

Upton News



Vol 4 No.17 March 2013

I hope everyone is keeping warm in this spell of cold weather and the many attempts to try and snow. The ice caused a nasty car accident in the village on the A417 last week. We have a number of dates in the diary and Easter is at the end of the month. Please send in any contributions for the next edition by 20th March.

Sarah

Local Plan

The Vale published a draft of the Local Plan on 28 February and is holding a series of consultation exhibitions:

Tue 12 Mar, 12pm-7pm. Bury Street, Abingdon

Wed 13 Mar, 12pm-7pm. Wantage Civic Hall

Tue 19 Mar, 12pm-7pm. Methodist Hall, Main St, Grove

Thu 21 Mar, 12pm-7pm. Southmoor Village Hall

Sat 23 Mar, 10am-3pm. Wantage Civic Hall

Tue 26 Mar, 12pm-7pm. Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot

Thu 28 Mar, 12pm-7pm. Faringdon Corn Exchange

Thu 4 Apr, 12pm-7pm. Harwell Church Hall

Sat 13 Apr, 10am-3pm. Faringdon Corn Exchange

These events are designed to help clarify the Local Plan and what it means. Come along and look at the exhibitions. You will also be able to read the document, speak with planning officers about some of the more technical aspects of it, and leave your feedback.

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

Are you doing some early Spring cleaning? Or needing more space on your shelves?

Christian Aid is appealing for books to raise money for their campaign to End Poverty and Hunger. In particular, non-fiction books in good condition and those with bar codes on the cover would be welcome, but not paperback fiction or very old books. If you have something to offer, there will be a collecting box in St Mary's Church for the next month or so, or alternatively leave any donations at Karibu, High Street. Thank you in advance.

Elisabeth and Malcolm Wright

Inside this issue...

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- Blewbury WI
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Neighbourhood Policing Update

February 2013

The Wantage East Neighbourhood team have been busy helping our Vulnerable Elderly Residents (VERA). We have been out shopping, collecting prescriptions and visiting due to the cold and wet weather. If you have an elderly neighbour, you can play a key role in making their lives a little easier, just by making yourself available and looking out for them. In doing this, you could be providing some valuable help where it is needed and you might also make a new friend.

Good Neighbour Scheme: Do you need help with small tasks around the home or maybe just someone to pop in for a chat? Do you know someone who does? The Good Neighbour scheme was founded in 2009. They provide volunteers to help with those simple tasks that our elderly or vulnerable clients find too difficult. For example, they can put up shelves, change light bulbs, collect shopping, help with paperwork or befriend someone who is otherwise isolated.

Their co-ordinator will visit you at your home to make an initial assessment and then will allocate the most appropriate volunteer for you. Please call the office on 01235 765348 or contact help@wantageadvice.org.uk for more details. Advice Services and the Good Neighbour scheme are provided free of charge, however voluntary donations are always very welcome.

Parking Road Traffic Act 1988. The Neighbourhood team have received complaints regarding parking outside of Primary Schools. This includes parking on zig zags and on road junctions and opposite road junctions. You must not leave your vehicle in a dangerous position or where it causes any unnecessary obstruction of the road including the foot path. This includes opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorized parking space. Before you park and lock your vehicle think 'am I obstructing anyone or anything, am I committing an offence by parking here?'. Just take that moment to look around you; you could prevent that fine. Also bear in mind, if your vehicle is causing an obstruction you could receive a fixed penalty notice or it may be removed in your absence.

Have Your Say Meeting is on Sun 16th, 3pm - 4pm, Upton Village Hall. Please come along, this is your opportunity to speak with your Neighbourhood Officers to discuss any local issues of concern you may have.

Lost Keys

A pair of keys on a silver coloured tag have been misplaced in the area of Church Street, Chapel Furlong, and the railway embankment / Recreation Ground. If found, please could these be handed to the Parish Clerk, Clare Lightfoot.

Blewbury WI

Spring and Easter are almost here and it's time to think about getting out and about again. Please feel free to join in with our "all welcome" events, this includes non members and men. We have quite a few chaps who join us. My step dad has helped set up a WIWI Club (Women's Institute Widowers Inc) in my old village (who on Mum's WI night meet in the pub for a couple of pints).

Tues 5th Lyn's walk (not sure if this is happening yet, Lyn has broken her wrist, contact her please. All welcome.)

Tues 5th Group Spring Meeting, John Eriksson, Brightwell, (WIWI in Red Lion)

Fri 8th RAL lecture; "Inserting Dinosaurs into Synchrotrons" with Dr Phil Manning, (ring Judy for tickets)

Mon 11th Round 1 of WI quiz

Tues 12th Blues Brothers @ Oxford

Wed 20th Lunch @ The Cherry Tree, Steventon

Wed 27th Annual Meeting and Social Evening @ 7.30pm in the School Hall

Date tbc Coffee at Style Acre Tea Rooms – not set as we went to press

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

Dates for your diary

Fri 8 Mar	(to Thu 14th) A417 width restriction/speed limit
Sat 9 Mar	3.30pm Mothers Union Village Hall
Sun 10 Mar	Mothering Sunday
Thu 14 Mar	10.30am Drop In (VH)
Sat 16 Mar	9.30am Litterpick in the village
Sun 16 Mar	3pm - Have Your Say Meeting (VH)
Tue 19 Mar	2pm Didcot & District Univ. 3rd Age The Incredible World of the Honeybee Didcot Civic Hall
Tue 19 Mar	Upton Parish Council Meeting
Wed 20 Mar	Wine Club - Village Hall 8pm
Thu 28 Mar	10.30am Drop In (VH)
Sun 31 Mar	Easter Day

Post Office News

We have been warned about a phishing scam, where recipients get an email saying they have been awarded a tax rebate by Post Office Ltd, from one of our savings accounts. They ask for your bank details in order to be paid back, please do not do this. If you have overpaid, you will receive a letter. I have also had these from allegedly my bank, HMRC, Nationwide and Nat West (who I don't have accounts with) please report to either your bank or internet provider.

Blewbury Garden Market producers are continuing to bring freshly baked bread and cakes on Saturday mornings, and there a few jars of preserves and some seeds during the week too.

Please note that all post needs to be in the office by 4.30pm for an afternoon collection as we close at 5pm and 10am on a Wednesday or Saturday when we close at 12 noon. Bringing in post at 5 minutes before closing will not make you very popular!

Karen & Angela

Village Produce Association News

As I write this, the snow is falling again, it is bitterly cold, the snowdrops are in full bloom and I saw daffodils up on the London Road this week. Is spring on its way? My garden has had a minor haircut, on the days that it hasn't rained I have popped out and de cluttered a couple of borders. Needless to say, I haven't done a lot; I have plans for my summer vegetable plot and am busy looking at seed packets.

Our spring social evening is on Saturday 23rd March; buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment when they have all gone. We will be serving a spring supper of quiches and salad, with hot cross buns for afters, wine, fruit juice and possibly tea and coffee too! Eileen is organising a decorated egg competition, bring your egg to be judged and maybe win a prize. I am sure she also has some devious quiz/puzzle or other entertainment up her sleeve too. Car share and lifts are available, just ask at the Post Office when you buy your ticket, or ask Maggie and Austin Maytham in Upton.

Our speaker on Wed 6 March, 7.30pm Blewbury Vale room, is Peter Adams, who is giving a talk about how he and a group of other enthusiasts started up their own community orchard in Wolvercote almost 20 years ago, and is now helping other groups set up their own. He also talks about the increasing popularity of "Apple Days". If you want a lift, ring me 850219 or see me in the Post Office. I am on the tea rota that evening, I may well make an apple cake.

Happy gardening

Karen Brooks

Spring Line Methodist Church

Spring Line - Celebrating its life and witness

The last Church Council meeting of the members of the Spring Line Methodist church was held at Upton Chapel on 5th February 2013. We decided on the arrangements for the final celebrations of its witness.

Easter Sunday: there will be a final service with communion at 10.30 at Upton Methodist Chapel on March 31st.

The very Final (Circuit*) service is to be held on Sunday 14th April 2013. The main service will be in the Blewbury chapel at 6.00pm, but - for those who wish to - the minister Revd. Richard Bittleston will lead a short closing liturgy at Upton Chapel at 4:45pm and then walk (weather permitting) to Blewbury. Anyone who would like to join him will be most welcome. We will bring something from Upton to the Blewbury service; a symbol of the bond of fellowship that has been shared between the churches. Please join with us, you will be most welcome.

Methodist Services

Sunday Services at Upton 10.30am

3rd Alan Fudge

10th Geoff Caudle

17th Michael Howlett

24th Brenda Boyer (Palm Sunday)

31st Rev Richard Bittleston (Easter) (HC)

14th April 6pm our final service at Blewbury chapel Rev Richard Bittleston.

Although there is real sadness that buildings close, there is joy that Spring Line members will continue to serve God in other churches as they move on, to Milton, Childrey and other local village churches.

Revd. Richard Bittleston

*Circuit is the Methodist name for our group of local churches - Didcot, Wantage and Abingdon, together with the surrounding village churches. Members of these churches will be joining us for the service on April 14th, but we also hope that people from Blewbury and Upton will join us at either chapel.



Why do we have eggs at Easter?

Eggs were a forbidden food during Lent, making them a welcome return to the menu on Easter Day. Easter is a Christian festival. For Christians the custom of giving eggs at Easter celebrates new life. Christians remember that Jesus, after dying on the cross, rose from the dead. They believe that, through his resurrection, Jesus defeated death and sin and offers people the promise of eternal life if they follow his teachings.

The first eggs given at Easter were birds eggs. These eggs were painted in bright colours to give them further meaning as a gift. Some of us still paint them today.



Q: Why did the Easter egg hide?

A: He was a little chicken!

Q: What did one Easter egg say to the other?

A: 'Heard any good yolks lately!'

Mothers' Union comes to Upton!

MU: DO THEY REALLY???

- Speak out against violence to women
- Campaign against advertising which promotes sales of adult styles to children
- Support parents as they bring up their children
- Pray for the needs of families across the world
- Give financial support to set up literacy and health education schemes

YES THEY DO!!!

These are just some of the things that this dynamic Christian organisation "The Mothers' Union" has been doing year in, year out.

We invite all villagers to come and find out more about this amazing, global Christian organisation, which works in this area as well as across the world.

Gentlemen, ladies, teenagers, children - a warm welcome awaits you

Upton Village Hall, Saturday 9th March at 3.30pm

- complimentary teas, activities for children with a Mothering Sunday theme, displays and information, informal conversation and a short presentation.

The doors will be open for just one hour, so we hope many of you will find time to drop in for a cup of tea and cake, with plenty to keep young people busy as well.

See you there!

Revd Louise Butler

Easter egg recipe

Makes one 100g egg (medium size)

Ingredients

- 400g chocolate, ideally dark and from Latin America

Method

1. Finely chop all the chocolate and put two thirds into a heat-proof bowl. Melt either by sitting the bowl over a pot of boiling water, making sure the water does not touch the bottom of the bowl, or sitting the bowl into a pot of recently boiled water, making sure to take the pot off the hob first. You'll easily get two Easter egg halves out of 400g of chocolate, if you jiggle the chocolate in the mould you can eke out some more.
2. When the chocolate is melted, take the bowl off the heat and, with a spatula, stir in the remaining third of the chopped chocolate. This will start the tempering process and ensure you get a lovely glossy finish to your Easter egg.
3. When all the chocolate has fully melted, touch the tip of the spatula to your bottom lip to test the chocolate is at the right temperature for moulding. If you're using dark chocolate, it should feel slightly cool. For milk chocolate it should feel cool and for white chocolate, cold.
4. Now you have to get the chocolate into your mould very quickly. Ladle in the chocolate, right to the rim, give the mould a couple of taps to get the air bubbles out and leave it to sit on a cold surface for 2 - 3 minutes. Pour out the excess chocolate and scrape the edge of the mould so the rim of your egg is even.
5. Turn the mould over onto a plate and leave on a cold surface for 3 hours. When the chocolate has hardened, the mould will lift off easily.
6. Repeat the process to make the other half of the Easter egg shell.
7. Fill with mini eggs, or sweets and use a ribbon to hold both halves together



Courtesy of Marc Demarquette

Love is in the air!

Congratulations to Brian Rippon & Giulia Hannigan (Autumn Leaves) and David Hawkins & Sue Brown (Upton Lodge Cottage) on their forthcoming marriages.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme



The D of E scheme aims to help young people develop skills for work and life, and fulfil their potential. You can participate from age 13 and from the first to last day it is seen as a real adventure. It gives you the opportunity to enjoy lots of new experiences, discover talents you never thought you had, challenge yourself and meet people just like you!

Achieving an Award will give you skills, confidence and a view on life that everyone is looking for, from employers to colleges and universities. You get recognized for doing things you want to do (and may even be doing already). You can make a difference to other people's lives and your community, be fitter and healthier, make new friends and have memories to last you a lifetime. And above all, it's a great laugh - the question should really be

why wouldn't you bother!

I am about to start my Bronze Award. There are four parts to this Award: Physical, Skills, Volunteering and an assessed Expedition.

For my Physical activity I am going to play football for at least 1 hour a week with my current football club. This is something I really enjoy doing and it is good to be part of a team. My achievement here will be to get fitter, play better, and hope that we win some of our matches. It's also important to commit and stay committed to a team. I have been playing for Thatcham Tornados from the age of 7!

For my skills part of the Award, I am going to train with the Air Cadets and will learn skills like map reading and radio communications. I will learn the history of the ATC, air recognition skills, and the history of flight. I might get the opportunity to go gliding. This is a disciplined group, where I am expected to support my peers and respect my seniors.

For the Expedition, there will be between four and seven of us in a team and consist of an overnight camp and preparing meals for ourselves, also, navigating ourselves to the next destination using our own acquired map reading skills. This will involve lots of training to make sure we are fully prepared and know what we are doing! Our Leader will arrange a Supervisor to work

with us to help organise and plan our expedition.

Once we've done the preparation the fun starts when we go out and do a practice and a qualifying expedition. Once we have completed our final expedition we will give a presentation about our experiences and our achievements to the Supervisor and Assessor.

For my Volunteering, I would like to help the people of Upton Village.

I think it will be good to help in my local community, and it will be good to meet new people too. So this is where I need your help to enable me to achieve my Bronze DofE Award.

Do you need any help with clearing your garden, mowing your lawn or just generally tidying up outside? Would you like me to come and do your vacuuming for you? If you are a busy parent, would you like me to look after your children while you go shopping for an hour or two? Do you have a dog you would like me to walk? All completely free!

If you would like my help please contact my Mum, Diane, email: diane.rabbetts@stfc.ac.uk.

I look forward to hearing from you...

Marcus Rabbetts

Age 13

The Elms, High Street

Upton Wine Appreciation Club

In February Mike Collins gave a tour of eight classic grape varieties - Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Chenin Blanc, Pinot Noir, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. We learnt that the dominant grape variety will be quoted on the label but can have other unlisted grapes included. By law, the French can't grow Riesling within 50 kilometres of the German border and that we are not to confuse Petite Syrah with Syrah as this is a name used in California and is not the Syrah grape.

The most popular wines seemed to be Kuentz-Bas Tradition Reisling (£8.95) and J Lohr Sevenoaks Cabernet Sauvignon from California (£12.50), both available from the Wine Society.

We also learned that the Phylloxera bug injects a poison to kill grape vines and that no insecticide can kill it. There is still a reward available from the French government to exterminate the bug. In the late 1800's France lost 6.2m acres to the bug and to put this into perspective, have about 2.3m acres now.

At the next meeting on Wednesday 20th March, the committee members and two regular speakers will share some of their favourite wines (within budget!) and with eight speakers in the evening it should be an interesting affair.

New members are always welcome and there is an application form downloadable on the Upton Village website.

Ellie Bunston

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 March edition is 20th February.

Extracts from Upton Parish Council Meeting

District Council: The Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) which comes in to effect in April 2013 replaces the current benefits system which assists those on low incomes to meet their council tax payments. The council will address council tax exemptions and discounts which currently apply to unoccupied homes, i.e. second homes, unfurnished or unoccupied dwellings or those requiring structural repairs.

The Local Plan: Work is progressing on the allocation housing supply document for the next 15 years and the Local Plan will be drawn up this year and submitted to the Secretary of State.

Villagers' Forum: A resident had raised the issue of the poor state of the village roads. These should be reported to the web site "mystreet".

Planning: P12/V2104/CM - It was noted that permission had been granted for the replacement of an extant planning permission in order to extend the time limit for implementation at Chilton Waste Services;

P12/V1730/DA - Wattle Cottage Farm: Planning appeal decision still

awaited and the enforcement order remains in place. Some work has been observed on the site recently and the enforcement officer has been made aware.

Roads and Footpath: £337.50 has been received from OCC in respect of cutting footpaths. It was noted that a "No right of way" sign had appeared on the road between Lynchway and Alden Lane.

The path to the West of Little Acorns Nursery (between A417 and the B road into West Hagbourne) had been obstructed.

Young Parishioners: Bike Jumps: As part of the finalisation of the WREN playground grant the PC is required to complete additional proposed works. A discussion took place on the installation of a cycle track— Phase 1: rebuilding, reshape and surface existing dirt roller and jumps. Cost £5k + VAT. Volunteers would be required to help with the spade work.

New Playground: More volunteers are needed to carry out the mandatory weekly check on the playground.

Upton 50's Club

	December 2012	January 2013
£20:	Sheila Concannon (13)	
£20:	Jo Joel (71)	
£10:	Mrs Ollenbutel (103)	Claire Lightfoot (74)
£7:	Karen Spackman	Wyn Scotney (27)
£5:	Brenda Arnold	Robert Brown (36)
£4:	Elisabeth Wright (20)	Keith Eighteen (97)