

Upton News



Vol 4 No.11 July 2012

Just when we were wondering where is our summer, we have at last had some glorious sunshine. The Olympics are imminent and we all hope that the weather stays fine and that we win some medals. We've had the Uptonogood bike ride with lots of villagers helping out, and the funds being given to good causes in the village and elsewhere. With Brad Wiggins' great achievement in the Tour de France, no doubt we will have more keen cyclists.

The next edition will be out in early September, so please do send us your news and articles.

Sarah

Inside this issue...

- Flame
- Tom Webber
- Play Area Competition

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 September edition is **31st August**.

Dates for your diary

Sat 28 Jul	Annual Summer Show (VPA)
Sat 4 Aug	Have Your Say Meeting, 3pm VH
Sun 5 Aug	Pate & Pimms, 1pm VH
Thu 6 Sep	Drop In, 10.30am VH
Thu 20 Sep	Drop In, 10.30am VH

Flame



The flame ran the benefice from the Moretons, to the Astons, through Blewbury and to Upton. It arrived just in time before the ice creams melted and all the cakes were eaten. Clare and Jessie had the Church stocked for the runners fairly early and some arrived on cycles well before the main body of the torch bearers. It was nice of the group to say our welcome was the best they had had on the journey (probably said to all the churches) and they enjoyed the refreshments. There were one or two choc ices over and we were all able to have one. The torch remained for about half an hour, before moving to the destination at St Andrews in East Hagbourne and the evening's festivities.

Austin Maytham

Tom Webber - Deceased

Villagers who recollect less sophisticated and technological times may recall with pleasure the wonderful slide shows which Tom used to give. He travelled widely, often adventurously, and took stunning photographs.

They may therefore be sad to know that he has recently died in a nursing home in Teignmouth.

He lived in "Fernwood" on the High Street for many years and worked at Harwell till his retirement. His accent always betrayed his West Country origins and he moved to Devon to be nearer to members of his family. In Upton, he was a stalwart member of the Methodist Church, given the responsibility of auctioning the produce after the old-style Harvest Suppers.

And because of his wide range of interests, not least in film and theatre, he was a ready and good-humoured conversationalist, often over the garden fence. He had enjoyed walking and swimming, but as his health deteriorated his friends here had virtually lost contact with him. Very recently, however, one of his cousins wrote to say that he would still enjoy hearing from us, even if he was unable to reply. Soon after we had resumed correspondence we heard news of his death.

Malcolm Wright

The Story Museum

*Two new exhibitions at
The Story Museum*



Tea with Alice, a world of Wonderland illustration

The Alice books have been translated into more than 100 languages and interpreted by countless illustrators, artists and designers. This exhibition of contemporary illustrators reveals the new golden age of Alice illustration and how Carroll's famous stories have inspired images across the world. Illustrators include the former Children's Laureate, Anthony Browne, as well as Dusan Kallay from Slovakia and Chiara Carrer from Italy. A chance to see it, read it, be it: try on the hats, visit the mad tea party, enjoy riddles and relax in the Read Me room and browse different versions of the stories.

Rochester's Extraordinary Story Loom

The fabulous story of Barnabas Rochester's only surviving story manufacturing machine. Victorian inventor Barnabas Rochester had an interest in stories but little talent for writing them - which is why he is said to have built the Storyloom. But could a machine be any match for a pen, paper and human imagination when it came to making stories? Is the Storyloom a marvel of Victorian genius or pure humbug?

Experiment with the only surviving story manufacturing machine - discovered and reassembled at The Story Museum - and see for yourself.

Exhibition opening times (both exhibitions): 28 June - 16 September
June, July, September: four days a week: Thurs, Fri, Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 11am-4pm

August: five days a week: Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 11am-4pm (closed August Bank Holiday Monday)

Tickets: Adults £5 (concessions £3); under 2s free, family/group ticket: buy five get one free. On the door.

Where: The Story Museum, Rochester House, 42 Pembroke Street, Oxford, OX2 1BP

More info: www.storymuseum.org.uk for opening times and admission prices.

Village Produce Association

We would like to thank everyone who helped at our “Teas & Toilet” event for the Yellow Book garden day; we had lots of cakes made for us by the WI, and some lovely plants too, and saw lots of visitors! We think we will do it again next year!

Our big event of the year the annual Summer show is on Saturday 28th July, pick up your schedule from the Post Office, ring Karen, or email karencbrooks@gmail.com, choose your entries, write them on the entry form, pop it back to Karen, or to Maggie Maytham in Upton (by Weds 25th) and bring your entries to the village hall on Saturday morning between 8.30am and 11am, any questions please contact Karen (show secretary) who will be able to help. Otherwise pop along at 2.30pm to view the fabulous entries, eat prizewinning cake, win great prizes in the raffle, see who wins the trophies at 4pm, and snaffle a bargain at the end of show auction! As the hosepipe ban has now been lifted, I am watering my runner beans, not because they need it, but because I can!!! They will probably be floating soon!

Happy Gardening

Karen Brooks

Blewbury WI

Our activities for July & August are:

- Wednesday 25th July - Melland room, Leather workshop with Heather Power
- Tuesday 7th August - coffee at Styleacre tearooms, 10.30am with Judy
- Tuesday 14 August - Garden Meeting, Chapel Orchard at 5pm

For more details, or to join the Mah Jong or Scrabble group, or if you wish to join us, please ring Judy on 850381. We will also have some garden visits planned, and another pub lunch or supper.

Karen Brooks

Weather

The July moon is the thunder moon, also known as the hay moon and the full moon was on 3 July 2012. It may have been mentioned before - “A good leak in June and all is in tune”.

So June was wet and St Swithin’s day was on the 15th and “if St Swithin’s day is rain, for forty day it will remain” I believe was a good day. Actually the quote was something about “twice twenty”. The August forecast looks good and a dry St Swithin’s day gives us 2 x 20 days of dry... we shall have to wait and see. Haven’t known it to work yet, but there is always a first time.

Austin Maytham



Rectors Reflections

How Much Is Enough?

Recently, I have had several conversations with people, churchgoers and no-churchgoers alike, on the subject of faith. Some people have been troubled because they feel that they don't have enough faith to be considered a Christian. This has raised an interesting question: how much faith is enough? And it also raises another question-what do we mean by faith?

It's easy for us to get a wrong sense of what faith really is. Faith is basically a positive response to God. For a Christian, faith is the willingness to say something like this "Ok, God, you're real. You're something to do with Jesus, and Jesus is something to do with you. There's lots I don't understand but I'm prepared to be open to learn more. Sometimes I'll be angry at you; sometimes I'll think you're completely amazing; and sometimes I won't know what to think. But I know that I'll try to keep up a relationship with you, because somehow this seems to make sense of my life and my world."

It is quite normal for the strength of this positive response to God to vary, even for a regular churchgoer. There are times when God feels very real, and times when he seems to have disappeared - times when you're sure God is there, and times when you're not quite sure!

Furthermore, we shouldn't assume that faith is incompatible with doubt. In fact, for some people, faith is precisely what it is that



allows us to engage with our doubts - it is the supportive framework which allows doubts to be acknowledged and questions asked. The

Bible contains a story about a father who was worried about his son, who was suffering from convulsions. The father came to Jesus, to ask for Jesus' help. The father's faith in Jesus was a bit uncertain - he said "I believe", but added immediately, "Help my unbelief"! Interestingly, the father's honest expression of doubt did not prevent Jesus from working a miracle of healing.

So if we ask "how much faith is enough?", I would say that the answer is: much less than we might have thought. God has no problems with people who are honest about their doubts. And like the father who approached Jesus on behalf of his sick son, we can always say "I believe... Help my unbelief!"

Fr Jason

Spring Line Methodist Church

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

Date	Preacher
29 July	Paul Williams
5 Aug	James Garnett
12th	Rev. Richard Bittleston, (Holy Communion)
19th	Brenda Boyer
26th	Rev. Dr. David Rankin

Green Deal Scheme

This article introduces the forthcoming Green Deal scheme, and informs what current financial grants are available now, which won't be from October onwards.

Oxfordshire Affordable Warmth Network are offering Affordable Warmth Samples Pack with copies of various literature and freebies (including Thermometer Cards and Plugsters®) which you might like to order copies of (no cost involved) to assist residents. If you'd like one, please don't hesitate to contact me, including the best address for this to be posted to. Finally, I have funding to be able to offer some free talks for Parish Council meetings/events on the subject of fuel poverty, affordable warmth and the Green Deal, if this might be of interest.

Dale Hoyland

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Recipe of the Month

Artichoke Dip

This is a really simple recipe that can be made at short notice out of the store cupboard. Gluten free and low carb. Good with tortilla chips, breadsticks or crudités.

Ingredients

- 1 can artichoke hearts, drained really well
- 2 cloves garlic
- ½ tsp ground cumin
- 2 tbsp good olive oil
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Salt to taste if required

Method

1. Puree the drained artichoke hearts with the garlic and the cumin until well mixed and then add 1½ tbsps of the olive oil and puree until really smooth and creamy.
2. Add the freshly ground black pepper to taste.
3. Finally drizzle the remaining oil over the top just before serving.

Sue Brown

Neighbourhood Watch

If someone else offers to take your rubbish away to get rid of it, whether you pay them or not, you need to make sure you know where it's going and that the person taking it away has a licence to carry waste. You can check that they have a Waste Carrier's Licence on the Environment Agency website:

<http://www2.environment-agency.gov.uk/epr/search.asp?id=EP8&&type=register>

If your rubbish ends up being fly-tipped you could end up being interviewed under caution and later prosecuted. Take down a few details such as registration number, ideally take a photo and make a note of what is being taken away, get a receipt and check that their details are on it, which could help with any potential fly-tipping investigation, and help to show you complied with the law.

Uptonogood? Cycle Ride

The rain stayed away, allowing for a fantastic afternoon's relaxation after very arduous conditions on the trail of either 45, 25 or 12 miles.

Photographs are now available online at www.uptonogood.org.uk/photos

We had ~400 riders on the day and raised £7K. We hope to have this increased to £11K via "Matched Funding". This will be distributed between Upton's Play Area / Bike Hump development, Blewbury Primary School, Upton's Village Hall (UVHAT), Didcot Air Cadets. Thanks to everyone from the village who helped make this another great event. See you next year, 15th June 2013.

Bob Lott



PIMMS, PATE & PUDDING EVENT

Sunday 5th August 2012 at 1.00pm
in village hall

Tickets at £10.00 per adult, £5.00 per child over 5, under 5s free.

To include first glass of Pimms or a soft drink.

Tickets on sale now from

Maggie Maytham 850126

Celia Davies 850684

Clare Lightfoot 850486

Please note that we are limited to 70 tickets this year.

This could have been *your* news.

Perhaps you:

- are arranging an event
- would like to review a local restaurant
- participate in a local sport
- want to tell the world about your family's achievements
- have a favourite recipe you want to share
- are keen to set up a leisure activity
- have some gardening tips
- want to write a book review
- have something to contribute about local history or wildlife

Drop us a line at

news@uptonvillage.co.uk

Competition

Could You Open Our New Play Area?



As you may have noticed, our new play area is almost ready and there are many excited children who cannot wait to start using it. We would like to choose one child to help us officially open the play area at the Village Fete on 1st September.

COMPETITION

We would like to invite all children living in Upton to enter a competition - the winner will get to officially open the new play area during the fete. Details of how they will do this are a surprise, but it won't be hard and it should be fun! The theme for the competition is simply: *'What our new play area means to me'.....*

To enter, simply think what the play area means to you and submit a drawing, a photo, a poem or a story,

in fact anything that tells us how you feel about the new play area.

The competition will run until the 27th August 2012 and entries can be sent to:

Mr Ben Shaw, Halt House, Beeching Close, Upton, OX11 9JR or by email titled 'Playground competition' to bjhshaw@btinternet.com.

The winner will be notified prior to the event with full details, and we'll try to use any entries received to help us with the launch of this exciting new village facility.

BY THE WAY...

Don't worry! While the play area will be opened officially at the Village Fete, it will be available to use soon - not long now!

Have Fun...