

# Upton News



Vol 4 No.9 May 2012

We have had a very variable April with a hosepipe ban and concurrently more rain than we have had for a long time. However, this still needs to impact the water table. I note that the West Hagbourne pond has at last got some water in it (along with the Dragon Crime scene, wonder if they have found Nessie?). It has not been a good time for gardening and the rain is making all the weeds grow prolifically. There are plans being made for village activities such as the Golden Jubilee BBQ and Uptonogood. Something for all the village. Do hope you can join in.  
*Sarah*

## Inside this issue...

- Methodist Church Closure
- Taekwon-Do Champion
- UptoNordic Walking

Submissions for Upton News should be sent to the Editor, Sarah Sayers, at [news@uptonvillage.co.uk](mailto:news@uptonvillage.co.uk) or to Orchard Lodge, High Street, Upton OX11 9JE. Tel 01235 851450. Deadline for the June edition is 20th May.

## Bill Noble

4.9.18 - 6.4.12

Sadly, Bill died on Good Friday after suffering a lengthy illness. Those of you who have lived in Upton for some time would have met him as he walked his two Yorkies round the village. His shoes were always shining, a cravat tied jauntily at his neck and a smile and a greeting for anyone he met. A man of his time, a true gentleman. We will remember him as a dear friend.

God Bless you Bill.

*Bunnie Sands*  
(formerly of Cornerways,  
now living in Chesham)

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## *In Brief*

### UVHAT Jumbo Jumble Sale

Saturday 25 May, 2 - 4.30pm

(Jumble can be brought to the hall on Friday evening between 6.00pm & 7.30pm)

### UVHAT Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 29 May, 7.30pm

Village Hall

### Pimms & Paté Lunch

Sunday 5 August

Contact Celia Davies 850684/  
Margaret Maytham 850126, funds raised in aid of Village Hall improvements.

## Dates for your diary

Thu 10 May	Drop In, 10.30am VH
Wed 16 May	Wine Club, 8pm VH
Tue 22 May	Parish Council Meeting, 8pm VH
Thu 24 May	Drop In, 10.30am VH
Sat 26 May	Jumble Sale, 2pm VH
Sun 27 May	Uptonordic walking
Tue 29 May	Village Hall AGM, 7.30pm VH
Sat 2 Jun	Church Flower festival & teas served 2- 4pm
Sun 3 Jun	Queens Diamond Jubilee, 12.30 onwards Rec Ground
Mon 4 Jun	Uptonordic Walking
Sat 16 Jun	Uptonogood Bike Ride

## Parish Council News

### Note from the Clerk

The Parish Council meets every two months. In between our regular meetings we have to arrange ad hoc extraordinary meetings in order to discuss planning applications. Our response to planning applications has to be made within two weeks of receipt. A notice is always posted on the main village noticeboard by the bus shelter and generally the applicant and neighbours are notified. It is not always possible to post a notice on the web due to time constraints. Please keep an eye on the noticeboard.

The following planning applications have been discussed at recent extraordinary Parish Council meetings:

P12/V0759 - conversion of former milking parlour and redundant farm building into stables and groom's accommodation. Applicant Mr H Bucknell. The PC had no objection to this application.

P12/V0566: proposal for temporary planning application for mobile home at Sine Nominee (to be on site for 6 months). Applicant Mrs K Fletcher. The PC had no objection to this application.

P12/V0682 - erection of an agricultural building for the storage of hay and straw at Inghams Farm, West Hagbourne. An extraordinary PC meeting is being held on Tuesday 1st May to discuss this application.

*Clare Lightfoot*

## Village Produce Association

I am happy to report that I wore my shorts out in the garden, along with the sun cream and the gin, marvellous! The baby blackbirds have fledged, and I hope that a second lot will appear later on. I have dug over the veg plot, weeded the borders and I have lots of seedlings in trays and pots. As I write, the rain is coming down and watering everything in nicely, and I'm installing new water butts and guttering now that we have a hose pipe ban.

Happy Gardening,

*Karen Brooks*

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## Children's Society — Thank You

We would like to say thank you to everyone who supported the Children's Society coffee morning on Saturday 28th April. Special thanks to Hilary and Simon Powell for being our hosts. The log fires were a welcome sight on such a miserable wet morning. A total of £468.55 was raised, a wonderful result.

If you were unable to attend but would like to make a donation to this worthy cause please feel free to drop an envelope through my letterbox (Newmans Close) and this will be forwarded to the charity.

Thank you.

*Clare Lightfoot 850486*

## Upton's Carl Davis

*World Champion International  
Taekwon-Do*



The competition was held at the Oasis centre in Swindon on the 1 April. 15 countries entered and the total number of competitors was well in region of 300. Carl won a total of 5 fights against a very high standard of opponents from a number of countries. As you can imagine, he is, as am I, very proud of his latest achievement as it has to be the highlight of his life so far. You can watch some of Carl's fights on Youtube: [carldavis TaeKwonDo](#).

He also teaches at Wantage on Saturday mornings and Tuesday nights and at Henley on Wednesday nights and he is hoping to start a kid's class in Upton very soon . If you need more information about classes please get in touch with Carl at 07846 475422 or email

[vale@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:vale@hotmail.co.uk)

*Neil Davis*

## ***Blewbury School Ofsted visit***

On 6 March, with only two days' notice, the inspectors arrived to complete a full inspection of the school. The picture of the school the inspectors formed is best reflected in their own words:

*“This is a good school because pupils, including those who are disabled or have special educational needs, achieve well and make good progress.”*

*“Teachers typically have high expectations even for younger pupils, who are expected to work and move to different tasks independently.”*

*“Teachers know the needs of pupils well because of good assessment and the effective tracking of pupils.”*

The inspectors were clearly impressed by the themed approach the school uses when delivering the curriculum, as well as the international links and the wide range of extra curricular activities available.

Ms Mills (Headmistress) and her staff clearly walk the knife edge of making the school rigorous in its pursuit of academic success whilst providing a broad experience in a happy environment. To do this takes huge commitment, skill and endless energy, for which I thank them all.

*Thomas Laugharne* (Governor)



## **May**



April showers bring forth May flowers. Good - we've had the showers (I am not sure if they are going to stop though).

May is a mixed bag - the last of the spring months, and sometimes confused with summer, when it presents itself as warm. The thunderstorms we had in April should have put an end to the hoar frosts, though it can still be cold. May can occasionally bring a morning hoar frost, which is basically frozen dew or wet condensing air.

The adage 'Never cast a clout (warm clothing) 'til May be out' refers to the flower, not the month. It meant don't get rid of the liberty bodice and goose fat until June. I understand that "Clout", or clowt, or cloat, or clute is an old word for clothing.

May is also associated with the May flower, hawthorn, and is a symbol of luck, but should NOT be taken into the house, as that's bad luck. As the herald of summer, May is to be enjoyed as much for the spring flowers, as the hope of produce later in the year.

*Austin Maytham*

# Closure of the Spring Line Methodist Church

**Worship will end at both Blewbury and Upton Methodist Churches Easter 2013.**

It may seem very early to make this decision public, but closure of a church takes a long time. This decision was taken by the Spring Line members at their February Church Council Meeting, and was approved by the Methodist Circuit (South Oxfordshire group of Methodist churches) meeting in mid-March, so it is now official. As you can imagine this has not been an easy decision and there are many heavy hearts. We are very clear, however, that sometimes being faithful means moving on and what has served well in the past is not necessarily right in the present.

There are two reasons for making the decision to close both churches: the number of regular worshippers at our Upton Centre is low, and in spite of support from the Community the Spring Line Church is not financially viable and we would need to ask for financial support from the Methodist Church if we carry on beyond spring 2013, and this did not seem right, so

we have decided to move on and to support other churches. The next 12 months will enable us to make all the preparations we need for the change, practically, emotionally and spiritually.

We would like to thank the Community for responding to our plea for more Community Use over the last 12 months, and hope you will continue to use our buildings until the closure date. The actual process of closing the church and decisions about the future of the two buildings is undertaken by the Wantage and Abingdon Circuit, not by Spring Line Church members.

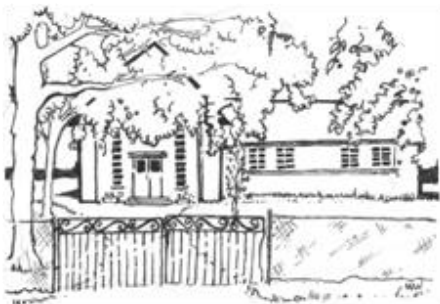
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## ***Spring Line Methodist Church***

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

6th	Terence Adams
13th	Rev. Martin Smithson (Holy Communion)
20th	Alan Fudge
27th	Brenda Boyer
27th	6.30pm Didcot Methodist Special Circuit Service

13th May is Christian Aid Sunday, an organisation that insists the world can and must be swiftly changed to one where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. Please support the collections in Didcot and surrounding areas during the following week.



# Rectors Reflections

## *Eight Flying Elephants*

Yes, you have read the title correctly - eight flying elephants! I met them the other day. They're in Wickham church, a few miles from Newbury. I popped in to have a look around, and there they were - suspended from the roof beams in the north aisle. In case you were wondering, they're made from papier maché. The story goes that a Victorian gentleman saw 4 of them at an Exhibition in Paris, and thought they would look rather good adorning the roof of Wickham church. So he acquired them, ordered 4 more, and there they have remained ever since.

I wonder when you last experienced a surprise? The world is actually full of surprises, but often we close our eyes and our minds to the possibility of the totally unexpected. We tend to want to live our lives according to our own agenda, our own set plans. "Being religious" is a lot about allowing God to surprise us with new glimpses of His love, His joy, and His peace. We might well value a particular religious routine - perhaps saying prayers in a particular way or going to a particular sort of church service. But this religious routine can sometimes get in the way of being open to the good surprises which God has in store for us in our lives. We need to season the routine with the unexpected.

Many good and holy people looked at Jesus and felt that his life and teaching was a surprise too far - they had their religious routine, and

they preferred to stay with what they knew. But there was an even greater surprise in store - Jesus' coming back to life after he had been killed on the Cross. To think that God could actually bring back to a life a man who had died - why, that would be like thinking that you could wander into a little church in Berkshire and see elephants flying in the roof!

Jesus challenged assumptions, and especially the assumptions of religious people. It is the same today. Jesus continues to challenge our assumptions, to encourage our minds to be open to what God, in His great love and goodness, might have in store for us and our world. I wonder what good thing God has in store for us in the weeks and months that lie ahead?

*Fr Jason*

## *St Mary's Church*

6 May            0900    Sung Eucharist,  
followed by refreshments  
13 May           0900    Sung Eucharist  
20 May           1000    Family Service -  
followed by refreshments  
27 May           0900    Sung Eucharist -  
followed by discussion group, with  
refreshments  
2 Jun (Sat) 6pm    Evensong in  
celebration of the Queen's Diamond  
Jubilee  
3 Jun            0900    Sung Eucharist  
Weekday services:  
Tuesdays    0930    Morning Prayer  
                  1000    Said Communion  
                  1800    A short time of  
quiet contemplative prayer

## WI

We have another busy month ahead of us, there is sure to be something for everyone. The AGM resolutions are something we discuss and vote on before the national AGM at the Royal Albert Hall later this year. Are we going to support and campaign for more funding for midwives and midwifery services? Come and listen to the arguments for and against. Past resolutions have had major coverage in the media, honey bees a few years ago and libraries last year! For more details, or to join the Mah

Jong or Scrabble group, or if you wish to join us, please ring Judy on 850381. Future plans include Bletchley Park, Ben Hur at the Watermill, a concert in Birmingham, a WI archive exhibition in Benson, an outing to Kelmscott, and a trip to Tewksbury, come and join us.

We thank Mick Moore very much for making us a new pole and finial for our WI banner.

*Karen Brooks*

### May calendar

- 1st 9.30 am at the village hall for a walk around the Checkendon area, we will organise cars, please bring money for lunch/coffee - all welcome
- 2nd 1.30pm at the village hall for a garden visit to Woolstone, £4 entrance, and teas available, car rota on arrival, all welcome.
- 8th 10.30 Coffee at Style Acre Tearooms
- 10th Scrabble
- 11th RAL lecture "An Astronaut in Space"
- 21st Trip to Avebury Manor & henge
- 23rd 7.30 AGM resolutions & History of Blewbury with Audrey Long, at the Chapel
- 24th Thoroughly Modern Millie at the New Theatre.

### ***Fibre Broadband – worth the wait***

As promised, Upton's fibre broadband went live in April, and a number of residents have already upgraded. The process, involving a visit from a BT engineer who installs a new faceplate and modem, is straightforward.

Typical download speeds of 37Mbps

have been experienced from Beeching Close to the High Street, so much of the village should expect similar results.

Many thanks to everyone who took part in the BT Infinity competition and in so doing made this possible.

*Brian Rippon*



## ***H M The Queen – Diamond Jubilee Celebrations***

**Saturday 2nd June** - Flower Festival in St Mary's Church Upton (All Day)  
Donations towards the flowers or in memory of a loved one, or a homemade cake would be gratefully received by Jessie West Tel: 851206. Bring your friends and come and enjoy tea and homemade cakes 2-4pm. No charge, but a donation to the Air Ambulance gratefully received.

**Sunday 3rd June** - Big Jubilee Bring & Share BBQ - Village Hall/ Recreation Ground 12.30 onwards  
Please bring your family and friends, enter into the theme and come wearing a crown and dressed in red, white & blue, to join us for a fun community inspired bring & share BBQ Lunch with afternoon entertainment and games for all ages including:

- BBQs & Coals provided for both Meat & Vegetarian options - communal BBQs lit at 12.30pm. Tables & Chairs available
- Teddy Bears Picnic - Prize for most Regal Teddy
- Fun Dog Show - please bring your dog on a lead to join in the fun (Contact Gloria Smith for more details Tel: 850683)
- Televised Queen's Flotilla on the Thames available for viewing throughout the afternoon
- Loyal Toast to the Queen Champagne provided, but please bring your own glass
- Family Tug of War

- Children's & Adult traditional races with prizes
- Teas & Union Jack Cupcakes available
- Family Rounders
- Traditional Sing Song Finale kindly led by talented residents Sarah Tennant-Flowers & Graham de Wilde

Please bring BBQ and other food to share, cutlery, crockery, glasses and drinks.

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## **Upton Nordic Walking**

### **Nordic Walking - What is it?**

It is a sociable way to get fit and lose weight without putting any strain on your joints and knees and for a very modest outlay. For more information on its history and what's involved go to

[www.uk-nordic-walking.com](http://www.uk-nordic-walking.com).

Duncan Reid and I have now completed our training as Nordic Walk leaders and are ready to start a programme of walks centred on Upton. Initially these will be once a month for 2 hours on a Sunday morning but we hope to be able to increase these depending on the level of interest and possibly turn it into a club. We have planned walks for 27th May and 24th June. In addition to these there are weekly walks at other centres around the county available to anyone who has completed the competence training course, but unlike Upton, some of these involve a charge. As we are covered for insurance purposes by



SODC we are only allowed to take people who have completed a competence course and there are two courses available in the near future:

**Goring** - a 4 week course starting with a 45 minute taster Tuesday 1st May followed by 2 two hour training sessions and two actual walks.

To book contact Alison Crowe on 01189 842623 or Jo Lowe on 01491 680499

[www.go-nordic.co.uk](http://www.go-nordic.co.uk)

**Ewelme** - a 2 week course of on Sundays 13th and 20th May of two hours each.

To book contact Hendriette Thorn on 01491 823175 or by e-mail to [Hendriette.Thorn@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:Hendriette.Thorn@southandvale.gov.uk)

If you are interested and/or have any queries please feel free to contact me on 01235 850989.

*Mike Collins*

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## ***Cornerstone Didcot***

Cornerstone, as you may already know, has a fantastic array of facilities: an auditorium for theatre, shows, gigs and performances, a visual arts gallery, a welcoming cafe/bar and a dance studio, plus high quality multi-purpose spaces used for our own programme of classes and workshops - also available to hire for conferences, meetings, classes and children's parties.



### **June**

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| Fri 1  | Conservatoire Folk Ensemble Folk Music 8pm                                  |
| Sun 3  | Children's Prom: Musical Olympics Children's Music 2pm                      |
| Thu 7  | Release Theatre 7.30pm  |
| Fri 8  | The Diamond Jubilee Show Big Band Music 8pm                                 |
| Sat 9  | Tea with the Old Queen Comedy Talk 8pm                                      |
| Sun 10 | Tiffin Concert Classical Music 2pm  |
| Fri 15 | Tipitina Jazz Blues Music 8pm   |
| Sat 16 | Alex Horne Stand-Up Comedy 8pm  |
| Sun 17 | Story Tour of Cornerstone Children's Stories 11am & 2pm                     |
| Sun 17 | A Feast of Midsummer! Stories and Supper 7pm                                |
| Thu 21 | Birmingham Conservatoire Choral Ensemble Classical Music 11am, 2pm & 7.30pm |
| Sat 23 | Opera della Luna Operetta 8pm   |
| Sun 24 | Cushion Concert: Oboe Children's Music 11am, 12 noon & 1.30pm               |
| Thu 28 | Cold Comfort Farm Comedy Theatre 7.30pm                                     |
| Fri 29 | Robin Ince Comedy Talk 8pm  |
| Sat 30 | Flamenco Spectacular Hiring: Dance 7pm                                      |

## **Charity Cakes**

This year at my school, we have been given the challenge to raise £50 for "Plan UK Because I am a Girl". The charity helps



give unfortunate girls around the world a better future by providing them with an education. So in order to raise my money for the charity I have decided to sell cakes. I am therefore willing to make cakes to order. Below is a selection of cakes that I am able to bake, together with a suggested donation:

- Victoria Sandwich (fresh cream optional) £4.00
- Chocolate Fudge Cake £4.00
- Lemon Drizzle Cake £4.00
- Madeira Cake £4.00
- 12 cupcakes, plain or chocolate, with a topping of your choice £3.00

If you would like freshly baked cakes delivered to your door, please contact me on the number below or send me an email:

Home number: 01235 851555

My email: [sophie.morgan1@me.com](mailto:sophie.morgan1@me.com)

All proceeds will go to "Plan UK Because I am a Girl", Charity No. 276035.

If you would like to find out more about this charity, you can visit their website: [www.plan-uk.org](http://www.plan-uk.org)

*Sophie Morgan*

## **Stop Press**

### **Kenneth Grahame Blue Plaque**

The Oxfordshire Blue Plaques Board will unveil a plaque commemorating Kenneth Grahame on Friday 25th May.

The ceremony will begin at 11.00 am with speeches at Blewbury Primary School followed by the unveiling at Boham's House, Westbrook Street, at about 11.30. All welcome to attend.

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### **Recipe for Homemade Pimms**

With summer coming you might like to try this homemade version. Scale up according to the number you want to serve:

- 1 measure of Gin
  - 1 measure of Red Vermouth (not white)
  - 1 measure of Orange Curacao
- Garnish with chopped fruit, mint and ice.
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### **Children's Joke Corner**

Q: What does a cloud wear under his raincoat?

A: Thunderwear

Q: Why did the woman go outside when it was raining with her purse open?

A: She was expecting some change in the weather