

Upton News



Vol 4 No.13 October 2012

We now have an exciting new children's playground in the village and I see the younger residents have been trying it out (plus the vicar - quite a spectacular opening at the fete with him on the slide and a zip wire entrance by Maddison!). We are now officially in autumn, the nights are drawing in quickly and I'm checking my oil tank and log supply. Don't forget that the clocks change at the end of October, but at least we get an extra hour. Please send through any news you want including in the next edition by Saturday 20th October.

Sarah

Inside this issue...

- From Mr Alex Fry
- Encoro in concert
- Playground opening

Submissions for Upton News should be sent to the Editor, Sarah Sayers, at news@uptonvillage.co.uk or to Orchard Lodge, High Street, Upton OX11 9JE. Tel 01235 851450. Deadline for the November edition is **20th October**.

Dates for your diary

| | |
|------------|--|
| Wed 3 Oct | 7.30 WI Meeting, Upton Methodist Hall |
| Thu 4 Oct | 10.30 Drop In, Village Hall |
| Sat 13 Oct | 2.00 WI Plant & Cake stall, Abners, Blewbury |
| Wed 17 Oct | 8.00 Wine Club, Village Hall |
| Wed 17 Oct | 7.30 Methodist Council Meeting, Blewbury |
| Thu 18 Oct | 10.30 Drop In, Village Hall |
| Sat 20 Oct | 7.45 Concert at Douai Abbey |
| Sat 27 Oct | 3.00 Have Your Say Meeting - Village Hall |
| Sun 28 Oct | End of BST, clocks go back an hour |
| Thu 1 Nov | 10.30 Drop In, Village Hall |
| Mon 19 Nov | 7.30 The Incredible Dr Guttman |

Upton Wine Appreciation Club

We now have 66 members with an average attendance of 41 during the past year when 75 different wines were tasted. At the AGM Frankie Jacklin presented the audited accounts which showed that the club was on a sound financial footing. No increase in annual membership or meeting costs was proposed. Mike Collins remains as chairman and Ellie Bunston has joined the committee, replacing Chris Traynor. The wine tasting followed the theme of "Let's Try something Different". We tried an Upton version of Kir Royale made from Undurraga Sparkling Pinot Noir (Chile) and Blackcurrant Schnapps (Germany) which helped to lubricate the AGM formalities. The subsequent wines were taken from parts of the world that had not been previously been explored in the Club's tastings. Among them the following stood out:

A Goteoldal Single Vineyard Pinot Grigio from the Hilltop Estate, Hungary (2011) with a full ripe, and truly flavoured pinot grigio, impressed the club and was at a reasonable price (£6.25). We have never before tasted a Valpolicella wine from Italy. This had gained a poor reputation through over exploitation in the years after 1968 when the DOC regulations were introduced. Changes made in 2003 have reversed the trend. The wine tasted, Torre del Falasco, Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso, 2010, DOC, made a good impression on tasting, with the ripasso process adding complexity and concentration. At £8.95, it was thought good value. Since this wine was tasted blind, we were amazed that one cognoscenti present accurately identified the wine!

Massaya Classic 2009 from the Bekka Valley, Lebanon also impressed the club. This wine, 60% cinsault, 20% cabernet sauvignon and 20% syrah had been made with the help of experts from Burgundy and the Rhone in France and clearly showed their influence. At £9.95 it was well received.

The evening was brought to a close by a magnificent dessert wine, Seewinkle Eisiwein 2008, made by Jana Klein in Austria from the Gruner Veltliner grape. The concentrated exquisite flavours stood out and compensated for the very high cost of a wine (£20 for 50cl) which most of us would not normally ever taste.

Next meeting is Wednesday 17th October when I will introduce wines from the Southern Rhone. Anybody interested in joining the club should contact Mike Collins (tel. 850989) or Kevin Jacklin (851404).

Derek Whitmell



St Mary's Church Fete

A very big thank you to all who helped make the day special. Another lovely social occasion, blessed with fine weather too. The gymnastic display from Chris Seelig's club was a joy to watch. Who knows some of them may be our future Olympians.

Then there was the dog show, raising funds for Air Ambulance, always a worthy cause, at the same time providing great attraction for the fete.

The "TEAS" - how would we survive without them. A special thank you to all who provided the lovely cakes, always a success.

On average the fete raises £2,000 for church funds. This year it was £1,946.01 (the mysterious penny!). It is very remiss of us that we haven't—up until now - let everyone know how these funds are used.

Fundraising, along with regular income from the congregation, including those who may not necessarily attend church services plus the occasional donation, is used to pay our annual Parish Share of £7,700 to the Diocese of Oxford.

This goes towards the paying, training and housing of the clergy. We also have our share towards the Benefice office of £260, for the administration costs of running a large benefice. Then there are the usual expenses, insurance, electricity, churchyard plus cemetery (may we offer an apology at this point for the long grass in

both, this year, and give a big thank you to Harry Prior for rescuing the wooden seat from oblivion by strimming away the growth from along the wall).

As a church we feel it is right to support three or four charities, not always the same ones each year, by donating £1,000.

No, we do not receive enough regular income to cover these annual costs, but over the years fundraising has allowed us to have the wooden area of the floor repaired in 1999, the roof retiled in 2002, new lighting and heating installed in 2006. In 2009 the interior walls were re-limewashed and at the same time the old lime wash was removed to expose the lovely stonework of the chancel arch and two of the older windows. Two old gravestones in the churchyard became unsafe and had to be repaired professionally. Still to be done, trimming a couple of the yew trees, repairs to a small window and remedial work to the font. We are slowly eating into our reserves just to cover annual outgoings.

We certainly appreciate all the help and support that is always willingly given at fundraising events.

Thank you.

Jessie West for the PCC

Spring Line Methodist Church

All services start at 10.30am, Upton

7th Oct Rev John Sturney
(Harvest Festival)

14th Oct Peter Hemmings

21st Oct John Dennis

28th Oct Rev Richard Bittleston
(Holy Communion)

4th Nov Rev Kenneth Blake

We had a lovely day for our cream tea afternoon and raised £182.50 for Blewbury School. We appreciated the support of the many people who came, and would like to thank Savages for their generous donation of a beautiful pot plant as a Raffle prize.

A reminder to church members that the Autumn Spring Line Methodist Church Council meeting will take place at 7.30 pm, Wednesday 17th October 2012 at the Blewbury Centre. Any non-members who attend the Spring Line Church regularly and those with an interest in our church are invited to attend.

I was visiting my daughter and son-in-law the other night when I asked if I could borrow a newspaper.

'It's the 21st century, old man, we don't waste money on newspapers. Here, you can borrow my iPad' he said.

I can tell you, that damn fly never knew what hit it.

St Mary's Church Services

7th Oct no service at St Mary's - we are invited to attend the Springline Harvest Festival at Upton Chapel at 10.30

14th Oct 0900 - Sung Eucharist

21st Oct 1000 - Family Service, followed by refreshments

28th Oct 0900 - Sung Eucharist

4th Nov 0900 - Sung Eucharist, followed by refreshments

Harvest Festival Gifts

Didcot Food Bank and O'Hanlon House, Oxford, would like to thank everyone for the generous Harvest gifts.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Generous donations were made by parishioners and local businesses towards the commemorative china mugs for both the Royal Wedding and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. There are 6 Jubilee mugs still available on a first come first served basis. Could we suggest a nominal charge of £3 each? Any proceeds will be added to the surplus of funds accrued following both events.

It has been agreed to use these funds to purchase banqueting tables for use at village functions (or by individuals by arrangement). These tables will be kept at the village hall.

John Lightfoot

Post Office

Ann King will be stepping down as Sub Postmistress in October and I will be taking over. There are a few logistical obstacles to overcome, we both have time booked off in October, but although Maggie Maytham has volunteered to come in on a part time basis, we will have reduced opening hours – notices on the door.

We have been given the last posting dates for Christmas SURFACE mail— 2nd October to Far & Middle East , Tuesday 16th October to Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Africa & USA, 6th November for Eastern Europe etc.; the rest I will give next month.

We have found a necklace and a penguin type bracelet charm; if they are yours, please come and claim them.

Finally we have some voting cards for you to fill in to lobby our MP to encourage the Government to allow Post Office Ltd to retain DVLA, Passport & ID, Check & Send and other services we provide now, as we understand that these services are under threat of being “given” to other companies, just like the TV license contract was given to Paypoint.

We look forward to welcoming you to the “new” Post Office.

Karen Brooks



Blewbury WI

Our Ghost Tour in Oxford was very interesting; some of us saw parts of Oxford we had never seen before, including Tolkien’s house, while looking over the archives brought back happy memories for us all.

Our National Federation WI have joined “A Fair Deal for Dairy Farmers” campaign, to urge the Government to commit to fair pricing models and to prevent abuses of power by certain retailers. For more details on this, go to www.theWI.org.uk to find out how to join in.

Tues 2nd October:

Walk, Ardington to E Hendred, 4+ miles, 6 stiles, coffee/lunch at the end, good shoes required as may be muddy in places, meet at Blewbury village hall 9.30am.

Fri 5th:

RAL lecture on “Life on Mars”

Thurs 11th:

Coffee at Style Acre Tearooms, 10.30am

Wed 17th:

Trip to Culham, with talk on “Fusion”

“Calamity Jane” in Abingdon, date to be confirmed

Wed 24th:

WI meeting, “Ceramics”, with Priscilla Carter, Melland Room, 7.30pm.

Tues 30th:

An evening with Adam Henson (Countryfile), at Oxford Town Hall.

Karen Brooks

From Mr Alex Fry, formerly of the Manor House

Letter from Alex Fry (after reading the Upton web site and seeing the photos).

I am the nephew of Susan & Sophie Fry and my late father Joseph Lawrence Fry lived in the Manor House in the 1940's/early 50's. A third aunt (Esther) became a nun in Hawick in Scotland. I spent some time there also. My aunts were unmarried and very talented. They often conversed in ancient Greek & Sophie was also an accomplished botanist. My father joined the household in about 1933. We were all living in Wiltshire where my father and mother had a small holding near Avebury. I was the youngest of 3 boys. My father was a Captain in the Royal Field Artillery in the first War and a holder of the Military Cross. Unfortunately my mother died at a young age of 32 in 1932. The small holding went bust so the Aunts invited him to live in the Manor with them. I ended up in boarding school in East Sussex and visited the Manor in school holidays but mainly boarded out elsewhere. During WWII my father was officer in charge of the local home guard, Upton and Blewbury. Later on when I was a cadet in the Royal Sussex Reg't I joined in with the "Dad's Army" and witnessed some amusing events. The Upton bombing rang a bell. My father pulled one of the Aunts away from the window when the incendiaries landed in the orchard. The Aunts remarked "what pretty lights!". I remember well the eccentric Miss Partridge down Frog Alley. My Aunts at exactly the same

time went daily without fail with a large basket of food to Frog Alley to feed the large population of cats resident at Miss Partridge's cottage. My father was an accomplished musician and composer. Quite a few Upton residents tuned in to the wireless when my father's composition was being played at the BBC. During the war musical events at the Manor were carried out. I can remember an American turning up for a get together. My father also played the organ at the Catholic Church in Didcot. I lost contact with the Manor when I married in 1952 and moved to London, I was in the Royal Marines up to 1954 and then joined the London Fire Brigade. I believe Aunt Sophie passed away first and Aunt Susie was knocked over by a Job's milk float by the front gate, just a nudge, but due to old age she died. My father went to live in S Wales with my eldest brother where he died in 1955. A lot of the names mentioned on the Upton web site rang a bell, Butler, Belcher, Greenough, Keep, Saunders etc. I have a newspaper article in the 1960's all about Frank Napper wishing to pull down the Manor as it was an eyesore! He lost his case.



The Incredible Doctor Guttmann

**Mon 19th November, 7.30pm
Upton Village Hall**

As London hosts the 1948 Olympics, Stoke Mandeville hospital gets ready to stage the first games for disabled ex servicemen. This is based on the true story of how these ordinary men and women became the vanguard of the modern Paralympics as Dr Guttmann built a sports team ready to take on the world.

Tickets £10 (£8 concession) from Jessie West tel 851206.

Encoro in Concert

Sat 20th October (7:45pm)

Encoro choir (co-directed by Sarah Tenant-Flowers) will be performing at Douai Abbey, near Reading.

Programme includes choral music by Tallis and contemporary composers from America, New Zealand and Finland.

Tickets (£14/£12 concessions) from www.cornexchangenew.com

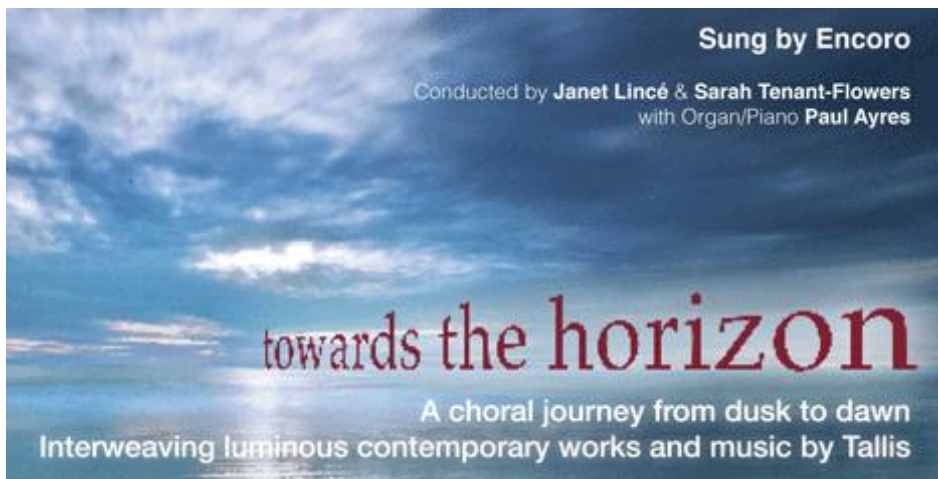
Village Produce Association

The season is changing fast, it is chilly in the early morning and evenings, leaves are turning (some have already fallen), berries are bursting, seed heads are covered in spider webs, my compost bins are filling quickly as I chop down the summer foliage, my veg plot is empty, dug over and ready for autumn planting, rumours are that the cabbage/brassica crops have been eaten by caterpillars, maybe I won't plant these! I am busy making autumnal jam and chutney, pickling onions and cucumbers, and filling the freezer with plums and apples.

Our meeting on 3 October at 7.30pm is in Upton Methodist Chapel, with Simon Powell who will tell us all about Plant Propagation. Our annual Plant and Cake sale will be on Saturday 13th October, 2pm, at Abners, Church Rd. I am sure some of the aforementioned jam, chutney and pickle will make an appearance.

Happy Gardening

Karen Brooks



From the Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 18th September

County Councillor's Report:

A full traffic study of the A417 will be carried out in association with the development of the UK Science Enterprise Park. Mr Lilly has put in train the following: 30mph VAS sign on western approach to the village, refresh road markings on A417, remove 50mph sign close to village approach. These actions will be completed as his budget allows. He will consult with Highways on the "wish list" of proposals for traffic calming as drawn up by Mr Norman. Great Western Park developers wish to increase the size of the food retail outlet by 2½ times in the "central village area".

Planning

- (i) P12/V1392HH - garden room at Cherry Tree Cottage - decision awaited
- (ii) P12/V1482/O - outline application for 3 properties at Maslina. This application will be taken at the Vale's planning committee in October.
- (iii) Wattle Cottage: an enforcement order has been issued to stop the work proceeding. The landowner has appealed against the refusal of the application.
- (iv) Details pursuant to condition 9 & 10 of planning permission UPT/3451/15-CM - Prospect Farm, Chilton. Councillors to research this application and forward comments to the clerk in order to formulate a response to OCC. The PC was in agreement that "in any event there should be no detrimental effect on the AONB."

Councillors' reports

Pound Lane: flooding & overgrowth issues. A "round robin" letter had been sent to residents requesting attention be given to overgrowth and the necessity of keeping the ditch cleared.

Coffin Way: a watching brief is being kept regarding the footpath to Blewbury. The planting of a hedgerow across Coffin Way was mooted. The RHS is offering trees as part of a national campaign to plant more trees.

Village Hall: Caravan Meet requested for Easter 2013: a number of issues were raised. After discussion the Chairman said that the Rally needed to be managed. Clerk was asked to contact Mrs West with the request that a meeting be held between a Parish Councillor and the Caravan organisers. Dr Lott will draw a map defining the area in which the caravans are to be parked. Access to the playground should not be impeded thus preventing village children from using the facility over the Easter holiday.

Old Playground

The Parish Council would like to hear your views on how the old playground might be best used in the future. We are very aware that the baby swings and rocker are still much enjoyed by the under 4's. Please email the clerk with any ideas you may have to Lthimbles@aol.com.

“Wish list” of proposals for traffic calming

A pedestrian crossing on the A417, to provide safe access from Alden Farm Lane and Chilton Road to the centre of the village, esp. for young families to connect with the school bus; the location of this may be problematic.

Other traffic calming safety measures (some of which may be mutually exclusive):

widening of the verges on the A417 between the George and Dragon (G&D) and the High Street, to provide improved visibility for pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders, when crossing from Prospect Road to the Lynchway and the G&D; also for people crossing from High Street to the south side; and for motorists and cyclists using the main road;

subject to the above, the installation of a further pedestrian crossing from Prospect Road to the G&D;

extension of the existing footway alongside the A417 on the south side from the G&D to a point opposite the High Street, thereby providing safe passage from the top of the High Street to other parts of the village;

installation of a new-technology speed camera, when available, at the western approach, also a camera on the eastern approach to the G&D; a mini-roundabout at the junction of Chilton Road or traffic lights;

a chicane to slow down the approaching traffic at either end of the village (as at Cholsey on A329).

Vacancy for Clerk

Upton Parish Council

Upton Parish Council will be shortly looking for someone able to take responsibility for all administrative aspects of the Council and to act as Responsible Financial Officer.

Duties include production of agendas and minutes for all meetings, carrying out all the Council's decisions, advising the Council on procedural matters, producing brief monthly updates for the Upton News and village web site.

Parish Council financial work includes dealing with the payment of bills, managing the accounts and annual audit, budget preparations and dealing with VAT issues relating to Parish Projects. Training is available. Good communication with the Chairman is essential.

The post is part time, averaging 18 hours per month with hours to suit. The Clerk works from home and attends Parish Council meetings which are usually held at 8pm on the third Tuesday of alternate months. The salary is from £1925 pa, (based on 216 hours pa) according to experience.

The ideal candidate will have good organisational and computer skills, including Excel spreadsheets. Broadband internet connection essential.

For an informal discussion or to make an application, please contact the present Clerk, Clare Lightfoot email Lthimbles@aol.com or telephone 01235 850486.

Neighbourhood Watch

Hare Coursing

Although hare coursing appears to be an obscure offence, it is a major concern and source of alarm and distress for our rural communities. High visibility patrols and operations by Police and Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) are carried out in this area to prevent offences. Illegal hare coursing normally involves a group of people walking a line across a field, most with at least one lurcher type dog each, approximately twenty to thirty metres apart; effectively driving hares in front of them. When a hare is disturbed, one, two or more lurchers will be released and the hare chased until it is caught, irrespective of the time this might take. When a course or chase is over, the injured or dead hare is simply discarded.

This process will then be repeated until such time that there are no hares left in that particular field. Offenders will then move onto another field and start again. The harvest is now in and the hare coursing has started; if you see anything suspicious please keep us informed. The Hare Coursing season is normally September through until March but it can and does occur outside of this period.

Vehicle security

Two cars on High Street were broken into one night last week without any apparent break in, i.e. no broken window or external damage. Some money was taken but no other contents. Please ensure you lock

your cars, remove valuables, watch out for suspicious characters if out and about and report anything untoward to 101 for non emergencies or 999 if a crime is being committed.

Neighbourhood Action Group

Since picking up the reins from Celia, I have only received one communication relating to Spam emails. If you did not receive this email from me and wish to receive messages in future, please can you let me have your current email address. Many thanks.

John Lightfoot (Lthimbles@aol.com)

Boneless Rolled Shoulder of Lamb with Zesty Orange & Lemon Glaze

Boned rolled shoulder of lamb joint

For the glaze:

50g/2oz of ginger purée
Juice & zest of 1 orange
20g/1oz of brown sugar
30ml/1floc of lemon juice
10g/½oz of ginger - diced
2 x 5ml/teaspoons olive oil

- Mix all glaze ingredients together.
- Roast lamb in centre of pre-heated oven 180C/350F/Gas 4 at 25mins per 500g and 25 mins over (Medium) or 30 mins per 500g and 30 mins over (well done)
- Remove joint from oven 10 mins before end of cooking time, coat with the glaze and return to oven to finish cooking.
- Allow joint to rest in warm place for 10 mins before carving.

Lesley Shaw

Comings & Goings

Farewell to Bob and Val Fitchett who have moved to Longworth.

Welcome Judy, Ben and Richard Mallett from Longcot near Faringdon, who have moved to the Fruit Farm and will continue producing cider. Ben is planning to juggle the business with studying for an MSc in London and Rich works in London as a researcher. Judy (née Allen) grew up in West Hagbourne and is therefore well acquainted with the area.

Welcome to George and Maria and family at Chamfer House, (just opposite the Church).

Welcome to Peter, Ali and Henry (aged 8) Lewinton who moved into Cedarwood on Stream Road a few weeks ago.

Also to Alexander Karl and Katrin Herrling, with their twin daughters Georgina and Messina, who have moved from London to live in Corderoys for a couple of years with a view of perhaps settling permanently in the area. We also take the opportunity to wish Georgina and Messina a happy 10th birthday for last week and wish them good luck in their new school.

This edition of Upton News was sponsored by Vern Woolgar, who is planning on moving into Hedgewell on the High Street next year.



Ben, Judy and Rich with dog Jack

Upton 50's Club

June

£10—Richard Fenn (10)

£7—David Warren (91)

£5—Barry Williams (72)

July

£10—Fred Napper (34)

£7—David Curran (161)

£5—Richard Brown (136)

August

£10—Austin Maytham (157)

£7—Keith Eighteen (97)

£5—Brenda Arnold (142)

£4—Katie Dickens (149)

September

£15—Frances Telling (47)

£15—Unity Amos (95)

£10—Graham Collins (138)

£7—Barry Williams (72)

£5—Mary Gutfreund (36)

£4—Liz Pinkney (109)

Upton Playground

On a hot and sunny Saturday afternoon in Upton, a crowd of all ages gathered for the official opening of the new Upton Play Area.



Members of the Parish Council welcomed Deputy Mayor & Mayoress Axel and Denise MacDonald and Mr. Joe Newby from WREN* to the new play area just before the start of the annual Upton fete in aid of St Mary's Church.

The new play area has been a major project for the village of Upton for the last two years. A grant of £47,060 was awarded by WREN, with the remainder of the funds raised from donations and fundraising from a variety of local sources including Uptonogood?, the very popular annual Upton mountain bike event, that has taken place every summer since 2010.

Featuring a thrilling high level beam walk, free-running trail, zip wire and obstacle course, the play area has already proved a great success with village residents and visitors alike.

Deputy Mayor Axel MacDonald and Mr Joe Newby from WREN unveiled a plaque to commemorate the



opening, followed closely by local competition winner, Maddison Langley, age 7, making a dramatic entrance, flying down the zip wire through a paper ribbon. Finally the Reverend Jason St. John Nicolle of the Churn Benefice blessed the slide with holy water having first climbed to the top of the play frame. He then descended the new slide in great style!

Ros Caffyn



** WREN is a not for profit business that awards grants to community projects from funds donated by FCC Environment to the Landfill Communities Fund.*