

# Upton News



Vol 4 No.18 April 2013

The clocks have changed and the light nights are now with us, all we need now is a bit more warmth, but I'm sure it will soon come and before we know it, the trees will be in leaf, the flowers growing and it will be time to mow the lawn. The children are now on school holidays and no doubt enjoyed a feast of chocolate Easter eggs. If you have any contributions for the next edition of Upton News, please send through to [news@uptonvillage.co.uk](mailto:news@uptonvillage.co.uk) by 20th April.

*Sarah*

## Uptonogood? Bike Ride

**Saturday 15 June**

It's almost "Uptonogood?" time again and preparations are well underway. As always we're in search of that most precious of commodities - marshals.

By way of an additional incentive, this year we've decided to offer every marshal £20 for a charity/ school/youth group etc. of their choice. If you haven't marshalled before and would like to get involved please contact Bob Lott (851222) or Mike Tibbetts (851474). If you have marshalled before I'll be in contact soon!

*Bob Lott*

## ***Village Annual Parish Meeting***

**Monday 8th April - 7.15 for 7.30  
Village Hall**

Light refreshments will be available from 7.15 pm.

Come along and hear what has been happening during the past year - and give us your suggestions for the coming one.

*Clare Lightfoot - Clerk*

## ***Welcome***

Welcome to Alan and Debbie Paul who have moved into Brookside on the High Street. They formerly lived in Sonning Common and have a son and daughter who will be around from time to time.

Andy, Ros, Sophie & Izzy Caffyn have now moved—a great distance—just across the High Street to Littlecote.

## **Inside this issue...**

- Former Residents of Upton
- Local Plan
- Youth Debating Team

# Rectors Reflections

## *Crossing a Bridge*

People have been celebrating Easter for almost two thousand years. Why is this so? What is Easter all about? A quick answer would be that Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. But what is “Resurrection”?

For Christians, Easter and Resurrection are two words trying to describe the bridge between two fundamental realities- realities which are exciting and challenging, affirming and transforming, familiar and yet profoundly mysterious.

The first reality is the earthly life of Jesus Christ, a Jew who lived in the Holy Land back in the First Century. Jesus was executed by crucifixion, round about 30 AD or so. In his adult life, he had a ministry of teaching, prayer and healing, and he was able to perform miracles. Many have believed that his birth was also miraculous - born of Mary, but without an earthly father. Many have also believed that he was more than just a human being - he was God as well, fully human and fully God.

Although Jesus was crucified, died and was buried, this was not the end of the story. Ever since the first Easter Day, literally millions of people have been convinced that Jesus Christ is alive and active. Sometimes people talk about this ongoing life of Jesus in terms of the Spirit - the Spirit sent by Jesus into our world and into our lives, actively at work to bring healing and refreshment, justice, hope and forgiveness.

So how do we get from the first reality to the second reality? Easter and Resurrection are ways of describing the bridge which leads from the historic life of Jesus Christ, lived in the Holy Land back in the First Century, to the ongoing life of Jesus Christ in the present. The worship and witness of the Church tries to make this ongoing life of Jesus Christ real to us. It seeks to provide a means for Christians to share in the reality of the first Easter and Resurrection.

Because Jesus is alive, He is always our contemporary. The human beings who manage Jesus’ church may sometimes forget this, but fortunately the ongoing life of Jesus Christ is deeper and stronger than the church which carries that life. Jesus Christ is as alive today as he was two thousand years ago- that is my conviction, the cornerstone of my life.

*Fr Jason*

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## *Oxford Moonlight Stroll*

Join the Sobell House Hospice Charity at their annual Oxford Moonlight Stroll – 13th July, 10.30pm.

A nine-mile night-time sponsored walk through the streets of Oxford with all proceeds going to the Sobell House Hospice, caring for people throughout Oxfordshire affected by terminal illness. Sign up at [www.oxfordmoonlightstroll.org](http://www.oxfordmoonlightstroll.org) or call 01865 857 007.



## ***St Mary's Services***

April Services - 9am

Sun 7th                      Sung Eucharist - followed by refreshments

Sun 14th                     Sung Eucharist

Sun 21st 10am              All Age Family Service - followed by refreshments

Sun 28th                     Sung Eucharist

Please see noticeboard in church porch for times of weekday services.

St Mary's Church Annual Meeting - Monday 15th April at 7.00 p.m. in church.

All welcome.

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## ***Charity Coffee Morning***

**Saturday 27 April – 10am - 12 noon**

Coffee/crumpets/cup cakes etc. Cake Stall. Handcrafted greeting cards.

Raffle, Face Painting, etc.

Contributions will be gratefully received. Do come and support this event in aid of the Children's Society.

*Jessie 851206/Clare 850486*

## **Dates for your diary**

<b>Thu 4 Apr</b>	12 - 7pm, Village Plan Exhibition, Harwell Church Hall
<b>Mon 8 Apr</b>	7.30, Annual Parish Meeting, Village Hall
<b>Mon 8 Apr</b>	Work commences on Bike humps- Rec ground
<b>Thu 11 Apr</b>	10.30, Drop In - VH
<b>Sat 13 Apr</b>	10am-3pm, Village Plan Exhibition, Faringdon Corn Exchange
<b>Mon 15 Apr</b>	7pm, St Mary's Church Annual Meeting - Church
<b>Tue 16 Apr</b>	2pm, Meeting of the 3rd Age, Didcot Civic Hall BB&O Air Ambulance
<b>Wed 17 Apr</b>	8pm Wine Appreciation Club, VH
<b>Wed 24 Apr</b>	10.30 Drop In - VH
<b>Wed 24 Apr</b>	7.30, WI Location, Location, Location, Blewbury School
<b>Sat 27 Apr</b>	10am - 12, Charity Coffee Morning, VH
<b>Sun 15 Jun</b>	Uptonogood? Bike Ride
<b>Sat 13 Jul</b>	Sobell House Oxford Moonlight Stroll
<b>Sat 7 Sep</b>	2pm, St Mary's Church Fete

# Local Plan

It was recently published in the Vale Community when and where we are hosting our manned exhibition events to help inform people on the Local Plan, explain what it will mean to them and how they can have their say. We have set out the full details of these events below, including the additional, unmanned exhibitions that will remain in place for the duration of the consultation up to 9 May.

The Local Plan Part 1 is the part of the Local Plan that deals with general policies and strategic sites, rather than smaller sites and particular settlement matters which will be dealt with in Part 2 when it is published.

The roadshow exhibition locations are focused on towns and villages with strategic housing sites identified in this draft of the Local Plan Part 1.

- Thursday 4 April, 12pm - 7pm Harwell Church Hall
- Saturday 13 April, 10am - 3pm Faringdon Corn Exchange

Static exhibitions will stay in place for the duration of the consultation - 9 May:

- Abingdon - Guildhall
- Faringdon - Corn Exchange
- Grove - Old Mill Hall
- Botley - Library
- Shrivenham - Memorial Hall

We hope that as many people as possible in the Vale will find the time to visit one of the permanent or roadshow exhibitions which will explain how you can have your say.

To see the draft Local Plan Part 1, please visit the website via [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/localplanpartone](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/localplanpartone) - this page also contains details on how to make online comments about the plan as well as other methods to have your say.

Printed copies of the main document are available to view at our offices at Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon , OX14 3JE , at your local public library or at your town or parish council.

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## ***Upton Youth Debating Team***

From the Upton Plan, there were very few activities for our younger members. If any of our younger residents would like to join in debates, please contact [maytham@live.co.uk](mailto:maytham@live.co.uk). If there is sufficient interest, perhaps we could organise two teams, and have debates either in the village hall or the Church.

*Austin Maytham*

## ***CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England)***

At the Oxfordshire branch of CPRE we are worried about the Vale of the White Horse DC's draft local plan and its impact on the Vale's rural communities. We very much want local people to have their say. Our job is to keep an eye on things but we need more eyes 'on the ground' who can help us to mobilise and campaign on their behalf should that become necessary.

### **Help protect the rural Vale**

The VoWH District Council published its draft Local Plan in February. It sets out the District's main development plans until 2026, including sites for 1000s of new houses. The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) is urging people to have their say and tell the Council how important it is to protect the rural character of the Vale's landscape and villages.

A new map of all the major development applications in the District over the last year can be seen at: <http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk/news/item/2269-map-of-planning-applications-in-the-vale>

Like most local communities, CPRE supports the right development in the right place. But current pressures mean that large-scale and unsustainable applications are getting through in some places. CPRE is already working with the Small Villages Alliance and the Western Vale Villages Consortium to keep a very close eye on things, but needs the support of local people - your support - to remain vigilant and take action when necessary.

As a charity CPRE relies entirely on support from its members. Please help CPRE to protect the character of the rural Vale by joining them or getting involved. Call on 01865 874780 or find out more at [www.cpreoxon.org.uk](http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk)

*Jane Tomlinson*

*PR manager CPRE 01865 883861/874780 or 07587 548548*

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## ***Oxfordshire Woodfuel Programme***

Signs of ash die-back include wilting leaves and browning of young stems. [www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara) gives information about what to do about diseased ash trees.

Woodfuel themed study visits will run on 15 April, 1 June and 8 June, including a unique opportunity to see a Ministry of Defence woodland and taste wild rabbit. If you are a woodland owner who could use some free help with woodland

management, or you would like to work outdoors in return for some firewood, please join 'Logs for Labour'. A quality standard for firewood for Oxfordshire is being developed. 'OxLogs' suppliers will clearly state the volume, type, length and moisture content of their wood. For more information on any of these please see [www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk](http://www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk)

## Mothers Union

### *Sowing Seeds in Upton*

The Churn MU branch covers a benefice of 6 parishes south of Didcot. Most members live in Blewbury, so sowing seeds in our other parishes seemed a good idea; Upton village is just the beginning! Complimentary teas were enjoyed, Mothering Sunday craft activities occupied the children, a prayer space was set up along with an MU display. After sharing food and fellowship, the MU DVD was shown followed by a short illustrated talk given by me, our branch leader. Several people have shown an interest in membership, so we prayerfully hope that enrolments will follow shortly.

*Revd Louise Butler*



### *Former Residents of Upton...*

Capt. Joseph Lawrence Fry lived at the Manor House from about 1933 until the 50s. During the second war he was in charge of the Upton & Blewbury Home Guard. The Elgar Society have written to tell us that in the Great War he wrote to Elgar...

Oct 5, 1917

TO Sir Edward Elgar.

Dear Sir,

Though unknown, I feel I must write to you tonight. We possess a fairly good Gramophone [sic] in our Mess, and I have bought your record 'Starlight Express' "Hearts must be star-shiny dressed". It is being played for the twelfth time over. The Gramophone was Anathema to me before this War because it was abused so much. But all this is changed now, and it is the only means of bringing back to us the days that are gone, and helping one through the Ivory gate that leads to fairyland, or Heaven, whatever one likes to call it. And it is a curious thing, even those who only go for Rag-time revues, all care for your music. Our lives are spent in drunken orgies and parachute descents to escape shelling or Bosch aeroplanes. In fact, the whole thing is unreal, and music is all that we have to help us carry on. I think you know my cousin Sir Henry Miers of Manchester University. He will tell you all about me.

Yours sincerely

J Lawrence Fry

Captain

20th Balloon Section

RFC BEF

## ***Bike Humps***

After a long wait, work on the bike humps is to begin on Monday 8th April carried out by ShoreTrax and is scheduled to take a week. During this time the immediate area will be fenced off and out of public use. The rest for the play area will remain open.

The existing humps will be remodelled, and resurfaced to create an all weather "pump track". It is hoped this will prove every bit as popular with the kids as the temporary wooden structure at last year's "Uptonogood?".

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## ***Post Office News***

We have great news: the Royal Mail are not putting their prices up in April, (and a good job too we feel), so no need to stock up on stamps.

However, they are re-structuring the price bands and all post will be measured as first or second class, letter or large letter, whilst packets are small, medium or large, which gives the option of putting on a "recorded signed for" on them. We will also have great deals on Euro's and other currencies. Still no word on HSBC cash withdrawals yet, most other banks' withdrawals are available with no fee.

The Garden Market will be with us throughout April, and we are now taking orders for bread

Our love to Maggie Maytham, who is not feeling too good at the moment, we wish her a speedy recovery.

*Karen & Angela*

## ***Parish Council***

It has been noted by the Parish Council that the Playground has been plagued by dog fouling. The Parish Council recognises that whilst it is unlikely that residents are responsible, they would like to kindly remind all villagers that dog bins are provided for the removal of waste and failure to do so may lead to prosecution.

It has also been noted that some residents along Fieldside perimeter have developed ecological habitats. The Parish Council requests that all compost is disposed of within the confines of the resident's own garden or recycled through the county's brown bin scheme.

*Ben Shaw*

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## ***Upton Boot Camp***

If you fancy some exercise, come along to Thursday morning boot camp at 9.30am with Elite Personal Trainer Louise of The Wright Direction. Any age or ability is welcome to come and join in. It costs £5 per person and is an outdoor, whole body workout on the recreation ground. All you need to bring is water, a towel and yourself. Perfect for anyone looking to get back into exercising, those wishing to get fit or to add a bit of variety into their workout routine.

Please contact Louise at [thewrightdirectionpt@gmail.com](mailto:thewrightdirectionpt@gmail.com) or 07914 201064 for more information or to book your place.

## ***Notes from the allotment***

I have just visited the allotment to feed my compost bin and noticed that the water is not draining away at all, in fact it is quite difficult to walk up the far end because the grass path is completely sodden (and impossible to drive up it if you have to unload or have manure delivered, as I learned to my cost).

With all the legalities completed we are now able to make use of the new allotments on the adjoining field; and now comes the hard part - making the area into usable allotments! It too is looking more like a lagoon at the moment, and land drains are to be employed to try to rid the area of excess water. I shall watch with interest.

I recently went on a further Master Composter training day in Oxford put on by Garden Organic, and came away with lots more useful facts and a handful of seed packets, including Salsify and Edible Wild Plant mix! I now have the components of the proposed raised bed for the roots, and will put the salsify in there - I hear it tastes like a mixture of parsnip, potato and artichoke? The wild plant mix includes dandelion so must be treated with caution! Having recently moved house I am

way behind with planting and need to get beans, onions and potatoes going, as well as pepper and tomato seeds, or I will have nothing of my own to eat in the summer. I have managed to plant some broad bean seeds and have covered them with fleece to stop mice getting at them. Fingers crossed...

The covered rhubarb is finally getting going, but slower than that out in the open; I learned a useful fact about the leaves recently (which are poisonous to eat), that it can be used as an insecticide; soak them in a bucket of water until they disintegrate, then strain and spray on plants that are susceptible to greenfly; any poison is completely neutralised before the crops are ready to eat.

Digressing from allotments, a friend in Wales told me a sad story recently about his chickens, which had all been killed by badgers. I've never heard this before, and he actually caught them in the act so there is no mistake. I suppose the lure of a tasty meal was too much to resist and they are after all omnivores. So local chicken owners, beware.

*Angela Hoy* ([angela.hoy@sky.com](mailto:angela.hoy@sky.com))

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 May edition is 20th April.

## ***Diary Date***

**ST MARY'S FETE  
SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER - 2.00 PM**

As always we hope we can rely on everyone for their support.

*Jessie West* 851206



## ***Blewbury WI News***

Congratulations to Joan Robertson, whose son Gavin won Crufts this year with Jilly, we are all delighted for you!

### **Dates for April**

Wed 3rd, Lyn's walk, meet at the village hall at 10am, with money for coffee, (unless it's pouring with rain when she will abandon it). All welcome.

Sun 7th; Garden Visit; Daffodils at Adwell, meet in Village hall car park, with cars, (we will sort out who is driving) at 1.15pm, £5 entrance and tea's available. (all welcome inc non members)

Tues 9th, Music taster in Benson

Thurs 11th; Oliver at Amey Hall

Thurs 18th, coffee & cake at Style Acre tearooms, 10.30am with Eileen.

Fri 19th; talking science lecture at RAL. "Chemical Magic".

Wed 24th; Blewbury School Hall, 7.30pm, "Location, Location, Location", with Lynda Warren, who has personal experience as a locations manager for TV programmes.

If you wish to join us, please ring Judy on 850381.

*Karen Brooks*

## ***Village Produce Association***

I have actually managed to dig over my veggie patch, and plant a short row of broad beans, late I know, but they can't read the packet! I have sown some of the summer veg seeds in my windowsill propagator, and have green shoots already. The borders are looking much tidier, still a few more days of shredding and composting to do and by then the weather should of improved sufficiently to get out and plant a bit more. However, I am not holding my breath. Someone has told me that a "proper winter means a proper spring & summer", I have his name. I know a lot of villagers who are totally fed up of the cold, the rain, the snow and ice, and are eagerly awaiting some warm spring sunshine. Our talk on Wednesday 3rd April is in the Vale room, with Timothy Relton telling us all about "Working Plants into a Garden Design". Ring me if you need a lift, 850219, or see me in the Post Office. Personally I don't have a garden design, if it grows then it can stay. I have tried to do "colour-ways" but some don't make it, and I forget what colour was there and plonk something else in. I am sure there will be an arty way of describing it - improvisation? freestyle? Happy gardening,  
*Karen Brooks*

## ***New WI in Upton - Tea Birds***

*We have recently set up a new Women's Institute group in Upton.*

*We meet on the last Tuesday of the month in the village hall at 8 pm.*

*We operate out of 9 to 5 hours with activities being in the evenings and weekends so that we are more accessible to busy mums, full time workers etc. See [www.facebook.com/TheTeabirdsWi](http://www.facebook.com/TheTeabirdsWi)*

*Jo Christie (President) [jo.christie@research-sites.com](mailto:jo.christie@research-sites.com)*

## ***Upton Wine Appreciation Club***

Eight members shared their favourite wines which turned out to be a lively and entertaining evening. The favourite white of the evening was a Villebois Pouilly Fume 2011 from Naked Wines, which was very popular among the group. This French sauvignon blanc proved to be more popular than the New Zealand sauvignon blanc also shown. The favourite red of the evening was an Argentinean Lunta Malbec 2010 from Majestic Wines.

On Wednesday 17 April we will be exploring the wines of South Africa with guest speaker Dermot Paddon. New members welcome, however please pre-book.

*Ellie Blunston*

## ***Didcot Film Club***

It is now six months since the Film Club was started. The Club meets at Cornerstone in Didcot at 8 pm on a Wednesday evening (it does not clash with our wine club nights). It shows the sort of films you won't see in mainstream cinemas including Hollywood Classics, Foreign Language films and British Independent films.

Annual Membership costs £5 and is available from Cornerstone and Didcot Civic Hall. After that, film tickets cost £5 each and members can buy tickets for themselves and a guest (so no need for both of a couple to join). Tickets can be bought through the normal Cornerstone booking system in person or on line.

Forthcoming films: 27th March *Argo*, 1st May *Untouchable* and 22nd May *Rebel Without a Cause*.

*Mike Collins*

## **Open Gardens**

At a recent meeting of the Upton Village Hall Committee it was agreed that it would be lovely to have an Open Gardens event in Upton sometime soon. We are very aware of the hard work involved in organising such an event. There are a number of people who would be willing to help but we need a "coordinator". Is there anyone who would like to pick up on this? Please get in touch with Clare Lightfoot 850486 if you can help.

## **Ladies Pamper and Shopping Evening**

26th April, 7-9pm at Chilton School  
Treatments, massage, craft stalls, nails, £5 entry including glass of wine and a goody bag for the first 30 pre-booked tickets. To pre-book your tickets contact Amy Peach on 07989 634 441 or [amypeach@btinternet.com](mailto:amypeach@btinternet.com)