from Stoneleigh Village Hall and kindly collected by Richard Skelcher) are now installed and are being inspected and graded, ready for use in October. They will replace our (less

comfortable) grey plastic ones and the various wooden chairs that line the sides of the Hall; in addition, a dozen of the grey chairs will be stored in the tower for occasional meetings held in church. They will replace their wooden ones, which means we should have a combined total of some 30 "antique" items for disposal very shortly. We have asked a local auctioneer to value them and will offer them to villagers first – hopefully via the November edition of Ufton News.

New electric warm-air hand driers have been installed during the summer and a dedicated Village Hall website is under construction; we are also planning to redecorate the Hall completely as we believe it was last done in 2014.

All booking enquiries should be sent to Ian Crowther by email to [ian@account-able.co.uk](mailto:ian@account-able.co.uk) or (if urgent) via 612986; fellow Committee members are Colin Baldwin and Tricia Crowther.

Finally, our thanks go to the five villagers who responded to the Christmas flyer and expressed an interest in joining the Village Hall committee; now that we are in the new "normal", we plan to invite you to a meeting very soon!

## **Allotment becoming available**

One of the Allotment holders is intending to hang up his tools and move down south. He would like to see his well-cared for allotment go to an Ufton resident if possible. Most if not all the allotment is fenced with netting and there are some raised beds along with an orchard, a shed and possibly some tools.

If anyone is interested, please call Tony on 07816 606928

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Date for items to be submitted for the November Edition  
– Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

## Consultation on Proposed South Warwickshire Council

(Possible merger of Stratford District Council and Warwick District Council)

As you may be aware Local Government is facing a very uncertain time. Funding for the sector especially District Councils has been significantly reduced and following the impact of the COVID pandemic it is thought there may be further funding reductions. At the same time the cost of delivering valued services is increasing; this is particularly the case in relation to refuse and recycling services. Faced with these pressures the elected members of both Councils agreed earlier this year to explore the principle of Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council formally merging and agreed the following vision:

“To create a single statutory South Warwickshire Council covering all of the activities currently carried out by Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council by 1 April 2024.”

To achieve this vision by April 2024, Government have informed us that we should make a formal submission to request a merger by the end of the year. In making any submission the Councils will need to demonstrate the proposals address the following:

- improve the area’s local government;
- command local support, in particular the merger is proposed by all councils which are to be merged and there is evidence of a good deal of local support; and
- the area is a credible geography, consisting of two or more existing local government areas that are adjacent, and which, if established, would not pose an obstacle to locally-led proposals for authorities to combine to serve their communities better and would facilitate joint working between local authorities.

The proposal to merge would be a massive decision for both authorities, it would see the abolition of both Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils which have provided valued services to residents and businesses for almost 50 years. However, we believe this approach is the best way to preserve, along with investing in, services. It

will also ensure financial sustainability in the future.

A full consultation exercise was launched on Monday 6 September 2021, and this will run until 24 October 2021. Everyone is invited to have their say through via a dedicated website.

<https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/>.

## Local Government Boundary Commission.

The Local Government Boundary Commission has published draft recommendations for new wards, ward boundaries, and ward names for Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

They are now inviting comments on those recommendations.

The consultation closes on **08 November 2021** and can be accessed via

<https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/have-your-say/24993>

(In the depths of the report there is mention of Ufton being combined with Harbury ward. However, the editor of this newsletter could not find anything definite – the report is less than clear. If anyone understands the proposals, please do share with the rest of the village)



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**Upcoming services**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Festival – 11am**

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October – 11am**

When we are back in church, we ask that people remain respectful of social distancing where possible and be mindful that different members of the congregation have different perspectives on new arrangements. Whilst mask wearing is no longer a legal requirement, we encourage their use if you are willing, and communion will continue to be given in individual cups.

**Flowers and cleaning rota**

**Harvest decorating** – Sat 16<sup>th</sup> morning ahead of service on Sun 17<sup>th</sup> – EVERYONE

**October cleaning** - Dawn Sharples

**October brasses** – Tricia Crowther and June Shepherd

If you have not done so already, please contact June 612686 if you are happy to be added to the list.

**Message from Rev Andy**

I thought it would be helpful to let you know what is being planned for our church over the next few months and years. I know the local community have been very generous in donating money towards church repairs and renovations, and we are currently pursuing several projects to improve church facilities.

Firstly, we are looking at a two-stage plan to improve the facilities in church. It is envisaged that a toilet would be located in the tower area, with a second level above which would give access to the clock and could be used as a vestry. The second phase of this project would be to convert the existing vestry into a kitchen area. Taken together this would make the church more useable and accessible to all. We have also been investigating a replacement of the archaic sound system, which would enhance both our services and other events that may be held in church.

These initiatives are both at an early stage and will require approval from diocesan authorities, and although we have some money set aside for such projects, we will need to undertake further fundraising to make these improvements materialise. I am grateful for the support offered by the community and by the team working to make this a reality and I am excited by the possibilities such a project may bring about. We will keep you informed as the project develops.

**Contact us on [uftonchurch@gmail.com](mailto:uftonchurch@gmail.com)**

**Vicar – Rev Andy** contactable on 01926 714295