

Upton News



Vol 4 No.24 December 2013

Sometimes I wonder whether there will be any material for *Upton News*, but something always turns up. This month we have news from the PC and our PCSO, appeals from Blewbury Brass Band and for our own village hall, and events in the form of the Christmas meeting of the Wine Club and a folk concert plus supper scheduled for early February. And of course regular columns including Angela on her allotment and the Blewbury WI.

Remember that Tea Birds WI meet in the village hall and are keen to attract more new members from the village—they already have events for 2014 well planned...

Season's greetings to all from the editor for whom it will be a particularly busy Christmas...

Brian

Welcome

A warm welcome to Andrew and Kerry Scott who have moved into Sunnybank in the High Street. Andrew is a designer and Kerry works in HR.

Submissions for *Upton News* should be sent to news@uptonvillage.co.uk.
Deadline for the January edition is **29th December**.

Parish Council News

We are very pleased to advise that the hardcopy distribution of the *Upton News* has been secured, with UPC agreeing to support printing cost going forward.

This will ensure that all those that wish to receive a printed copy through their door will continue to do so. We would like to thank Sarah Sayers for her two years as Editor, and Brian Rippon for volunteering to take on the role. We would also like to take the opportunity to thank those volunteers who distribute *Upton News*.

Following proposals submitted by Mr Mike Tibbetts, a sub-committee has been established to look at siting a permanent all weather table tennis table in the recreation ground. Funding for the project has been secured from the monies raised by the "Uptonogood?" Mountain Bike Challenge.

It's all been quiet on the planning front, however we have been informed that Mr Leslie Wells has now launched an appeal to the Secretary of State concerning the stable block behind the George and Dragon, on which the Vale of White Horse District Council has placed an enforcement order to demolish.

From our PCSO

Hello, since my last update I'm sure village residents have now seen the 'Bright Idea' posters that I have been putting out recently posted around the village. Indeed, I have noticed there seems to be more homes with lights on in the evenings so I'm really pleased that residents are taking our advice and making their homes a little safer. Another good tip is to not leaving any Xmas parcels and presents on show in your living rooms as unfortunately at this time of year there are thefts from dwellings where presents have been stolen. Obviously this can have a devastating effect on a family who have saved hard to give their families special gifts for Christmas. On 18th November I attended the Upton Parish Council meeting and gave my area beat officer's report to the parish council members and attendees, details of which can be found on the minutes of the meeting on the village website.

Road closures are a headache as we all know and there have been a fair number in the area recently. One such closure was the Milton Interchange on 26th November, which was attended by a number of PCSO's including myself and roads policing officers.

The north bound A34 had been closed due to a serious accident involving a HGV. The Road was closed for a number of hours and this caused severe delays in the area. We would like to remind drivers to be patient at these difficult times and to be aware that

on these occasions officers on road closures may not necessarily have area knowledge when asked for directions.

Officers are there primarily to control traffic flow and keep vehicles moving if and when possible. Drivers stopping on a busy carriageway to ask for directions are putting themselves and other drivers at risk of an accident as well as causing further delays to the congested area. If you are lost, seek a safe place to pull over, e.g. service station, a lay-by or nearby village. Stay calm and check your map, Sat-Nav or ask someone for directions who may have local knowledge. Or as they say on the telly-"phone a friend". Personally, I don't believe anyone ever gets lost. We might lose our way from time to time but inevitably we do get home, though somewhat later than expected. So on that note, I would like wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy safe new year.

PCSO Mike Clayden C9732
Thames Valley Police



Using SmartWater to mark your items

Blewbury Brass Band

Blewbury Brass Band is a community band and it's looking for new members.

We have an active learner band for complete beginners and an established senior band suitable for people who've played before.

Over the last two years the learner group has expanded to 14 players – a mixture of adults and children – due to the enthusiasm of the members and the generous support of our sponsors. This year we've had significant donations from Waitrose, the Co-op and npower which have allowed us to provide better instruments for the players. Several of the learners have graduated into the main band, benefitting from the tuition, supportive atmosphere and the fabulous new instruments.

Over the last 12 months the band has been very busy supporting community events with highlights that include:

- concerts with Oxford County Music Service and their primary school players;
- supporting St Birinus Secondary school's wind band in Didcot;
- supported South Moreton and East Hagbourne school PTA's fundraising events, playing with their young players;
- adding to the ambiance of family church services in East Hagbourne;
- several "have a blow" sessions with Harwell cubs and Vauxhall Barracks;

- and providing live music at fourteen village fetes.

We meet on every Wednesday evening at our rehearsal room next to the tennis courts in Blewbury and would be pleased to welcome you aboard.

See www.blewburybrassband.org.uk for more information.

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.

Wine Appreciation Society

Wines for Christmas presented by the Oxford Wine Company

The original Oxford Wine Company was founded in 1840 and traded from 125 High Street, Oxford until 1914. The name metamorphosed from The Oxford Hamper Company through The Oxford Wine And Hamper Company and finally to The Oxford Wine Company in the spring of 1992.

Our evening began with four whites: a sparkling from California by the Roederer Family (£19.99), a nice alternative to champagne on Christmas morning.

This was followed by white wine from France, a Touraine Sauvignon Blanc (£9.99) and a South African Delheim Gewurztraminer (£13.99).

The reds began with a Morandé Pionero Pinot Noir (£8.99), a lovely Burgundy alternative from Chile. However, this was topped by a full bodied Trapiche Cabernet Franc, a superb red from Argentina. Italy came on the scene next with a Terredora Aglianico (£13.99) from the south, and the evening was completed with a delicious dessert option in the form of Nectar Pedro Ximenez (£14.65).

Rob Traynor

December Meeting

It's nearly Christmas so that can only mean it must be time for our favourite wine presenting duo, Will and Fiona Betts, to present Sweet and Sparkling wines for the Festive Christmas period.

The December meeting is a week early and will be on the 11th — last date for applications is Monday 2nd December.

Dates for your diary

Sat 7 Dec	VPA Christmas Social, Village Hall
Wed 11 Dec	8pm Wine Appreciation Society, Village Hall
Wed 11 Dec	WI Christmas Lunch, Four Pillars
Tue 24 Dec	4pm Crib & Carol Service, St Mary's
Fri 7 Feb	Howden Jones in concert, Village Hall

Upton Village Hall—help required

As a newly appointed trustee and committee member of the Village Hall Amenities Trust, I'm keen to do my bit to make our hall something of which every villager can be truly proud.

The trustees recently established a sub-committee which Jacqui Reid and I are chairing, tasked with the renovation of the kitchen, and we are already working on that project. We are delighted to have the support and expertise of four non-members of the main committee (Ben Amos, John Haworth, Lucy Mason and Derek Vokins), a principle which the trustees would like to encourage. The team will be consulting with all the regular users of the hall as well as the village at large as to what they think we should incorporate in the redevelopment, and we will be keeping you up to date with plans, news on fundraising etc.

The kitchen is just one area where refurbishment and development is required - there are many more aspects of the hall which need updating either to meet present day expectation levels, or to improve the amenity in terms of appearance, comfort or energy efficiency. Not only do we need to do so for the benefit of the village, but also in order to offer a competitive product

to external hirers who have an ever-increasing range and quality of halls to choose from.

Development requires funding, and as well as the grants for which we will be applying, we will need to review our pricing policy in order to raise revenues.

Our hire prices have failed to keep pace with inflation, let alone energy prices. An immediate task for the committee is therefore to hold a pricing review, and we are looking for assistance. Our research has resulted in a lot of data which needs to be analysed by a panel of 'business minds' with the objective of formulating a new policy. The tasks will include competitive pricing, pricing structures, booking policy, potential effect on revenue, evaluation of risk etc. Would you be interested in helping? If you are please contact one of the trustees. Finally, the UVHAT committee is looking for a new Treasurer to replace Ros Caffyn who is standing down in March as the result of work and family pressures. Would you be willing to do this job, ideally as a trustee but possibly as an external role? The task would clearly best suit someone with accounting or book-keeping skills.

Brian Rippon

If you are interested in helping, please talk to a member of the committee or email Jessie West (jessie@blueshapes.com) or myself (brian@rippon.net).

Help our village hall as you search the web...

Visit www.everyclick.com/village-hall and fundraise as you shop!

howdenjones In Concert

'Beautiful Music in Beautiful Places' Tour

Upton Village Hall, 7.00 for 7.30
Friday 7th February 2014

Kate and Paul return to Upton!

Creating their 'beautiful music in beautiful places' tour, they have been travelling all over the country, sharing their music and stories, often meeting friendly and fascinating people and visiting some wonderful, unusual venues in sometimes remote and always beautiful areas along the way. They write about life and their observations of it, often poignant, sometimes humorous, and gathering new material as they travel, they captivate an audience in a unique intimate atmosphere. With a variety of instruments including guitar, fiddle, mandolin, bodhran and banjo, superb harmonies and great musicianship, *howdenjones* will promise to give you a foot tapping and thought provoking evening with plenty of smiles!



You can hear examples of their music by visiting www.howdenjones.co.uk

Licensed bar available. Tickets are £12 including supper, available from Jessie West, 851206.

Recipe of the Month

Chocolate, Cranberry and Macadamia Brownies

Ingredients:

- 150g dark chocolate, broken into chunks
- 200g butter
- 200g soft brown sugar
- 150g self-raising flour (or gluten free self-raising flour)
- 40g cocoa powder, sifted
- 3 large eggs, beaten
- 50g dried cranberries
- 100g macadamia nuts
- 60g cranberry sauce

Method:

Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4 and line a 20x20cm baking tin with

baking parchment. Melt the dark chocolate with the butter in the microwave or in a heatproof bowl over just simmering water.

Mix together the sugar, flour and cocoa powder and stir in the melted chocolate and butter mixture, followed by the eggs. Stir through the dried cranberries and macadamia nuts, then swirl through the cranberry sauce.

Pour into the tin and smooth the surface. Bake for 25-30 mins. Allow to cool before slicing.

Giulia Hannigan

Blewbury WI

I love December! Buying gifts, putting up the tree, planning menu's, shopping; getting the family all together, parties & all the anticipation is just wonderful! Some of us will have been to Winchester Xmas market and bought lots of lovely things, I was in Edinburgh doing the same! Some of us won't be doing these things; some of us don't bake, don't like the crush in the shops and don't like the bother of it all! It's a good job we are all different, which makes our WI such a brilliant and diverse group of ladies, all ages, all backgrounds, lots of skills to share! Thank you to all of you, I have had a great year!

- Monday 2nd ; Christmas songs at Oxford Town Hall
 - Tuesday 3rd December; Lyn's walk, meet at Blewbury Village hall, (9.30am) stout boots and pennies for coffee, everyone welcome!
 - Wednesday 4th ; Coffee at Style Acre Tearooms, 10.30am, with Joan
 - Wednesday 11th ; WI Christmas lunch at The Four Pillars, Abingdon
 - Tuesday 17th, RAL lecture, An Astronomers View of Famous Works of Art.
- For more details, or to join the Mah Jong or Scrabble group, or if you wish to join us, please ring Judy on 850381.

11th March 2014; If anyone wants to join us for a trip to "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" in Oxford, please let Judy know ASAP, and we will get more tickets!

Karen Brooks

Didcot Station

Redevelopment of adjacent land?

A public exhibition of proposals for the redevelopment of land located opposite the entrance to Didcot Parkway Station was held at the end of November.

The proposal includes the provision of a new public square south of Station Road, opposite the entrance to Didcot Parkway Station, traffic calming on Station Road and a small public space to the north of the

former Jet garage. It comprises a mixed use development including a hotel, serviced apartments, offices, retail, restaurant, a children's nursery and residential units including apartments and houses – together with associated car parking, including a multi storey to the north of Station Road, and servicing arrangements.

Note from the Allotment

November has lived up to its reputation, with a lot of misty, dank and dismal days, but on the other hand, not very cold so far; however, I gather we are in for a sharp frost next week and possibly even snow on the high ground - ah well, it will crisp up the sprouts!

These are starting to look really sprout-like now, and to encourage them to bulk up it's a good idea to cut off their top-knots, which make very good eating as healthy steamed greens. Also on the brassica front, I've been pleased that cutting a cross in the stump of my summer cabbages has had the desired effect, with a little wreath of fresh leaves growing; they won't stand the frost though so I'd better whip them off. I may also lose the late-sown Savoys, but will attempt to prolong their growing season with some fleece, which may help. The sprouting calabrese is still soldiering on, I think I have had several months of meals out of them, I shall definitely grow them again. I've now sown some broad beans, as deep as I could get my dibber to try and thwart the mice and frost; hopefully they will survive the winter and give me an early crop next year. In addition to the onion sets already planted, I've done a tray of the smaller sets in my small insulated greenhouse, for planting out in the Spring as well.

I eventually harvested half a small sack of Maris Piper potatoes, grown from some sprouting spuds in my kitchen cupboard! Waste not want not...

I'm amazed how long the raspberries are hanging on, still fruiting despite the darker days, but I daresay the next frost will do for them, at which time the fruiting canes can be cut down to the ground. I've only just taken out my runner bean foliage, and chopped it up into little pieces so it will compost down quicker. There were the inevitable few remaining beans hanging onto the vine, so I've managed to save a good handful of jumbo size seeds to take into next year.

It's time to gather up fallen leaves from the allotment (where there are trees); if you haven't got a dedicated leaf pile, heaping them around fruit bushes will help to keep the weeds down and they can be allowed to rot in situ.

Angela Hoy (angela.hoy@sky.com)

Free Parking Day

Drivers will be able to park for free in district council car parks in Wantage on Saturday 7 December.

The annual free parking tradition is provided by the district council in December to encourage people to shop locally for their Christmas presents, helping to boost the local town centre economy in the process.

[Presumably encouragement isn't needed the rest of the year. Ed.]

Services at St Mary's

Sun 1st 9am Parish Eucharist
Sun 8th 9am Parish Eucharist
Tue 10th 10am Holy Eucharist
Sun 15th 10am Family Service

Sun 22nd 9am Parish Eucharist
Tue 24th 4pm Crib & Carol Service
Wed 25th 9am Parish Eucharist
Sun 29th 9am Parish Eucharist

Morning CYGnets

Sunday 1st December (tbc)
10.30am Hagbourne School

A regular Sunday morning group usually (but not always - see above) on the 1st Sunday of the month.

Concluding in St. Andrew's at the end of the morning service. Sorry next meeting not until December!

CYGnet Youth Group

Sunday 15th December
6pm Benefice Centre

A regular Sunday evening group on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 7-8.30pm. All young people of secondary school age are welcome to come along. This month Bowling in Newbury.

MU Pram Service

Wednesday 4th December
12.15pm Vale Room - Village Hall Blewbury

A short Eucharist service ideal for pre-school children to bring parents, grandparents, carers to. A sandwich lunch is provided by the Mothers Union after the service. ALL AGES ARE WELCOME.

Mums Church Group

Next meeting in January
8pm See Churn for Venue

Meets monthly on 3rd Tuesday - helping us to grow in faith and share this with our families. Please contact Louise Kieft (850610 or lakieft@gmail.com) for further information if you would like to come.

Churn Branch Eucharist

Thursday 19th December
10am St. Michael's Blewbury

On the 3rd Thursday of each month members are invited to attend this Eucharist Service, followed by refreshments and discussion in the Benefice Centre.

Christ in Quiet

Saturday 28th December
9am All Saints' North Moreton

Monthly contemplative prayer services, held across the benefice, reflecting on bible passages, listening to Christian music and gently moving into silent prayer, these last about 30 minutes.

Advent Compline

The last few years have seen the re-emergence of Compline, the ancient last prayer of the day, as a popular parish devotion, particularly in the reflective seasons of Advent and Lent. This year, Compline will once again be held in St. Michael's Church Blewbury during December on Thursday 5th, Monday 9th and Thursday 19th. The service takes 30 minutes, including a short address - and will be held in the North aisle, by candlelight.

Rectors Reflections

A Gift at Christmas Time

I am about to suggest that you give a particular gift at this coming Christmas time - and that you give the gift to yourself!

In case you're worried about the bank balance, don't worry, the gift costs nothing. You don't have to go a particular website, or visit a particular store. And, in case you're wondering, I don't get any commission!

You'll be pleased to learn that the gift is delivered to you in person, but you've got to be in the right place to receive it. You can receive it if you go somewhere quiet, and simply wait, with open mind and open heart. Listen to the sounds around you, feel the air filling your chest as you breathe in and out, slowly and deeply.

The gift is the gift of stillness, a stillness that connects us with all that is profoundly true about ourselves and our world. We spend so much of our time rushing around that days, weeks, months can pass us by without any experience of stillness in our lives. We feel that God is a million miles away and couldn't care less about our lives. But how can God get a word in edgways, amidst all our frantic busyness?

A time of stillness allows God to give us the gift of ourselves - the gift of our true selves. And in giving us the

gift of ourselves, God also gives us the gift of Himself. "Be still and know that I am God" - these were the words of an ancient poet, writing one of the psalms over two thousand years ago.

Some two hundred years ago, a poet by the name of Joseph Mohr wrote words which continue the same theme, words which, in their English translation, have become an essential part of Christmas for millions of men and women around the world.

*Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.*

May we all know the gift of stillness this Christmastime, and may God speak to us in that stillness of His great love, of His mercy and His tenderness to us and to all humankind.

Fr Jason

Bus Timetable

From 8th December 2013

route 94/95

Notes	95	94	A	95	94	94	95	94
Didcot Parkway Station	0626	0710	0743	0845	0935	1016	1116	1216
Didcot Broadway, stop B1	↓	↓	↓	0846	↓	1018	1118	1218
Didcot The Orchard Centre, stop S1	↓	↓	↓	0948	↓	1019	1119	1219
Didcot Tecco	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	1023	1122	↓
Didcot Sandringham Road	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	1026	↓	1226
East Hagbourne, Memorial	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	1029	↓	1229
Coacote Cottages	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	0941	1032	↓
West Hagbourne, Moor Lane	↓	0716	0749	↓	↓	0945	1039	↓
Upton, Prospect Road	↓	0720	0753	↓	↓	0945	1039	↓
North Moreton, Bus Shelter	0638	↓	↓	0900	↓	↓	1127	↓
South Moreton, The Crown PH	0640	↓	↓	0902	↓	↓	1129	↓
Didcot Tecco	0647	↓	↓	0909	↓	↓	1136	↓
East Hagbourne, Memorial	0654	0724	0757	0916	0949	1043	1143	1243
Didcot Sandringham Road	0700	0730	0803	0922	0955	1049	1149	1249
Didcot The Orchard Centre, stop S2	0702	0732	0805	0924	0957	1051	1151	1251
Didcot Parkway Station	0707	0737	0810	0929	1001	1101	1201	1301
Didcot Parkway Station	0710	0740	0813	0933	1007	1101	1201	1301
Didcot Girls School	0818							
Milton Park, stop 2	0828							

Notes:
 A During School holidays, this journey does not serve Didcot Girls School and arrives Milton Park at 0823.

Didcot • East Hagbourne • Blewbury • Didcot

Monday to Fridays except Public Holidays

Notes	95	94	B	94	95	94	94	95
Milton Park, stop 1	1425	1525	↓	↓	1620	1720		
Didcot Girls School	1315	1430	1530	1630	1730	1825	1915	
Didcot Parkway Station	1318	1433	1533	1633	1733	1828	1918	
Didcot Broadway, stop B1	1320	1435	1535	1635	1735	1830	1920	
Didcot The Orchard Centre, stop S1	1322	1438	1538	1638	1738	1833	1923	
Didcot Sandringham Road	1326	1441	1541	1641	1741	1836	1926	
East Hagbourne, Memorial	1332	1447	1547	1647	1747	1842	1932	
Blewbury, Load of Mitchell PH	↓	1451	1551	↓	1752	1847	↓	
Upton, Prospect Road	1339	↓	↓	1654	↓	↓	1939	
Ashton Thrift, The Close	1346	↓	↓	1701	↓	↓	1946	
North Moreton, Bus Shelter	1348	↓	↓	1703	↓	↓	1948	
Didcot Tecco	1353	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	
West Hagbourne, Moor Lane	↓	1454	1554	↓	1755	1850	↓	
Coacote Cottages	↓	1457	1557	↓	1853	↓	↓	
East Hagbourne, Memorial	↓	1501	1601	↓	1859	↓	↓	
Didcot Sandringham Road	↓	1504	1604	↓	1902	↓	↓	
Didcot The Orchard Centre, stop S2	1356	1506	1606	↓	↓	↓	1902	R
Didcot Parkway Station	1358	1508	1608	↓	↓	↓	1904	R
Didcot Parkway Station	1402	1512	1611	1710	1801	1908	1955	

Notes:
 B Serves Didcot Girls School on Friday school days only.
 C Serves Didcot Girls School on Monday to Thursday school days only.
 R Only serves these stops by request to the driver.

route 94/95

Bus Number	94	95	94	94	95	94
Didcot Parkway Station	0743	0845	0935	1016	1116	1216
Didcot Broadway, stop B1	↓	0846	↓	1018	1118	1218
Didcot The Orchard Centre, stop S1	↓	0848	↓	1019	1119	1219
Didcot Tecco	↓	↓	↓	1023	↓	1223
Didcot Sandringham Road	↓	↓	↓	1026	↓	1226
East Hagbourne, Memorial	↓	↓	↓	1029	↓	1229
Coacote Cottages	↓	↓	↓	0941	1032	↓
West Hagbourne, Moor Lane	0749	↓	0941	1032	↓	1232
Upton, Prospect Road	0753	↓	0945	1039	↓	1239
North Moreton, Bus Shelter	↓	0900	↓	↓	1127	↓
South Moreton, The Crown PH	↓	0902	↓	↓	1129	↓
Ashton Thrift, The Close	↓	0909	↓	↓	1136	↓
Blewbury, Load of Mitchell PH	0757	0916	0949	1043	1143	1243
East Hagbourne, Memorial	0805	0922	0955	1049	1149	1249
Didcot Sandringham Road	0809	0924	0957	1051	1151	1251
Didcot The Orchard Centre, stop S2	↓	0927	1001	1054	1154	1254
Didcot Parkway Station	0810	0929	1003	1056	1156	1256
Didcot Parkway Station	0813	0933	1007	1101	1201	1301
Milton Park, stop 2	0823					

Bus Number	95	94	94	95	94
Milton Park, stop 1	1316	1435	1530	1620	1720
Didcot Parkway Station	1319	1439	1539	1630	1730
Didcot Broadway, stop B1	1319	1439	1539	1630	1730
Didcot The Orchard Centre, stop S1	1323	1443	1538	1638	1738
Didcot Sandringham Road	1326	1446	1541	1641	1741
East Hagbourne, Memorial	1332	1452	1547	1647	1747
Blewbury, Load of Mitchell PH	↓	1456	1551	↓	1752
Upton, Prospect Road	1339	↓	↓	1654	↓
Ashton Thrift, The Close	1346	↓	↓	1701	↓
North Moreton, Bus Shelter	1348	↓	↓	1703	↓
Didcot Tecco	1353	↓	↓	↓	↓
West Hagbourne, Moor Lane	↓	1459	1554	↓	1755
Coacote Cottages	↓	1502	1557	↓	↓
East Hagbourne, Memorial	↓	1506	1601	↓	↓
Didcot Sandringham Road	↓	1508	1603	↓	↓
Didcot The Orchard Centre, stop S2	1356	1511	1606	↓	↓
Didcot Parkway Station	1358	1513	1608	↓	↓
Didcot Parkway Station	1402	1517	1612	1710	1801

Didcot • East Hagbourne • Blewbury • Didcot

Saturdays