

Upton News



Vol 4 No.7 March 2012

We should now be back to normal with our monthly editions of Upton News. Thank you to all the contributors. We have had some mixed weather with probably all four seasons from warm sunshine to sleet. However, it is good to see the spring bulbs just beginning to peek out.



Unfortunately we have some rather alarming crimes to report in our village. Celia Davies is our Neighbourhood Watch Officer and you are reminded that if you see anything suspicious call the police or for non emergencies 101, or the independent charity helping to find criminals and help solve crimes - Crimestoppers on 0800 555111. Please be vigilant when walking or driving round the village to safeguard our properties.

Sarah

GUY NAPPER

The family and I would like to say a big "Thank-you" for all the kind expressions of sympathy, the cards, the letters and phone calls that we received from people of the village - past and present - at the loss of who - I believe - was the oldest inhabitant, and certainly one never to be forgotten.

Thank you all from my family and me.

Edna Napper

Owlscoote

Have Your Say

The next "Have Your Say" meeting for our village is on Sat 17th March in the village hall from 3pm - 4pm.

Please come along, this is your opportunity to speak with your Neighbourhood Officers to discuss any local issues of concern you may have. We haven't had one of these sessions for several months now so please support if you have any issues to raise.

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 April edition is 20th March.

Inside this issue...

- Guy Napper
- Crime updates
- Broadband update

Crime News

From Celia Davies

I am sorry to report a number of crimes in our village:

Did anyone hear or see anything in the early hours of the morning on Sunday 5th February in the Chapel Furlong area?

A property in Fieldside had its oil tank piping cut and approx 500 litres of oil stolen leaving the occupant without heating.

Any help on this matter would be greatly appreciated.

On Tuesday 10th January between 14:30hrs and 17:18hrs a property in the High Street, was burgled. Entry was gained by smashing a glass pane of the inner front door. Nothing appears to have been stolen, it is believed the offender(s) were disturbed and made off.

If you have seen any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area or have any information relating to this message, please call the police. Note that there is a new national single non-emergency telephone number: 101 and state you are responding to a Ringmaster message. Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Thieves are about again

At 1am on 25 February they broke into our kennels again but got away with nothing. The dogs made so much noise that I think they decided to leave. They cut off the padlocks we had installed and climbed over, from the field behind us, the new fence!! We now have an Alsatian and she contributed to the noise. In the cold light of day the next morning we found that they had stolen 4 x 15kg sacks of dog food that had only arrived the previous day!!

Heather & Liz - The White House

Found

A ring has been found by one of the post boxes in Blewbury. If it is yours, or you know whose it is, please enquire at the Post Office.

Safeguarding Your Vehicle

Most offences of theft from vehicles are opportunist. If valuable possessions (e.g. handbags, laptops, sat navs, iPods, mobile phones, cameras) are left on show inside a vehicle, it is much more likely to be targeted by thieves. Even items of little value, such as shopping bags and clothing, may tempt a potential thief to break into the vehicle to see whether they contain anything worth stealing. Typically thieves will smash windows to gain entry; sometimes they will break door locks or, on older vehicles, prise the door away from the body of the vehicle.

Celia Davies
850684

Crime prevention advice

- When leaving your car, close all windows and lock your car
- When parking at home, use your garage. If you don't have a garage, park in a well-lit area
- Don't leave anything on display in your vehicle
- Take all your personal possessions with you
- Remove sat nav holders and visible sat nav ring marks from windscreens
- Leave the glove box open to show there's nothing inside
- Fit an alarm or immobiliser to your car
- Secure your wheels using locking wheel nuts
- If you have to leave work tools in your vehicle ensure they are out of view, try to shackle them all together and to the structure of the vehicle and make sure the tools have been permanently and obviously marked with your post code.

Faster Broadband

Residents of Prospect Road and the eagle eyed will have noticed the arrival of a new green box - another step towards faster broadband. BT OpenReach have also been busy in the area, presumably laying fibre. As far as we know, BT is still on target to start switching on Infinity in the Blewbury exchange area at the end of March, and based on the very vague information we have at the moment Upton might be among the first to benefit.

Remember that your existing broadband connection will not improve automatically - you have to sign up to 'faster broadband' or 'fibre' with your existing or a new ISP.

The upgrade involves a BT engineer visiting the premises and installing a high speed broadband (VDSL) modem. If you have an existing broadband router, it is unlikely that this will work with the new modem. Most ISPs provide a new router or 'Home Hub' as part of the contract.

Remember that older networking equipment might not be able to take advantage of the speeds offered by faster broadband - there's no point in having 40Mb download if your wireless network is slower than this or the router is incapable of handling several high speed connections.

Choosing an ISP is never easy, and faster broadband is no exception. Check the details, such as whether they cap bandwidth at certain times, what they charge for activation, whether the headline price is for the first few months only, and what upload speed they offer. Although faster broadband is up to 40Mb download and 10Mb upload, most packages only provide 2Mb upload.

You can find links to useful pages at www.uptonvillage.co.uk/infinity/.



Rectors Reflections

Lent in Four Words

I wonder how things are going in your life? We will shortly be entering the season of Lent, forty days of preparation before the feast of Easter. Lent is traditionally a time when Christians take stock of their lives. You're probably thinking to yourself that that's all very well, but your life is just too full at the moment to fit anything else in. Well, if this is the case, how about Lent in four words?

The first word is listening. All of us need to spend more time listening- listening to the world around us, listening to our friends and family, and listening to God. Listening to God can sound like an additional burden, but often God speaks to us through our friends and family.

The second word is exploration. God has created us with the ability to explore- to explore ourselves and the world around us. Have we given up exploring? Have we persuaded ourselves that we have learnt all that there is to know? For example, it can be good to take a second look at those people who we have written off: are they really an irritating so-and-so, or might they actually be a

welcome friend?

The third word is nourishment. Are we giving ourselves the nourishment we need, if we are to flourish and be all that God wants us to be? One of Jesus' sayings begins "Man shall not live by bread alone..." As human beings, we need than food, clothing and shelter. We need things that stimulate the spirit. We need things that warm the heart, and things that give us a sense of meaning and purpose in our lives. Are we giving ourselves the nourishment we need?

The final word is truth. Are we being truthful about ourselves, about the lives we lead and the situations we face? Are we pretending to ourselves that everything's fine, whereas the truth is that there are major issues which have the potential to destroy ourselves or to destroy others? Is there someone, a trusted friend for example, who can help us discover and accept the truth?

So there we are, Lent in four words: Listening; Exploration; Nourishment; and Truth. May this Lent be a fruitful time for us all - for ourselves, our families and our communities.

Next Area Dean - Wallingford Deanery

Bishop Andrew has asked me to take over from the Revd Edward Carter as the next Area Dean of Wallingford Deanery, and I have accepted. I will be licensed as Area Dean at Deanery Synod on 28th March. The Revd Josie Midwinter has been appointed Assistant Area Dean, with special responsibility for helping us to engage with the Great Western Park development, just to the west of Didcot. Please do remember us in your prayers.

Fr Jason

Spring Line Methodist Church

Services for March 2012

All services start at 10.30 am, and will be at the Upton Centre

Date Preacher

4th Rev. Martin Smithson (Holy Communion)

11th Libby Bolton

18th Rev. Dr. David Rankin

25th Andrew Lockley

St Marys

11th 9am Sung Eucharist followed by refreshments

18th 10am Family Service to celebrate Mothering Sunday (refreshments)

Children will receive a posie for their mum

25th 9am Sung Eucharist (refreshments & discussion)

1st 9am Sung Eucharist (refreshments)

6th 10am Good Friday Family Service (refreshments & Easter Egg Hunt)

8th 9am Easter Day Sung Eucharist

Weekday services Tuesdays 9.30 morning prayer, 10.00 Said Eucharist, 6pm Evening Prayer

St Mary's has just received a new altar frontal to be used for Lent and Advent. This was commissioned in 2009 and has been designed and worked by All Saints Embroidery at the Convent in Cowley.

Its beauty is in its simplicity and reflects the carved crosses in the stonework across the chancel. It has been given in memory of a number of faithful worshippers at St Marys, plus additional donations from our congregation. Do come into the church to see it.

There will be a Children's Society Coffee Morning - date to be advised.

Clare Lightfoot 850486

Training Course

Oxfordshire Rural Community Council and OCVA are running a free introduction to a community action training course. If this is of interest further details are available on the Upton village website. The training will run for 8 morning sessions over 2 months from the middle of May.

Transport and care costs can be covered to enable people to attend. It is intended for people who have no or very little experience of community action as it is a beginners course. Contact Beth Weston, Community Development Worker on 01865 883 488.

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Ben Shaw is looking for volunteers for the Jubilee celebrations.

He is having a meeting in the Village Hall at 10am on Saturday 10th March, although *Upton News* might not hit the streets until after the meeting...



Village Produce Association

I have to start by apologising for the late cancellation of our last meeting due to illness and family emergency, We shall re-schedule this for a date in April, at my house, (I think) I will make the cakes and find some jam, and Eileen is bringing a selection of produce to show us just what the judges are looking for! Come along if you want a bit of inside knowledge.

The village produce association was set up during the wars, to enable villagers to “grow their own”, and then share it with others; this includes knowledge and experience, along with lots of enthusiasm! In these days of greater awareness of sustainability, food miles and good food produced in our own gardens, the VPA is a great way of making friends and sharing tools, plants and local knowledge of what grows well here.

We aim to have a varied year of talks, across all aspects of “produce”, hence our next talk on “The Wonder of Wool”, with a spinning demo, by Penny Cole, and we welcome all comers, please come and meet us, we are a very friendly bunch The new programme for 2012 is available in the Post Office, and the new schedules will also be available, or email me

karencbrooks@gmail.com and I will send you one to print off at home.

My garden is looking very overgrown in places, and very derelict in others, but the pots with spring bulbs are still coming along nicely. I have sat in my new summerhouse today with a cup of coffee and drawn up planting plans for when the weather turns warmer, and I can get out there in my shorts.

Happy Gardening

Karen Brooks

Dates for your diary

Thu 15 Mar	Drop In, Village Hall
Sat 17 Mar	Have Your Say Meeting, 7.30, Village Hall
Wed 21 Mar	Wine Appreciation Club, 8.00, Village Hall
Tue 27 Mar	Extra Brown Bin permitted
Thu 29 Mar	Drop In, Village Hall
Sat 26 May	Jumble Sale 2pm (contact Jessie 851206 if you have jumble)



Attack on Sheep - a reminder to dog owners

Between lunchtime on Monday 6th and lunchtime on Tuesday 7th February a flock of sheep in a field off Frog Alley were attacked by a dog, or dogs. A ewe received injuries to her tail and ears and part of the fence was destroyed by panicking sheep. At the time of writing the ewe is still in a distressed state from the shock of the encounter. Dog walkers and owners are reminded that it is your responsibility to keep your dogs under control at all times.
Katie Napper

Blewbury WI

We have various outings this month, a talk by Jo Thoenes from Radio Oxford on the 27th, another guided tour of the Bodleian in Oxford, a lecture at RAL on "A nourishing Legacy; sport, nutrition and communities" and our usual Mahjong and Scrabble evenings.

Our main meeting is on Wednesday 28th in the Chapel, 7.30pm, for AGM and social evening, with cake. For more details, or to join the Mahjong or Scrabble group, or if you wish to join us, please ring Judy on 850381.

Karen Brooks

Lettice and Lovage

Peter Schaffer

Watermill Theatre, Bagnor,
Tuesday 28 February 2012

By the time that Schaffer wrote this play in 1987, he was a seasoned playwright. The cast is small - just four speaking parts, but the two main characters are female, which must be unusual. Lettice Douffet and Lotte Schoen dominate the whole piece and are played, magnificently, by Selina Cadell - a familiar face from television dramas - and Jessica Turner.

It is a gentle comedy for the most part, hilarious in places, with a number of surprises. The setting is initially in a dull panelled room of a minor country house called Fustian Hall. Lettice is the employed guide, who, getting bored with repeating the same set piece to groups of visitors (played in this production by unpaid volunteers), begins to embroider the story with exciting but untrue additions. Her employer eventually catches her out, and threatens her with dismissal.

The play develops, moving to Lotte Schoen's office and then to Lettice's basement flat, cunningly conjured



Photo: Mike Eddowes

up, using the theatre's gallery as ground level. As Lettice and Lotte's friendship grows, these two very different people reveal their backgrounds and their interests. Their costumes reflect their professions, one colourful and surprising for the actress and the other muted and sensible for the civil servant.

The final act brings an awkward but accidental dilemma into the story and involves a solicitor played by Michael Thomas. The play ends with a dramatic twist.

The Upton Village Theatre Group enjoyed a pre-performance supper (most enjoyable), seats at the front of the stalls and transport. It was an evening to remember, organised by Malcolm Wright and the Theatre Group Committee, whom we heartily thank.

B. Hopkins



The Watermill Theatre

Post Office News

Stock up on stamps before April?

We have heard rumours that Royal Mail are putting up the price of postage in April, as yet we have had no details of this. I have been onto the Royal Mail website to be fobbed off with a comment that “the potential price rises have gone to the ombudsman for approval, and we expect a decision by mid to late March”, which will give us not a lot of time to announce the new prices. We suspect that as usual 1st and 2nd class stamps, both standard and large letter, will revalue themselves, so it may be wise to buy them before the price goes up – probably at the

beginning of April.

We have also been told that the Post Office will split off from Royal Mail, but they will be working together for at least 10 years, and the Post Office network is mainly safe, the man upstairs wants big savings by streamlining the system, but we think we are safe. Locally, more council front office transactions will be available at the Post Office too.

Ann & Karen

[On 28 February Royal Mail chief executive Moya Greene told MPs that there was “no evidence anywhere” that raising the Second Class stamp from the current 36p to as much as 55p would bring affordability problems for consumers... Ed.]

Race!

Over the weekend of 28th/29th of July I'll be running the [Thunder 24 race](#).

This is a 24 hour off-road race where the challenge is to complete as many loops of the 10km circuit as possible. My aim to get to at least the 60 mile point but hopefully further with your help. This is an excellent opportunity to raise funds for Refuge which is a registered charity for women and children against domestic violence. Refuge is committed to a world where domestic violence is not tolerated or ignored and where women and children can live in safety.

Please contribute generously - your help will raise money for a very worthwhile charity, and help keep my legs knocking out the miles. Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Your details are safe with JustGiving - they'll never sell them on or send unwanted emails. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to the charity and make sure Gift Aid is reclaimed on every eligible donation by a UK taxpayer.

Please donate now at <http://www.justgiving.com/John-Scarborough>

Many thanks for your contributions,

John Scarborough



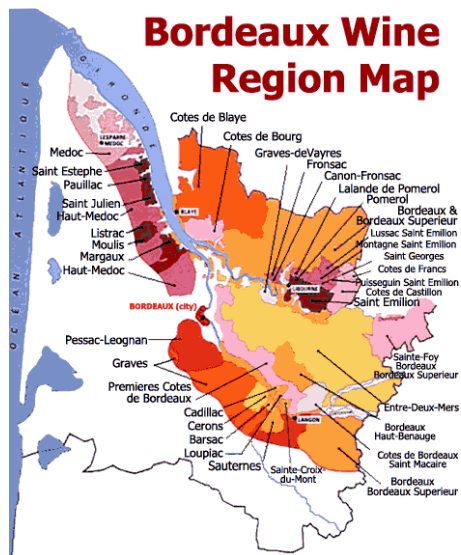
Upton Wine Appreciation Club

The January meeting of the Club was led by Simon Powell who re-visited the wines of Bordeaux. This was the first time the Club had looked at this area since Simon ran a similar meeting four years ago and his knowledge and enthusiasm for the subject were apparent. All of the wines were bought from The Wine Society at Stevenage and included several of their own label wines.

Simon tried to get us to identify the differences between the wines of the left and right banks of the Gironde not from the different grape varieties used but from the terroir (soil, microclimate and topography).

We started with an unoaked sauvignon blanc from Entre Deux Mers. This was a blend of wines from different growers created by one of the Society's masters of wine. This was a good clean tasting, aromatic wine at a good price that was preferred by most members to the second wine, which was from the same area and made by a professor of oenology. The first red wine was the Society's basic claret which drank well and was popular with members as being a good value wine. The fifth wine from Chateau Pitray in the Cotes de Castillon was very popular as was the Society's Exhibition Haut Medoc from Chateau Beaumont. However, the last two wines were the stars of the evening and gave a good opportunity to compare the soft merlot of the Society's St Emilion against the more robust Society's Exhibition Pauillac. Our thanks go to Simon for an excellent evening.

Mike Collins



Wines tasted:

Wine Society's Bordeaux Sauvignon 2010	£6.75
Chateau Reynon 2009 Bordeaux Blanc	£8.95
Wine Society's Claret	£5.95
Chateau de la Grave 2007 Caractère Cotes de Bourg	£8.50
Chateau Pitray 2008 Cotes de Castillon	£8.50
Wine Society's Exhibition Haut Medoc 2007	£12.50
Wine Society's St Emilion 2008	£11.95
Wine Society's Exhibition Pauillac	£20.00

Recipe of the Month

Pesto Savoury Loaf

I first tried this at a tennis club tea and managed to get the recipe from the opposition whose wife was French - Cake au Pesto et Pignons de Pin.

Can be eaten on its own or with a bit of butter if you aren't on a diet. Best eaten on the same day and when still just warm.

180g flour
1 sachet yeast (~2 tsp)
3 eggs
100g grated gruyere (or strong cheddar)
3 tbs olive oil
100ml milk
1 handful pinenuts
150g pesto
1 pinch salt
Pepper

1. Preheat oven to 180C
2. Mix yeast with flour in a dish
3. In another dish, beat together the milk, eggs, oil salt and pepper
4. Fold this mixture into the flour
5. Add gruyere, pesto and pinenuts
6. Pour into a greased and floured dish
7. Cook for about 50 mins - the blade of a knife should come out dry

Untested suggestion: would probably be better if used cream rather than milk.

Sarah



Upton 50 Club Winners

£20 Mrs C Jones (174)
£20 Mr Burrows (31)
£10 Mr Bucknell (130)
£7 Mrs Wiley (115)
£5 Mr Betts (159)
£4 Mrs C Davies (106)

January 2012

£10 Mr Durbin (167)
£7 Mrs A Brown (104)
£5 Mrs Fox (165)
£4 Mrs Murphy

February 2012

£10 Mrs Maunsell (88)
£7 Mr G Davies (33)
£5 Mr Bucknell (55)
£4 Mr Eighteen (97)

Thanks to Diane Rabbetts & Derek Vokins for the sponsorship and printing of this edition of Upton News.

Guy Napper

While to many in Upton, Guy was somewhat of an unknown quantity preferring to keep himself to himself to many others he was an amazing and colourful character. As a teenager growing up in Wallingford, I first remember Guy when he would visit my father-in-law, Maurice Johnstone at Reynolds & Johnstone's and enquire about the latest cameras. This from a man who probably never took a picture in his life!

Guy was fascinated in gadgets and things that caught his eye. As we have all had the task of sorting out things after his death, someone referred to him as an "eclectic" collector. This was true - while he did have some mainstream areas of things he collected he also bought (and never sold) things that caught his eye. "Why did you buy that?" my mother would ask him - only to receive the standard answer "because I liked it!"

While one cannot in a few words capture the 94 years of a very unique character we can remember how - when England adopted the metric system he went into the timber store only to be told that they now sold wood in metres not feet and inches. "Look" he said "this is England and if you want to sell me



timber you sell it to me in yards, feet and inches and none of those **** French measurements."

Such was his deep down pride and love of the country he was born, grew up and died in.

Or the story of how, on the way back from Torquay in his Ford Capri 3000 (referred to lovingly as Princess) he sped past a police car who

then gave chase. Guy, not to be outdone, out-drove the police car and quickly pulled into a lay-by, letting the air out of one of his tyres. When the police arrive the speeding was quickly forgotten as "...he had a flat tyre and was having trouble controlling the vehicle" at which the police officer, rather than issue a ticket helped Guy change his tyre. A quick thinker and crafty as well!

In short Guy was a unique character who lived his life "my way". A person he should probably have never been, a farmer, he nevertheless developed a deep love of the country, while at the same time in following what he wanted to do rather than worrying too much about what those around him thought. We are richer for having known him, saddened at the loss but celebrate his life.

Nick. A. Shepherd