

Upton News



Vol 4 No.12 September 2012

In the last month we have had great excitement with the Olympics and the resulting feel good factor throughout the country. For those of us who commute to London we had a pleasant surprise as it wasn't too horrendous travelling. I think a lot of people were working from home or on holiday. We can now enjoy the Paralympics for another few days. I now have a little better understanding, as I have just broken my leg and am non weight bearing for weeks, so you won't be seeing me cycling round the village for a little while as I'm on crutches. This is what happens when you think you are good at DIY but aren't. Thank goodness for laptops and mobiles, which gives you the opportunity to still work and communicate.

Sarah

Inside this issue...

- Play Area Grand Opening
- Nordic Walking

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. Please send articles for the next edition by 28th September.

Upton Parish Council News

Planning:

P12/V1392HH Cherry Tree Cottage, application to replace garden room. The plans having been previously circulated were discussed. The council had no strong views.

P12/V1482/O - Maslina, Reading Road. Outline application for 3 properties. It was noted that the roof heights were the same as the adjoining property, The PC queried whether 3 separate entrances would act as a calming measure on the A417. Highways have suggested one access. The PC were in favour of supporting the application, with the comment that the roofing material be in sympathy with the AONB. Ground work on land at Wattle Cottage: parishioners reported that work had started on permanent buildings despite no planning permission being granted. The Vale's Enforcement Officer advises that notice would be given for the work to cease forthwith.

Pedestrian Crossing on A417:

Following the request by a parishioner, this is being looked into further alongside traffic calming measures.

Thank you to Diane Rabbetts and Derek Vokins for sponsoring the printed edition of Upton News this month.

Grand Opening of the Play Area

1st September, 1:45 pm on the Recreation Ground

- Deputy Mayor & Mayoress Axel & Denise MacDonald and Mr J Newby from WREN will unveil our memorial plaque and be our honoured guests for the occasion.
- The lucky Upton News Competition winner will be making a surprise entrance!
- Followed by the St Mary's Church fete.

Upton Play Area Development Team would like to thank the following individuals and organisations for their very generous financial contributions to the project:

- WREN
Wren is a not for profit business that awards grants to community projects from funds donated by FCC Environment to the Landfill Communities Fund.
- Upton Parish Council
- Uptonogood? Mountain Bike Event, organised by Bob Lott and Mike Tibbetts
- Residents of Upton Village

St Mary's Church Fete & Fun Dog Show

Saturday 1st September 2pm

Blewbury Band, children's sports, Go karting (ages 3- 14yrs), white elephant, plants, preserves, cakes, produce, books, toys, teas, skittles, face painting, tombola and dog show - something for everyone . Do come along and bring your friends.

Upton Short Mat Bowls

Bowling for the Upton Group 2012/13 winter season will start on Wednesday 26th September. Bowling will be in the Village Hall every Wednesday evening except the third Wednesday of each month, all sessions start at 7.45pm.

This friendly group is still looking to expand and anyone wishing to join will be made welcome.

Fees for the two hour sessions are £2. There are 2 mats, a full mat being 8 people. Those who have not played the game of short mat bowls and wish to try something new in the winter months are also very welcome. We have a range of spare bowls you can use and no fee will be charged for the first two sessions.

The season runs for about 6 months through to mid April. The game is suitable for any age from 10 years of age. However, youngsters from the age of 10 to 16 years must be accompanied by an adult.

Contact Joan or Tony Durbin 01235 850035 atdurbin@btinternet.com.

Joan will be posting notices around the local villages.

Pimms, Pate and Pudding Event

A huge thank you to all those who supported this event recently. Despite the appalling weather on the day we did have a fantastic lunch inside the village hall. Many thanks to all the helpers and to those who so kindly donated food on the day.

The total amount raised was £560.96 for UVHAT.

Celia and Maggie

Rectors Reflections

Treading Gently

At times, the world can be a pretty tough place, can it not? For most of us, we cannot go through life without at some time experiencing difficulties of various kinds – health problems, financial worries, relationship breakdowns, bereavements, and many other challenges beside. Sometimes these difficulties affect ourselves directly; sometimes they affect us through their effect on friends and family.

When difficulties come up, we can sometimes be far too hard on others, and far too hard on ourselves. We can forget the value of compassion and gentleness. Gentleness is a much underrated virtue. Gentleness is not about weakness. It is about being strong, but being strong in a caring and humble way. It is about being strong in a way which avoids harshness and violence. Gentleness was something which mattered to Jesus. Here are some of His words: “Come to me all that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light”.

Because gentleness was something which mattered to Jesus, it is something which has mattered to his followers down the centuries. This is not to say that every Christian down the centuries has been a gentle soul- clearly not! But gentleness has always been a part of the basket of values which make up a typical Christian lifestyle, along with other virtues, such as truthfulness, forgiveness and generosity.

In our modern world, gentleness is one of those virtues which can so easily be pushed out. We can allow ourselves to be too angry or too impatient to be gentle with each other. We can easily fool ourselves into thinking that gentleness is a form of moral weakness, whereas in reality gentleness is often the sign of great moral strength.

Gentleness is about treading gently. In the words of the Irish poet and playwright W.B. Yeats,

Had I the heavens' embroidered cloths,
Enwrought with golden and silver light,
The blue and the dim and the dark cloths
Of night and light and the half-light,
I would spread the cloths under your feet:
But I, being poor, have only my dreams;~
I have spread my dreams under your feet;
Tread softly because you tread on my dreams.

Fr Jason

Spring Line Methodist Church

All services are at 10.30am at Upton

2nd Marlene Chalkley

9th Andrew Lockley

16th Rev Richard Bittleston
(Holy Communion)

23rd Brenda Boyer

30th Michael Howlett

At St Mary's church fete on Sat 1st September, we will be running our usual Ice Cream stall and also a game that needs a steady hand, (if you are not careful you could have a really smashing time).

We will be holding a Cream Tea Afternoon at 4 Westbrook Green, Blewbury, on Friday 7th September, 2.30 to 4.30 pm. We hope members of the community can come to this event, which we are holding to thank the local community for their support of the two Methodist Churches. The proceeds from this event will go to Blewbury School.

Ride and Stride

Saturday 8th September

This is a sponsored event around local churches, either by bike or on foot. Money raised is divided between the Historic Churches Trust and a church of your choice. Could you help with stewarding? St Mary's is open all day on the 8th when cyclists and walkers will be dropping in to get their forms signed off. We would be grateful to hear from anyone who is able to spare an hour to act as a steward on this day.

Contact Clare Lightfoot 850486

St Mary's Church Services

2nd 9am Eucharist

9th 9am Eucharist

16th 10am Family Service

23rd 9am Eucharist

30th 9am Eucharist

Village Produce Association

We had a lovely outing to Whitehill Farm Nursery in July, I bought a few plants which I smuggled home and planted before "him indoors" spotted them! The annual show was, as usual, a triumph of gardener versus weather, the fruit and vegetable sections were a bit bereft of entries, but everything else was lovely, lots of flowers and handicrafts, photos and cookery, an abundance of entries from children and a great display of art from the playgroup, and lots of people came to see it, so I am happy! My roses were brilliant the week before and the week after the show but not on the day but my jams, preserves and cakes passed muster, so I am happy again! My garden is looking like it needs a couple of days hard labour.

Our meeting on Wednesday 5th September is in the Methodist Church in Upton, 7.30pm, with Clive Jameson on the Architectural Wonders of Oxford. Wednesday 26th September we have an evening visit to the garden of Rona Knight, at The Old Vicarage, Watlington, for a guided tour of her garden. Full details of this will be announced at the meeting on the 5th, or ring Eileen on 510095.

Karen Brooks

Sat Nav

I have a little satnav, it sits there in my car
A satnav is a driver's friend, it tells you where you are
I have a little satnav, I've had it all my life
It's better than the normal ones, my satnav is my wife
It gives me full instructions, especially how to drive
"It's thirty miles an hour", it says, "you're doing thirty five"
It tells me when to stop and start and when to use the brake
And tells me that it's never ever safe to overtake
It tells me when a light is red and when it goes to green
It seems to know instinctively, just when to intervene
It lists the vehicles just in front and all those to the rear
And taking this into account, it specifies my gear.
I'm sure no other driver, has so helpful a device
For when we leave and lock the car, it still gives its advice
It fills me up with counselling, each journey's pretty fraught
So why don't I exchange it and get a quieter sort?
Ah well, you see, it cleans the house, makes sure I'm properly fed,
It washes all my shirts and things and keeps me warm in bed!
Despite all these advantages and my tendency to scoff,
I do wish that once in a while, I could turn the damned thing off.

Blewbury WI

We have had a pretty busy summer; an outing to the National Needlework Archive at Greenham Common was certainly an eye opener, a very worthwhile visit. We also visited Nuffield Place, the new National Trust property, highly recommended, we will go again! Ben Hur at the Watermill Theatre was certainly an experience complemented with a delicious lunch. We welcome anybody who would like to come on one of our trips, please ring Judy beforehand, to see if there are spaces. Booking are being taken to see "9-5" based on the Dolly Parton film, in Oxford, 6th December.

Sat 1st Dance at Ashbrook House
Tues 4th 7 - 9pm Archery Chapel Orchard
Wed 5th 9am walk, meet the village hall, drive to Henley,
 walk then lunch at The Flower Pot
Wed 6th 7pm, WI scrapbooks at Morwenna's house
Mon 10th 10.30am coffee at Style Acre
Mon 17th 7.30pm Ghost Walk in Oxford
Wed 26th 7.30pm 35 Years on a Milk Round with Sylvia Brown, Vale room

Karen Brooks

Neighbourhood Watch

At the end of June and beginning of July, there was a spate of burglaries in Drayton and Blewbury and as a result high visibility foot and vehicle patrols were increased. Two men from Slough were charged with 9 offences in total.

Crime Prevention advice:

- Ensure that windows and doors are closed and locked when you are out. Don't leave small windows open believing them to be safe.
- If you want to leave windows open while you sleep, fit window restrictors so they cannot be fully opened, or make sure they are not large enough to allow access to a burglar.
- When out in your garden ensure that windows and doors to the front of the house are secure. It only takes a second for someone to get into your home and take things without you noticing.
- Do not leave valuables on display in front of windows or in reach of open windows or doors.
- Ensure that all barbecue and garden equipment and tools are securely locked up in a shed and out of sight. Tools can be used by the potential offender to break in to your home.
- Don't leave any keys near entry points where they can be 'fished' or 'hooked' out through the window, letter box or cat flap.
- Ensure any internal handle operated locks on UPVC doors are fully secured with a key.

Going on holiday?

- Make your home look occupied.
- If you're out or going away, ask a trusted neighbour to open and close your curtains for you.
- Ask a neighbour if they don't mind parking their car on your driveway and trimming your garden to make your home look occupied.
- Cut the front and back lawns before you go away and trim any plants that burglars could hide behind.
- Cancel milk and newspaper deliveries.
- Before your holiday, don't advertise that you are going away on Facebook, Twitter etc.
- Register for the Royal Mail 'Keepsafe' service
- Leave important documents and valuable personal items with other family members or a bank.
- Double-check that you've locked all outside windows and doors.
- Set your burglar alarm.

Blewbury Players

TWO COUSINS AND A PIANO present
Dear Mr. Dickens by Catherine Flye
8th September 8pm
St Michael's Church, Blewbury
£12 (inc glass of wine)

This is a light-hearted look at the life of Charles Dickens (1812 - 1870) celebrating the 200th anniversary year of the author's birth, through music and the spoken word.

Included in "Dear Mr. Dickens" are letters and personal recollections of the author together with vignettes taken from the novels. The songs reflect those favoured by Dickens and inspired by the colourful characters in the books. These include selections from the musicals 'Oliver' and 'Pickwick', Irish folk songs, and some Gilbert and Sullivan gems, as Sir Arthur Sullivan and Charles Dickens were good friends.

Tickets available from Blewbury Post Office.

She Stoops to Conquer

They played to almost 800 people over 4 days in July. It was full of romance, comedy, mischief, deception and confusion. Orchard Dene garden theatre was an ideal setting for the story to unfold. The costumes were fabulous. There were lovely moments with props which allowed for some cheeky statue polishing and that hair raising screen scene. We had great reactions from the audiences.

Blewbury Post Office News

We now have a nice shiny pin pad, which takes cards the "right way up", so no more complaining please! From October we will also be able to process the new "contactless" payments, which are for payments of less than £15, with no need for a pin number.

We are now able to offer internet rates on Euros on demand. For amounts of £1000 or more, if paying by card, we need ID, such as a passport or driving licence.

Ann & Karen

East Hagbourne Community Shop & Post Office extends a welcome to residents of Upton.

Post Office Hours: Mon - Sat 9.00 am to 12.30 am, & Mon and Thurs afternoons 2.00 pm - 5.30 pm.

Shop Opening Times: daily 9.00 am - 5.30 am except Saturday 9.00 am - 12.30 am

The PO is convenient for pensions, banking for all major banks and for foreign currency plus all postal requirements. The shop, although small, carries an enormous range of dry, canned, chilled and frozen foods, free range eggs and local produce in season, plus many other useful items

Blewbury Tennis Club

Annual Doubles Tournament

Sunday 16th September

Mens and Ladies starts at 11am, the junior + a senior (e.g. mum & son) doubles starts at 1pm . At the tennis club, Bohams Lane, Recreation Ground (just opposite Savages). Bring a picnic.

This will be a single day event, open to all members, competing for the Club trophies. Men's and Ladies' pairings will be selected by the organisers on the day with the aim of providing good competition. The Junior / Senior pairs can be pre-arranged but we will do our best to find a suitable adult for any juniors who arrive on the day without a partner. If you are not a member and would like to join the club there are several members from Upton who will be pleased to welcome you. Membership secretary: Rosemary DeWilde 850345.

Nordic Walking Free Taster Event

Saturday 15th September

We are trying to start a Nordic Walking group in the area as a social way of getting some exercise and making use of our network of footpaths and tracks. Nordic Walking is a wonderful way of getting fit as it uses up to 90% of the muscles of the body. It can be done socially as opposed to the somewhat solitary experience of a gym and can be tailored to suit all fitness levels. After the modest costs of training and the purchase of the special poles it is then free. You will find lots more information on Nordic Walking including its history on the web.

We have arranged for Hendriette Thorn, who is the Get Oxfordshire Active Co-ordinator for South and Vale, to run a taster session here in Upton for anyone who might be interested in trying Nordic Walking. It will be held on the recreation ground at 10.am on the 15th and run for approximately an hour.

If you would like to take part in this taster session or would like further information please contact me either on 850989 or

mike@manorlawns.co.uk. I need to be able to book you in to ensure that we have enough poles available on the day.

Mike Collins