

Upton News



Vol 4 No.2 September 2011

Thanks to everyone who fed back comments on the 'new look' Upton News, which were very positive, credit goes to Brian Rippon for the professional layout. Also, thanks to all those who have signed up to receive an electronic version. If you have access to a computer and haven't done so, please help us out by going to www.uptonvillage.co.uk/upton-news/ and entering your email address in the subscribe box, as we will not be able to enhance the publication and print off colour copies without some form of funding or sponsorship. Just to reassure you, a paper copy will still be available to anyone who requests it, but please confirm this by telephoning me on 851450 with your name and address. So far only 3 people have requested a paper copy. Whilst the many delivery volunteers are not yet redundant, their load should lighten over time and a special thanks should go to them on behalf of us all: Edwin & Barbara Abbott - High Street, Maggie & Austin Maytham - Church Street, Clare Lightfoot - Newman's Close, lower Church street & lower Fieldside, Lindsey Lott - Fieldside, Cath Brown - upper Upton, London Road, Station Road, Celia Davies - Prospect Road, Jessie West - Stream Road & Pound Lane and June Churchman who delivered until breaking her ankle last Christmas. We have some interesting

contributions this month and I welcome your feedback and input for future months. This is your publication, so do send in anything you would like included to news@uptonvillage.co.uk and we can also publish fuller versions on the Upton web site.

August and the summer holidays seem to have flown by and the children are going back to school and university imminently. We hope that September brings us a little more sunshine, even with the shorter days upon us.

Sarah

Correspondence from an appreciative former Upton resident:

Dear Jessie

I must not leave it a day later, to thank you so very much for sending the Upton News so regularly. I read it with great pleasure and am very interested to know what is happening these days, we seldom get to Upton now because of our ages, but when the Upton news arrives, I read it as quickly as possible. With many thanks and happy memories of Upton.

Yours, Gwen Mower (90 years old now living in Hoddesdon)

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St Mary's Church

ST MARY'S FETE

Saturday 3 September, 2pm
Recreation Ground

Kineton Quackers (sheepdogs & ducks), Blewbury Band, Tug of War, The Goucho demonstrating his lassoing skills, Face Painting, Cakes, Preserves, Books, White Elephant, Plants & Produce, Toys, Teas, Raffle, Tombola, Games, Fun Dog Show (enter on the day, schedule available from Clare)

Donations for the stalls would be very welcome. Drop off points:
Books - Derek & Charmian, Pippins, Fieldside, 850163, Tombola prizes - Clare, Thimbles, Newman's Close, 85048, Children's tombola prizes - Karen, Fernwood, High St, 851072, Cakes - Giulia, Autumn Leaves, High St, 850158, scones, small cakes, tray bakes for teas - bring to the hall on the morning please - the more the merrier!!!!

White Elephant and other donations can be brought to the hall on Friday 2nd September from 5.30-7.00pm or on Fete day from 10.00am. For further information contact Jessie 851206 or Clare 850486.

Upton 50s' Club

Winners for July 2011

- £10 Mrs Scarborough
- £7 Mr Bucknell
- £5 Mr Maytham
- £4 Mrs Amos

September Service Times

Sunday 4th 9am
Sung Eucharist, followed by refreshments

Sunday 11th 9am
Sung Eucharist

Sunday 18th 10am
HARVEST FESTIVAL Family Service followed by refreshments.

Gifts of fresh fruit and vegetables, packets and tins of food, will be most welcome and will be given to the 'Oxford Homeless Pathways' which is an Oxford based charity focusing on emergency accommodation and day services and resettlement for homeless people.

Saturday 24th 9am
"Christ in Quiet" a short time for quiet reflection. All welcome.

Sunday 25th 9am
Sung Eucharist

Saturday 10th
Historic Churches Ride & Stride:
Be sponsored to cycle or walk to as many churches during the day. Sponsorship is split between a church of your choice and the Historic Churches Trust which gives financial support to churches in need of maintenance. John Acton (Sunnybank) is participating to raise money for St Mary's Upton and if you would like to sponsor him, go to <http://www.justgiving.com/john-acton>
We would be pleased to hear from volunteers to sit in our church for an hour as welcomers. Please let Clare know if you can help with this on 850486.

Rector's Reflections

A Visit to a Mill

Have you been able to get away at all for a break over the summer? I was lucky enough to be able to get away for a week, which I spent staying with my family on Jersey. It was an opportunity to walk on the cliffs, and visit various attractions. I particularly enjoyed a visit to an old water mill, Le Moulin de Quetivel, which has been lovingly restored by the National Trust for Jersey. It was fascinating walking around the C18th buildings, seeing all the machinery, and hearing the sound of the mill wheel as it revolved in its pit. There were wheels, and shafts, and hoists, and gantries- a feast of engineering. It was, in itself, a work of art. But it was a work of art with a purpose: the milling of flour from wheat.

I have always found the world of engineering fascinating. There is the challenge of figuring out how a particular piece of machinery actually works, and why something is designed as it is. And then there is the challenge of working out a solution to a new problem, or working out a different way of doing something, which might be simpler or use less energy. It will probably come as no surprise to learn that as a boy my favourite toy was Lego! Perhaps you too were a Lego child, or perhaps it was Meccano.

The joys and challenges of engineering give us a bit of an insight into what it must be like to be God. Engineers work with given materials with the aim of producing

a desired result.

God also works with given materials - us human beings. God is working with us and through us, to transform us, and our world, for the better.



I wonder how this work of transformation is going in our own lives? Are we allowing God to change us and our world for the better? What might be getting in the way of God's purposes?

And then there's the question of output. God is putting a huge amount of effort into our lives, lavishing upon us his love and care. But to what result? A mill has a purpose: it is designed and operated to turn wheat into flour. Our lives have a purpose, too. God wants his love to flow through our lives in such a way that our world becomes a better place - a place where love, justice, peace, and hope abound.

I enjoyed my visit to the mill on Jersey very much. But there was something that wasn't quite right. The mill machinery was fascinating, yes. The mill wheel was duly turning, which was great. But the wheel was not connected to the rest of the machinery, as it was not a day when any milling was being done. All that effort and not an ounce of flour produced! Could much the same be said of our lives?

Fr Jason

Spring Line Methodist Church

Services start at 10.30 am and ALL will be at the Upton Centre

4 September	Local Arrangements
11 September	Geoff Caudle (Harvest Festival)
18 September	Rev. Richard Bittleston (Holy Communion)
25 September	Brenda Boyer

‘Spring Line’ - the name of the Methodist Fellowship in Blewbury and Upton - called a Special Church Council Meeting on 10th August. Although the two churches joined to become a single church, the challenge of maintaining the two Centres of Worship has fallen to fewer and fewer people. The time had come to accept that a small congregation could no longer continue to do this.

It was agreed that Spring Line would continue as a single fellowship, using only one church for its services, Upton Methodist Church. Blewbury Methodist Church would continue to serve its community as a church property in support of the fellowship for as long as this was shown to be practical. As the Church is a Charitable Trust, this will be fully reviewed by the Methodist Circuit and the Spring Line membership over the coming months. As one representative of the Blewbury community who attended the meeting as an observer offered at the end of the proceedings; “it is a testimony to the faithful witness of the congregation that Blewbury has been able to sustain itself as a

Centre of Worship for so long.” Everyone acknowledged the value of a church membership which has served its village for so many years. A special service of thanksgiving for nearly 200 years of Methodism in Blewbury is planned for later in the year at Blewbury Methodist Church, and we will also hold a Christmas Coffee Morning there.
Rev. Richard Bittleston
Minister for Spring Line

Please continue to support us by using our Blewbury building for meetings, rehearsals, film shows, parties, coffee mornings, lectures etc. You can make bookings in the same way as before: ring Jo Lakeland on 01235 850490, or email jolakeland@tiscali.co.uk. This really is a case of “use it or lose it” - if the Blewbury church building is to remain as an asset for the village communities, the use must be sufficient to allow us maintain the building properly.

Please support our Ice Cream and Hot Dog stalls at St Mary’s Church Fete on Saturday 3 September.

Do you have a Septic Tank?

Village residents in Upton with septic tanks (this mainly applies to Chilton Road) should be aware that to comply with the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010, you need to register your tank with the environment agency.

Follow the link

www.uptonvillage.co.uk/septic-tanks

to find out how to do this. The following is extracted from this web page:

If your home has a septic tank or a package sewage treatment plant, then you need to register the system or have an environmental permit. If properly managed, most of these

systems do not cause problems, but if they are poorly designed, installed or managed, the discharge from them can damage the environment. Domestic wastewater can contain substances that are potentially harmful to human health and the environment. If you have already been granted permission from the Environment Agency for the discharge, then you do not need to register. You do not need to register a cesspool or cesspit, as these are sealed systems with no discharge to the environment. Registration is free. Discharges to surface waters must be registered immediately and discharges to ground should be registered before 1 January 2012.

Howden Jones in Concert

Friday 7 October, 7 for 7.30pm
Village Hall

Kate Howden and Paul Jones are singer-songwriters, based in The North West of England, who have that special magic that captivates the audience in a unique, intimate atmosphere. Their show is a family friendly mixture of songs, tunes and stories, that has the audience joining in, singing along, and laughing as they share their travelling experiences through their music and northern-tinged banter.

With powerful harmony, skilled musicianship and beautiful

arrangements, they write all their own material and between them play, guitar, mandolin, fiddle, banjo and bodhran. For more information and to hear samples of their music visit www.howdenjones.co.uk. Tickets available from Jessie West tel: 851206 £12, £10 concession, £6 Children includes buffet supper. Also coming to the Village Hall, The Oxford Theatre Company - Wednesday 14 December "*The Jungle Book*" by Neil Duffield Inspired by the Rudyard Kipling stories and on 27 February 2012, "*Some Like it Hotter*".

Thanks to Frankie Jacklin for the sponsorship and printing of this edition of Upton News.

Recipe of the month

Homemade Ice-cream – serves 6

I found this recipe in a newspaper many years ago. It is very easy to make, no fuss, deliciously creamy and does not require any churning (who has time to do that?).

However, not recommended if you are on a diet; be warned, once tried you are unlikely to go back to shop bought alternatives.

Ingredients:

- 1 pint whipping or double cream
- 1 tin of the thick condensed milk (not evaporated milk)

Method:

Lightly whip the cream.

Add the condensed milk and ensure it is mixed in well.

You can then either leave as “vanilla” or add a flavouring of your choice, such as Maltesers, chopped up Crunchie, chocolate chips, nuts



and raisins (pre soaked), coffee... Put into a loaf tin or plastic box and freeze. Take out of the freezer a few minutes prior to serving. It is unlikely there will be any left over! Can be served with a fruit purée, chocolate sauce or to accompany something such as a fruit crumble.

If you have a favourite recipe you would like to share, just drop us a line news@uptonvillage.co.uk. Maybe a savoury one for next month.? A photo is appreciated, so that we know how it should look! Ed

Welcome to the village

We would like to welcome new residents to the village:

- Duncan & Jacqui Reid who have moved from Crookham, Hants into Shearbarn Cottage on Pound Lane. They both enjoy walking, gardening, football, theatre, food and pubs. They will be at the fete on Saturday, so do say hello.

Stop Press

The Group working on the development of Upton's Playground have just received notice that we have been allocated a grant of £47000 towards the cost of the project. Great news. More to follow.

Regional Neighbourhood Watch Report

Seven Section 59 warning letters were issued to people on motor-cycles who did not have permission to ride on private land in Upton.

Bonfires and the law: There aren't any specific laws against having a bonfire, but there are several laws that deal with the nuisance bonfires can cause. It is an offence to get rid of domestic waste in a way likely to cause pollution or harm to human health, including burning it. Anyone lighting a fire and allowing smoke to drift across a road can face a fine if

it endangers traffic. If this happens, call the police. If your neighbour has a bonfire and it affects you, in the first instance, speak to them and explain the problem. They may not be aware of the distress they are causing.

Have your say Meeting: Thursday 22 September - 5.30-6.30pm Upton Village Hall. Please come along, this is your opportunity to speak with your Neighbourhood Officers to discuss any local issues of concern you may have.

Dates for your diary

Thur 1 Sep	7pm Coven, George & Dragon. Contact Lesley on 850308
Sat 3 Sep	2pm St Mary's Church Fete, Recreation Ground
Sun 4 Sep	10.30am Cake stall, Sine Nomine
Tue 6 Sep	9.30am WI Walk Ewelme, Blewbury VH
Wed 7 Sep	Junior tennis coaching starts
Wed 7 Sep	7.30pm VPA "Gardening at Basildon Park", Vale Room
Thur 8 Sep	10.30am Drop In session, VH
Sat 10 Sep	Historic churches Ride & Stride
Wed 21 Sep	7.30pm Wine Appreciation Club, VH
Thur 22 Sep	10.30am Drop In session, VH
Thur 22 Sep	5.30-6.30pm Neighbourhood Watch Have your Say, VH
Wed 28 Sep	WI Antiques Roadshow
Fri 7 Oct	7 for 7.30pm Howden Jones in concert, VH
Thur 27 Oct	Theatre Trip - Midsummer Night's Dream,
Wed 14 Dec	Jungle Book, Oxford Theatre, VH
Mon 27 Feb	Some Like it Hotter

Theo Gordon

Theo, a long-standing Upton resident, who resided at Littlecote, was a loved and respected member of the community. She was always ready to support local events and even when she was too ill to attend, displayed a keen interest in what was happening. Over the years she was a generous supporter of the Village Hall and St Mary's Church, a place close to her heart. Under the terms of her will, £5,000 has been given to the Village Hall and £5,000 to St. Mary's. The PCC and the Village Hall trustees are very grateful for these donations and plan to use them to help improve facilities at both buildings.

Pimms, Paté and Pudds

Thank you to all who either attended or helped at the recent Pimms, Paté and Pudding event. It was a super afternoon on the new patio with good weather. We had some amazing patés and puddings on offer and a special mention goes to David Beccles and his wonderful creations! A good time was had by all. The total amount raised was £556.30 for UVHAT.

Thanks again for your support.

Celia Davies & Maggie Maytham

Congratulations

Congratulations to all our young Uptonians who have passed their exams and to Andrew Hetherington who recently graduated in Criminology & Criminal Justice at Portsmouth University. We wish you all good luck for the future.

Drop In

After our short summer break we will be starting the Drop In sessions again on 8 September between 10.30 and noon. If you would like to join us or are a newcomer to the Village please come and have a coffee (or tea) plus biscuits. You will be very welcome. We meet in the Village Hall on alternate Thursdays. Hope to see you there.

Yvonne Collins

Wine Appreciation Club

The next meeting will be the AGM on Wednesday 21 September 7.30pm in the village hall, appreciating wines of South West France. If you would like to join the Wine Appreciation Club, please contact Mike Collins 850989 mike@manorlawns.co.uk. The following meeting will be on 19 October sampling Argentinean wines.

Contact the Editor

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 October edition is **20th September**.



Broadband Update

BT have a web page which allows you to check what broadband speed you should expect both now and should you upgrade to faster broadband next year, accessible via <http://www.uptonvillage.co.uk/adsl>

The good news is that it looks like nearly all of our village should be able to benefit from the faster service - by contrast some of our neighbours in Blewbury still don't have a date. The indications are that residents close to the 'green box' in Prospect Road should get the full 40Mbps download speed; most of us within the village envelope should see about 30Mbps, with the exception of some near St Mary's where they forecast half of this speed. Upload speeds seem to be 6-7Mbps, an order of magnitude better than current ones. Even the Alden Farm area should see some improvement with download speeds of 5Mbps or so. BT are still quoting a service date of 31st December 2011. Of course all figures and dates are provisional!

Brian Rippon

The Weather

According to the Royal Meteorological Society Magazine, the first public weather forecast was published in *The Times* on 1 August 1861, organised by Admiral Fitzroy who started the Meteorological Office as a breakaway from the Board of Trade. August is the last meteorological summer month (September is an Autumn month, although the 21st is the autumnal equinox) has the saying "*When summer birds take the southern flight - they take the summer season with them*". I have noted that the swallows have gone and no swifts either. So is that it for the year? September is the season of fruit "*A frost year is a fruit year - a rainy year and fruit is dear*". As we had a lot of snow and frost during last winter, the fruit harvest should be plentiful. The sun now also turns the carbohydrates into sugar; attracting all the wasps, who now seek food wherever they can find it. The caterpillars and other grubs have disappeared and they are usually active until the first frosts.

Austin Maytham

Upton Gas Syndicate

Membership of the Upton Gas Syndicate continues to enjoy a substantial 12.5ppl discount off the Calor Zonal Price. I will shortly be starting the process of considering the options for our next two year contract and would like to invite other Bulk Propane Gas Users who may be with other suppliers (Big Green Tanks/Underground Tanks only) to contact me if they would like to join us and enjoy the benefits of cheaper gas.

Lesley Shaw Tel: 850308 lesley.thorpe.shaw@googlemail.com

Upton Village Theatre Group

Surely somebody would like the remaining ticket for the RSC production to see *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on Thursday 27 October in the evening? We've seen good reviews. Transport and ticket costs £41.50 only, and it will be an opportunity for those who haven't yet seen it to assess the delights of the new theatre.

Another idea to float - the theatres are now announcing their Christmas shows. Who might be interested in something in January? Traditional or inventive? Feedback to Malcolm Wright tel: 850705

VPA News

Our annual show was a joy, as usual, with 60 exhibitors; We had lots of great flowers, veg. fruit, cookery, craft, wine and photos etc on the show benches. It also has to be said that the standard was very high, especially from the children, we had 8 fabulous junk models, and the winner actually had a working clock in it, fabulous! The Judges had a tough job! We also had a lovely day in July at Waterperry gardens, simply lovely! We think we will go again later in the year.

Our next talk is on 7 September, "Gardening at Basildon Park" with Tim Martin, in the Vale Room, at 7.30pm. Come and join us, refreshments served, ring if you need a lift, (Eileen 510095) as I am away then!

Happy Gardening.

Karen Brooks

Blewbury WI

It has been an interesting summer for us all, the weather may not have been the best, but we have enjoyed ourselves none the less! Our festival scarecrow kept a few of us amused for an afternoon. In the summer we had trips to Eton & Windsor, our annual garden party, festival events, coffee, lunches, talks and lectures, and the autumn is gearing up the same way, with more day trips, evenings to the theatre, outings for lunch with good friends, and interesting talks and lectures. One of which is on the science and ethics of test tube babies, I am not sure that this is of any use to me at all, but it will be fascinating all the same! The national WI are still lobbying for clear labelling of our food in supermarkets and are against the closures in our library service and the introduction of "so called" mega farms.

There will be a walk on Tuesday 6 September, in Ewelme area, 3½-4 miles long, with a lunch at Shepherds Hut if required (or bring your own sarnies), meet at the village hall at 9.30am, some cars required please, and Lyn will organise lifts. No need to be a member of the WI to join in!

For more details, or if you wish to join us, please ring Judy on 850381.

Our meeting on 28 September is a talk by Simon Jones, entitled "Antiques Roadshow".

Karen Brooks

Junior Corner

Book Club Review

“*Shadow*” - by Michael Morpurgo

Shadow is one of Michael Morpurgo’s latest books. It is a story about a boy from Afghanistan and his mother who befriends a British army dog - Shadow. It is a deeply moving story based on the truest of friendships and is extremely well written. I would strongly recommend this book to children over the age of 9, as it is quite sad. Shadow is definitely on my ‘top five’ list of books!

Sophie Morgan (aged 11)



Moving up to secondary school

When we first moved up to Blewbury School from nursery and play group we all felt out of place. But now it seems like we belong here. We have all been for our secondary school visits, we like it but it’s the same out of place feeling we felt in reception. At least we will all be new there, and will all feel the same. We have all had good times at Blewbury, but it is time for us to part.

Our end of year production has been a great success, Aladdin was chosen,

and to start with we were sure that we wouldn’t enjoy it. But it was fun! We hope that we all impressed the parents and teachers that came to watch it.

When we step up to secondary school we will all be asking for directions and time. It will be one of the most responsible steps of our childhood and while we are sure to miss our time at primary school, we are looking forward to the new challenges of secondary school. Good luck to all our Year 6 friends as they start their new schools.

By Toby Mew and Lauren James

Junior Tennis Coaching from Tiny tots to teenagers

Sign up now for junior tennis coaching, it’s not just school starting again.

Beth Gibb, tennis coach, on behalf of ‘Ash Taylor Tennis’ and Blewbury Tennis Club, runs a mixed coaching programme at Blewbury Tennis courts for children aged from 3 years upward and it starts again on 7th September. Non members are

welcome to join the classes but Junior membership (under 10’s) it is only £10 for the whole year and brings plenty of benefits including cheaper coaching and free access to the courts at all other times.

For more information on the coaching programme and to book online please go to

www.ashtaylortennis.com

Brownies keep their promise

The 1st Upton & Blewbury Brownies spent an evening in July picking up litter around the village. Using equipment borrowed from South Vale district council, the brownies divided into groups with leaders and adult helpers and scoured the village for litter. The Brownies had recently been doing various activities based on the Brownie promise, and litter picking seemed an ideal task to cover the element 'to serve my Queen and my Country'. They also understood how untidy litter looks and how dangerous it can be sometimes. However, they were pleased they didn't find too much litter and consider Upton to be quite a tidy village, but still found enough to fill a few bin bags. They did actually enjoy picking up litter and are keen to do it again some time in the future.

Girls aged between 7 and 9 years interested in joining our Brownie pack, please contact Danyelle Paton on 07792 990797.

Cake Sales for Butagaya School

Blewbury school are joined with Butagaya school, which is in Uganda and we have been doing a cake sale to raise money for books at Butagaya school. Thank you to everyone who has bought cakes at our first sale. We raised £13.40. Look out for our future cake sales on Sunday 4th, 19th and 25th September at 10:30 at Sine Nomine, Church Street. We hope you will support us.
Rhiannon Fletcher (Class 5)
Emily Fenn (Class 6)
Blewbury Primary School



Life with Two Swimming Boys

Alex (16yrs) and David (12yrs) don't have a normal life. This is because they are both swimmers and train hard at unsociable times like 5 o'clock in the morning. Their hard work has paid dividends though, with competition medals, high rankings and the associated mental and physical fitness.

Alex holds County, Regional and National records and has recently broken 3 British Junior (under 16) records - one of which is a 50m Breaststroke record that was held for 15 years by Darren Mew an ex Olympian. David holds age group records for 50m Butterfly and Breaststroke and is ranked number 2 nationally for Breaststroke in his age group. Both boys swim for the County Team.

In March this year, Alex represented England at the Secondary Schools Internationals in Dublin where he won gold and broke the championship record for the 100m Breaststroke. In June he competed at the Open Nationals in Sheffield where he competed against the senior GB squad swimmers and was within 0.2s of a place in the 50m Breaststroke final. He also swam in the same warm up lane as Rebecca Adlington and will be swimming for England in the UK School Games in September.

Jo Murphy (proud parent)