

UFTON NEWS

April 2022 Diary

Fri	1	Blue and Green Bins
Mon	4	Tai Chi 7.30 pm VH
Tues	5	Ufton Parish Council Meeting VH 8.00 pm
Fri	8	Grey Bin
Tues	12	Annual Church Meeting Church 8.00 pm
Weds	13	Spring Gathering #2 with drinks & nibbles 7.30 for 8.00 pm VH
Fri	15	Blue and Green Bins Good Friday
Sun	17	Easter Sunday Communion 9.00 am Church
Mon	18	Easter Monday
Fri	22	Grey Bins
Sat	23	Men's Breakfast 8.30 am VH
Fri	29	Blue and Green Bins

BUMPER ISSUE NEWSLETTER!

We have two extra items with this month's newsletter. Firstly, there is the results of the church survey. Secondly there is a Housing Needs Survey which has been commissioned by the Parish Council. The survey has not cost the Parish Council anything. Please read it, complete it and return it, if appropriate. Thank you.

Children's Boxes – Ann Ainscow

We collected £456.85 for the Children's Society. "Thank you" If anyone else would like to donate by having a box please contact Ann Ainscow.



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Men's Breakfast 8.30am Saturday 23rd April in Ufton Village Hall

What a cracking talk we received from Major Matt for our March event, and we can promise you April will be just as good when we welcome back Andrew Small from New Futures Nepal. He gave a Talk to us in June 2018 which was so impressive that we asked him to come back and give us an update after his planned trip there, but unfortunately Covid amongst other things intervened, so we're delighted he is able to join us once more.

As with last month, we envisage a swift take-up and a Waiting List after our maximum 30 has been exceeded – "Roger's Full English for a Fiver", good company and sparkling conversation – what better way can there be to spend an hour or so on a Saturday morning?

Reserve your place now with Barry on 01926 811254 and 07768 175682 or (better still) champagnebuff@gmail.com

PS Future Men's Breakfast dates: - 21st May and 11th June – **get 'em in your diary now!**

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Deadline for inclusion of items in May's Ufton News, Saturday 24th April 2022

Have your say - Stratford town centre public consultation

People who live, visit or work in Stratford-upon-Avon are being asked for their views on proposed changes to the town centre. Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council and Warwickshire County Council have been working with the Town Centre Strategic Partnership on ideas for what Bridge Street and High Street in Stratford-upon-Avon could look like in the future, building on ideas originally set out in the Stratford's Neighbourhood Plan.

Now, local residents, business owners and visitors are being invited to share their views on the proposed changes via an online consultation open from 24 March to 5th June

<https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/>

Rogue Trader prosecuted for £100,000 Fraud

A rogue trader who took advantage of a retired Rugby resident, defrauding him of over £100,000 has been successfully prosecuted by Warwickshire County Council Trading Standards Service.

Darren Mitchell who traded as Stately Paving Ltd offered driveway block paving, building and landscaping work. Mr Mitchell first door knocked the elderly resident's bungalow in July 2014 and agreed to block pave his driveway and remove an old greenhouse. He returned to the property repeatedly together with others unknown, pressurising the resident in to paying for more work including fencing, repairs to windows, building a brick shed and laying new turf. Some of this work was never done or wasn't needed and the pensioner

was charged grossly excessive amounts. A Trading Standards expert witness estimated that the true value of the work carried out by Mr Mitchell and his workmen was less than £20,000, with remedial works being required costing approximately £3,835. The victim had been charged £120,000.

Over time the resident was systematically defrauded of over £100,000, sometimes withdrawing large amounts of cash from his bank account on a daily basis to pay Mr Mitchell. On one occasion the victim wrote a cheque for £20,000 which was meant to pay for a new shed. Instead, Mr Mitchell used the money to buy three vehicles.

When Warwickshire Trading Standards Service became aware of the fraud they launched an investigation, but in 2017 Mr Mitchell disappeared and a warrant was issued for his arrest. He was found and subsequently arrested in 2019.

At Warwick Crown Court on Friday 11th March 2022, Mr Darren Mitchell (aged 46 and of no fixed abode) was found guilty of four offences contrary to the Fraud Act 2006 and one offence contrary to the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. The case was adjourned for sentencing to Thursday 7th April 2022.

Warwickshire Trading Standards is now attempting to recover some of the money lost to the victim in this case.

Report rogue traders to Warwickshire Trading Standards on 0808 223 1133 Use our approved trader schemes to find traders that are vetted, and Trading Standards approved, visit: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/approvedtraders

Trip to the HS2 Visitor Centre



The first group from the Parish Council and Men's Breakfast were welcomed to the North Portal viewing gallery in late March where they were able to observe the tunnel entrance, the segment storage area and slurry treatment plant. The 2,000 tonne, 125-metre-long tunnel boring machine (which can dig some 12 metres in a 24-hour day) began its journey in late 2021 and should be extracted from the south portal within 5 months. After some dismantling it will be transported back to the north portal by road to commence its second bore in mid-2022.

Whatever the views of individual attendees on the merits or otherwise of HS2, all came away extremely impressed by the sheer size of the operation and the efficient manner in which work was progressing.

In consequence, the Parish Council is organising another visit for the village on Tuesday 10th May 2022 @ 2.00 pm and welcomes applications (maximum 20) on a first come, first served basis.

If you would like to attend, please send an email with HS2 VISITOR CENTRE as the subject title to ic.uftonpc@gmail.com

St Wulstan Surgery - COVID Vaccine Update:

Please read for details.

In a nutshell:

👉 The Spring Boosters are available for those aged 75+ or those aged 12+ with a weakened immune system

👉 They can be booked by calling 119 or online

👉 They can be given at least 3 months after your previous vaccine, but it is advised you aim to have it 6 months after your previous vaccine

<https://www.stwulstan.co.uk/news/covid-vaccine-update>

If you use a different surgery, please check with them for their arrangements.

£150 Council Tax Rebate - Scam calls

Residents are getting calls from telephone numbers starting with 020 from individuals claiming to work for Stratford on Avon District Council. The callers are asking for details so they can pay the £150 Council Tax rebate into people's accounts. Stratford District Council **IS NOT** ringing residents and at this stage it is not able to pay the £150 as final guidance and software from Government is still awaited.

Burton Dassett – work on Beacon Tower completed.

Conservation work has finished to repair the historic 15th century beacon tower located within Warwickshire County Council's Burton Dassett Hills Country Park, following delays to the project in 2021 after bats were identified to be hibernating inside the tower's domed roof.

Over the past nine months the project has seen the tower restored as sympathetically as possible back to its original state to be enjoyed once again by the people of Warwickshire.