

Upton News



Vol 4 No.21 September 2013

September seems to have come around rather quickly, the harvest is almost gathered in, the children are getting ready to go back to school and university, the nights are drawing in and the garden needs some attention before the winter. The good news is with the sunny weather we have enjoyed the grass hasn't grown too much. Any contributions for forthcoming Upton News, please send through to news@uptonvillage.co.uk

Sarah

New! A Fete-day Upton Concert

**Saturday 7 September, 6pm
Recreation Ground**

The Upton fete is always a great occasion and in 2013 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 6.00. 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!

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Neighbourhood Watch

'Vamoose' burglaries often happen when car keys are left next to an open door or window of a building. In some extreme cases, thieves have put a long stick or fishing rod through letterboxes to hook the car keys and make off with the vehicle. There were two such burglaries locally where high value vehicles were stolen. The owner was in the garden and the offender(s) gained entry to an insecure property via a front door and stole car keys from a handbag in the hallway before stealing the vehicle. In the other, the offender(s) gained entry by unknown means and stole two sets of car keys and took the cars from the driveway.

Advice that can be given to try and prevent a vamoose burglary can include:

- Park your car in a well-lit area - either on your driveway, or on the road under a street lamp, for example.
- Make sure that your vehicle is properly dead-locked and that the alarm is fully activated.
- Lock all car windows and doors.
- Keep your car keys away from any windows and doors to prevent them from being "fished" through letterboxes, or seen from outside to tempt the thief but make sure you know where they are in case of fire

Residents are advised to ensure that all windows and doors are left secure at night and when the property is unattended. Please make sure any house keys are not left in view of windows, doors or letterboxes where they can be easily obtained from the outside of the property and to store keys out of sight especially overnight.

Milk delivered to your door

Our milkman (Ian Jordan) delivers in Upton on Mon, Wed and Fri, and you can pay him either by cheque or preferably by Direct Debit.

The choice of groceries that he offers is enormous from juice, bottled water, bread, eggs, vegetables, cakes, toilet rolls - just about anything that you could need.

The tel number for Milk and More is 01635 14461 or visit

www.milkandmore.co.uk

Didcot & District

University of the Third Age

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. The September meeting of Didcot & District University of the Third Age is being held at 2pm on Tuesday 17 September at Didcot Civic Hall.

For further information contact Anne Hales, Chairperson D&D U3A on 07804 159993/ 01235 516607 Email:

didcotdistrictu3a@virginmedia.com

Website:<http://u3asites.org.uk/didcot>

Have Your Say meeting

- Thursday 12th September from 11am until 12pm at the Blewbury Bus shelter, A417 Reading Road. Blewbury. Between the Barley Mow and Garage
- Saturday 28th September from 3pm until 4pm at Upton Village Hall

Thames Valley Police are warning local residents after several reports of a credit card phone scam have been received in the Vale of White Horse and the Oxford area.

Residents are being phoned and told that their credit cards have been used fraudulently and asked to phone back on the number on the back of their bank card. However the fraudsters do not hang up so they are still connected and pretend to be the credit card company. Residents are asked various questions including the pin number and are then asked to put the credit card in an envelope which will be picked up by a courier. The cards are then picked up and used fraudulently.

If you receive any suspicious calls do not give out any details especially your PIN number and report to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or if the offender is coming to collect the cards call the police on 101.

For help and advice on Crime Prevention contact the Crime Prevention and Reduction Advisor, Alison Smith on 101.

Saturday 7th September - 2.00 pm - Fete on the Recreation Ground - do come along and enjoy a family day out.

Local Blue Peter presenter

Blewbury's Lindsey Russell: she did it!

Blue Peter viewers cast their votes for Lindsey to become the new presenter for the world's longest running children's TV show. She beat 23,000 hopefuls from around the country to land her 'dream job', so many congratulations to Lindsey and thanks for all the local votes.

Brian Simpson

I would like to say thank you for all the offers of help, kind wishes and cards received on Brian's death. He very much enjoyed village life and it has been heartening to learn how much his efforts on behalf of UVHAT and the Church were appreciated. Time and again the phrase has come up "he was a real gentleman".

He was.

Daphne Simpson (Castells)

Upton 50's Club

June

£10	Gloria Smith	90
£7	David Hartley	21
£5	Kim Gould	155
£4	John Acton	77

July

£10	Ellie Bunston	39
£7	Irene Timblich	151
£5	Henry Bucknell	55
£4	Margaret Maytham	145

Skittles & Supper Evening

**Saturday 12 October 2013,
7pm in the Village Hall**

A fun evening for all the family - we are pleased to announce that we are reviving the former annual tradition of a Skittles and Supper evening in the Village Hall.

Skittles (Mixed Teams - no particular skill required!), Fun Prizes, Delicious Hot Supper & Pud, Raffle & Lots of Fun.

Please make a date in your diary to join us and help support the UVHAT Committee in raising funds for your Village Hall.

Upton Graduates

Congratulations to our newly qualified Upton Graduates, Steph Davies, Charlie Hannigan, Anna Hardy and Georgie Traynor.

East Hagbourne Sub Post Office

Terry, the sub-postmaster, plans to retire at the end of February 2014 and they are looking for a part-time person to replace him. The Sub Post Office is in East Hagbourne Community Shop, next to Passey's garage in New Road. Anyone interested can obtain a full job description and find out more from John Jones (jaiones@dsl.pipex.com tel. 813326)

Tea Birds

Tea Birds are a newly formed WI group based in South Oxfordshire. We meet on the last Tuesday of every month at Upton Village Hall starting at 8pm.

You don't have to be a member to come along, our meetings are open to everyone - we ask a small fee of £4 for non-members. If you would like to join Tea Birds WI the membership fee for the year is £33. This includes entry to our monthly meetings and activities.

Come a long and join us for a range of activities from traditional to modern. Activities coming up in the Tea Birds calendar include a basic car mechanics course, a make-up demonstration and a summer fete. Why not sign up to our walking or crochet/knitting group? Take a look on our 2013 Calendar and Social Group pages for more details!

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!



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 October edition is 20th September.

Rectors Reflections

Why are there no clocks in Heaven?

What a joy it has been watching the combine harvesters at work on the local fields, gathering in this year's harvest. The yellow straw in the sun, the smell of chaff in the wind, the rough lines of stubble stretching towards the horizon - what a wonderful time of year this is!

It scarcely seems a year since last year's harvest. Soon the familiar cycle will begin again- the children back at school, harvest festivals, Remembrance Sunday, and Christmas before we know it.

All this makes us think of time. I wonder how you tend to think of time? More often than not, we tend to think of it in strictly numerical terms- so many seconds, so many hours, so many days, so many years. But there's much more to time than merely numbers. Time is also about feelings and experiences. If we are over the moon about something, an hour can rush past in what seems like a moment. In other situations, a short time as measured by the clock can seem an eternity.

We can also worry that somehow time is like a bucket filled with a set number of pebbles. Every day or every year represents one pebble. As the day or year goes past, one more pebble is taken out of the bucket. Eventually, there will be no more pebbles left to take out of the bucket- and that is when we die.

But there are other ways of looking at time. The Bible certainly includes the view of time as a series of

numerical units. But it also includes the view of time as something about the quality of our experience and how we live our life. Jesus spoke about the gift of "eternal life". By this he didn't mean life that would go on and on and on in a numerical sense. He meant life that was so satisfying and rich and beautiful and deep that it seems to break out of the narrow straightjacket of minutes, hours, days and years. "Eternal life" is life transfigured by God's life, human life in which God's love and joy and peace shines through. God's gift of "eternal life" is something which we can experience, in part, in this life. But we shall only know it in all its fullness in the life to come.

And this is why there will be no need of clocks in Heaven!

Fr Jason

Ride and Stride

Saturday 14 September

Be sponsored to cycle or walk around churches locally or in Oxford.

Sponsor forms available from Clare Lightfoot (850486). Proceeds shared between St Mary's (or a church or your choice) and the Historic Churches Trust. We would also be grateful to hear from anyone willing to spare an hour to sit in church on the day to act as welcomers.

Extracts from Upton Parish Council July meeting

Footpath and Cycle path to

Blewbury: The upgrading of the existing footpath to include cyclists has been a subject of debate in Blewbury and Upton for the past 20 years and both councils would like to see progress. Discussions will take place with a Blewbury resident who has done some previous research. Sustrans (Sustainable Transport) have advised there is no money forthcoming. Chris Kauntz (landowner), had offered a strip of land alongside the A417 as a cycle way but this had been rejected as being too dangerous for children and only goes up to the White House on the Upton boundary. Since the most recent approach to the landowners (2011/12) two sections of land had changed hands and it was thought worth investigating whether the new owners might be more favourably inclined. The path was discussed in the most recent Upton Parish Plan and given priority in the list of Aims. It was noted that there was considerable enthusiasm for the path to be upgraded and many local residents stated they would use it on a regular basis for walking, pushchairs and cycles if the surface was more even and better maintained. The potential problem of motorcycles using it was not considered significant. It was suggested that it could be upgraded to a bridleway, which would open its use to horses as well as cycles. After discussion, it was suggested that a joint meeting of both parish councils as well as the local landowners should be convened.

Parish Plan: Ben Shaw had agreed to review at the most recent Plan and suggest what still needed to be achieved. It was suggested that a list of achievements could be circulated via the Upton News, asking the population what they felt was needed.

Planning: P13/V1019HH - The Gatehouse, Reading Road, renewal of planning permission PO4/V0708, proposed extensions and adaptation of existing house. The plans having been previously circulated were discussed and it was noted that the plans had been changed extensively since the original application.

A letter was received from a resident regarding overgrown brambles and hedges in Upper Stream Road, requesting the council to take remedial action with the owners of the properties.

Village Hall committee are keen to purchase hand dryers for the toilets and requested the PC to purchase these, which could be paid for by fund raising. £2000 has been set aside towards improvements to the kitchen. Uptonogood had given a donation of £2000.

Winter preparedness - we still have more than adequate supplies of salt in the garage.

Chatsworth Buccaneers FC, Didcot, have requested to use the recreation ground for Sunday morning football.