

Upton News



Vol 4 No.23 November 2013

As you know, Sarah Sayers stood down as editor after the October issue – the consequence of pressure of work with the resulting impact on publication dates. I'd like to take this opportunity on behalf of the whole village to thank Sarah for all her work over the past couple of years or so.



We're still looking for a replacement, ideally someone who can bring fresh ideas and a young mind to the task. In the meantime, I'm happy to act as editor and to continue publishing *Upton News* in its present form. However, in the absence of either funding or time to do so, I am not able to print hard copies, and – until that is made possible – distribution will only be via electronic means to email subscribers.

Although we could fund printing through advertising, I would rather not do so. Not only would it require someone to undertake the effort involved in finding advertisers, obtaining artwork and managing payments, but also the end result could easily be that presented in some village newsletters – a catalogue of adverts interspersed with items of editorial.

I'm always looking for ways to improve the usefulness of the online version, so if you have suggestions as to how you'd like to read your copy of *Upton News*, on your iPad, mobile phone or whatever, I'd be pleased to hear from you.

As always, please send your news items to news@uptonvillage.co.uk, and if you know anyone who would like to subscribe to *Upton News*, please either send me their details or suggest they sign up online at www.uptonvillage.co.uk/upton-news/

Brian Rippon

Tea Birds WI

Our next meeting on November 26th will be Christmas crafting with *No Two Things* (the store in Didcot). We will also be having a Secret Santa... all ladies who wish to participate bring a wrapped present that is handmade and/or from a small independent business up to a value of £10 and this will be swapped with another lady on the day.

Tea Birds are a newly formed WI group based in South Oxfordshire. We meet on the last Tuesday of every month (except December) 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.

Full details can be found at www.uptonvillage.co.uk/organizations/tea-birds-wi/

Wine Appreciation Society

In October club members of the Upton Wine Society presented their own favourite wines. We visited many continents as we heard tales from people's holidays as well as lots of information about eight different wines. On 20 November we are sampling wines from The Oxford Wine Company that they recommend for Christmas. This meeting will cost £7.50. If you are interested please ask someone on the committee for details.

Ellie Bunston

Planning

The Parish Council held an Extraordinary Meeting on 30th September to consider the planning application for 3 Fieldside, P13/V1034/FUL.

It objected to the application, which has subsequently been withdrawn.

Dates for your diary

Thu 7 Nov	10.30 Drop In, Village Hall
Tue 19 Nov	8.00 Parish Council meeting, Village Hall
Tue 19 Nov	Univ of 3rd Age, Sobell House, Didcot Civic Hall
Wed 20 Nov	8.00 Wine Appreciation Society, Village Hall
Thu 21 Nov	10.30 Drop In, Village Hall
Sat 23 Nov	3.00 Have Your Say meeting, Village Hall
Tue 26 Nov	8.00 Tea Birds WI, Village Hall
Wed 27 Nov	7.30 Blewbury WI, Blewbury Village Hall
Sat 7 Dec	VPA Christmas Social, Village Hall

Didcot transformers on the move

The second and third transformers from the power station are due to be moved over the next couple of weekends.

At the start of the month the first of three very large transformers was moved from the power station to Avonmouth docks in Bristol as part of the de-construction of Didcot A.

The second transformer will be moved at 6pm on November 15, taking the A4130 to Milton Interchange and then A34 southbound.

Due to the closure of the A34 southbound from Milton to Chieveley during November 16-17, the load will park overnight on the closed carriageway just before the M4.

It will then move off again on the morning of November 16.

The third load will be moved at 9am on November 23.

Each load is said to be 4.87m wide and 640 tonnes gross weight and will have to travel very slowly.

It will take around four hours just to travel from Didcot to the M4, which will cause traffic problems.

From the *Oxfordshire Guardian*

A34 closures

Remember that the A34 southbound carriageway will be closed between the Milton interchange and the M4 from 10pm, Friday 15 November to 6am, Monday 18 November.

The A34 northbound carriageway will be closed from the M4 to Milton from 10pm, Friday 22 November to 6am, Monday 25 November.

Blewbury WI

November already! We had a fabulous day at Denman (the WI college at Marcham); we are so lucky to have this practically on our doorstep. We had a cookery demonstration in the morning on easy entertaining with a gluten free theme. After lunch, we had a talk on the treasures of the Ashmolean, afternoon tea, a walk in the gardens and a visit to the WI shop!

Monday 4th

Coffee at Style Acre Tearooms
10.30am, with Eileen

Wednesday 6th

Lyn's walk
meet at 9.30am, village hall, for a walk from either Wantage or Wallingford, depending on rain beforehand! All welcome of course!

1st & 14th

RAL lectures at Harwell

Wednesday 27th

at Blewbury School, 7.30pm, "The Loneliness of The Long Distance Cyclist" with Chris Penny. Chris cycled over 4,000 miles across America in 2010 with his brother, and has also cycled from Lands End to John O'Groats, and all over Europe!

We are also planning a trip to a Christmas Market, probably Winchester.

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

Update from PCSO Mike Clayden



Since my last article, many police officers, PCSO's and special constables have been involved in rural crime week.

Events and stalls were set up at various locations around the area including an exhibition trailer at Millet's Farm and West Hanney. Talking to members of the public, we asked them to help us fight rural crime by signing up to 'Thames Valley Alert', a message system that keeps the public informed if there is anything happening in their area. This was a huge success.

Also Neighbourhood watch coordinators joined Police officers and PCSO's and toured 'hot spots' in the area noting and checking anything suspicious that they came across, in particular in areas such as beauty spot car parks.

This brings me to my next subject, car theft. There have been a number of thefts from vehicles in our area, in particular in car parks near to the Ridgeway. If you are parking at a beauty spot please remember to take any valuables with you.

Do not leave on display Sat Navs, mobile phones, laptops, CD's and any clothing or bags. Put all items out of view or if possible take them with you.

Officers are patrolling these areas and if they find a vehicle that has any items on display the officer will note the registration of the vehicle and a letter of advice will be sent to

the owner. When carrying out these checks, I'm often amazed at what people will leave openly on display in their cars. Here's a good tip. If you use a Satellite Navigation system, and happen to take it with you on a day out, don't leave a sticky mark on the windscreen when you remove it. Wipe it off. That way the thief won't think you have a Sat Nav locked away in the glove box.

On Monday 7th October I carried out speed checks in Upton and Chilton. Of the checks in Upton, out of 59 drivers checked there were none speeding and in Chilton, out of 73 there were only two. Please vehicle owners mind your speed particularly in built up areas including villages and especially near Schools. People often ask me what I do if anyone is speeding, and the answer is that I place their vehicle details into our speed watch system which tracks if the vehicle has been flagged before. I also send out a letter of advice to the speeding driver.

On the 9th of October I was able to pop along to the Chilton Parish Council meeting and give my area beat officer's report which was well received. I will also be attending the Upton Parish Council meeting on 19th November at Upton Village Hall at 20.00 hrs.

On 25th October, PC Laura Schmid and myself attended Chilton Primary School and gave a talk to the children on staying safe on Halloween night and respecting others' privacy. A talk on Bonfire

night and the firework code was also given as we are now nearing the 5th of November.

My next HYS meeting will be held on 23rd November at Upton Village Hall from 15.00 till 16.00, and at Chilton Village Hall from 16.00 till 17.00.

Please come along if you have issues you think I can help you with.

Stay safe

PCSO Mike Clayden C9732

Notes from October Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) Meeting



I attended as the village rep and the main points were as follows:

John Richardson from Prospect Farm Chilton made a presentation to the meeting with reference to Rural Crime which is still very active. In fact two tractors worth over £100,000 were stolen during the last two weeks in October from the Chilton/West Ilsley area. As was said at the meeting by Superintendent Boyd, the Local Area Police Commander, "this is fully organised professional theft". Community action groups get involved when activities are happening.

Other items of interest were the ongoing incidents of hare coursing which is still a problem in our rural area. These offenders can be very

aggressive causing a lot of damage to fences and property, creating problems for farmers with loose animals. It was expressed that if you hear anything unusual in the early hours, e.g. movement of traffic and loud engine noises from tractors/ commercial vehicles and plant, do not be afraid to dial 999 or 101; this might just help to catch the culprits. Neighbourhood Watch during these dark days - the big clue to thieves is houses with no lights on. If you are going out leave a small light on which can be seen near the entrance. If you are away for longer periods attach a light to a time switch, and ask a neighbour to remove mail/papers from your letterbox, or push them right through.

We have a new village PCSO, Sue Harris; you may have seen her at the fete carrying out a demonstration of fingerprinting with the children (she promised me they would not be put on record).

I am your local NAG rep, the next meeting will be held on Monday 2nd December. Please let me know if you have any issues you would like me to raise.

John Lightfoot

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Submissions for *Upton News* should be sent to news@uptonvillage.co.uk.
Deadline for the December edition is **1st December**.

Notes from the Allotment

We had a warm and sunny week at the beginning of October, then cold wind and rain, and apparently the temperatures are on the up again! I have seen warnings of the worst winter ever, so now is the time to clear out the greenhouse and line it with bubble-wrap to give those over-wintering plants a chance of surviving if, like me, you don't have a heater.

I still have tomatoes and cucumbers in the greenhouse but will harvest them shortly, because I want to replace them with salad leaves and spring onions in the old grow-bags; as Monty suggests, you can buy a pack of small salad plants from the supermarket, split them up and plant them out.

The calabrese plants are successfully producing delicious side shoots, although I doubt they will keep me going until the Brussels are ready - still very tiny buttons. But the climbing French beans I planted very late are now producing, so unless we get a severe frost I shall get a small crop.

The onion sets sown last month are showing green shoots, and I've protected them with mesh to stop the birds pulling them out. There is still space to put in some hardy broad beans alongside them which hopefully will take root before it gets too cold. The remaining couple of rows of maincrop potatoes need digging up - fingers crossed that they have not been eaten into by eel worms or other pests.

If you are still coping with windowsills full of tomatoes, why not cut them in half, remove the seeds, and then lay them on a baking tray with a sprinkling of olive oil, coarse sea salt and ground black pepper; cook them in a very cool oven for a couple of hours then turn off the oven and leave them overnight. They will keep for ages without the need for refrigeration and are so versatile.

At the end of September I went to the Master Volunteers Conference, a full day of workshops and swapping gardening and composting tips with 300 other enthusiasts. Among other things, I was reminded that apple windfalls should not be composted in the ordinary way because they are too acid and will stop a heap working, so instead either leave them in a heap of their own for the birds and hedgehogs to eat, or layer them with grass clippings or fallen leaves to rot down.

Angela Hoy

(angela.hoy@sky.com)

Village Produce Association

I am looking out at my garden this afternoon, it has rained all morning the sun has now come out, and everything looks delightful, I have lots of roses back in flower (typical, as I had none for the show in September!) the asters are waving in the breeze, and my apples are ready to be harvested! But I have very few leaves on the lawn, a few Virginia Creeper, everything else seems to be hanging on, they are going to wait, I am sure, and will all come down overnight!

You are all very welcome at our AGM on Wednesday 6th November, 7.30pm in the Vale Room, where Eileen will give her Chairman's report on the year, the President's Cup will be presented to the exhibitor with the most points over all sections in the show, (I wonder who that could possibly be), Austin will give a short talk on reading

clouds and meteorological weather patterns, and Maggie will bring some great cheese and wine for us to have afterwards! We would welcome some new committee members, so if you can help, just turn up on the night, and let us know! (we have approx 4/5 committee meetings a year, so not a lot of work)

We will be selling tickets for our Christmas Social evening, on Saturday 7th December, at Upton Village Hall; supper, wine, juice, a few silly games, and a competition for the best Xmas Cracker! Tickets £4 are available from the Post Office or Maggie & Austin in Upton. Happy gardening!

Karen Brooks

VPA e-mail

The Committee is pleased to announce that a dedicated e-mail address is now available for all the residents in the villages of Blewbury and Upton to register with the VPA.

We will be able to provide you with information regarding our monthly meetings, events and activities throughout the coming years. It will also give you the opportunity to contact us if you have any questions you would like to ask.

If you decide to join, please send an e-mail to the address below, with your name and address and the e-mail address you want registered.

The dedicated e-mail address is: VPA.in.Bl.Up@gmail.com

If you don't have an e-mail address and would like to be updated with information, please provide your name and address to Karen at Blewbury Post Office or ring Eileen Bracken on 01235 510095.

Post Office News

We have several items of lost property - a blue cardigan, a red ladies jumper, two pairs of specs, a small key, and a few items of non valuable jewellery (a ring, a bead necklace, a penguin charm, and a fairy earring!). If no-one claims them, we will give them to a charity shop!

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

Airmail Last Posting dates are all in December, so no need to panic just yet! But please be aware that Airmail to Far East, Australia, USA & Canada etc (i.e. Non-Europe) are 4th/5th/6th December!

We will be having the Scout Xmas Post box, for local mail (25p each).

The Christmas Stamps are on sale in early November, and I am ordering the Royal Mail children's competition winners too! Please remember to tell us if you have perfume, phones, aerosols, nail polish etc in your parcel; we have to put special labels on them! Some items are not allowed to be sent at all!

We are getting a lot of people asking us about our privatization! It's Royal Mail that this affects, NOT the Post Office (we have been told that the Post Office aims to become a "Mutual" organization). However, the Royal Mail employees are not happy at all – there may be strikes before Christmas – we have cards to post to our MP if you are interested. The worry is that if Royal Mail loses the contract with the Post Office (in about 7 years) then the next company may not have a 6 day a week delivery or collection!

Love from Karen & Angela

Village Clubs & Organisations

Drop In Sessions

Yvonne Collins 850989

Short Mat Bowls Club

Tony Durbin 850035

Table Tennis Club

Bob Lott 851222

Tea Birds WI

Jo Christie tea-birdswi@hotmail.co.uk

Theatre Club

Malcolm Wright 850705

Upton Oil Syndicate

Colin Batchelor 01491 672444

Village Produce Association

Eileen Bracken 510095

Wine Appreciation Society

Kevin Jacklin 851404

Do you run a village club or organisation? Let us have your details and we will list them here.

Recipe of the Month

Tomato, lentil & vegetable soup

A warming but low fat soup for a winter's day...

- Low calorie cooking spray
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 2cm piece root ginger, grated
- 1 large potato, diced
- 1 large carrot, diced
- 600ml vegetable stock
- 1tbsp mild curry powder
- 125g dried red lentils, rinsed
- 600ml passata
- Seasoning to taste
- Fresh coriander, chopped

Coat a large saucepan with the spray and place over a high heat. Add the onion, garlic, ginger, potato and carrot and stir-fry for 2 mins.

Add the other ingredients (except the seasoning), bring to the boil, and simmer for 15-20 mins or until the lentils are cooked. Season well and serve sprinkled with the coriander.

Giulia Hannigan

Please send your favourite recipes to news@uptonvillage.co.uk

Upton News Archive

Every back copy of *Upton News* dating back to May 2000 can be found online at

www.uptonvillage.co.uk/upton-news/

Neighbourhood Return

Returning lost people with memory problems home

The Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network has developed a new service called Neighbourhood Return (www.ourturn.org.uk). For the last year it has been piloted in a number of areas including the Thames Valley.

The Network coordinates volunteers to go and search for people with dementia who may have got lost or wandered.

"Up to 70% of people who go missing are found within two-and-a-half hours"

Carers of people with dementia can register the person and if they go missing, they have a direct telephone number for Dudley Telecare, a 24 hour call centre which will initiate and coordinate the search.

Registered volunteers are then contacted and asked if they can participate in a search in their area. Only the volunteers who agree are then sent the details of the missing person and the details on where to search.

If you would be prepared to register as a volunteer, please contact John Lightfoot.

John Lightfoot

01235 850486

Lthimbles@aol.com

St Mary's Services

Sun 24th November	0900	Sung Eucharist
Sat 30th November	0900	Contemplative Prayer Service. Reflecting on bible passages, listening to Christian Music and gently moving into silent prayer. The service lasts ~30 minutes.
Sun 1st December	0900	Sung Eucharist*
Sun 8th December	0900	Sung Eucharist
Sun 15th December	1000	Family Service*
Sun 22nd December	0900	Sung Eucharist
CHRISTMAS EVE	4.00pm	CRIB AND CAROL SERVICE
CHRISTMAS DAY	0900	Sung Eucharist
Sun 29th December	0900	Sung Eucharist

*refreshments after these services.

Youth Debating Club?

St Mary's Church is trying to organise a youth debating club - which should be helpful to all our youth - in the Church. Richard Burrow runs one at Kendrick School, and if any of our younger villagers would like to start a club, please email rburrow@kendrick.reading.sch.uk.

Austin Maytham

Awards for Young People

The Vale of White Horse is offering grants of up to £100 to young achievers aged 11-18 who live in the district.

Applicants have to be able to show exceptional achievements in arts, sports or citizenship in the 12 months prior to the closing date.

The scheme will be open for applications between 20 November 2013 and 15 January 2014 and again between 6 October 2014 and 8 December 2014 (subject to budget availability).

For more information visit www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/grants