

Nuffield Parish Council - Newsletter – January 2024

Dear Resident

We hope you enjoyed the festive period and Happy New Year to all our residents. News from the Parish includes some date reminders, grants for home insulation/heating, confirmation of FREE bus service and important date for parents/carers of young children:

Get your home winter-ready today!



There is still time to register for the government-backed scheme targeted at inefficient homes not heated by gas. If you are concerned about the cost of energy bills and looking for ways to make your home cheaper to heat and more comfortable to live in, you may be able to apply for a **grant from Oxfordshire County Council to improve your home**. With the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2), eligible homes can receive tailored energy solutions, from insulation to solar

panels, resulting in a warmer home, lower bills and reduced carbon emissions - all delivered by the Welcome the Warmth team. Check your eligibility and apply through the website at welcomethewarmth.org.uk

FREE Comet/HandyBus Service

A few details about the services, starting this month:

- Free shopping trip service twice a month to Henley with pick up and return from passenger's doorsteps.
- Address details, phone number and postcode will need to be supplied at the time of booking.
- The service is aimed at people that are unable to drive for one reason or another (don't drive, don't own a car or have a medical condition which means they cannot drive).
- A current bus pass is required to travel.
- Both the Comet and Handy-bus will stop in Henley at Waitrose car park and/or drop off at Tesco, Henley. Details decided by the passengers on each trip. More information is available from clerk@nuffieldparish.org or book direct with Claire Harwood claire4har@aol.com or phone: 01491 640805

School Admissions for Reception Applications - Deadline 15th January 2024



As part of the application process for Reception entry to infant and primary school, parents and carers of children born between **1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020** need to apply for a school place.

If any parents or carers have any questions, you should check the primary application web page which has all the information you will need plus a link to the online application form at: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

The School Admissions Team can be contacted direct on 0345 241 2487 or at admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk

The deadline for receipt of completed school applications for Reception is 15th January 2024

Wondering what to do with your Christmas tree? HMP Huntercombe have a suggestion for you:



If you have a 'real' Christmas tree and would like to recycle it to help the bees, please consider donating it to **South Chilterns Beekeeping Association**. We would welcome your tree so that we can continue to build up the dead-hedge that was built the year before last around the NE boundary of the Teaching Apiary to help to keep the cold/fast winds from chilling/knocking over the hives, while at the same time providing shelter/hibernation/nesting sites for small mammals, birds, amphibians and insects throughout the year. The dead hedge has worked extremely well, but gradually sinks down as the bottom decomposes and therefore needs topping up every year, so we look forward to receiving your Christmas tree contributions.

If you could bring your Christmas trees (and any tree branch prunings, etc from your garden you would like to dispose of) to the Teaching Apiary which is sited in the outer grounds of **Huntercombe Prison, Nuffield, Oxon, RG9 5SB between 11am and 1.00pm this coming Sunday, 7th January**. SCBA Committee Members will be onsite to take your trees and add these to the hedge.

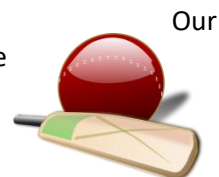
Directions: enter the Prison site via Bradley Road, with the visitors car park on your right and the single storey buildings on your left, just past these low buildings - immediately turn left onto the service road. Drive through the large metal gates in front of you (as although security is normally very tight, these gates will be open for the tree drop-off at that time). Follow that service road until you see two/three skips coming up on your right - turn right in front of these skips, follow the track and the Apiary is on your left.

We would be grateful if you could spread the word about this tree drop-off with friends, family, neighbours and on your facebook page as the dead-hedge beds down quite quickly over the course of the year, so the more plant material the better!

Whilst we are in the depths of winter, playing cricket may not be at the top of your agenda.

Ipsden Cricket Club is your local village cricket club which plays Sunday afternoon friendly fixtures (mainly 35 overs) as well as in a local village Cup competition. We are always on the lookout for new players of all standards / ages. We are a competitive team but always play within the spirit of the game and everybody takes part - if you don't bat, we will aim for you to have a bowl and vice-versa.

Our delightful ground and pavilion are very popular with visiting teams as we both look out over the Thames Valley and produce an excellent cricket tea - a staple of village cricket!



Please get in touch with us if you would like to play. Our comprehensive website is www.ipsdencc.co.uk or have a chat with our Chair (Dave) on 07952 114535.

Reminder of 2024 Meeting dates:

Please note Parish Council meetings will continue to be held at The Maker Space, with an earlier start time of 7pm. Dates for next year are:

8th February, 28th March, 23rd May (Annual Parish and Parish Council Meeting), 5th September, 7th November.

As well as putting information about our meetings and other useful local knowledge on our website, we have a Facebook page – [Nuffield Parish Oxfordshire](#) – which we use to share local messages.

Importantly, though, we rely on email to share information and get your feedback on local matters. If you are not receiving emails from the Parish Council, please do send us your email address so we can add you to the mailing list. There's a link on our website or you can email clerk@nuffieldparish.org with your details.

Kind Regards and Wishing you all a Happy New Year!

Nuffield Parish Council