

# UFTON NEWS

## February 2023 Diary

Tues	7	Blue, Green and Food waste. Parish Council Meeting VH 8.00 pm
Sat	11	Coffee morning with book and jigsaw swap. Village Hall 10 am – 12 noon. <b>All welcome</b>
Tues	14	Food Waste
Tues	21	ALL BINS
Tues	28	Food Waste

## Last Call for Children's Society Boxes

It appears there are still a few Children's Society Boxes which have yet to make it into the safe clutches of Ann Ainscow. If you still have one, please will you take it to Ann at the Old Rectory as soon as possible. If anyone wishes to have a box, please contact Ann on 01926 603303.

## Rural Cost of Living Survey

The Rural Services Network in partnership with the Citizens Advice is running a [Rural Cost of Living Household Survey](#). We are thrilled with the 3,000 responses we have had so far but we would like more and are hoping you can help!

[https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Rural\\_Households\\_Cost-of-Living](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Rural_Households_Cost-of-Living)

## HOW WILL THE RESULTS BE USED?

Results from the survey will build on the Rural Cost of Living [research](#) we commissioned last year and help us to lobby Government Departments, MPs and other policy makers for a fairer deal for rural communities. The survey will run until 31 March 2023.

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

**Village Hall Enquiries**, [uftonvh@gmail.com](mailto:uftonvh@gmail.com)

Village Website [www.uftonvillage.com](http://www.uftonvillage.com)

Deadline for inclusion of items in March's Ufton News, Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023

## Coffee Morning with book and jigsaw swap – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 10 – 12 noon Ufton Village Hall

Everyone is welcome 😊 Come and have a cup of coffee/tea and a piece of cake or biscuit. Then peruse the books and jigsaws at your leisure.

## HELP AVAILABLE TO INSTALL AND FIX BOILERS

Living in a home with no – or broken – heating is miserable at any time of the year. This is particularly true in the winter of course. And if you have an illness made worse by living in a cold home, it can have a devastating impact on your physical and mental health. But there is help at hand for those living in their own their homes in the Warwickshire area. Warm and Well in Warwickshire has got funding available to help install – or fix – boilers and central heating systems. Anyone with a chronic or acute health condition or disability which is made worse by the cold (such as respiratory conditions, arthritis, diabetes or heart disease) can apply for help. Income criteria applies but it's well worth residents contacting Act on Energy to see if we can help.

Call 0800 988 2881 or via the website [www.actonenergy.org.uk](http://www.actonenergy.org.uk)



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## Ufton Church

In the interregnum i.e., the five-year period when Ufton was without a vicar between John Armstrong leaving and Andy Batchelor's arrival, the PCC were hard pressed to find clergy - who were often already committed elsewhere - to take Services here in Ufton.

We were particularly fortunate to know Lay Readers Gemma and Peter Took from Harbury who effectively "took us under their wing" and really supported us throughout, so much so that they readily admitted that Ufton had a special place in their hearts.

As the proverb says: "All good things must come to pass" and reluctantly Gemma and Peter decided it would be time to retire at the end of 2021 and appropriately their final duty would be to take our Christmas Day Service. Naturally, the congregation wanted to show their thanks and appreciation – so what better way than a present on Christmas Day itself? Donations were received and we were delighted to present them with a Voucher for Afternoon Tea at a hotel in Chipping Campden. They were delighted to use their Voucher recently and Gemma sent an open letter to the congregation in which she writes: -  
***"Peter and I would like to thank you for your wonderful gift of tea and fizz at the Cotswold House Hotel. After all my problems with my back and legs, plus the pre-Christmas move to a bungalow, it was a very welcome treat. We do hope you are all well and managing to have some Services.... we would love to visit you sometime and be part of your congregation when you have one."***

Apart from funerals, St Michael & All Angels only managed three Services last year: Easter Sunday, Remembrance Day and the Carol Service, but as we enter 2023, we hope it will not be too long before the Bishop reveals his plan for the church and its future role in our lives here in Ufton.

## Electoral Commission – Voter ID

From 4th May 2023 onwards, electors wishing to vote at polling stations will have to show an acceptable form of photo ID. Full details of the new requirement are available on the SDC website here: -  
<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/.../voter-id-at-polling...>

This gives details on what types of photo ID are acceptable and what electors should do if they don't have one.

Anyone without suitable Voter ID can apply online for a new Voter Authority Certificate via the Gov.uk website.

Paper applications can also be accepted by the Elections dept at Stratford District Council so long as they are accompanied by a suitable passport style photo.

Alternatively, electors can come into Stratford's Council Offices where staff will assist electors in completing the form on-line, take their photo and upload it to the portal. The Certificate will then be posted direct to them.

People have to be on the electors list to be able to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate.

**Electors have until 25th April to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate in time for 4th May elections.**

## Parish Precept 2023 – 2024

At the last Parish Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023, the Parish Council discussed the precept required for 2023 – 2024. The Precept funds the work the Parish Council does, and pays any invoices it receives. The last time the Parish Council increased the precept was 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019, (4 years ago).

However, like all of us the Parish Council is facing larger electricity bills for the provision of the street lights. The cost of the street lighting is going from @ £1,000 per annum to @ £3,000 per annum. Therefore, an increase in the precept is inevitable. The Parish Council decided to restrain the precept increase to 10%, which was roughly the CPI amount at September 2022. Any extra money required to fund the streetlight bill will be taken out of the Parish Council's reserves.

## Parish Council Elections

Parish Council elections are due to take place on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Members of the Parish who wish to contribute to the village and help maintain services and assist residents will be invited to stand as a Parish Councillor.

More information will be available in the March Ufton News.