



November seems to have come around very quickly. However, the unseasonal warm weather and the turning of the autumn leaves into the beautiful golds and reds can make you a little confused as to what month we are in.

Following on from their appearance on Meridian News in September during the cider apple harvest, the Upton orchards featured in *Midsomer Murders* in October, so we are well and truly on the map and more importantly, everyone seems to be safe and sound!

Thanks for all the contributions to this edition; we are still looking for new and exciting articles/view points to include from young and not so young - just send through to news@uptonvillage.co.uk.

Sarah

New Play Area in Upton

The Parish Council and Play Area Committee welcomes any feedback from villagers on the proposed site of the new play area.

Some people may have already found the markers on the recreation ground marking an L-shape signifying the current proposed depth of the new play ground. It is proposed to run parallel to the wooded area alongside the embankment – however, at this time there has been

no complete border set. The reason for keeping the area open is to give as much space and creative licence to the architects as possible. However the Parish Council have advised that the proposed play area be sited in and around the existing ball wall, taking every effort to limit impact on the football pitch and village events such as the Fete as much as possible.

Subject to the constraints of budget and available space, the Play Area Development Project Team have advised that the research responses for the new play area shall provide the following play equipment in order of priority:

1. Conventional swings for toddlers and older children
2. A climbing structure
3. A zip wire
4. An obstacle course
5. Monkey bars
6. A play or tree house structure
7. A slide
8. A rocking toy
9. A spinning toy
10. A tunnel
11. A basket swing

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Spring Line Methodist Church

November services

10.30 am in Upton

6th Local Arrangements

13th Rev Martin Smithson

20th Brenda Boyer

27th Rev Dr. David Rankin
(Holy Communion)

December

18th Carol Service 3pm Blewbury

This will also be a special service of thanksgiving for nearly 200 years of Methodism in Blewbury.

Our Christmas Coffee Morning is at the Blewbury Centre on **Wednesday 14th December**. This will include a special Christmas Tombola and a Gift Stall, and we would be grateful for donations of Chocolate, Christmas Sweets, Decorations and Gifts for this special event. Please give your donations to any member of the Spring Line Church.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

June 2012

It would be good if a small working party could start to think about how the village could celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June 2012. Anybody with ideas or wishing to volunteer to join this group should contact: Jessie 850126 or Clare 850486.

Thanks to Sarah Sayers for the sponsorship and printing of this edition of Upton News.

St Mary's Church



St Mary's, from the Henry Taunt collection (1905)

Church Services at St Mary's in November

Sun 6th - 0900

Sung Eucharist,
followed by refreshments

Sun 13th - 0900

Remembrance Sunday
Laying of poppy wreath and
Eucharist

Sun 20th - 1000

All Age Family Service,
followed by refreshments

Sun 27th - 0900

Sung Eucharist

UVHAT Financial Statement

The Upton Village Hall Amemities Trust has published its annual statement.

You can find it in full, together with the annual accounts, on the village web site.

Rectors Reflections

More Than a Memory

I wonder what comes to mind when you think about Remembrance Sunday? Perhaps it is the sight of white gravestones in the vast military cemeteries of Northern France or a TV news report of crowds lining the street of Royal Wootton Bassett, as the body of yet another dead serviceman is brought home or the picture of elderly ex-servicemen and women, parading past the Cenotaph. Remembrance Sunday is inevitably about memories. But are these merely memories? At the heart of the Christian faith is the idea of transformation. God calls each one of us into partnership with Him in His work of transformation - transformation of our lives as individuals and as communities. Transformation to make us into the sort of people we would want to be, transformation to make our communities the sort of communities in which we want to live - communities of love and peace, of hope and justice, of joy and fulfilment, not just for ourselves, but for all. The memories which surround Remembrance Sunday are more than mere memories. They are memories with a purpose - memories to challenge and inspire us in our partnership with God in His work of transformation. What might this mean in practice? How might Remembrance Sunday lead us to be better people, and how might it make God's world a better place? At the risk of being highly controversial, let me throw out a

few suggestions. Well, to start with there's the question of money. If you happen to be lucky enough to have some savings or a private pension fund, do you know where the money is being invested? Are our savings being invested in companies which are involved in selling arms, enabling and arguably encouraging countries to make war on their neighbours or even their own citizens? If so, and you take a view that a bit of arms trading is simply the way of the world, do have a look at the relevant company's ethical policy. Does the ethical policy hold water, or is it frankly a joke? Again, on the question of arms, the use of anti-personnel mines causes enormous disruption and suffering among innocent civilians. There are many charities which work to remove these mines from affected areas. You may wish to do a bit of research and support their work. And finally, there are many charities which are actively working to ensure a fairer sharing of the world's resources among the peoples of the world. Many wars are caused by conflict over resources - they are wars to gain control over food, or land, or water, or diamonds, or whatever else happens to be in short supply. If we are serious about working to avoid war, we need to be serious about working for a fairer sharing of the world's resources. Again, there are many charities working in this area.

Let us work together to ensure that Remembrance Sunday is more than merely a time for memories. Let it also be a time for transformation.

Fr Jason

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford

Although some members may have seen the new theatre already, it was a first time for the Group.

Architecturally, it is not especially exciting - and, indeed, it looks rather as if the workmen went home without finishing it. Perhaps they weren't paid, and that is why an ice cream tub costs £3! The décor is often IKEA, and also looks a bit temporary. But the acting space is wonderful, the sight lines exceptional, and the acoustics excellent. The thrust stage, a larger version of the Swan's, brings a new and very welcome intimacy and there is space above and behind for exciting sets.

A pity, therefore, that this production of the "Dream" is decidedly minimalist and a couch in Theseus's palace doubles for Titania's bed. They must have been short of materials for the costumes, too. Helena and Hermia and the fairies sported mini-skirts, while the noblemen (who also doubled as fairies) wore suits throughout. Admittedly, Theseus took off his shirt when he transmuted into Oberon, and Philostrate put on a dressing gown decorated with charity shop ties to double as Puck. But why? I was bemused, too, by a number of multi-coloured hanging chairs.

Certain aspects of the actual performance, however, more than compensated. The mechanicals were played pretty traditionally, and were genuinely very funny. Some new



business from Snout as Wall in the Pyramus and Thisbe episode created well-nigh hysterical laughter. Equally, I haven't seen a more energetic and exhausting version of the cat fight between Hermia and Helena, nor a better Helena, brilliantly played from the start as the clown of the piece. For the most part, the verse-speaking was measured and lucid and thus intelligible, though East London accents were odd in Theseus's court, and Theseus himself wasn't sure which voice he was using when he became the king of the fairies. Puck unfortunately - even apart from his costume - delivered his lines metrically, and expressionlessly. He was much more amusing as Philostrate, so maybe the director was to blame.

It was a long production, but the journeys went smoothly, and as far as I could judge a good time was had by all.

Malcolm Wright

Dates for your diary

Tue 1 Nov	WI Didcot Walk 9.45 at the Blewbury bus stop
Thu 3 Nov	Ladies Coven, George & Dragon 7pm
Thu 3 Nov	Drop In - Village Hall 10.30 - 12.00
Fri 4 Nov	Benefice Quiz Night, Hagbourne School 7.30
Sat 5 Nov	Under the Covers, Fireworks & BBQ—George & Dragon
Mon 7 Nov	WI Coffee 10.30 at Styleacre
Wed 16 Nov	Wine Appreciation Club VH 7.30
Thu 17 Nov	Have Your Say meeting VH 5.30
Thu 1 Dec	Ladies Coven 7pm
Wed 7 Dec	Wine Appreciation VH 8pm
Wed 14 Dec	Springline Coffee morning, Blewbury
Wed 14 Dec	Jungle Book, VH 6.30pm
Sun 18 Dec	Springline Carol Service Blewbury 3pm
Mon 27 Feb	Some Like it Hotter

Upton 50's Club Winners

August

£15	Irene Timblick
£10	Sue Bibby
£7	Carol Jones
£5	Kevin Jacklin
£4	Jessie West

September

£15	Frances Telling
£10	William Betts
£7	Sue Bibby
£5	Brian Rippon
£4	Karen Spackman

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 December edition is **20th November**.

Thanks to Assistant Editor, Brian Rippon, who devised the current format and styling of Upton News, and who helps with the monthly task of formatting and layout.



Want to conserve energy and reduce your heating bills?

Thanks to a Council insulation grant, residents who own their home or rent privately in the Vale of White Horse district can get an extra £50 each off the price of professionally installed loft and cavity wall insulation. However, the funds are being allocated fast. You can apply for the Vale of White Horse District Council's Insulation Grant online at www.cocoonyourhome.co.uk/whitehorse or call 0800 8048 777 between 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. The grant is being managed exclusively by Cocoon and is offered on a first come, first served basis. Insulation is the most cost-effective way to keep the heat you pay for where you want it - in your home - making it an excellent investment.

Energy Saving

Following the Prime Minister's meeting with the Big Six Energy Suppliers and what appears to be unstoppable fuel price rises, anyone wishing to read up on further information follow the link: http://www.usea.org.uk/images/news_images/Prepare_For_Rising_Energy_Prices.pdf

Supporting communities in rural Oxfordshire

There is quite a lot of funding available for rural communities such as ours. If anyone in the village is fund raising, I suggest you visit www.oxonrcc.org.uk for further information.

Solar PV Panels

Further to the article in last month's UN, we have had people around to look at our PV system, and they were amazed at the cost. We have 22 panels, generating a max of 3.96 kwh. If you hit 4.00 kwh the feed in tariff drops from 43.3 pence to 35 pence. The system did not cost 32k, in fact - I am not sure if I should print the price in the Upton news - but it was less than half that and will pay back the cost in 8 years at today's rate. The FIT is index linked so it will probably pay back in less than 8 years. (The FIT start return will drop next year - if you are interested, then it is on the government web site.) That's my lifetime (I hope) and we will have our cake and eat it as well. Again - if anyone would like to see how it operates, please call.

Austin Maytham

Oxfordshire Carers Forum

If you are a carer or know of someone who is, you may be interested in this. They are a charity based in Abingdon who provide support and services to Carers in Oxfordshire. They enable carers to have their voice heard; improve support ; provide a telephone support service on 01235 520440 between 9am-4pm daily; give support to Carers who are new to the role or established carers when things have changed; give benefits advice and support through home visits. For further information : Tel: 01235 520440

www.oxoncarersforum.org.uk

Calling all Carpenters and DIY enthusiasts



If you use wood for DIY projects, then you may like to visit the Wood Shop at 46a Milton Park. It is a social enterprise that offers work experience and employment to people who face severe barriers to employment. In the shop they sell recycled wood that they have collected from local businesses. It is an Aladdin's cave selling construction timber, plywood, mouldings, reclaimed doors and gates as well as firewood and kindling. It's the perfect place to find timber for allotments, outbuildings, fencing, animal shelters and ideal for making raised beds. www.oxfordwoodrecycling.org.uk open from 8.30 - 5pm (M-F) and 9am - 1pm Sat.

Coven

The Upton Ladies Coven will meet on 3 November at the George & Dragon at 7pm for those wishing to dine, or later for anyone wishing to come along for a drink. Don't forget to add the Christmas Coven to your diaries now - provisionally 1st December.

Post Office News

All euro or pre order bureau de change that require us buying back your currency now needs to have your original receipt in order for us to process it properly.

Ann & Karen

Old Village Photos?



Do you have any old photos of Upton or its inhabitants which you would be prepared to share? With the kind help of residents and visitors to the web site, we already have a good number of historic pictures, forming part of our heritage and of great value to local and family historians. A number of readers of Upton News have either lived in the village for many decades or used to live here some time ago. If you have any photos of people or places tucked away in an album or shoe box – whether they're 10 or 100 years old – which you could lend for scanning, I would be very grateful. Credits would be attached to the published photograph where required. Please contact me on 01235 850158, brian@rippon.net, or at Autumn Leaves, High Street.
Brian Rippon

November

Where is the rain? There is no foundation to the saying that cows sit



down before rain, apparently cows do not mind being wet at all. If you want to know if it's going to rain by observing animals - watch the arachnids. The spider will head for solid ground and take shelter before it rains. If they continue to work, the rain will be short lived. If the fraes are short (a ship's mast has a stay line to hold it up, the spider's web has a frae line to hold it up), it is likely to be wet for a while. Incy wincy spider and rain are a good indicator, rain = spider down, dry = spider up. The forecasters referred to the Indian Summer in October, however, an Indian Summer is in September, it's St Luke's Summer in October and St Martin's Summer if it happens in November. So, If the ponds ever fill up again, the saying is "If November ice will stand a duck - nothing after but sludge and muck". The frosty days and nights come from the high pressure systems developing over the Arctic and Siberia, giving clear and frosty nights and cool bright days.

We use the Roman name (ninth month) for November rather than the Celtic name - which means blood month, as the food was prepared for winter months, to preserve the meat, and avoid having to feed animals.

Austin

Jungle Book

Oxfordshire Theatre Company present the thrilling and heart warming story of Mowgli, the boy brought up by wolves. Educated by Baloo the bear and Bagheera the panther, whilst hunted by the great tiger Shere Khan, Mowgli must learn the laws of the jungle and become a young man with the confidence to walk alone. Inspired by Rudyard Kipling stories and written by Neil Duffield it is ideal for children and the young at heart - Wednesday 14th December, 6.30pm in the village Hall. Tickets £9/£8, children £6 from Jessie West 851206 Maggie Maytham 850126.



Howden and Jones Concert

This was a most enjoyable evening of country music and anecdotes brought to us by this delightful couple from Morecombe who are currently touring village halls with their show. Over 40 people enjoyed this lively evening of entertainment followed by one of Jessie's famous super suppers. A small profit was made for UVHAT.

Alan Davies

Wine Appreciation Society AGM

It was lovely to welcome so many members to the AGM and very sad for the committee to say goodbye to Fiona Betts and John Scarborough, both of whom were founder members and without whose hard work, imagination and organisational skills the club would have floundered long ago. David Mason and Ian Langley have joined the committee. Thanks went to Frankie Jacklin for her clever accounting and keeping us solvent. The BBQ in the summer, to whom we must thank the gods of good weather and all who contributed to make it an enigmatic evening of fun and frolics.

Now to the wines -these all came from the South West of France, the departments of Aquitaine and Midi Pyrenees. These wines have had a hard time over the years as they had to pass through Bordeaux, a very devious competitor and the feeling was that many of these wines did not make it to our lucrative shores.

We sampled a Domaine de La Jalousie, Cotes de Gascogne 2010 a light wine at 9.5%, good for picnics, oysters and goats cheese. Another wine was a Pacherenc du Vic Bilh Sec 2009 Cuvee Frederick Laplace, made from Gros Manseng and Petit Manseng, this was a different and popular wine with members. The last white was a Jurançon Sec, Chant des Vignes, Domaine Cauhapé, 2010, which has an interesting combination of Gros Marseng and Caramalet grapes (never heard of the last one and not much information around),

one of the older grape varieties of this area and reminds me of caramel so can't be bad.

On to the reds, we sampled the black wine of Cahors and the majority thought this was very good. Another red was a Chateau Bouissel, Fronton 2008. The main grapes being Negrette, which those thoughtful crusaders brought back from Cyprus,



ever helpful those boys, it is a blend of the Negrette Syrah and Malbes grapes and very nice too. All wines available from the Wine Society.

The meeting on 16th November (8pm) will be on sherry and Italian wines and will be led by John Scarborough and Chris Traynor and the 7th December meeting will be champagne and sparkling wines and dessert wines and will be a repeat performance by William and Fiona Betts.

Chris Traynor

Recipe of the Month

Baked Apple & Almond Pudding

(Delia Smith)

Serves 6 (Gluten free)

1lb (450g) cooking apples (peeled, cored and sliced)

2oz soft brown sugar (50g)

4oz (110g) butter at room temperature

2 large eggs beaten

4oz (110g) ground almonds

Method:

1. Pre heat the oven to 180C.
2. Butter a pie dish approx 1.5 pint (850ml) capacity
3. Place the apples in a saucepan with the brown sugar and approx 1 tbs water, simmer gently until soft and then arrange them in the bottom of the prepared pie dish.
4. In a mixing bowl, cream the



butter and caster sugar until pale and fluffy and then beat in the eggs a little at a time. When all the egg is in, carefully and lightly fold in the ground almonds. Now spread this mixture over the apples and even out of the surface with the back of a tablespoon. Then bake on a highish shelf in the oven for exactly 1 hour. Equally good, served warm or cold - delicious with some chilled pouring cream or ice cream. Will keep in the fridge for 3-4 days.

Neighbourhood Watch

Keep your eyes peeled and your property secured. There has been a spate of thefts from rural locations. Overnight in October thefts of tools from a barn in Blewbury, a generator from Milton and tools from a house being built on the Wantage Road in Harwell. Dogs have been stolen and house burglaries with the suspects being seen driving a silver VW Golf – recently found abandoned in Leatherhead in Surrey. Forensic examination of the car is taking place and police are following up on information about numerous offences connected to this car.

Occupants of a grey (almost green) Jeep Cherokee have been involved in almost identical suspicious incidents across

Berkshire and Oxfordshire at the end of October including when disturbed saying they are looking for their lost dog. They may be connected to the silver Golf. The part index of the Jeep is R658 - please report any sightings immediately to the police on 08458 505 505 or please use 999 if you think a crime is being committed.



Blewbury WI

We kick off on 1st November with a walk organised by Lyn, meet at 9.45 am outside the old Load of Mischief, to catch the bus to Didcot, (bring bus pass if applicable), she promises a walk around “hidden Didcot”, we will have coffee and then either return by bus or walk home for those feeling up to it! (All welcome to join us!)

On Monday 7th at 10.30 am, we meet for coffee at Style Acre tearooms, with Eileen. Scrabble is at Rosemary’s on Wednesday 9th.

On 17th November eleven of us are off to see Cinderella on Ice and on the 25th, a small group are off to RAL for a science lecture “From X rays to

Anti-Matter”. Some are going to Birmingham for the biggest Christmas market in the country on the 22nd, while on the 24th some of us are going to Bath on the train for their Christmas market and another touch of retail therapy!

On 17th November in the Vale Room, Blewbury, Alistair Lack is coming to talk to us about Oxfordshire Country Houses, don’t think mine will be included in this list! Hostesses are Elizabeth Colin and Diana Vince.

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

Karen Brooks

VPA news

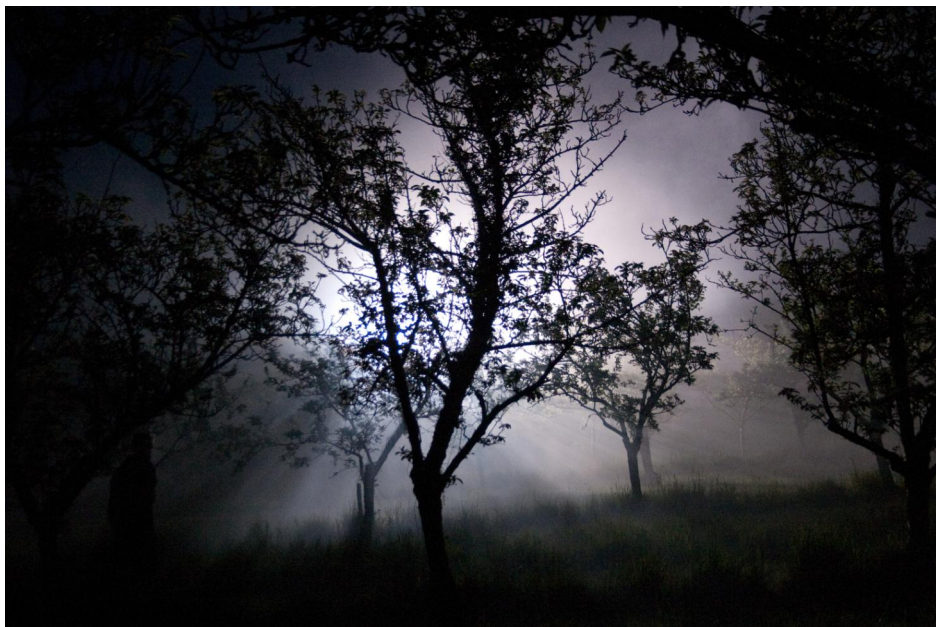
As I write, it is a glorious autumnal day, bright and sunshiny, but a cold wind, I have been out attempting to put my garden “to bed” for the winter, I do leave some ground cover to rot down and compost and also to provide overwintering for insects, I also have hedgehogs and dormice in the garden. I have left a corner with “hidey holes” just for them, but am cutting back shrubs and roses that are still in flower! I have planted some indoor bulbs, so I have flowers in those dark days in January and February, just have to remember where I have hidden them after Christmas!

Our AGM is on Wednesday 2nd

November, 7.30pm in the Vale room, Blewbury, where we will serve wine and cheese after the short business section, then Joyce will present the Presidents cup to the exhibitor with most points in the annual show, who will it be this year?

Our Christmas social evening has a new twist this year; we will be at the new Melland room in Blewbury, on Friday 9th Dec, at 7.30pm, for a baked potato supper and seasonal jollities devised by Eileen. Tickets, £5 each, will be available from Blewbury Post office, or Maggie in Upton.

Karen Brooks



Midsomer Murders on location at Upton Fruit Farm in May this year during the filming of *Night of the Stag*, broadcast on October 12th.