

Upton News



Vol 4 No.20 July 2013

Has the summer finally arrived at the end of June? We have just had a glorious day and enjoyed the warmth of the sun. Maybe it is the influence of Wimbledon. As usual if you have any contributions for Upton News, please do send them through. The closing date is 20th July for the next edition.

I would like to relinquish the role of Editor of Upton News and wondered if anyone would be prepared to take this on? It entails receiving news, sifting through, encouraging people to write articles (the difficult bit) and then writing up the copy. Brian Rippon does all the hard work and puts together the artwork which makes the finished document look very professional. So if there is anyone who would like to do this or even act as guest editor for a month or two this would be appreciated.

Please get in touch on news@uptonvillage.co.uk

Sarah

Inside this issue...

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Brian Simpson

With sadness we acknowledge the death of Brian Simpson.

We remember his many years of commitment to the Village Hall Trust and his sterling work he did as Treasurer so effectively and efficiently. Not only in the day to day finances, and in making every penny earned count, but in the mammoth task of securing and handling the funding that was achieved for the extension and improvements to the village hall.

Brian retired from the Trust in 2011 but continued along with his wife Daphne to support village activities.

St Mary's church also enjoyed his quiet wisdom and financial expertise as he served for many years on the PCC. How we loved to hear his measured tones while reading the lesson on a Sunday morning.

I'm sure I speak for everyone involved with the Drop-in, the Bowls Club, the Wine Club, those who shared his love of croquet, and those of us who had the pleasure of working with him. A true gentleman. He will be remembered with great fondness.

Jessie West

New! A fete day Upton concert

The Upton fete is always a great occasion and in 2013 (Saturday 7 September) it will be even better as we plan to extend the festivities into the early evening with a village picnic concert and barbeque outside the village hall.

The entertainment will be led by the professional Will Talbot Jazz Trio. Will is an accomplished jazz pianist (see www.willtalbot.com) already known to several villagers.

But we are not planning to leave it all to the professionals - this is an opportunity to showcase Upton's musical talent (of which there is a great deal!) and it would be great to have contributions from adults and children alike. So if you sing, play an instrument or even just strum the washboard, why not join with a friend or two and take part?

The picnic will be a 'bring and share'

- we will provide the barbeque and coals and you bring whatever you fancy putting on it for yourself, plus perhaps a salad or pudding to share with your fellow villagers.

We have two aims - first and foremost to have fun, and secondly to boost the takings of the fete. We will not be charging for tickets but we will be asking for donations.

The barbeque and entertainment will kick off at 6.00pm. The event is open to everyone but it would be helpful to have an idea of numbers in advance so if possible please let Jessie (851206) or Paul (851251) know you're coming.

Sarah (850488) will be coordinating musical contributions. If you are inspired to perform something, she would love to hear from you. It would be great to have as many village contributions as possible - all styles and levels welcome!

Paul Batho

More music

Another new Upton venture

In another Upton first, we are planning to hold an informal acoustic 'jam session' in the George & Dragon on Thursday, 25 July from 8.30.

If you fancy having fun making music in an informal atmosphere with friends and fellow villagers, dust off your instruments (or voice) and come and join in. Once again, all styles and levels welcome! If there is enough interest we will aim to repeat this monthly. Sarah is coordinating these sessions - let her know on 850488 (singscape@aol.com) or simply turn up.

Theatre Group

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

**Watermill Theatre, Bagnor—
Tuesday 28 May 2013**

There were some very last minute worries about whether we would manage to sell all the tickets, and even then somebody didn't make it because of illness. Nevertheless, all drivers arrived in good time and the Watermill worked its usual enchantment - not quite a balmy summer's evening but an enjoyable occasion and an excellent production. (ctd.)

Quite why anyone would want to make Stevenson's horror story funny might be debatable, but the Rhum and Clay Theatre Company (all three of them) worked with Beth Flintoff to create a breath-taking, eye-dazzling and rib-aching show. It was intended as something completely different, and the three talented young actors conjured the essence of a Victorian adventure with colourful costumes and versatile set.

Versatility indeed - one actor played Jekyll-cum-Hyde, the other two played the rest of the cast - friends, servants, townsfolk, victims, with an array of minor costume changes, an enviable variety of accents, and such inventive mime and improvisation it was almost exhausting to watch. We were seated in the front three rows, so could easily appreciate the split-second timing and constant pace of the action. And somehow, despite the undoubted, even slapstick, comic moments, the serious moral commentary on a man giving way to his darker impulses was not shirked. This trio were recommended by the Box Office when I booked the tickets. They are certainly well worth watching.

Malcolm Wright

Didcot & District University of the Third Age

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. The July meeting of Didcot & District University of the Third Age is being held at 2pm on Tuesday 16 July at Didcot Civic Hall.



The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

Wine Appreciation Club

Members had a very enjoyable wine club meeting this month with the annual BBQ. Although we sat inside the food was prepared outside with no rain this year.

The wine club takes a break for July and August. During August every house will receive a letter and membership application form for next year and details/application for the September meeting. New members are always welcome and if you are interested in joining but would like more information please contact either the secretary or chairman (Secretary Kevin Jacklin 851404, Chairman Mike Collins 850989).

Ellie Bunston

Upton History—Help Wanted

Dear Sir/Madam,

Looking through the photos of Old Upton on your website I saw two pictures of “Miss Godfrey’s” cottage, can you tell me if this cottage is still standing and its location in the village? *[we believe this to be the cottage which stood north-east of St Mary’s—Ed.]*

My interest in the village is family history. My wife's grandmother is Ellen Sarah Godfrey, her father Thomas Godfrey is the brother of Thyoth Godfrey and his children would be 1st cousins twice removed. Would you know which “Miss Godfrey” occupied the cottage and do you have an approx date of the picture? Also do you know if any Godfreys still live in Upton? My wife's Grandmother Ellen Sarah Godfrey married one William Cooke, born Wimbledon 1873, his father, grandfather, gt-grandfather and gt-gt-grandfather were part of the great Cooke's Circus family (google Thomas Taplin Cooke for more info). Thank you for taking the time to contact me, any information you may have will be of interest.

Regards

Sam Hunter

[Can you help? If so, please contact Upton News]



“Miss Godfrey’s Cottage”

Blewbury WI News

We are all “festival-ed out”, we are looking forward to the Ashbrook House dance, and are bringing our gazebo, picnics & chairs, and are ready to dance round our handbags!

Dates for July & August

Tuesday 2nd; Lyn’s walk, 10am village hall, . All welcome!

Monday 8th; Coffee at Style Acre tearooms, 10.30am with Maggie

Saturday 13th; Ashbrook House dance.

Saturday 20th; trip to BBC Birmingham

Tuesday 6th August; Coffee at Style Acre tearooms, 10.30am with Susan

Wednesday 14th; Garden Meeting at Chapel Orchard.

For more details, or to join the Mah Jong or Scrabble group, or if you wish to join us, please ring Judy on 850381.

Karen Brooks

Christian Aid Week

Many thanks to all collectors and contributors. Upton raised £366.54, slightly less than last year, but a very creditable total.

Elisabeth and Malcolm Wright

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 August edition is 20th July.

Blewbury Post Office

There are now strict rules for all parcels, sent via either Royal Mail or Parcelforce, either inland or abroad. Anything deemed as “dangerous” is not allowed to be sent which includes liquids, fireworks and anything with batteries in, (although a lithium battery is ok apparently)

Please remember we have Euro in stock, and any other currency can be ordered before noon, and will be available for collection the next day. HSBC customers are pleased that they can now get cash out free, along with many other banks too.

We are closed on the August Bank Holiday Monday; allowances will be paid into accounts on the Friday before.

Karen & Angela

Blue Peter

Blewbury girl Lindsey Russell has been successful in reaching the final 10 out of over 23,000 for the BBC search for a new Blue Peter presenter. She now takes part in the BBC series “Blue Peter: You Decide!” which will be shown on Mondays at 5pm on the CBBC channel (Sky channel 613). Each week Lindsey and the 9 other finalists will battle it out to remain on the programme and in the good books of judges Eamonn Holmes and Myleen Klass. If Lindsey is lucky enough to reach the final 3, then there will be a public online vote from 22nd July, before a live final on the 25th July. Please keep watching and get your children and their friends to vote for Lindsey if she makes it through!

NOTES FROM THE ALLOTMENT

I confess I felt somewhat hopeless at the state of my allotment after all the weather has thrown at it; what with driving rain, 50 mph gales and very little sun, everything seems to be standing still - when it is not being blown at a strange angle. The weeds, of course, are having a lovely time; after a week away, the grass on my plot was nearly waist high.

The only bright spot is the broad beans, which despite the wind are still standing tall and strong; time to nip out the tops before the black fly take a liking to them, as there is already a goodly amount of flowers starting to set. But I will have to start again with the runners and climbing French beans - although I planted out a healthy looking set of seedlings at the beginning of June, they have nearly all been eaten by slugs or snails, or bashed to pieces by the wind. I thought erecting a mesh screen would help protect them but all that happened was that the wind flailed it against the poor little things.

In the fruit patch, the tayberry that I inherited has really got into its stride and lots of fruit is already setting. The raspberries have also taken off this year, I think they do like a lot of rain and they are looking lush. Even the old gooseberry bushes that I was going to turf out because they were old and full of grass have responded well to a severe hair cut, and are covered in fruit; maybe I will give them another year. New gooseberry, redcurrant and blackcurrant bushes are getting established too.

I read some useful tips about when crops are ripe in my Garden Organic magazine; we are advised to “rootle around the potato haulm” to see if the potatoes are ready (I’m really looking forward to the first new potatoes). Also garlic is ready for pulling when five or more leaves are beginning to turn yellow. Most vegetables are best eaten young and tender, but beetroot can stay in the ground until you are ready for it, and rarely becomes ‘woody’.

I bought a tray of mixed salad leaves including a Cos lettuce; I’ve been picking the outer leaves while waiting for it to heart up, and noticed to my delight that new little clumps of leaves have grown at the base of the detached leaf! Twice the crop!

Angela Hoy

From Blewbury Parish Council

The camping and resulting mess at the Chalk Pits is continuing and it has now become a Police matter. We believe local youth is involved in this and we are asking residents if they know who is doing this, to please ask them to stop. It is seriously anti-social not only to the residents nearby who have to put up with the noise and vandalism during the night but also to the general community. The mess is offensive and a health hazard to those walking and playing there but it also costs tax payers' money to have it cleared up.

If you see or hear anything, please report it to the Police using the non-emergency number 101 and quote URN 1246 310513.

Village Produce Association News

The warm weather has sent my garden into a growing frenzy, the later spring shrubs are finally flowering, along with the early summer ones, the roses are also finally in flower and I have a few narcissi out too! The perennials' are also growing well, and some are flowering already, whilst others seem to be held back a bit by the cold start.

The veg plot is taking shape, with beans already halfway up their canes, courgettes, tomatoes and squashes are also flowering, and the lettuces, sweet corn, carrots, parsnips and peas are coming along nicely.

We have no meeting in August, and we return on Wednesday 4th September, for "Rare Plants in West Oxfordshire" with Ken Betteridge. The annual show on the 14th September is shaping up well, we are having a "squash" festival this year, with many varieties being grown by village gardeners, and mine are growing in the compost bin, and coming along very nicely thank you.

Show schedules' available for the show, held in Blewbury Village Hall, are now available in the Post Office, or email me, karencbrooks@gmail.com and I will email one to you.

The trip to the Whitchurch Silk Mill and Cottismore garden centre has been postponed.

Happy gardening

Karen Brooks

UNICEF

Thank you to every one who came to the Easter egg hunt; it was a massive success, we raised a total £33 and UNICEF was very happy about our donation. They even sent me this email.

Rhiannon Fletcher

Dear Rhiannon,

Thank you for your generous donation of £33 to UNICEF's work for children.

Your kind gift will help UNICEF's work for children and families worldwide. Our ongoing work helps to ensure that the basic needs of every child are met that they have clean water, food, health care, education and a safe environment in which to grow up. UNICEF is the world's leading organisation working for children, working in more than 190 countries around the world.

On behalf of everyone at UNICEF UK and all those who will benefit from your gift, thank you.

Your support is very much appreciated.

David Bull

Milkman

I would like to promote our local milkman. He provides an excellent service and is looking for new customers. Not much dearer than shops either. Please get in touch if you want a home delivery.

Celia Davies

Rectors Reflections

A Precious Gift Which Costs Nothing

Recently, I've been thinking a lot about a very precious gift - the gift of friendship. Our friendships are so important to us, aren't they? Our friends provide us with comfort and sympathy, support and encouragement. They can share our joys and our sorrows. They can also challenge us, and perhaps even provide us with the occasional loving rebuke!

The Bible is full of wonderful examples of friendship, as well as providing lots of pithy comments on the subject. There's a fascinating book in the Old Testament called the Book of Proverbs. It contains various observations on life, and much else besides. Here are a few of its thoughts on the subject of friendship.

"A friend loves at all times, and kinsfolk are born to share adversity"

"Well meant are the wounds a friend inflicts, but profuse are the kisses of an enemy"

"A perverse person spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends"

"One who forgives an affront fosters friendship, but one who dwells on disputes will alienate a friend"

Modern life puts many pressures on our friendships. Life is so busy, families are often scattered, and the demands of work often require us to move around the country. It can be so hard to keep in touch with our friends, or find the time or the

energy to nurture existing friendships.

We all know in our hearts of hearts that friendships matter, but somehow we are never quite able to give them the time and commitment which we would like.

I wonder whether over the summer months we might be able to find the time to nurture at least one of our friendships? It might be that there's someone we've lost touch with - might we be able to get back in touch? It might be that we're nursing a grievance, real or imagined. Might it be that now is the time to put this grievance behind us, and try and restore the friendship? Of course, sometimes this is much easier said than done!

Friendship is both a gift given, and a gift received. Is there someone who is trying to give us the gift of friendship, but we remain standoffish, distrustful and aloof? What is preventing us from receiving the gift being offered to us?

May this summer be a time when old friendships are renewed, and new friendships are begun!

Fr Geoffrey has been appointed as the Priest in Charge (to be Vicar) of St. Anselm, Hayes, which is in Middlesex and in the Diocese of London. Exact timing details are not yet known but his last Sunday will be sometime in the Summer with the licensing probably in September.

Fr Jason