

# Upton News



Vol 4 No.22 October 2013

This is my last Editorship of *Upton News*. As you will have noticed they have got rather stretched on dates due to time constraints, and also I feel it is good to bring in fresh blood to give a different view on village news; so we urgently need someone to take this on. Any volunteers? You will work closely with Brian Rippon who does an amazing job with the artwork and publishing and makes it look very professional.

The autumn is definitely here and we will certainly notice the change when the clocks change on the 27th. We have had a very successful church fete with a good turn out followed by a concert afterwards. We have a number of new people moving in to the village who I'm sure will all be made welcome.

As always, please send your news items to [news@uptonvillage.co.uk](mailto:news@uptonvillage.co.uk)

*Sarah*



## ***Singers Wanted***

Would you like to sing excerpts from Handel's Messiah with orchestra? Come and join our "scratch" choir for a one-off day of rehearsals and early evening run-through, directed by Christopher Walker. Chris is conductor of Benson Choral Society, ABRSM examiner and a veteran of numerous choral workshops and performances. Ian Clark will take on the role of choir master/continuo player.

Some experience/knowledge of Messiah is necessary as rehearsal time is limited, but the day promises to be fun as well as hard work! There will be no formal performance as this is purely for the participants' own entertainment, although family and friends are welcome to come and listen to the final run-through for a small charge.

Have you always longed to take on the challenge of one of Messiah's solos? Let us know and we will try to accommodate as many as possible.

One-day Messiah from Scratch - Saturday 8th February 2014, 10am to 6.30pm St. Michael's Church, Blewbury. The fee for the day is £15, which includes refreshments, sandwich lunch and loan of a score (available in advance for practice). Any surplus funds once costs are covered will be donated to charity. Numbers are limited so please register by November 29th 2013.

For more details and a registration form contact Lindy Farrell on [lindyfarrell@btinternet.com](mailto:lindyfarrell@btinternet.com) or 01235 850275.

We look forward to making music with you.

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## ***Welcome to the village...***

Welcome to Liz & Ivan Evans and their children Ewan & Edward at Thistledome, and John & Jessica Haworth at Pound Cottage, both properties in Stream Road.

## ***Recently moved in?***

If you have recently moved to the village, please drop a line to [news@uptonvillage.co.uk](mailto:news@uptonvillage.co.uk) with your details, hobbies or even photos! And don't think you have to settle in before you can send us news!

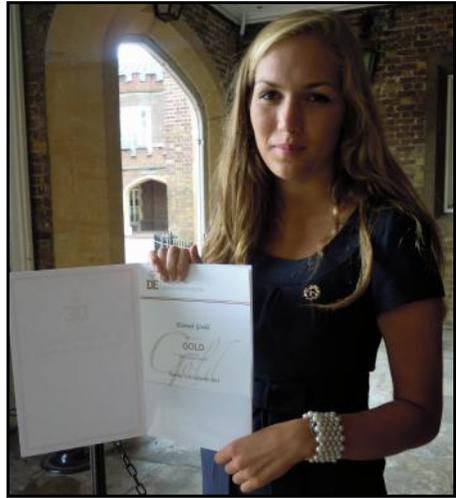
## **Dates for your diary**

<b>Wed 16 Oct</b>	8pm Wine Club - Members favourite wines
<b>Wed 23 Oct</b>	7.30 WI
<b>Thu 24 Oct</b>	10.30 Drop In - Village Hall
<b>Sat 26 Oct</b>	3-4pm Have Your Say Meeting - Village Hall
<b>Sun 27 Oct</b>	Clocks go back (an extra hour in bed)
<b>Tue 19 Nov</b>	Univ of 3rd Age, the work of Sobell House, Didcot Civic Hall



## **Gould gets Gold**

Well done to Hannah Gould who has achieved her Gold Duke of Edinburgh award. She finished it earlier this year but received her certificate from the Earl of Wessex at St James' Palace on 12 September. She has just started at the University of Birmingham doing Law (with business).



## ***Wine Appreciation Club***

In September the wine club had their AGM and elected William Betts as Chairman and also new officers. We thanked Mike Collins for his fantastic contribution to the club since it began as chairman and presented him with a gift as he stepped down from the role. The committee presented wines under £8. Next month we will be asking wine club members to speak about their favourites. If you would like more information please do ask any of the committee members.

## ***Skittles & Supper Postponed***

Due to an unfortunate set of circumstances the Skittles & Supper Fund Raising Event which was due to be held on Saturday 12 October to raise funds for the Village Hall Kitchen Project reluctantly had to be postponed.

The UVHAT Committee plans to rearrange this popular family Village Event in the New Year, date tbc - but probably end January/February.

## **A34 Traffic News**

### **College Farm Road Bridge (Beedon) Refurbishment Works**

The Highways Agency will be carrying out essential works to refurbish the College Farm bridge which carries the A34 over the local road at Beedon. Work will be undertaken in various phases.

Initially narrow lanes and a 50 mph temporary speed limit will be installed to enable work to take place to the central reservation. This work involves re-waterproofing and reconstruction of the central reserve and will be undertaken overnight (please note that overnight carriageway closures will be required at the start of the works to install this traffic management). Full weekend closures of the north and southbound carriageways will then take place to enable the removal of the old surfacing, waterproofing material and verges, then application of the new waterproofing (which must be allowed to cure), the reinstatement of the new verge and the resurfacing of the bridge. Once works have commenced, traffic will not be permitted to drive over the bridge through the works area.

**Monday 28 October (10pm to 6am)**  
- Full overnight closure of the A34 northbound carriageway from M4 Junction 13

**Tuesday 29 October (10pm to 6am)**  
- Full overnight closure of the A34 southbound carriageway between the A4130 Milton Interchange and M4 Junction 13

**Tuesday 29 October to Thursday 14 November** - 24 hour narrow lane running and a temporary 50mph speed restriction, and nightly lane closures

**Friday 15 November (10pm) to Monday 18 November (6am)** - Full weekend closure of the A34 southbound carriageway from the A4130 Milton Interchange to M4 Junction 13

**Friday 22 November (10pm) to Monday 25 November (6am)** - Full weekend closure of the A34 northbound carriageway from M4 Junction 13

The works are highly weather dependent and if work is unable to proceed on these dates due to poor weather, the closures will be rescheduled for January/February 2014 so as not to clash with local authority Christmas embargos. Should the need arise to reschedule these full weekend closures the narrow lanes and temporary speed restriction will be removed once the works to the central reserve is complete.

Significant delays will be expected during the weekend closure periods, and it is advised that you plan ahead of your journey to allow for extra time or avoid this route where possible.

**Diversion Routes: Motorway Permitted Vehicles** - For both the north and southbound closures the main strategic diversion route for motorway permitted vehicles will be via the M40, A404/A404(M) and M4 - the distance is 68 miles and the expected delay time will be a minimum of 60 minutes [*and the*

*rest!* – Ed.J. This diversion route is in place due to its suitability for all types/sizes of vehicles and where other major roadworks aren't in place. This route has been agreed by the local authorities, police authorities and other Highways Agency areas. Unfortunately the stretch of the A34 that is closed doesn't have another primary road running nearby which can be used as a diversion.

**Motorway Restricted Vehicles -**  
During the closures, a signed route will be in place between Speen (near Newbury) and Milton (A4130), via Hungerford and Wantage. Access to local villages can be made from the A338 and manned gates located at the M4 Junction 13 roundabout and A4130 Milton Interchange roundabout.

**NOTE:**

There is a weight limit of 7.5t on the local road between Chieveley and Beedon which is unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles. All HGVs must follow the official signed diversion route.

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## ***50's Club***

### **August**

£10 Bella Fox 165

£7 Mrs Morgan 7

£5 Mr Bunston 2

£4 Gloria Smith 90

### **September**

£15 Mr Stimpson 51

£15 Julie Williams 23

£10 Jo George & Dragon 153

£7 Vic Dawson 61

£5 John Abbott 168

£4 Mrs Ireson 120

Submissions for Upton News should be sent to the Editor at [news@uptonvillage.co.uk](mailto:news@uptonvillage.co.uk).

Deadline for the November edition is **1st November**.

## ***Message from Fr Geoffrey***

Now that I have been collated and inducted as the vicar of St Anselm in Hayes Town, I thought I should write to express my deep gratitude to everyone in the benefice for the past two and a half years that I have been with you: it really did seem to 'fly by'. Claire and I would also like to say a very big thank you for your support at my last service on the Feast of the Assumption and for your great generosity in the gifts that you presented to us: I wear the biretta when I walk to church - it is only a few hundred yards - and wore the beautiful cotta, which has been much admired, for my service of collation and induction and, of course, there will be many more occasions on which I will wear it. I have not yet had a chance to wear either of the green or purple chasubles but Claire has already used the personalised map you gave her, centred on St Anselm's Vicarage, to walk back along the canal. As yet, we have not made use of the very generous gift of the John Lewis vouchers as we are considering what we would like to spend them on and will let you know in due course. We were also very touched by the beautiful calligraphy card signed by all our friends at St Andrew's Hagbourne, thank you. With our very best wishes,  
*Fr Geoffrey and Claire*

# Rectors Reflections

## *That smells good!*

I wonder if you have a favourite food or drink. Is there a particular aroma or taste which gets you excited? It might be something rich and complex, or it might be something familiar and pleasingly straightforward. Lots of smells and tastes come to my mind as I write this, cherries, new potatoes with a sprig of mint, freshly baked bread, toasted almonds, the smell of bacon being fried...

The wonderful world of taste and smell can so easily be taken for granted. But it points beyond itself to some profound truths about ourselves and about God.

Over two thousand years ago, an anonymous poet wrote a poem about what it might feel like to be a truly religious person. The language and imagery is surprisingly timeless. The poem refers to the experience of being delivered from our fears, and the sense of being “crushed in spirit” and yet at the same time being close to God and protected by Him. It talks about seeking God; about God listening to us and answering us. It focuses on the profound simplicity of a deep truth about ourselves and our lives as human beings. What are we to do with our lives? the poet asks. The poet replies with a beautiful economy of words:

“Depart from evil; and do good;  
Seek peace, and pursue it”.

The poet is convinced of the sheer goodness of God, despite the many

afflictions suffered by the righteous. The poet writes:

“O taste and see that the Lord is good;

Happy are those who take refuge in him”

The poem has survived in a collection of ancient poems, found in the Bible, and referred to as the Psalms. The particular poem which I have been referring to is Psalm 34.

Our food and drink is a matter of life and death- not just physical life, but spiritual life as well. The wonderful tastes and smells of our favourite food and drink point to the sheer goodness of God. We seek nourishment from the food we eat, and slake our thirst with the drink that we drink; but our deepest nourishment comes from God Himself. We seem to spend our lives thirsting for so many things - success, financial security, the good opinion of others, the knowledge that we are loved and valued by others. But our deepest thirst remains the same- the thirst for God Himself.

*Fr Jason*

## ***News from St Mary's***

The fete held in September in glorious sunshine seems a dim and distant event. A good crowd attended what turned out to be a delightfully quintessential English afternoon. As always Blewbury Band's music was much enjoyed along with the delicious home made teas. Every single cake and drop of milk was consumed. The kitchen staff worked tirelessly to keep up with the demand. We are grateful to Rosemary and her team for once again organizing this.

We were able to get up close to the Wheatley Birds of Prey - these proved a great attraction whilst Cry Havoc Morris Dancers demonstrated their dancing skills and encouraged fete visitors to join in the fun.

Gloria's Fun Dog Show attracted a large number of dogs of varying shapes and sizes - along with their owners, including some child handlers. We were grateful to Ivor

Aspland for judging and to Savages for sponsoring the rosettes.

The stalls were well stocked and the end result was a profit of £2150.

The line up of interesting vehicles included Peter McCloughlin's microlight which created a lot of interest.

So many people work hard for the success of the fete. In particular we must thank the "heavy gang" who set up & dismantled at the end of the day the stalls and gazebos.

Finally at 6.00 p.m. as the barbeques were lit the rains came down but the rain did not dampen spirits. The professional jazz musicians, the Will Talbot Trio, augmented by a number of village musicians accompanied a lovely supper. We must say a big thank you to Sarah Tenant-Flowers for bringing the end of fete day to a lively conclusion.

### **What else is happening at St Mary's?**

On the afternoon of 6th October a pet service was held in Church, with a special guest Chocolate, a beautiful donkey from the Brightwell Donkey Sanctuary. There were a number of dogs and some ferrets in the congregation, along with their owners or course. A collection was taken for the Donkey Sanctuary.

Upcoming Church Services:

0900 - Sung Eucharist each Sunday morning with the exception of the following dates when a Family Service is being held at 10.00 a.m.

20th October, 17th November, 15th December

not forgetting the Crib and Carol Service at 4.00 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

Please see the notice in the church porch for times of weekday services.

*Clare Lightfoot*

## Do you need a will?

(Extract from *Money Saving Expert*)

If you die without a will your affairs can be in limbo for years. Yet many either don't want to think about making a will or are worried about the cost. You must be aware it could leave behind big problems, possibly as severe as being unable to pay the bills as the bank has locked off the money. So...

Whatever your age, if you've assets e.g., a house, savings, or a business, and people or others you'd like to look after, consider making a will.

While thinking, talking and planning for death may feel uncomfortable, you need to consider how much worse the situation would be if you died or became incapacitated - through illness, accident, old age or emergency - without sorting it.

There are many specific reasons for writing a will. If you have children or step-children under 18, you should choose who will look after them and ensure there are funds to help.

Unmarried couples: The law doesn't really recognise this, so without making a will don't expect anything to go to your partner. Divorced: You may want to update your will to include

what happens to your assets if a previous partner remarries. Pets: Decide what should happen to family

pets. Specific funeral plans: If you know what you want your funeral to be like, you can detail it so that your family doesn't have to make the

decisions. Property: 'Joint tenant' mortgages automatically pass to the other owner. If you've a 'Tenants in common' mortgage, it's important to say what happens to your share of the house. If you own a property overseas, inheritance laws may be different to the UK. Change in circumstances:

Update your will when you marry, divorce or have children. Small business: It's possible with sole directors, that if you die without executors no one can make decisions to authorise payments (including to staff), so your business could collapse. When writing your will you will name your executors who will look after the financial process when you die. Try to choose a responsible and trusted friend or relative, who can think clearly in a troubled time. Alternatively some name a bank or solicitor, though they often charge monstrous fees (and can add themselves automatically), so make sure you only allow this if you've chosen it for yourself. They're also the people who will sort out any finances - such as paying off the mortgage and/or other debts out of the estate. One useful tip we've seen recently is to even include internet passwords in a will so that your executor has access to all of your online accounts. You're under NO obligation to add the writer of your will as an executor. Some may suggest this, or even apply to your will as default, so check before signing anything. You will need to determine how you distribute your estate. This means everything you own at the point you die, including property, businesses, car, savings, investments, pension fund, life insurance, expensive jewellery, pets and more. Having a will mitigates inheritance tax. If you die intestate (without a will) there are strict laws about to whom and how your estate is distributed. This causes two problems. First, the money may not go where you want, and secondly, it's likely to be inefficient for inheritance tax purposes. The law says you pay 40% of any assets worth over £325,000 that you leave, so those with valuable houses or larger estates could pay a fortune.

## ***Congratulations***



Congratulations to David Hawkins & Sue Brown (Upton Lodge Cottage) who got married on 28 September.

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## ***Blewbury Post Office***

We can now accept entries to the Health Lottery, just £1 to play, either choose your 5 lucky numbers or have a lucky dip ticket, proceeds go to health charities around the country. We are also now able to sell National Express bus tickets. We have a few Andy Murray mini stamp sheets left, and have the latest stamps from Royal Mail, depicting the Merchant Navy. We also have the new “Dinosaur” stamps, available from 10th October.

Last Christmas Posting dates for Surface Mail:

**Tuesday 15th October** for Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Africa, USA

**Tuesday 5th November** for Greece, Cyprus, Eastern Europe, Iceland, Malta, Turkey.

**Tuesday 19th November** for Western Europe

Last date for posting to Operational BFPO's is 29th November.

Airmail Last Posting dates are all in December, so no need to panic yet.

*Karen & Angela*

## ***Village Produce Association***

We had a very strange autumn show, lots of fruit, vegetables and a few flowers, but even fewer handicraft or photographs, never mind, we all had a lovely afternoon anyway and the winners of the trophies were all very pleased, I even managed to win one or two. There seems to be an awful lot to do in the garden at the moment, the welcome rain has caused a surge in late beans, my tomatoes ripened nicely. My peppers and chillies are growing well and I'm expecting a good crop. I am looking forward to a few good days, when I can get the shredder out, and do some much needed chopping and pruning.

Happy gardening

*Karen Brooks*

## Parish Council

Robert Traynor (Fieldside) has now been elected as a Councillor.

### Planning Applications:

P13/V1034/FUL has been submitted: Erection of new 3-bedroom dwelling at rear of property and widened access to the site to serve both properties at 3 Fieldside.

P13/V1019/HH - The Gatehouse, Reading Road - granted.

P13/V1606/HH Application for proposed alterations at Flett Cottage, High Street - outcome awaited.

P13/V0702 Wattle Cottage Farm: Decision - Refusal of Planning Permission on 2nd August 2013. No appeal lodged.

### Footpath and cycle path to

**Blewbury:** Richard Farrell from Blewbury Parish Council advised that they had been in touch with the Blewbury landowners in May 2013 and thought it was too soon to raise the matter again, despite the land having changed hands recently. After discussion it was agreed that the topic would most likely form part of the revised Parish Plan for Upton, and as such should be pursued again on publication.

**Upton Parish Plan:** Following the success of the previous plan, a further one will soon be carried out asking villagers for their views.

At a recent County Council meeting the proposed four-way junction at Chilton was discussed which was going into capital progression, it was asked whether the proposed

four-way interchange would lessen the strain on Hagbourne Hill; Cllr Lilly advised that this was only one of the ideas being discussed. "Ready for Winter" planning meetings were being held throughout the district to help the parishes prepare for winter with supplies of salt etc. The County Council have advised that transport to local schools is under review and likely to be cut. Dr Lott reminded Cllr Lilly that when Upton School closed, the village was promised a school bus to transport children from Upton to Blewbury; Cllr Lilly said he would look into this. BT Broadband was on track to provide high-speed broadband to 55-66,000 homes in proximity to the Science Park. The Thornhill Park and Ride facility was being doubled in size with new charges being applied. Regarding public transport within the region, he noted that gantries ready to electrify the railway from Paddington to Cardiff were already in place, but noted that modifying Steventon Bridge (a listed building) would cost millions and cause the road to be closed for weeks.

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### *Macmillan Coffee Morning*

I would just like to say a massive thank you for all the contributions and donations made for this very worthy cause. The total sum donated was £340, which with Gift Aid will raise over £400 for the charity.

*Giulia Hannigan*

## Recipe of the Month

### *Gluten Free Carrot Cake (Giulia Hannigan)*

4 free-range eggs

200g soft brown sugar

200g butter

2 tsp vanilla extract

300g grated carrots

200g raisins

100g chopped walnuts

300g gluten free self-raising flour

2 tsp cinnamon

1. Pre-heat oven to 160C (fan)/180C/gas 4. Grease and line two Victoria sponge style baking tins
2. Beat together the butter and sugar until creamy then slowly mix in the eggs and vanilla extract.
3. Add the carrots, raisins, walnuts and flour. Stir until combined.
4. Pour the mixture evenly (I do use weighing scales for this!!) and bake on the same shelf for approx. 45 mins or until a skewer placed into the middle of the cakes comes out clean - the time of cooking probably varies with different ovens.
5. Leave to cool completely on a wire rack.

For the topping:

1. Beat the butter and cream cheese together in a clean bowl until light and fluffy.
2. Add icing sugar and vanilla extract and mix well until smooth.

Once the cake has cooled, spread a good layer of the topping mixture onto one side of the cake and sandwich together with the other. Decorate the cake with the remainder of the topping mixture and sprinkle with the crushed walnuts (optional).

Topping:

125g softened butter

225g cream cheese

450g icing sugar

1 tsp vanilla extract

50g crushed walnuts (optional)



## Isabelle and Maddison Langley at the BBAT swimming gala



On the 21st and the 22nd of September 2013, Maddison and I travelled to Aylesbury, to Aqua Vale leisure centre to take part in the annual BBAT inter club swimming gala. After 15 races between us, we were very happy to end up with myself winning 8 gold's and 2 silvers and Maddison coming home with 3 gold's, 1 silver and a bronze! She did very well for her first gala ( at the age of just 8!) and achieved some fantastic national times for her age group - go Maddy.

This was also a club event, with Didcot Barramundi competing against Aylesbury, Thame and Bourne End. Each time you completed an event you were awarded points and then at the end these were added up to give a top boy and top girl. Out of over 100 female swimmers, I was really happy to win top girl, with Didcot Barramundi managing to also win top three in the boys category, the cannon relay and they won over all!! Their coach, Iryna was very proud.

We had a great and very tiring weekend, but it makes getting up early in the mornings for training worthwhile.

*Isabelle Langley (aged 10)*