

Upton News



Vol 4 No.14 November 2012

The clocks have changed and we now are getting ready for the winter with the heating fuel supplies checked and the logs cut. It is only ~7 weeks to Christmas and I see many shops are already stocking decorations and provisions.

Brian Rippon and I have been jointly producing Upton News in the new format for just over a year now and thought it would be a good idea to canvass opinions. We used to have a black and white 2 pager and now have a 6 page colour version. We have about 170 dwellings in Upton and send out 150 electronic versions (which includes people in neighbouring villages and ex residents) and print off 85 in hard copy.

We are very appreciative that these are distributed by our team of helpers: Edwin, Celia, Austin, Clare, Lindsay, Jessie & Cathy, thank you to you all.

It has been and will always remain our aim to ensure that anyone who

doesn't have access to a computer will continue getting a hard copy free of charge. We don't have any funding for the printed copies and rely on sponsorship and always give credit to these people in the relevant editions. It costs roughly 60p per edition to print. For those who prefer to read *Upton News* in hard copy rather than on the screen, this can be easily achieved by pressing your print button. It is therefore disappointing in 2012 to be still printing off over 50%.

Enclosed with this edition is a questionnaire for you to let us know your views as to what you want for the future. If you could please respond by 25th November we can then decide what format people want. Alternatively you can complete the survey online (it will only take you a couple of minutes) at www.uptonvillage.co.uk/upton-news-survey/

Sarah

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 December edition is **20th November**.

Inside this issue...

- Almshouse Vacancy
- Road Closure
- Jam Jars and the Law!

Parish Council

Vacancy for Clerk

Deadline for applications for the Clerk's vacancy is 30th November. For more information please contact the Chairman, John Dickens (johnmdickens@btinternet.com) or the clerk, Clare Lightfoot (Lthimbles@aol.com).

Planning Applications

P12/1482/O - outline application for 3 properties at Maslina. The Vale's Planning Committee has rejected this application.

P12/V1976/HH - Hedgewell, High Street. This application was considered at an extraordinary PC meeting on 9th October. The PC had no objections, subject to the deletion of "with cellar under the kitchen". The applicant advised the meeting that reference to the cellar was in error.

MW.0162/12 - Raymond Brown Minerals & Recycling, Chilton Waste Services: application for the replacement of an extant planning permission (proposed extension of MRF and Waste Transfer Station) in order to extend the time limit for implementation at Chilton Waste Services. The PC had no objections to this with the proviso that no adverse impact be made on the AONB.

This application can be viewed at <http://myeplanning.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Neighbourhood Watch

With the darker evenings starting to approach now is the ideal time to look at your home security. If you're not at home during the hours of darkness, you may be at an increased risk of burglary.

If there are no lights on in your home, curtains are not drawn and there is not a car on the drive, it's an obvious sign to an opportunist burglar that nobody is at home. At this time of year it pays to secure your home.

Road Closure



Oxfordshire County Council have announced a temporary road closure to allow telecommunication works in Bessels Way, Blewbury. The affected stretch is part of Bessels Way, northwards from its junction with Hagbourne Road for 350 metres (i.e. near Hagbourne Mill Farm). The closure will come into force on 11 December, from 09:30hrs to 15:30hrs, and the work is anticipated to take three days to complete.

Missing out on a Christmas Party?

If you work from home, the chances are that you are missing the (sometimes dubious) pleasures of a works Christmas party. But fear not - for the second year running we are planning an Upton Christmas party for those of us who work from home in the village, and you can be assured of excellent company!

We will book a table in the George & Dragon at lunchtime on Tuesday, 18 December. Please let me know by Monday, 10 December if you'd like to join us - we look forward to seeing as many as possible!

Paul Batho
(851251) pbatho@aol.com

Christmas at the Earth Trust

Sunday 2nd December, 10am-3pm

Come and enjoy a few hours of Christmas cheer at the Earth Trust.

Join a craft workshop and make traditional wreaths, fairy willow wands or aromatic orange pomanders. Take a guided family winter walk, meet Father Christmas in the Earth Trust Grotto or just enjoy a glass of mulled wine and mince pie in Poem Tree Cafe.

Charges vary for each activity, from £1, check website for details. No booking required - just drop in, everyone welcome!

Julia Benning, Earth Trust
Little Wittenham OX14 4QZ

Upton Carol Singing

The Upton carol singing evening has really taken off - for the last couple of years it seems there have been more people on the streets singing than in the houses listening to our angelic voices. So, by popular demand we're planning to try this again in the week beginning 17 December, starting at the village hall at 6.30 and finishing back at the hall for mulled wine, mince pies and hand bells at 8.00. We'll announce the date soon.

Sarah Tenant-Flowers
(850488) singscape@aol.com

Dates for your diary

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Mon 19 Nov | 7.30 The Incredible Dr Guttman |
| Tue 20 Nov | Last day for Xmas posting surface mail to W Europe |
| Wed 21 Nov | 8pm Upton Wine Appreciation VH |
| Sat 24 Nov | 3pm Have Your Say Meeting VH |
| Fri 30 Nov | Closing date for Almshouse application & PC Clerk vacancy |

Rectors Reflections

Life in Three Dimensions

Within a few days, we shall be marking Remembrance Sunday. It is, of course, a time to remember all who have been killed and injured in past and present conflicts, and a time to pledge ourselves once more to work for peace in our world. But it is also a time to reflect on what it means to be a human being.

As human beings, we live our life in 3 dimensions- the past, with its memories; the present, with its immediate challenges; and the future, with its hopes and its fears.

When the names of the Fallen are read out, we remember all who have been killed in previous conflicts, and especially the First and Second World Wars. When we lay wreaths and wear our poppies, we remember the on-going work of the Royal British Legion and other welfare organisations. And we cannot but be reminded that to date at least 433 British servicemen and servicewomen have been killed in Afghanistan, and many others have suffered serious injuries. Praise be to God that there are men and women working in many different countries to bring an end to the war in Afghanistan, and to establish a lasting peace in that troubled country. And praise be to God for the servicemen and servicewomen working as peace-makers and peace-keepers on our behalf, not only in Afghanistan but in other parts of the world as well. And so Remembrance Sunday is not just about the past and the present; it's about the future as well. It's about a future where

conflict has been brought to an end and disputes are settled without recourse to violence - a future which is at least a possibility, if we pledge ourselves to work for peace and justice, and really mean it.

A recognition that as humans we live our lives in three dimensions is at the heart of the Christian faith. In Jesus Christ, God is at work to help us meet the challenges of the whole of our lives- past, present and future. The Bible contains many stories, images and phrases designed to communicate this; and the words and ceremonies of services in church also seek to communicate the same thing.

Past, present, or future: God is there for us, God is there with us. Nothing can ever separate us from God's loving purposes for us, and for our world.

Fr Jason

United Charities of Blewbury, Upton and Aston Upthorpe Almshouses

A vacancy has arisen at one of the above Almshouses and the Trustees are inviting applications for the tenancy.

The Charity is run in accordance with schemes prepared by the Charity Commission and is administered by voluntary Trustees. The tenancy is open to people of good character who have a connection with Blewbury either through residence or birth or family relations. Preference would be given to those who are over 55 years old and who are on a limited income.

The Almshouses are unfurnished dwellings set in the middle of Blewbury, designed with the needs of active older people in mind although the Trustees retain the right to offer the accommodation to younger applicants. The aim is to provide convenient, comfortable and affordable accommodation within the village community that allows residents to come and go as they please. There is no warden support and residents are expected to maintain an independent lifestyle; this may include help from family, friends or Social Services. Personal alarm systems can be arranged with the local Council or private organisations.

The Trustees are responsible for both external and internal repairs and decoration to the houses. Residents are responsible for the cleanliness of their home and the tidiness of the gardens.

Apply to: The Clerk, United Charities of Blewbury, Upton & Aston Upton.

Lowmans, South Street, Blewbury. OX11 9PR. Closing date for applications is November 30th.

Spring Line Methodist Church

10.30am Upton

Nov 18th Ruth Dams

Nov 25th Rev Richard Bittleston (HC)

Dec 2nd St Michaels Family service & nativity play

Dec 16th Carol Service
3pm Blewbury

The University of the Third Age

The first meeting of Didcot & District University of the Third Age is being held at 2pm on Tuesday 15 January 2013 at Didcot Civic Hall.

U3As are self-help, self-managed lifelong learning co-operatives for older people no longer in full time work, providing opportunities for their members to share learning experiences in a wide range of interest groups and to pursue learning not for qualifications, but for fun.

www.u3a.org.uk

St Mary's services

18th 10 am All Age Family Service*

25th 9am Sung Eucharist

25th 3pm ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL....

Service for pets (and their owners) at St Mary's, followed by afternoon tea. Everyone welcome - with or without a pet...

A collection will be taken for the Donkey Sanctuary at Brightwell.

2nd Dec 9am Sung Eucharist*

*refreshments served after these services

Tuesdays 9.30, 10am & 5.30pm (morning & evening prayer)

Blewbury WI

We have been told that the Food Standards Agency are banning the sale of produce in reused glass jars at charity stalls etc as glass apparently is permeable by previous contents. We are in contact with our national reps and are awaiting next steps and advice. [see also *Re-use of Jam Jars*. Ed]

Fri 16th RAL lecture on “Physics & Games”, contact Sandra Lewis.

Mon 19th OFWI outing to Culham Laboratory.

Wed 28th 7.30pm in the Chapel. Betty Collins talking on “Tall Ships”

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 events are also listed on our “Facebook” page, Blewbury WI.

Karen Brooks

Village Produce Association

Our heartfelt thanks to Joyce for allowing us to take over her garden for our annual plant and produce stall, as usual, huge amounts of cakes, jams, chutney, plants and bulbs were sold, making our gardens more beautiful for next year.

Our VPA Christmas social event, which this year will be in Upton Village Hall, is on Saturday 8th December. Supper, mulled wine, fruit juice and entertainment, with lifts provided for those who require them, ring Karen, (850219) email her on karencbrooks@gmail.com or see her in the Post Office.

I am sure that most of us are putting the garden to bed, chopping, pruning and planting spring bulbs, I have the last of the apples to pick, my son has cut the hedges and I have the roses to prune, but am sure that some of them will still be flowering well into December.

Happy Gardening

Karen Brooks

Solar Panels Update

Our first year output from our solar panels delivered 3907KWh. This compares very favourably with the supplier/installer’s estimate of 3141kWh; 25% higher and this was in a gloomier than average summer. It is difficult to say exactly how much the panels have cut the amount of electricity we have to buy in as we have no previous years to compare and we have taken other measures to reduce electricity usage. However based on our previous experience and using average data from Ofgem we are using about 30-35% less electricity than would be expected of which about 50% is down to the panels.

Dermot Paddon

Post Office News

I have now been appointed as Postmistress, we now stock essential things for your Christmas and eBay posting, string, paper, sticky tape. post bags and boxes etc, along with other items.

The last posting date for Christmas surface mail to Eastern Europe is 6th & 20th November for Western Europe, all the airmail dates are in December. Christmas stamps are on sale on 6th November and we will soon have the forms to fill in to apply for “discounted stamps” for those on Pension Credit, Employment and Support Allowance or Incapacity Benefit. From 27th November there will be delays to

mail to Guernsey, as their runway is being rebuilt.

Good news from the big banks, they are scrapping the charge for buying currency when using a debit/credit card, although our system still requires valid ID. Also HSBC & First Direct banks will be online in Spring 2013, which means these customers can access free cash withdrawals from the Post Office.

You may also pay into the “Children in Need” appeal, however if you wish to gift aid, please ask for a form.

Karen

Re-use of Jam Jars

The issue of re-using jam jars for fetes etc. has attracted a lot of press attention.

The latest news is that on 22 October Anna Soubry, a junior minister at the Department of Health, published the following response to a Commons Written Question from John Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the Government’s policy is on the re-use of jam jars by individuals; and if he will make a statement.

We are advised by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) that there is European Union legislation in place, that applies to food businesses, that are designed to protect consumers from the migration of materials that may be used in the manufacture of containers used to store food. These

rules do not apply to subsequent re-use by individuals.

The FSA is not aware of any evidence that reusing jam jars presents a food safety concern for consumers in terms of materials which may migrate from jam jars into food. Separately, good hygiene needs to be observed in cleaning jars and food preparation.

It is for local authorities to decide how they enforce the rules with respect to charities and the like.

The FSA’s view is that the legislation needs to be applied with common sense and it is clear that local authorities are doing so. The FSA is not aware of any prosecutions for reusing glass jars for jam making since the legislation was introduced in 2004.

Upton Wine Appreciation Club

The speaker at the October meeting of the Club was Derek Whitmell who entertained us with a tasting of the wines of the Southern Rhone. Derek last covered this region for the Club in March 2007 and identified a price increase of between 30% and 40% over the intervening period. As in 2007 all the 8 wines chosen came from The Wine Society at Stevenage, which has again won awards for National Wine Merchant of the Year and which has a growing number of members in the village. In 2007 Derek asked members to score each of the wines and this was repeated this time with some interesting results where we were able to make a like for like comparison. In particular the white Côtes-du-Rhône from Domaine La Réméjeanne scored much less well than previously whereas the red from Domaine Jaume was more popular.

The most successful wines of the evening were:

Whites, Lirac Blanc La Fermade 2011 from Domaine Maby @ £8.95 and Saint P  ray, La Sauvag  re 2011 from Paul Jaboulet A  n   @ £12.50. Reds, C  tes-du-Rh  ne du Friande 2011 from Domaine Jaume @ £6.50, Vinsobres Cuv  e R  f  rence 2008, Domaine Jaume @ £10.95, The Society's Exhibition Gigondas, 2006 @ £12.50 and the most popular wine of the evening, Rasteau, Domaine des Escaravailles, 2010 @ £7.95.

We are very grateful to Derek for all his hard work in respect of this most enjoyable evening.

Our next meeting will be on 21st November when we will welcome a



return visit from the team at O'Vineyards near Carcassonne in France. Liz and Joe O'Connell will be giving us a "vertical" tasting of one of their wines from the 2006 vintage through to the 2009 one, thereby letting us identify the differences created by the weather. There will also be four white wines from their neighbours. As a result of their generosity and some great negotiations by Kevin and Frankie Jacklin, this meeting will be at our usual rate of £5 per person.

Anyone interested in joining needs to complete an application form which can be found on the Upton Village web site or by contacting me on 850989.

Mike Collins