

Upton News



Vol 4 No.8 April 2012

We have had some glorious spring weather and all the bulbs and flowers are coming to life. However we have some snow forecast for this week, so let's hope it manages to miss us out. Probably of more concern is that our streams in the village have been dry for some time and the hosepipe ban is upon us. However I see that Thames Water is one of the worst water companies for the amount of water wasted due to leakages.

The children are breaking up for Easter and will want to be getting out and about and no doubt looking forward to an Easter Egg hunt and lot of chocolate eggs on Sunday.

We have had some generous offers of sponsorship from residents towards printing *Upton News*, which is good news. We are looking into the possibility of purchasing a printer. This is the easy part, the expensive bit is buying the ongoing consumables.

Happy Easter to everyone,

Sarah

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 May edition is 20th April.

Plant Sale

21st April

Didcot & District Twinning Association is holding a Plant Sale on April 21st from 10.30 until noon at Lime Tree House, High St, Harwell. Entrance £3 to include coffee and cake. A range of interesting and unusual perennials will be on sale.

For more information please contact Sue Totterdale at

totterdells@btinternet.com

Coffee Morning

28th April

There will be a Coffee Morning in aid of the Children's Society at Prospect House (by kind invitation of Simon & Hilary Powell) from 10.30 - 12.00 noon.

Home made cakes, raffle, bring & buy stall.

Donations of cakes would be appreciated.

More information from Hilary 850268 or Clare 850486.

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Broadband Update

The Upton FTTC cabinet has now gone live, so Upton and West Hagbourne residents with line speeds of 15 Mb/s or more should now be able to order an Infinity service from BT or other providers. For those with line speeds below that threshold, some of these alternative providers may still be able to offer Infinity-equivalent services. There may also be a new level of service somewhere between Infinity and what we have now, but as yet I haven't been able to find any concrete examples of this. If anyone has more information on this, please let me know. To get an idea of your likely line speed, use the BT Broadband Checker.

As a point of interest, I have also heard from someone served by the first Blewbury cabinet that a BT engineer will be calling on Thursday to enable Infinity at their house. Any advance on Thursday from anyone?

Please keep me informed of successes (or otherwise) in getting individual Infinity services up and running, so we can get a picture of how things are progressing across the exchange area.

Chris Whatmore (Blewbury)



New BT Infinity faceplate

Advance Notice

Jumbo Jumble Sale

Saturday 26th May, 2.00 - 4.00pm
Village Hall

Jumble Galore, Teas etc. etc.
in aid of improvements to the hall.
Donations of jumble can be brought
to the hall on the morning.

For more info call Jessie - 851206.

Jubilee Weekend

2 & 3 June

You will be aware from the email or flyer recently that we are celebrating the Queen's Jubilee on 2nd & 3rd June in the village. Preparations are taking place and there will be a flower festival in St Mary's church on Saturday 3rd June with teas being served in the afternoon. Please bring your friends, all welcome. If you would like to make a donation towards the flowers in memory of someone you loved, please contact Jessie on 851206.

On Sunday 3rd from 12.30 onwards there will be a bring and share BBQ open to all the village. Come dressed in red, white & blue. Lots of fun activities are planned for all ages including teddy bears picnic, fun dog event and much more.

Dates for your diary

Thu 5 Apr	Commencement of hosepipe ban
Sun 8 Apr	Easter Day - Egg Rolling, Chalk Pits, Blewbury
Wed 11 Apr	Food, Green & Brown bin collection
Wed 18 Apr	Upton Wine Club 8pm – Austrian & German Wines
Sat 21 Apr	Plant sale, Harwell
Wed 25 Apr	WI – The Mystery of Agatha Christie, Vale Room
Sat 28 Apr	Coffee Morning, Prospect House 10.30am
Sat 26 May	Jumble Sale 2pm (contact Jessie 851206 if you have jumble)
Sat 2 Jun	Flower Festival St Mary's Church, Teas in the afternoon
Sun 3 Jun	Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, 12.30 onwards Rec Ground (Red White & Blue theme)
Sat 16 Jun	Uptonogood Bike Ride

Spring Line Methodist Church

Services for April 2012

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

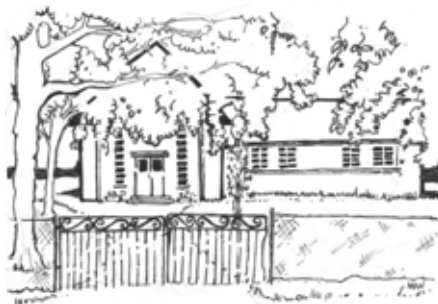
Date Preacher

8th Michael Howlett
(Easter Sunday)

15th Peter Hemmings

22nd Rev. Dr. David Rankin
(Holy Communion)

29th Stephen Atkinson



The members of the Spring Line Methodist Church would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter.

St Mary's Services

8th April 9am EASTER DAY — SUNG EUCHARIST

15th April 9am Sung Eucharist

22nd April 9am Sung Eucharist, followed by discussion and refreshments

29th April 9am Sung Eucharist

6th May 9am Sung Eucharist, followed by refreshments

Weekday Services:

each Tuesday morning at 10am - Said Eucharist; 5.30pm Evening Prayer

Rectors Reflections — Is God trustworthy?

A question for you: do you find it easy to trust God? Many, perhaps most of us, find this hard to do. Sometimes it's because of an experience in our own lives- we've been let down by someone, and been badly hurt. Sometimes we find it hard to trust God because we've prayed about something, and prayed hard for God to deal with it in a particular way, but nothing has happened.

Perhaps the hardest test of all comes when we look at the question of death. Can we trust God that somehow there might be something good the other side of death? Can we trust that God's goodness and love are strong enough to take death in their stride?

These are questions which Jesus had to face. Now Jesus knew the official answer to this question- the official answer was given in that part of the Bible which we call the Old Testament. The official answer stated that God was loving, merciful, forgiving, all powerful and completely trustworthy. The official answer was true- but official answers don't necessarily satisfy us.

When Jesus was being crucified, he cried out " My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?". Shortly before he was arrested, he prayed that God would take away this time of suffering. Jesus, as a human being, was finding it hard to trust God.

Jesus died an agonising death, and was buried. And that was that - or so it seemed. But on the third day, God raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus returned to life. He spoke, and ate, and was seen by many witnesses for a period of some forty days. God had indeed proved faithful. God had not abandoned Jesus, but had raised him from the dead.

Easter is, above all, a celebration of the trustworthiness of God. It says that yes, even in the face of death, we can trust God. This does not mean that God waives some magic wand and the reality of pain, suffering and death cease to exist. God is not a magician. But what it does mean is that we can face the pain and suffering which is our lot with hope.

Fr Jason

Upton Village Theatre Group

We went to see *Yes Prime Minister* in March. Many of us remember fondly the original " *Yes, Minister*" on the television in the seventies and we were not to be disappointed by the new " *Yes, Prime Minister*" .

The play is bang up to date as we are immersed in the governing world of financial crisis, the global warming debate, the baffling European Union, the politics of oil and the instability of countries whose names end in "-stan". The blackberry has replaced the telephone; the civil service messenger is the prime means of communication and the fear of the *Daily Mail* is greater than the fear of the Parliamentary Opposition.

The same magic exists as we laugh at the behaviour of individuals, are dazzled by the language in the soliloquies of Humphrey, and to cap it all there lurks an ever present sense of the absurd. At one point I had tears of laughter running down my cheeks.

Jim Hacker (Prime Minister) was ably portrayed by Graham Seed (Nigel



Pargetter of *The Archers* fame). A Prime Minister may to the public appear supremely powerful but he does not always feel that way. He does not have many troops supporting him against Sir Humphrey's mighty legions in Whitehall. On the surface he is blundering, vain, self-serving and self-publicising, but he is not always a fool, being crafty and a worthy opponent of Sir Humphrey. Above all he is touchingly human.

If you enjoyed the television series then there is no doubt that you will enjoy this production. A thoroughly entertaining evening.

Ann and Nick Parham

Uptonogood?

Saturday 16th June

Will you be Uptonogood this year?

The format will be the same, with four rides from 5 to 45 miles and "entertainment" on the recreation field afterwards.

Last year's volunteering efforts enabled us to donate £3,000 to the new play area project. This in turn enabled the project organizers to win a whopping £47,000 grant from WREN! Work on this new playground should start very soon. £1000 was also raised for our Primary School in Blewbury and additional donations made to Didcot Air Cadets and the Methodist Hall.

This year we hope to support Blewbury School with their efforts to build a new classroom for Year 7 and replace the ageing Portakabin currently used. We have also undertaken to contribute towards the printing costs of the *Upton News* on a permanent basis and hope that this will secure the village's printed edition in all its full colour glory! We will also seek to contribute funds to both the Village and Methodist halls to help with their upkeep and if possible develop the popular bike humps into a more formal circuit.

As with previous years we'll need a significant number of volunteers to pull the event off safely. If you would like to help out with Marshalling or in some other capacity, please contact Bob Lott (851222) or Mike Tibbetts (851474) or email info@uptonogood.org.uk.

Bob Lott

Recipe of the Month

These are mini fairy cakes so they are a nice size for children. They are easy and so quick to make, too. Children can decorate them any way they like. Feel free to use whatever type of chocolate you prefer.



Serves: 18

For the fairy cakes:

140g self-raising flour

120g butter, softened

85g caster sugar

2 eggs

2 tbsp cocoa powder

For the icing:

100g milk or dark chocolate, melted

120g butter, softened

120g icing sugar

For decorating:

Large bag of mini eggs

Preparation method

Prep: 10 mins | Cook: 10 mins

1. Preheat the oven to 190C (gas mark 5). Line 3 mini muffin tins with colourful paper cases.
2. Weigh out the flour into a large bowl and add the remaining ingredients. Mix with an electric hand-beater until smooth.
3. Spoon the mixture into the paper cases, filling them 3/4 full. Bake

for 10 -12 minutes, or until the sponge mixture feels firm when you touch it. Remove from the oven and cool.

4. To make the chocolate icing: mix the softened butter and sugar together with an electric beater, then add the melted chocolate. Be careful not to over beat it.
5. Spread on top of each fairy cake and decorate with 2 or 3 mini chocolate eggs.

April

April is the start of the Cricket season and in 2011 it was our Summer!

However, we may well have frosts to come. The adage here is "frost hurts no weeds", however, dandelions and stinging nettles were classed as food and not weeds when this adage was penned. The American philosopher RW Emerson defined a weed as a plant whose virtues haven't yet been discovered.

For the saying "April showers bring forth May flowers" we must await the showers and we seem to be very short of rain so far this year. An old folk lore was if Michaelmas was dry -

spring would be dry as well. So far the folklores are holding true. One I have found to be moderately accurate (1 in 3) is "Ash before oak - in for a soak, but oak before ash- in for a splash".

The moon for March was the Sap Moon/Storm Moon and for April the new moon is on 21 April and it is the Egg Moon/Growing Moon.

The month of April will hopefully see the April showers. The rainbow should be a feature. A point to remember is that the centre of the rainbow circle is the same distance below the horizon as the sun is above. So if the sun is low, you see more of the rainbow.

If you want to encourage a storm, throw water on hot stones. (No I haven't tried that one).

The rooks are also worth watching and country folk will know that the rooks build nests low for a wet summer. To distinguish between rooks and crows, if you see one, it's a crow if you see lots, they are rooks. If you see a raven, you are in the Tower of London! On a more serious note, a raven is a much larger bird than a crow.

Austin Maytham

Carrion Crow



Rook



Upton Parish Council - Planning Applications

Planning

11/02791/FUL Torpids: proposed erection of 2 bay car port, proposed widening of existing access. The Vale's decision is awaited.

11/02900/FUL Littlecote: the proposed erection of single and two story extensions, erection of garage and car port with home office/gym over, has been permitted.

11/02491/COU Wattle Cottage Farm: change of use from agricultural to recreational land for equine purposes. Commercial livery yard and ancillary buildings. The Vale's decision is awaited.

11/02936/FUL Upton Lodge: extension and refurbishment of existing garage. Permission has been granted.

12/00180/OUT Maslina Reading Road: Outline application for demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 3 dwellings. The Vale's decision is awaited.

12/00271/FUL 2 Church Street Cottages: proposed oak framed single storey orangery. The Vale's decision is awaited

11/02454/FUL Stream Cottage: proposed inclusion of scrub land as part of the dwelling's amenity. Vale's decision is awaited.

12/00331/FUL Shearbarn Cottage: - proposed alterations and extensions. Demolition of existing garage and construction of new garage building with home office. Vale's decision is awaited.

Update on Interim Housing Supply Policy (IHSP)

District Councillor Shelley reported that the Vale had received 174 responses, of which one related to Upton. She said that because of the great response the Green Belt and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) will be excluded from the process. Screenings will be evaluated on sustainability, affordability and accessibility. The Vale is requesting comment from the Parish Council by 20th April.

The following have also been submitted to the Vale of White Horse

P12/V0683 Inghams Farm Reading Road: Erection of a farm workshop.

P12/V0759 Alden Farm: Conversion of former milking parlour and redundant farm building into stables and groom accommodation.

P12/V0645/ZZZ: Hedgewell High Street: Extensions and alterations to create a two storey dwelling with rendered walls.

11/00537/FUL Sine Nomine Church Street: Request for compliance with Condition 2 of Planning Permission