



# UPPINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2017

www.uppinghamtowncouncil.gov.uk · Tel: 01572 822681 · Email: townclerk@uppinghamtowncouncil.co.uk

## YEAR OF EVOLUTION

This has truly been a year of evolution for Uppingham and its Town Council.

In making studied recommendations to our County Council for development sites, we have been looking at the period 2026-2036. With the constraints of the Town's topography this is challenging; yet we must continually have regard to the mix of homes, jobs, and educational facilities to avoid the label of "dormitory".



Alec Crombie

There is thus an imperative to maximise use of our space and the needs of all, young and old, able and less able.

Your Council is undertaking a review of all our open spaces to build on our work on Tods Piece and in harmony with the inspirational work of Uppingham in Bloom. Meanwhile the skate park, new toilet and new cross-park path are all giving value.

Ever since the relocation of our doctors' surgery the crossing of Ayston Road has been much on my mind as a hazard to the elderly and infirm. Rutland County Council has now determined an intelligent crossing will be installed opposite the Surgery at no cost to Uppingham. Hopefully this will happen this year.

Traffic of course equates to parking, something that is taking up more and more of our time on the Council. Spring Back Way is a particular hot-spot.

Having profiled the views of residents we have submitted recommendations to Rutland Highways and will rely on that Department's expertise to realise our West-East prioritisation option. Attention will also be given to parking provision and traffic calming as part of the overall solution.

On a related theme I plan a Mayor's Walk, a modern version of Beating the Bounds, which will double as an audit of possible new parking areas as well as noting litter hot-spots and the state of our pavements. My fellow Councillors and I will set off from Uppingham Market Place at 10.30 am on Sunday 25th June, returning to our starting point in time for our annual Feast. A plan of the route will be published. Do please join us.

Summing up this part of my report and echoing my correspondence in the Rutland Times of last September, we as your Council maintain a keen interest in Cllr. Simpson's ideas for a Town Centre and Business Zones plan.

An early draft of this Plan was published in the Autumn. That draft contained some far-reaching ideas of a "blue-sky" nature although certain operational proposals, especially related to our Market Place, proved something of a distraction.

Version Two of the plan should be made public by the time this Report hits the streets, and we are looking forward to debating it in the Town Council and in public session at the Town Hall.

Moving on, a further element of evolution has featured governance, the process of running your Council for the good of our Town. Uppingham's Neighbourhood Plan, one of the first in the country, has set us on a dynamic path and indeed work to refresh the Plan is already in the offing.

To compliment this we are widening the franchise of townfolk to serve on our prestigious Neighbourhood Plan Committee and look forward to the benefits that should result from this reform.

Reform has also been the object of our efforts to rationalise partnerships with community organisations in Uppingham, hitherto the subject of much confusion. These efforts are going well.

Similarly we put a premium on being accessible to you all, and that includes plans to install disabled access to the front of the Town Hall.

During the year our Council has run surveys to gain your views, each of which elicited heavy responses:-

- Continuity of the 747 bus service to and from Leicester;
- Location of the Chartered Fair; and
- Views on the nomination of an asset of community value.

A huge thank you to my fellow councillors, our Town Clerk and my ever supportive wife Caroline.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2017

25th June

Uppingham Feast Day

4th July

East Midlands in Bloom Judging

6th August

Uppingham Flower & Produce Show

8th August

Britain in Bloom Judging

29th November

Uppingham Fatstock Show

7th December

Christmas in Uppingham

## IN THIS ISSUE...

747 Centrebus latest

Neighbourhood Plan

Mayor's Walk

Twinning Association news

Community news

Have your say

## THINGS YOU'LL SEE CHANGING AROUND TOWN...

WHAT ARE WE DOING?	HOW IS IT PROGRESSING?
<b>TOD'S PIECE (KIDDIES PLAY AREA)</b> – improved play surface removing grass to make it an all year round facility. Improve the play items and expand the area and improve accessibility from all sides.	Quotes and ideas obtained, next steps to seek views and these will be available for feedback from July 2017 onwards to potentially implement 2018.
<b>TOD'S PIECE</b> – ‘making Tod’s Piece more like a park’. Council have held an initial focus group to get views from users and tenants. These ideas will be drafted into a plan and costs obtained.	This is being considered amongst a number of other new ideas for the park. We will start to share these ideas and gather feedback.
<b>TOD'S PIECE (PATHWAYS)</b> – looking at ways to link up parts of Tod’s Piece by paths to make it an all year round facility with easier access for parents and walkers.	A new path was completed in March that now links Gainsborough Road to Tod’s Terrace.
<b>OPEN SPACE REVIEW</b> – council are looking to get a number of locations in town tidied up and on to a regular maintenance contract with either the town council or Rutland County Council. Some initial work to be done early 2017 through a combination of volunteers and contracted work.	Initial draft of locations and ideas to improve the areas in question – next step to incorporate into contracts. The maintenance of open spaces is being looked at through a new working group to look at potential solutions going forward.
<b>TOWN HALL REFURBISHMENT</b> – currently identifying how to get £1.3m to refurbish the Town Hall. The idea of developing the front elevation has been dropped. Disability Access for the Town Hall – improvements to help access from High Street East rather than requiring disabled users to be diverted to the rear of the building.	This idea has now been mothballed due to the difficulty in obtaining grants, Council will now look to maintain the existing building and carry out improvements on a smaller scale.
<b>PARKING CHANGES</b> – a number of items of feedback from residents are going to be considered with potential changes to parking arrangements. These have been completed on Gainsborough and Seaton Road and will be looked at for Spring Back Way, Stockerston Road (new science block), Leamington Terrace and Siskin Road.	Seaton and Gainsborough road bay marking is complete and the other items are in the early stages of consultation or evaluation. These will be submitted if appropriate by the end of August to Rutland County Council.

## WHERE COUNCIL HAVE FINANCIALLY HELPED THE COMMUNITY...

WHAT ARE WE DOING?	HOW IS IT PROGRESSING?
<b>GRANT AID SUPPORT</b> – up to 31st March we had awarded £6,550 to local groups and in May this year we awarded grants to Uppingham in Bloom, Uppingham Flower & Produce Show, Uppingham Bowls Club, Uppingham Town Partnership for Feast Day and Leighfield Primary School.	A number of groups in Uppingham benefit each year with grant aid to keep social, physical and wellbeing activities going for the community. If you want to know more just contact the Town Clerk on 01572 822681 or visit our website.
<b>UPPINGHAM TOWN CENTRE FUND</b> – the Hawksmead Agreement with Rutland County Council has provided a £62,500 fund to the Town Council. £17,500 was spent improving the first of the new pathways around the skate park which has won an award. A further amount has been ring fenced by council to install ‘heritage street lighting’. Uppingham Community College have successfully applied to the fund for £8,000 which will go towards the community tennis facility. The Town Council has now ring fenced £37,090 from this fund plus a further £5,000 from reserves to help deliver the Heritage Lighting project.	These funds help get projects and ideas delivered to improve Uppingham for the whole community to benefit. The remaining balance in this fund will be used fully to deliver heritage street lighting in this financial year. Rutland County Council have pledged a further £10,000 and Uppingham School have been asked to consider support too. This will significantly enhance the street scene with benefits for businesses, visitors and events that are staged in town.

## MODERNISING THE COUNCIL TO HELP IT DO MORE FOR THE COMMUNITY...

WHAT ARE WE DOING?	HOW IS IT PROGRESSING?
<b>WEBSITE &amp; SOCIAL MEDIA</b> – we have been revamping and establishing our online presence as a council. This is hopefully getting more local information to you and giving you more options to give us feedback. A new website will help showcase what is happening in Uppingham and profile the Heritage Trail.	Recent ‘Have your say’ consultations with the community have really helped get your views known easily and really informed councillors better on key hot topics
<b>COUNCILLOR SURGERIES</b> – Councillor Surgeries have been popular since they were introduced on the last Saturday of each month at the town hall – as well as submitting your issues via email, social media and our website, sometimes face to face contact works well and we are keen to give you as many options.	We have a steady number of items which we are able to resolve and progress either ourselves or by passing requests on to Rutland County Council.

# 747 BUS SERVICE IS VITAL FOR UPPINGHAM

## BACKGROUND

Last October news broke about the potential loss of the 747 service with the operators indicating it wasn't commercially viable. This prompted some quick action from Rutland County Council and Leicestershire to understand what the issues were. Passenger numbers were on the decline and there was a distinct risk the service would be lost.

Thankfully Rutland and Leicestershire County Councils recognised the importance of the service and acted quickly with a subsidy in early 2017 to keep the 747 running up to January 2018. The message and support was delivered with an appeal to the communities along the route to start using it more.

## WHAT HAS YOUR COUNCIL BEEN DOING?

Since the subsidy has been put in place the Town Council has looked to galvanise support along the route with Deputy Mayor Stephen Rozak and County Councillor Marc Oxley attending meetings with other interest groups. In addition messages about supporting the service are being posted to social media to increase awareness. It was recognised very early this year that it wasn't just down to the passengers from Uppingham to support the service, also those getting on board at Houghton, Billesdon and Belton to name a few would be vital.

Additionally it was agreed that we needed to understand fully the impact of the potential loss of this service; so in May a fresh survey of users was launched by the Town Council to help pool this information and make a case beyond January 2018 to keep the 747 service. The survey would also hopefully permeate into the other communities on the route and get the awareness levels up to increase patronage. We will also be placing some articles in the local media to raise awareness too.

So far we have had over 200 responses with Cllr. Rozak riding on the service to canvas views and issue hard copy surveys. Pleasingly responses and awareness are increasing with each day – the survey will remain open until 30th June and can be accessed online via the town council website, [www.uppinghamtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.uppinghamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

2017



2018



## TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY YOU CAN:

- Go online and click on the link on the left hand side of our website [www.uppinghamtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.uppinghamtowncouncil.gov.uk)
- Go to our Facebook page by searching for 'Uppingham Town Council'
- Call in to the Town Hall Tue-Fri and collect a hardcopy – these can be returned to the Town Hall for logging



## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP US?

Cllr. Rozak commented on what we need to achieve,

*"The vital thing is that the community continue to use the service as passenger numbers currently remain in decline so we need to stem that by encouraging friends and family to use it too. Feedback is vital also, so please take the time if you use the 747 to tell us why and probably more importantly share the impact to you of losing the service. Our survey already has some great information we will share with Rutland and Leicestershire County Council and the more we get from genuine users the better. We really hope to make a great case to keep this bus beyond January 2018, it's easier to do that with better user numbers and by understanding the impact on our community and that of others. We are acting now so it's not left too late. Finally I'd like to thank users of the service who have also come forward to help increase awareness, it's great to see folk pulling together for such an important cause".*

# YOUR COUNCIL



## **Alec Crombie - Mayor**

Elected for his second term as Mayor on 24th May 2017

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## **Stephen Rozak - Deputy Mayor**

Deputises for the Mayor and sits on Finance & General Purposes, Amenities and Planning Committees

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## **David Ainslie**

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## **David Casewell**

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Member of Planning and Amenities Committee

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# NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STARTS TO DELIVER



Outgoing Chair of  
The Neighbourhood  
Plan Committee,  
Cllr. Dave Ainslie



Incoming Chair of  
The Neighbourhood  
Plan Committee, Cllr  
Dave Casewell

**This has been a key year for the Neighbourhood Plan Committee, but much of the work undertaken has been of a technical and administrative nature. In terms of public perception the heady days of Supreme Court Appearances and the battle to get the Plan “made” (i.e. adopted by Rutland County Council) have not been replicated, but it is important to point out that the work in the background continues to have the utmost importance.**

The Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan was finally “made” on 11th January 2016 and this led the Town Council to turn it’s thoughts to the matters of preserving, up-holding and revising the Plan to make sure that it remains relevant to the needs of the people of Uppingham. The Neighbourhood Plan now has legal status as a Supplementary Planning Document within the RCC Local Plan and as such affects how and where developers can build within Uppingham. The route that the Town Council took was to make the Neighbourhood Plan Committee a full standing committee of the Town Council (previously it had reported as a sub-committee of Planning). This may sound dry and technical but it is an important statement of the Town Council’s on-going commitment to the Neighbourhood Planning process and I had the honour of being elected as the Chairman of the committee in May 2016.

One of my own strong beliefs (having been closely involved with the Neighbourhood Plan right from the out-set) is that this is a plan for all the people of Uppingham and not simply just a Town Council matter. With the good support of fellow councillors and the Town Clerk we set out on a drive to widen the membership of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee to as many non-council groups around town as possible. I pleased to report that we now have committee members representing residents groups, business, churches, schools and young people’s social activities (amongst others).

In parallel to this widening of representation, the normal day to day work of the committee also continued. This included meetings with developers and land-owners to assist with explaining to these important partners what was within the Plan and how this might affect future developments within Uppingham. We are about to see a tangible example of this background work with the proposed Bloor Homes site in Leicester Road now having received formal Planning Permission from RCC which is in keeping with the requirements of the Neighbourhood Plan. This should mean that we see work starting on this site in 2017 providing homes of the type and design that the people of Uppingham voted for in the referendum held way back in July 2014. We have also been keeping a keen eye on the emerging Town Centre and Business Zone Plan that has been prepared by Uppingham First to see if any of the ideas within that document might be usefully adopted into a revised Neighbourhood Plan in the future.

This then brings me to the most important aspect of the Committee which is the need to deliver an updated Neighbourhood Plan. The process to be followed is still evolving with new legislation from Central Government but fundamentally we will largely replicate what we did last time and this will include significant consultation and ultimately another referendum! I know that timescales are always a question that I am asked about this work but it is difficult to give a definitive answer. As I said earlier, the Neighbourhood Plan forms a legal part of the Rutland County Council Local Plan and that is currently being reviewed. We will continue to work closely with RCC and indeed the Neighbourhood Plan Committee has already had a significant input into the latest RCC “Call for sites” process.

***Cllr. Dave Ainslie.***

Site preparation Nov/Dec 2017 including important work for Natural England  
Show home opening Spring 2018  
Bloor Homes street scene, Leicester Road



# JOIN THE MAYOR'S WALK

If you would like to join Mayor Alec Crombie for all or part of his walk – he will be setting off from the Market Place in Uppingham at 10:30am and will take about 75 minutes and will arriving back in the Market Place just ahead of the official opening of Uppingham Feast Day.



Don't forget it might be good to make sure you have some suitable walking shoes, waterproof clothing subject to the weather forecast and also a camera or mobile phone to help capture any points you wish Alec to follow up in terms of litter, state of pavements and rights of way. You can get a copy of the route on the Town Council website or via our social media pages.

**Sunday 25th June 2017 at 10:30am meet in the Market Place**

# Leavers' Ball 2017

Uppingham School is holding its annual leavers' ball on Friday 30th June, between 7.00pm and 5.00am (1st July) and would like to thank everyone in advance for their understanding and cooperation during this time. Please be aware that due to a change in the format of the event this year, there will not be a fireworks display.

## UPPINGHAM IN BLOOM

If you would like to help our town get ready for the two judging days in 2017 here are some keys bits of information from Uppingham in Bloom Chair Pam Dalby:

- **Weeding dates** are 18th June, 2nd July. Meet 11am Baines corner. Bring tools and bags please.
- **Uppingham Open Gardens.** 24th June 2-5pm.
- July 4th **East Midlands in Bloom judges visit Uppingham.** Please weed outside your property or business if you are able. Pick up litter and any dog mess
- if walking your pet to keep Uppingham looking tidy. Put up hanging baskets or floral displays to help make the centre of town look amazing.
- **Uppingham tree trail** due for launch. Follow the trail of historic and new trees around our beautiful town.
- August 8th, **Britain in Bloom judges visit Uppingham.**

## APPEAL FOR HELP!

**DOG FOULING** – with the summer months we have seen an increase in complaints about dog mess. Specific areas impacted are Tod's Piece, play area off Siskin Road and The Middle (Uppingham School sports field). These are particularly worrying because of the number of children that play on them. If you walk your dogs here, please use bags and dispose of the waste in the litter bins please.

**LITTER** – Tod's Piece has had more litter bins installed in the last year but we are finding an increased amount of food wrappers purchased from the Co-op or fish and chip paper left all over the park. Please use the bins provided or take your litter home please.

Uppingham in Bloom

Come and see Uppingham's hidden gems.

Plant Stall at Stockerston Crescent, Teas, Cake stall and Tombola at the Town Hall, open to all

Tickets £5 at the Town Hall or Stockerston Crescent on the day. In advance, £4 from the Falcon Hotel, Murrays and Nelsons. Accompanied children go free.

## Open Gardens

Where: Start from Uppingham Town Hall on Stockerston Crescent

When: Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June

Time: 2-5pm

## SS Peter & Paul UPPINGHAM Strawberry Fayre

### Strawberry Teas Lots of Stalls

Saturday 8th July 2 pm  
In and around  
the Church

**WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT**

Leicester Shire & Rutland **ageUK**

Are You a "PEOPLE PERSON"?

Can you:

- Spare an hour or two weekly to make a difference to an older, isolated person?
- Make a good cup of tea?

Do you:

- Like to chat but are an equally good listener?
- Have a caring background with supervisory experience?

Are you:

- Creative and/or good with your hands?
- Good at admin with a good telephone manner?

We need volunteers living in Uppingham and the surrounding villages to help with our new Macmillan volunteering service in Rutland.

To experience how much volunteering can give YOU...whether young

T: 01572 823 942 or 07711 325 517  
W: www.ageukleics.org.uk



# DECLARATION OF FRIENDSHIP RENEWED

From: Henry Dawe, International Secretary, Uppingham and District Twinning Association

**Between Thursday 25 and Sunday 28 May Uppingham's twin town of Caudebec-en-Caux, Normandy received a party of 38 members of the Uppingham and District Twinning Association for an official twinning visit. Caudebec and Uppingham were celebrating 35 years of partnership. Caudebec and their German twin town of Nettetal, which had also sent a contingent, were celebrating 50 years.**

On the Thursday evening Caudebec welcomed the English and German groups with drinks and music at a function room in the town. National anthems were played and a minute's silence was observed for the victims of the recent Manchester attack. Guests then went to their host families for an evening meal. The Friday was a free day spent with host families. It gave everybody the opportunity to get to know Caudebec and the surrounding area better. The Saturday was a day full of activity. It began with an optional church service at Caudebec

Parish Church at 10am, which many members of the French, English and German groups decided to attend. Following the service a plaque was unveiled at Caudebec town hall to mark the opening of a garden there called 'The Esplanade of Europe'.

Several young schoolchildren sang to celebrate the occasion.

What came next was the most official part of the weekend, indeed the

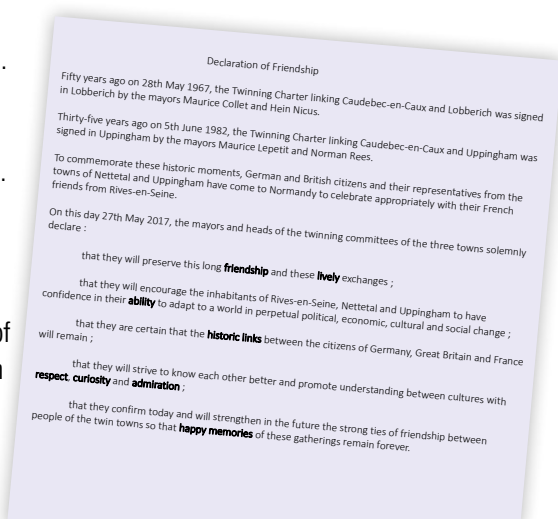
most official element of any recent twinning. It took the form of a ceremony at the local cinema. First a video was shown of clips from the original 1967 Caudebec and Nettetal twinning. After some further music, the audience heard a speech in German from the French Mayor Bastien Coriton, a speech in English from the German Mayor Christian Wagner and a speech in French from myself, as Alec Crombie and Stephen Rozak, who had been invited, were unable to be present. There followed the signing of a new document which had been prepared by the Caudebec twinning committee. Called 'The Declaration of Friendship', it reinforces the essential messages behind the twinning. I signed, as did Peter Rees, representing Uppingham Town Council. Peter kindly read out the English text (attached) of the Declaration. (To explain two points, Lobberich was the original name of what is now the German twin town of Nettetal. Rives-en-Seine is the new name for an administrative grouping of three places of which Caudebec is one.) An impression was made on the paper of the Uppingham Town Council coat of arms using an embosser which the Town Council had kindly recently purchased. Alec has said that the framed copy of the Declaration, which was Caudebec's official gift to Uppingham, can find a home at the town hall.

On the Saturday afternoon a finger buffet was held outside a local manor house before guests enjoyed a dinner dance and buffet meal in the evening. At this point Uppingham's official gift of a set of nine framed photographs of Uppingham was presented to the Mayor of Caudebec. I thanked the Caudebec committee for all their hard work in organising the weekend, and

the Caudebec families for hosting visitors from Uppingham. After a group photograph outside the town hall, we left on the Sunday morning.

Everyone I have spoken to greatly enjoyed the weekend. From a twinning point of view, I feel that it was a particularly important one. The Declaration of Friendship signed in Caudebec is the first document signed by representatives of Uppingham and Caudebec since the original twinning charter of 1982. It underpins what our association strives to achieve and sets a framework for the future.

To give the town council an indication of how the association is doing, we have had 25 new members joining the association between Caudebec's visit to Uppingham two years ago and our visit to Caudebec this year. Membership now stands at 60. With Alec Crombie, Peter Rees, Dave Ainslie, Dave Casewell and Ron Simpson all members of the association, we are delighted to have strong support for the twinning from within Uppingham Town Council.



## UPPINGHAM HOPPER BUS FUNDING LAUNCHED!

Uppingham Business Forum have launched a crowdfunding page on [www.spacehive.com](http://www.spacehive.com) – the target to be raised is £27,706. If you would like to contribute you can pledge some money by going to the above website and then searching for Uppingham on the homepage. Monies are not taken until the target has been met.

# HAVE YOUR SAY!

Over the last year you have helped us and your councillors make some important decisions by sharing views and feedback on a wide range of topics:



No. of Views Received  
**90**

## Town Hall Refurbishment

Views sought from community and town hall hirers – total cost of refurbishment was £1.3m and this has been mothballed due to difficulty in finding funding through grants.



No. of Views Received  
**21**

## Allotment Holder Survey

Views sought on new terms and conditions, rules for operating an allotment and charges. New rules and T&Cs issued and prices held as is.



No. of Views Received  
**297**

## Asset of Community Value

Motion was withdrawn just ahead of item being considered by Council due to new tenancy at The Royal Oak.



No. of Views Received  
**269**

## Uppingham Lent Fair

Following community feedback Council resolved not to move the location of the Fair for the foreseeable future.



No. of Views Received  
**28**

## Spring Back Way

Views gathered from residents mainly about traffic calming and prioritisation has resulted in the Town Council asking Rutland CC to implement a one way system from Stockerston Road to London Road, organise and reduce the number of parking bays and make suggestions on traffic calming excluding the need for ramps.



No. of Views Received  
**13**

## Open Space Review

Views sought on ideas to improve Tod's Piece and other spaces in Uppingham. Quotes obtained to improve kiddies play area and other improvements to the park. Council will be gathering more views including comments on maintenance of open spaces in town.



No. of Views Received  
**17**

## Heritage Street Lighting

Positive comments from residents and businesses in the conservation area supporting this initiative. Project now in final phase of planning and costing with a view to it being completed before 31st March 2018.



No. of Views Received  
**188**

## 747 Centrebus

Survey open until 30/6/17 gathering key information to sustain the service between Uppingham and Leicester.



No. of Views Received  
**45**

## Resurfacing High Street East & North Street West

Views gathered from businesses and residents leading to the resurfacing work being scheduled for last week in July and first week in August and done weekdays during the day. Road closures will apply.

## YOUR LOCAL POLICE SUPPORT

## BEAT SURGERIES

Come and meet your local officers:

**21/07/17 - 10.30am** - Officers will be at the Uppingham Methodist Church, Orange Street.

**25/08/17 - 11.00am** - Officers will be at the Uppingham Library, Queens Street.

**29/09/17 - 10.00am** - Officers will be at the Uppingham Methodist Church, Orange Street.

Contact for a  
**NON EMERGENCY: 101**  
**EMERGENCY: 999**  
Web site: [Leics.police.uk](http://Leics.police.uk)

Local officers:  
**Pc 2988 Ace**  
[Joshua.Ace@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Joshua.Ace@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk)  
**Pcso 6613 Wylie**  
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