

# Upton News



Vol 4 No.10 June 2012

Apologies for the delay in this edition – we held it for a few days so that we could include some pictures of the Jubilee celebrations. The next edition will be mid July and then beginning of September. Please continue to send in your contributions.

We had a good Golden Jubilee weekend in the village and there was a loyal display of flags and bunting decorating houses, and even a Morris Minor with some very quaint Union Jack bunting on Church Street. What a remarkable Queen we have. We now just have to wait for the Olympics.

*Sarah*

## Inside this issue...

- Queen's Diamond Jubilee
- Proposed New School
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Submissions for Upton News should be sent to the Editor, Sarah Sayers, at [news@uptonvillage.co.uk](mailto:news@uptonvillage.co.uk) or to Orchard Lodge, High Street, Upton OX11 9JE. Tel 01235 851450. Deadline for the July edition is **30th June.**

## Dates for your diary

Sat 16 Jun	Uptonogood Bike Ride
Sat 16 Jun	Aston Tirrold Open Gardens
Sun 17 Jun	Blewbury Open Gardens
Mon 18 Jun	WI Lunch
Wed 20 Jun	12 noon, WI visit to West Green House Garden
Wed 20 Jun	8pm, Wine Appreciation, VH
Thu 21 Jun	10.30am, Drop In, VH
Sat 23 Jun	Wine Club BBQ
Wed 27 Jun	7.30pm, WI Vale Room Blewbury
Sat 7 Jul	3pm - 4pm, Have Your Say Meeting, VH

## Queen's Diamond Jubilee

What an amazing weekend, so much to see and we had our own village celebrations too. We kicked off with a patriotic invitation and started the weekend with the flower festival in St Mary's. The beautiful floral arrangements depicted the silver, golden and diamond jubilees, a crown made of flowers on the font and "God save the Queen" made from topiary. Teas and cakes were served and donations given to the Air Ambulance. Jessie has expressed a big thank you to everyone who made cakes and contributed to the flowers, many in the memory of loved ones. The surplus from the flower fund will be put towards the Christmas and Easter flowers.

On the Sunday we had a really good turn out at the BBQ on the recreation ground from village residents and their families – despite the rain. What a good job we

had sufficient tents. Gloria Smith still managed to run the fun dog show. William Lott and Emily Betts won the best dressed teddy. We had a good old sing song accompanied by Graham de Wilde and Sarah Tennant Flowers. This was followed by a champagne toast to the Queen and a cup cake from the Union Jack made up of red, white and blue buns. All the children were given a commemorative mug which we hope they will keep for many years to come. Thank you to our generous sponsors.

The finale to the weekend was going to the Jubilee Beacon bonfire up on Blewburton Hill. We could see several other beacons around and about, enjoyed the fireworks and sang *God Save the Queen*.

More photos can be seen at [www.uptonvillage.co.uk/photo-gallery/diamond-jubilee-2012/](http://www.uptonvillage.co.uk/photo-gallery/diamond-jubilee-2012/)





# Blewbury Players

## *She Stoops to Conquer*

Wednesday 18 - Saturday 21 July

Oliver Goldsmith's classic story of young lovers whose happiness hinges on an intricate web of deception. You are welcome to picnic in the garden before the play, from 7.00pm. A bar will be available from 7.00pm and during the interval. Remember evenings can be chilly - warm clothing is advisable. For the matinee the garden will open at 2.15 pm and refreshments will be available during the interval only. Tickets may be purchased from Savages on The London Road (A417) Monday to Friday 9.00am till 6.00pm and from 10.00 - 12.00 on Saturday. See the website [www.blewburyplayers.co.uk](http://www.blewburyplayers.co.uk) for more information. There will not be an Opera in the Garden this year; however Catie Flye has offered to stage her production of 'Dear Mr Dickens' in Blewbury on Saturday 8 September.

[As we go to press, we receive the sad news of the passing of Tony Loy, who died suddenly at home on 10th June – Ed.]

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### Air Ambulance

Air Ambulance has made a request to site a recycling bin in Upton. A number of people think this would be useful as well as a source of much needed funds for Air Ambulance.

One possible place for this to be sited could be behind the bus shelter. We would like feedback from parishioners... do you think we should go ahead with this? There is no cost to us for this facility.

Please can you email or phone Clare Lightfoot on [Lthimbles@aol.com](mailto:Lthimbles@aol.com) / 01235 850486.

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### Have Your Say

PCSO Mike Clayden will be holding a Have Your Say meeting at Upton village hall on Saturday 7 July, 3pm-4pm. If anyone wishes to speak with him in confidence about any issues that the Police should be aware of then please come along.

### Mobile Library

The mobile library calls in Upton on alternate Fridays at 11.30 in the village hall car park. The next visit is 22 June. Use it or lose it!

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### 50's Club winners

#### April

£10 Mr Hartley (21)  
£7 Mrs Williams (23)  
£5 Mr Head (63)  
£4 Mrs Whitmell (124)

#### May

£10 Mr Stewart (132)  
£7 Mr Beckles (143)  
£5 Mr Bunston (2)  
£4 Ms Westell (131)

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*Thanks to Steve Morgan for the sponsorship and printing of this edition of Upton News.*

## Blewbury WI

The National Federation of WI's sent us a lovely pattern to knit some Corgi style slippers for the Diamond Jubilee; we declined their kind offer, and went off to the pub for lunch instead! They have sent us some raffle tickets for their "Grand Draw 2012", with some great prizes, if you would like some, pop into the Post office! Our activities for June are here!

- Friday 8 June; RAL lecture "Creative Sparks & Celestial Fire"
- Monday 11 June; coffee at Style Acre Tearooms, 10.30 am, with Graeme.
- Scrabble is at Graeme's on the 14 June
- Monday 18 June; WI lunch
- Wednesday 20 June, 1200 at the village hall for a garden visit to West Green House Garden, NT garden, teas available (car rota on arrival, all welcome)
- Summer Dance at Ashbrook House, no one to go with? Come and join us! Ring Judy and ask to be put on the list with us!
- Wednesday 27, "Chinese Medicine" with Lee Butler, 7.30 in the Vale room, hostesses are Brenda Hopkins and Diana Vince. Visitors welcome.

For more details, or to join the Mah Jong or Scrabble group, or if you wish to join us, please ring Judy on 850381. Future plans include Bletchley Park, Ben Hur at the Watermill, an outing to Kelmscott and an evening with Adam Henson, come and join us!

*Karen Brooks*

## *Village Produce Association*

We offer our sincere condolences to June and family, on the sad death of our Vice President, John Snook. He was a mainstay for many years of the VPA, always very knowledgeable and encouraging to all of us, a wonderful competitor in our shows, and he won many cups, trophies and medals over the years. He was a familiar sight and sound at the end of show auction of show produce – he will be greatly missed.

The weather continues to be a bone of contention to all gardeners, a drought, then floods, cold winds, frosts, thunder and hail. I still haven't planted anything out in the veg plot, and my windowsills are overflowing! The weeds or wild flowers as I like to call them are making a lavish show amongst the real plants in the borders.

We are organising a "Teas & Plant Stall" in the village hall for the Yellow Book open gardens afternoon, on Sunday 17th June, (2pm till 6pm), if anyone would like to make a cake and/or spare us an hour to serve tea, we would be very grateful, ring me 850219 if you can help!!

We also have a trip to Whitehill Farm Nursery on Saturday 7th July, and then to Burford Garden Centre for lunch, if you want to join us, please ring the number above, or pop your name onto the list at the Post Office!

Don't forget the Summer show is on Saturday 28th July, schedules are in the Post Office too!

Happy Gardening

*Karen Brooks*



# Rectors Reflections

## *Feeling stressed?*



Recently, I have been party to several conversations about stress. Why do people get stressed, and what can we do about it?

There are, of course, many causes of stress. One cause of stress over which we do have some control is the way we look at ourselves and our world. We often assume that life should be a straight line of progress. For example, we can assume that every job ought to be a “career”. We can assume that as we grow older, our financial circumstances should gradually get better and better. We can assume that relationships with family and friends should get better and better, until finally all is harmony, love and mutual understanding.

But of course life doesn’t always work out like this!

Our lives are never actually a steady progress towards ever greater “success”, and our life is never just one line on the graph of “success”. The reality is a series of lines on the graph, each with its own ups and its downs. For example, the loss of a job might mean that the line representing our financial well-being goes down, but it might also mean that the line representing our sense of fulfilment goes up, we because we are now freed to do something different with our lives.

Of course it is tempting to link the

inevitable downs in life with a sense of personal failure. But we need to resist this temptation. Times when we feel that we are moving “down” are not times of failure; they are simply times of adjustment to different realities. Not one of us can ever be a “failure”, because the fundamental reality is that each one of us is, and will always be, a beloved child of God.

There were times in Jesus’ life when things seemed to be on the up, and times when things seemed to be on the down. One of Jesus’ most intriguing sayings was to the effect that his followers would see “angels ascending and descending upon the Son of Man”. This saying has been interpreted in different ways, but for me it is a profound insight into the true nature of our life as human beings, a life full of “ascendings” and “descendings”, a life in which we are never separate from God’s love, whatever the apparent direction of travel!

*Fr Jason*

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## *Spring Line Methodist Church*

All services start at 10.30 am, and will be at the Upton Centre.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Preacher</i>
June 3rd	Geoff Caudle
June 10th	Deacon Margaret Blake
June 17th	John Dennis
June 24th	Rev. Martin Smithson (Holy Communion)

## *June*

The first of the summer months. The 21st June Summer solstice, when the days start to draw in. There are many summer sayings, and all have a high degree of accuracy. "Rain before seven - fine before eleven". "Red sky at night Shepherd's delight - red sky morning - Shepherd's warning", "Long foretold, long last - short foretold, soon past" etc.

A feature of June - apart from balmy sunny days, are the showers. These are not the heavy April type, but small type, to spoil a picnic; and the adages are - a sunshine shower never last half an hour; sunshine and showers, rain again tomorrow. From the cowman, who used to spout clichés all day long (thank goodness I wasn't there all day long) comes - A good shower in June, sets all in Tune. The heavier rain was good for growing hay etc, as grass grows better in the dark, and needs warm rain. The cooler May winds should be replaced by westerlies in June, our normal trades, and these can bring heavy rain to keep things in tune. The rain should be "warmer" than the cold May rains from the north. I know June as being named after Juno - the goddess of the heavens. Also the protector of the new moon and babies. Unfortunately it is a time to weed the garden, as everything grows well in June. There is another aspect of June, namely the influx of birds to crops and gardens - not always a bonus. June is a period when the northern hemisphere is most inclined towards the sun although we are nearly at our furthest from it – our planet is



physically closest to the sun a couple of weeks after our winter solstice (perihelion in its elliptical path).

The June full moon is the Strawberry moon, Honey moon/mead moon, and the Rose moon - the one I relate to is the strawberry moon.

*Austin Maytham*

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## *Proposed new school*

There is a proposal for a new and different mixed secondary school to be located on the Harwell campus.

Under the Government's rules for all future new schools, this will not happen unless large numbers of parents sign up to the idea. By signing up, they do not commit themselves to the school but will enable it to become a real option for them within OCC's admissions procedures.

If you would like to see this school as an additional option to parents in the area, please help us to encourage sign up on our website at: [www.newoxfordschooltrust.org](http://www.newoxfordschooltrust.org)

## *Wine Appreciation Society*

Well this was a first for the German Wines! For this we must thank Esther and Graham Blandford, whose sterling work enabled us to have a terrific evening, gaining much knowledge having tasted 8 lovely wines. The German wine industry is what you would almost call a niche market. Small wine growers producing high quality wine, very labour intensively sometimes due to the steepness of the slopes the vines are planted on. This was a decision that was made after the disastrous affair of the 'anti-freeze' incident of the 80's when their reputation was sorely tested. Also you may remember the 70's and 80's when we all tried Blue Nun and Black Tower and thought they were lovely! Anyway to move onto the evening most German vineyards are small independent family run affairs. The German wine industry is divided into 13 regions, the most famous of which being the Mosel, again we have to thank the Romans for planting the first vines. You may believe that the Germans only produce white wines but they also produce red wine and very good it is too. The first wine of the evening was a Saarburger Kabinett 2009 from the Wine Society. A family owned vineyard and a very nice

light crisp wine, but the good news only 8% alcohol so great for summer lunch parties, well received by the group, but not cheap at £12-£13 a bottle. Most members enjoyed the white wines. The reds included Blaufränkisch Ried Hochberg Igler 2008, The Wine Society, £12.50. This had a very distinctive nose of spice and powerful tannin which proved popular with the group. It is matured for 12 months in small oak casks, which I felt you could taste. The second red was also from the same vineyard from the Zweigelt grape, again plum cherry flavours and quite enjoyable.

Thanks again for all the work that Graham and Esther put into the evening, and I am sure we all will look on German wines in a new light.

*Chris Traynor*

