

UFTON NEWS

August 2021 Diary

Fri	6	Green Bin Collection – if you have purchased a sticker
Fri	13	Grey Bin Collection
Fri	20	Green Bin Collection – if you have purchased a sticker
Fri	27	Grey Bin Collection

Blue Bin Collection

As you may or may not be aware there has been a fire at the depot where all the Blue Bin rubbish is taken for recycling.

Stratford District Council and Biffa have been working hard to find a replacement site and it was thought one had been sourced. However, this is no longer the case. Both SDC and Biffa are hoping to provide a Blue Bin service on Friday 6th August 2021, but it is not guaranteed.

Alternative Options

- book a tip appointment and try to assist neighbours by offering to take their cardboard.
- Store the cardboard until collections resume.

Tesco's cardboard skip is currently full, so please do not use it.

Please do not contact SDC's contact centre as there is nothing, they can do to change the situation.

As updated information is received, it will be posted on Ufton Community Facebook page and on the village noticeboard. If you are aware your neighbours do not use Facebook, or they are not able to see the noticeboard, please update them.

Smells and Flies

The Environment Agency has recently delivered a newsletter titled Issue 5 July 2021 Neighbours Newsletter – Ufton Landfill and In-Vessel Compost Facility to a handful of Ufton residents.

The newsletter says "We have seen a spike in the number of public complaints about the site this year, having received hardly any in the previous three years.

These have referred to offensive odours and excessive fly numbers. Coronavirus restrictions have impacted our normal inspection frequencies, but we did visit the site in June 2021, including an off-site odour tour. On this occasion the IVC was downwind of the village

but a chemical odour, possibly from crop spraying was noticeable from an upwind location. No offensive odours were noted downwind of the IVC, and operations were complaint.

There was some fly activity around the site when we visited but not significant numbers. Biffa undertake fly treatment throughout the summer months. Incoming waste is received into an enclosed reception hall which has boards that are sprayed with a chemical attractive to flies, but which kills them on contact. After shredding the waste is then treated at high temperatures within enclosed tunnels, which live flies would not survive. The treated waste is then matured in open windows which are subject to fly killer spraying.

We will conduct further inspections over the summer to check Biffa are continuing to take appropriate measures in respect of odour and flies.

The Environment Agency also asks within the newsletter if the community would like to set up a local liaison group. There was one which was abandoned a few years ago. The Parish Council will discuss this at their next meeting in September, if a meeting is held (see further on in this newsletter). If there is anyone within the village who would like to attend a liaison meeting 2 – 3 times per year and are prepared to report back to the village, please contact the Parish Clerk, Jackie, or any Parish Councillor.

A full copy of the EA newsletter has been put on the village noticeboard, there is also a copy on the Ufton Community Facebook page.

Stratford District Council – Environmental Health Dept response regarding "flies"

On Friday 23rd July at approximately 11:45am until around 12:30 I made a trip to Ufton to collect samples of flies that have been causing problems in homes locally for some time. I viewed samples of flies taken from inside homes at St Michaels Close and Broad Close caught on sticky fly paper and positively identified the flies in question to be Cluster Flies (*Pollenia rudis* being the majority, with the minority being other members of the cluster fly family and the occasional Phorid fly).

Cluster flies are in abundance anywhere there is a source of earthworms, as they need earthworms to

complete their lifecycle. Broadly speaking anywhere there is deciduous woodland, grazing or pasture, or grassland. Their eggs are laid in the soil and their larvae live parasitically within earthworms and emerge as flies in springtime and persist through summer, then seeking out places to hibernate (unfortunately, local houses, commercial structures, and agricultural structures are perfect) towards Autumn.

Cluster flies are not associated with faeces, rotting meat, or household waste and widely not considered to be a public health pest species in their natural surroundings.

I believe the issue at Ufton is a combination of the flies' natural behaviour, being drawn into other cluster flies by pheromones and clustering together (hence the name) and the flies need to regulate temperature. On particularly hot days flies will seek refuge in cooler areas such as houses and shaded areas. The day I visited was particularly hot and flies entered my "air conditioned" van almost immediately when the window was wound down.

External 'red top' fly traps in use at some addresses contain a lure that will attract blow flies like 'bluebottles and greenbottles' from miles around due to the fact it simulates rotten or decaying meat. The flies caught in these are a different species to the Cluster flies causing issue within the homes. Cluster flies will not be caught in these traps as the lure is ineffective.

Cluster fly issues across the district are common, Bascote for example, has regular seasonal cluster fly issues for the same environmental reasons.

To summarise, I believe the fly issues at Ufton are an unfortunate combination of warm weather, environment (being surrounded by grassland), and the natural behaviour of the (largest majority of) species of fly concerned. I do not necessarily think the composting facility is the source of the flies in question, as the largest factor is the lack of earthworms required to breed up to such numbers. The compost on site is stored on a concrete base, preventing any natural access by worms, whereas there are thousands of acres of perfect grassland surrounding the village itself harbouring an abundance of earthworms.

Prevention is almost impossible in the circumstances especially while weather across the board gets warmer earlier, and for longer. Management may be the only way forward. This can be done in a variety of ways.

1. Fly screens or ribbons fitted on doors and windows to be left open.
2. Use of fly papers and sticky traps

3. Cluster Fly cassette traps retailed online will work to a certain extent in loft spaces, but ONLY when hibernation approaches. They may well be ineffective in living spaces.
4. Auto- dispensing fly spray- these units are battery powered and discharge a small amount of fly spray on a timer
5. Electric 'zapper' units may be used, but I would never advise fitting one in a loft space unless the catch tray is replaced with a large capacity bag as once the tray is full, if overfilled it presents a fire risk as the electric current will pass through the fly carcasses until they ignite.

'Red Top' fly traps will not trap the flies affecting residential spaces- the species causing problems will not be drawn to the lure and it will simply draw different species of flies into your gardens.

Environmental Health have however advised to report any foul odours to them, using the form available on line

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/environmental-health.cfm/form/enviroprotection/q/1>

No doubt the newsletter from the Environment Agency and the response from Environmental Health at Stratford District Council will be disappointing to many of us. We have however tried.

Wake for Dennis Peaty

For those of you who knew and remember Denis Peaty, his daughter Lauren is hosting a wake at The Leopard Inn, Oakley Wood Road, Bishops Tachbrook, Leamington Spa, CV33 9RN on Friday 23rd September 2021 between 1.00 pm – 5.00 pm. Lauren will be pleased to see his friends and neighbours from Ufton.

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Date for items to be submitted for the September Edition – Sunday 22nd August 2021.

Ufton Parish Council

Following the emergence of COVID19 and the first national lockdown, the Government passed time limited legislation to allow all Councils to meet virtually on-line. This proved very successful, and Ufton Parish Council met virtually.

On 6th May 2021 the legislation expired, and the Government expected all Councils to meet face to face again, whilst taking "all reasonable precautions". In theory this is fine, however, members of the public cannot be refused entry to a meeting. So, whilst the Councillors were happy to meet as a group whilst maintaining social distancing, they were not prepared to meet when attendance at the meeting could not be limited. Consequently, apart from one extraordinary meeting which was held in the White Hart overflow car park, the Parish Council has not met since 4th May 2021.

The Parish Council does not meet in August, so in theory the next meeting due to take place is on Tuesday 7th September 2021.

The Parish Council will review the COVID situation at the end of August to determine if they are happy to meet face to face.

The Parish Council still functions despite there being no meetings, as the Clerk has delegated authority and liaises with all Parish Councillors Where necessary.

Ufton Night Sky

Hello everybody.

Lots to see in the sky this month, starting with the best meteor shower (shooting star) of the year. The Perseid Meteor Shower is at its peak on the night of 12th and before dawn on the 13th August. If you sit out in a dark area away from streetlights you may see up to 60 meteors per hour. They will originate from the constellation Perseus and the Moon will be at only 13%, so it won't interfere. Give your eyes about 15 minutes to gain your night vision, looking at a phone will ruin this so keep them hidden away! I have been watching and photographing the Perseids for decades and they seldom disappoint.

New Moon is on 8th August, Full Moon the 22nd.

Planets visible this month

Venus is a beautiful object low in the West after sunset. It is unmistakable as it is the 3rd

brightest object in the sky after the Sun & Moon.

Jupiter is best viewed on 19th at 01.22 BST in the South.

Saturn is also visible in the South, best time to view 2nd Aug 01.00 am

Fun Fact

The Sun converts 600 million tons of hydrogen into 596 tons of helium, every single second!

That's all for this month.

Clear Skies!

Take the Timetrail with Warwickshire Museum

This is a very interesting website which allows you to search Warwickshire County Councils archaeology database.

Did you know there is evidence of a deserted settlement dating back to the medieval period, 300 metres southwest of the Church?

Go have a look and see what you can find.

<https://timetrail.warwickshire.gov.uk/searchSimple.aspx#stocks>



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Upcoming services

September 5th – 11am

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). We will include more information in the September Ufton news on any covid safety measures that will be in place, but we look forward to worship being a bit more normal again.

Future vision for the parish session, NOW 18th SEPTEMBER, 10-4, Radford Semele

Note that our vision day has now been rescheduled, due to continuation of restrictions. Please note this date in your diaries, all from our church communities are strongly welcomed to attend.

Flowers and cleaning rota

September cleaning & brasses (ready for service on 5th) - Marion Mulligan (cleaning), Sylvia Beards (Brasses)

September flowers (ready for service on 5th) - Ann Ainscow

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

As I write this article, we are one week into the new relaxed COVID restrictions and have seen the encouraging news that infection rates are now dropping after the recent peak caused by the Delta variant of the virus. There is now great concern about the national effects of the so-called 'pingdemic' and the possible introduction of vaccination 'passports' to certain venues. The wardens, PCC's and I have been meeting to discuss how we move forward as worshipping communities, after a long period where our buildings were closed, or our services restricted in so many ways from what we were used to. Harbury and Ufton have decided to remain cautious for the time being, while Ladbroke have felt more able to relax the restrictions and have been able to sing together for the first time in many months – something we rejoiced in, even if our voices end up somewhat hoarse after being out of practice for so long! Like our two churches people can have varying views on the relaxation of the rules, and each personal decision can be based on perfectly valid reasons. What has concerned me about the current national debate is how polarised it has become and how unwilling people are to accept other points of view. The apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 'And now faith, hope and love abide, these three: and the greatest of these is love'. How much we need those qualities today. Faith that God holds the future in his hands and will always be our side whatever life brings. Hope that brighter days do indeed lie ahead. But also love – which should be at the heart of our dealings with one another, enabling us to recognise each other's worth before God, and when we do disagree, to do so with respect, and not condemnation. Jesus summarised the ten commandments of the Old Testament into just two: Love God and Love your neighbour as yourself. Those remain wise words today, and our nation would be a better place if we were able to put them into practice.

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