

Upton News



Vol 4 No.3 October 2011

Sadly, the nights are now drawing in and the best of the garden displays are giving way to the autumnal colours and it is time to put away the garden furniture. The articles for UN are coming in spontaneously which is encouraging and we always welcome something a bit different, so if you would like to contribute/ share your views or something of interest, please get in touch at news@uptonvillage.co.uk. This is your publication so it is up to you to shape the content. I am pleased to say that we now have over 100 people signed up to receive Upton News by email, a lot signed up at the fete and we even have people from surrounding villages interested in our activities. We did however have a small technical blip on the website where some emails did not register. So, if you have received a hard copy of this edition of UN and thought you had signed up, apologies, but please get in touch by email and we will re-enter your details for you. There are still quite a number of people who have not responded either way - do please let us know. There is no limit on the number of electronic sign ups per household, or if you want to share with your family who now live away or ex-residents of the village, please do sign up at www.uptonvillage.co.uk/upton-news/; you can always print a copy off to read at your leisure if you prefer.

We recognise there are a few people who do not have a computer and we are happy to continue delivering a paper copy. We are still looking for volunteers to print off/ sponsor an edition of Upton News. If you are willing to do this please get in touch news@uptonvillage.co.uk. Ideally, we don't want to go down the advertising route and would like to keep the content to news and views.

Sarah



Two of our contributors

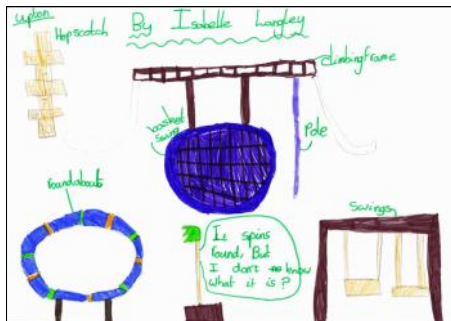
Inside this issue...

- Play Area
- Energy articles
- Gardening and weather
- Church News
- Blewbury Brass Band

An Update on the Village Play Area Project

How time flies! We can scarcely believe that it's been a year since the play area development team had its first meeting. We are working on this project at the request of the Parish Council, and our small team comprises David Mason, Katharine Langley, Ros Caffyn and William Betts. To mark the first anniversary of the project, we thought you might be interested to know what we've done and what we plan to do over the coming months.

Our first step, late last year, was to find out what people living in Upton wanted from the play area. We distributed a questionnaire last October to ask how people in the village used the existing play area, what they liked about it and what they would change given the chance. We asked parents to let us know what other play areas they used and what they liked about them, and we asked children to get creative with photos or drawings of their favourite ideas. Overall, we were pleased with the response. Drawings submitted by the children are still available on the village website and have proved very useful when it comes to adding some colour and interest to our applications for funding.



Our analysis of your responses is also on the village website - you wanted to keep the swings and the obstacle course from the existing play area design and that you most wanted to add a climbing frame, zip wire, monkey bars, and a bowl swing. We gulped, exchanged worried glances and then sat down to work out what it might cost to achieve your vision. We got estimates of the budget we would need and the hard work of fund-raising started. One common requirement of the funding bodies is the need for applicants to demonstrate commitment and Upton delivered when it counted. Thanks to all the hard work of Bob Lott, Mike Tibbetts and their team, the 'Uptonogood' mountain biking day raised a magnificent £3,000 toward the project. The Parish Council contributed £5,000 and UVHAT a further £300. A fantastic effort and a tangible demonstration of the village's commitment to this project, but in the current financial climate would it be enough? We were beginning to think not, receiving a fair few rejections to funding applications before WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental) came to our rescue offering a funding allocation of £47,000 as reported in the last month's Upton News or perhaps you saw our displays at the fete. Talking of which, we were really grateful to everyone that stopped by, whether it was with an appreciative comment, an offer of help or simply to have a chat about what we are planning. Our presence at the fete



also provided a great opportunity to double-check what people like about the existing play area, and what additional equipment they would like. Thankfully, it confirmed our earlier findings: climbing frames, zip wires, slides and swings all featuring prominently in the votes. But it also showed the popularity of the metal arch, which was something that we hadn't spotted from our earlier

enquiries. We hope to keep these favourite features of the current play ground, and if the existing equipment isn't reusable then we will try to replace it like-for-like.

With funding allocated, we are looking forward to making the changes and improvements that you have requested and the Parish Council is working hard to confirm the site for the new play area. When the location is confirmed, we will issue tender documentation to potential suppliers as the next step in our process to select a contractor to undertake the work.

So exciting times! And as we make progress we will keep you informed, every step of the way.

William Betts

Junior Corner

Starting Secondary School

We have both just started the same secondary school in Abingdon. We were at different primary schools, (Hagbourne & The Manor in Abingdon) and we didn't know each other until the summer holidays when we found out we would both be going on the bus together. It is really great, although we have quite a lot of homework, it is really interesting and exciting every single day. Even though it is a struggle finding our way around the school, we are enjoying it so far. It gets even better because our form tutor is really nice and her name is Mrs Nash, she also teaches us English which is one of our favourite subjects. Our other favourite

subjects are ICT, Ceramics, DT and Art.

We are both having loads of laughs with our new friends plus most of the older girls are helping us find our way about. (It also helps when you have an older sister there).

Both of us also enjoy doing lunchtime clubs which are held all over the school, we like doing Knit Chicks, Art Club and Lower school choir. Our most important tip for everyone when starting secondary school, is be organised 24/7, but mostly have loads of fun!

*Izzy Caffyn and Sophie Morgan
(aged 11)*

St Mary's Church

Church Services (9am)

- Sun 2 Oct Sung Eucharist*
Sun 9 Oct Sung Eucharist
Sun 16 Oct All age family service*
10am
Sun 23 Oct Sung Eucharist
Sun 30 Oct Sung Eucharist

*followed by refreshments

Sun 30 Oct All Souls Service at St Andrew's Church East Hagbourne
3.30pm

This is an annual event to remember departed loved ones, commemorative candles will be lit and names read. If you would like to add names there is a list in Upton Church.

Weekday Services: each Tuesday

10.00am celebration of Holy Eucharist

6.00pm Exploring Silence, music for reflection and a time of quiet.

Harvest Festival

A big thank you to everyone for their kind donations of produce and other food items at the Harvest Festival service at St Mary's church on the 18 September. The wide range of fresh fruit, vegetables and other foods were most gratefully received by the shift leader, Sue Long, at Oxford Homeless Pathways, Luther Street, Oxford. The items will be put towards very good use and will benefit many needy people.

Karen Fenn

Rector's Reflections

Asking Questions

One of the joys of my work is that people ask me questions - all sorts of questions! Some I can answer reasonably easily; some really get me thinking; and some stump me altogether!

Recently someone asked me whether they could be a Christian, if they didn't believe in what they called "Creation", which I took to mean a fairly literal interpretation of the first two chapters of the first book of the Bible, known as the book of Genesis. I'm sure you know the story - God creating the world in a matter of "days", and then the first human male (Adam), and then the first human female (Eve).

I said yes - you can be a Christian, and not believe in "Creation", in this sense. Why did I say this?

Well, to start with, over the last two thousand years, Christians have interpreted the opening chapters of Genesis in different ways. Some have indeed taken the story quite literally, but there have been lots of other ways of approaching it. For example, some have argued that the Genesis stories were never intended to be a scientific account of what actually happened, but rather a poetic insight into the real meaning of the world as human beings experience it.

In other words, Christians hold many different views on the subject of Creation. They can do so because, for Christians, the key question is not what do we believe about the



world, but rather what do we believe about Jesus Christ? If you believe that Jesus Christ can teach us about the ultimate questions of life, about how

we should live, about why we are alive and what happens after we die, then you are a Christian. Another way of putting this is that a Christian is someone who believes that through Jesus Christ, God connects with us and we connect with God. Of course, Christians can and will believe lots of other things as well, for example about how the world came to be in existence, but these other beliefs are of secondary importance only.

The Christian belief in "Creation" is in fact a much broader belief than a particular way of interpreting the book of Genesis. The Christian belief in "Creation" is actually the belief

that the whole Universe - everything that exists, including you and I - are dependent on God. The nature of this dependence is something which continues to be explored by philosophers, scientists, and theologians. Some see this dependence on God as providing the only answer to why Time, Matter and Energy exist at all. Others see dependence on God as providing the explanation for different questions: for example why is the Universe around us intelligible to us, and how come conditions on planet Earth are just right to be able to sustain human life?

It is a great comfort to know that everything is dependent on God, who is loving and good. It is also a great spur to research! God loves us to ask questions about Him and His world - our discoveries have only just begun.

Fr Jason

News of and from former Upton Residents

Thank you for sending me the Upton news. I am another appreciative former Upton resident. We share so many happy memories of past days. Thank you.
Elizabeth Manwarin. (Greenfield)

We are sorry to hear that Maurice Hogg has sadly passed away. He used to live in Upton at The Gate House on the Reading Road, was an active member of St Mary's Church and a few years ago, on his retirement, moved to Wrantage in Somerset. We send our condolences to Rhona and his daughters Lizzie and Charlotte.

We are sad to announce that Jean Parker died peacefully in the John Radcliffe Hospital on Thursday 15th September. Jean was a very faithful and much loved member of St Mary's Church. Her funeral took place in Upton on Friday 23rd September. We send our condolences to Mike, Claire and her family.

Thanks to Steve Morgan for the sponsorship and printing of this edition of Upton News.

Ride & Stride 2011

This was about raising both awareness and money for local churches, and Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust - which is their sole form of income. The money I raised is being split between St Mary's Upton and the trust.

My cycling endeavours this year covered a route that took me from Upton to Chilton - get the climb out of way first - then onto Harwell, Upton, Blewbury, Astons, Moretons, Sotwells, Wallingford, Crowmarsh, Nuneham Murren, Moulsoford, Goring, Streatley, Cholsey, Didcot and finishing at West Hagbourne.

In all I visited 37 churches, most of which were manned and offering copious amounts of homemade flapjacks, chocolate brownies and scones - which I mostly managed to resist so as to not hinder my cycling! 40 individuals sponsored me, of which 34 were from Upton. The amount raised stands at £422, which far exceeds my expectations. If anyone feels missed out my web site

will take further donations
www.justgiving.com/john-acton

A real discovery on this trip was the visit to another St Mary's in Nuneham Murren, a church smaller than Upton, holds 4 services a year, has no electricity - just candles and oil lamps. The next is a candle service of evening prayer at 4pm on 27 November.

Thank you all very much for supporting me it was very much appreciated.

John Acton



Spring Line Methodist Church

Services: 10.30am at the Upton Centre

- | | |
|--------|------------------------------------|
| 2 Oct | Local arrangements |
| 9 Oct | Michael Howlett |
| 16 Oct | John Dennis |
| 23 Oct | Rev John Rowland (Church Anniv) |
| 30 Oct | Rev Richard Bittleston (Holy Comm) |

The display of produce at our Harvest Festival Service last month was magnificent. We gave it to Didcot Day Centre at the Meadows which was used for lunches and given to the people who attend the centre. Our ice cream and hot dog stalls did well at the St Mary's Fete, we raised nearly £100 - thank you for your support, and see you next year!

St Mary's Fete

It's almost a month since the Fete, which is a bit worrying since next year's event must be only 11 months away! It's great to report that this year was a terrific success, we have a traditional village fete which relies on the support and enthusiasm of so many people. You all know who you are, and we couldn't get the show on the road without you, so thank you all for your many and varied contributions.

What have Rosie, Daisy, Otto, Jasper, Barney, Alice and Layla got in common? Well, they all won prizes in the Fun Dog show which attracted even more mutts than ever. Well done to Josie for running the dog show which has become a successful and important part of the fete.

Fur and feathers were flying; the Kineton Quackers caused great amusement with the "trainee" sheepdog being put through her paces and scattering the flock in all directions. A duck even escaped into the car park, but was soon retrieved. In the second session we saw how it should be done and it wasn't half as entertaining.

The dogs and ducks were followed smartly with Carlos the Gaucho. Well... what excitement. Carlos gave a very colourful demonstration with a few willing children trying to escape being lassooed. Go onto the village web site to see the pictures. We would like to thank Mr & Mrs Kit Maunsell for introducing us to Carlos and for sponsoring this part of the Fete.

Blewbury Band excelled once again

entertaining the partakers of tea on the patio. Well done to the de Wilde and Hardy families and Sheila Dawson for keeping up with the demand for delicious homemade teas which have become our forte.

To round off the afternoon the tug-of-war teams were to be congratulated. I think the Parish Council and Fr Jason's teams were both winners, you were all such good sports and kept everyone amused. It would be good if we can encourage a few more teams to take part another year.

The stalls were all once again well stocked with the highest quality produce from jams, plants, produce, books, white elephant and cakes.

Lots of the sideshows and stalls were manned by young people this year, so a pat on the back and thank you to Sophie, Isabel, Madison, Rhiannon, Benedict, Aidon, Katie, Emily, Eleanor, William and Ben - and everyone else involved.

What a terrific afternoon out for everyone and at the same time raising around £2,200.

Lastly, please let us have your views and opinions on how we might be even more successful another year – email me at Lthimbles@aol.com.

Photographs can be seen at www.uptonvillage.co.uk/photo-gallery/st-marys-fete-2011/ and higher resolution versions are available upon request.

Clare Lightfoot

St Mary's Fete Committee

Recipe of the month

Chocolate Fudge Cake

This is a Mary Berry recipe and tastes delicious. You will note the photo shows the cake minus a couple of slices - just couldn't resist sampling it - why didn't I take the photo first? (Ed)

Ingredients:

- 50g/ 2oz cocoa powder (sieved)
- 6 tbs boiling water
- 3 large eggs
- 50ml/ 2 fl oz milk
- 175g/ 6 oz self-raising flour
- 1 rounded tsp baking powder
- 275g/ 10 oz caster sugar (I personally use 8 oz of sugar but it depends on how sweet you like your cake)
- 100g/ 4 oz softened butter
- For the icing:
- 2 tbs apricot jam
- 150g/ 5 oz dark chocolate, 39/70% cocoa solids
- 150ml/ ¼pt double cream

Method:

Preheat the oven to 180°C/Fan 160/Gas 4. Grease two 20cm/8 inch deep sandwich tins and then line the base of both tins with baking parchment. Blend the cocoa and boiling water in a large bowl then add the remaining ingredients and beat with an electric blender until smooth and thick. Divide the cake mix equally between the two tins and level the surface. Bake in the oven for 25-30 minutes or until well risen and springy to the touch, then leave in the tins for a while before leaving to cool upside down on a wire rack. When the



cakes have cooled down, spread the apricot jam on the top of one cake and the bottom of the other.

To make the icing break the chocolate into a bowl with the cream and set over a pan of water for about 10 mins or just until the chocolate has melted, stir occasionally. Remove the bowl from the heat and leave to cool.

Spread it on top of the apricot on both sides of the cake when it is at the point of setting, sandwich the cakes together and use a palette knife to smooth it over. Keep in a cool place until ready to serve.

Sophie Morgan

Dates for your diary

Fri 30 Sep	Surface mail last Xmas post to Aust & NZ
Mon 3 Oct	WI Meeting, Civic Hall, Didcot
Tue 4 Oct	Surface mail last Xmas post to Far East
Wed 5 Oct	WI Walk, Ewelme 9.30
Wed 5 Oct	Mothers Union Vale Room, Blewbury 12.15
Wed 5 Oct	VPA 'History of Blewbury', Upton Methodist church 7.30
Thur 6 Oct	Drop In - Village Hall (VH) 10.30 - 12.00
Fri 7 Oct	Howden Jones in concert, VH, 7 for 7.30pm
Tue 11 Oct	Mum's Church Group, Torpids, High St 8.00
Wed 12 Oct	Brass Band lessons start. Band hut Blewbury 6.30
Thur 13 Oct	WI Coffee at Style Acre 10.30am
Sat 15 Oct	VPA Plant, cake & produce stall, Abners 2pm
Tue 18 Oct	Surface mail last Xmas post to USA, Canada, S Africa, HK
Wed 19 Oct	Wine Appreciation Club VH 7.30
Thur 20 Oct	Drop In - VH 10.30 - 12.00
Sat 22 Oct	Coffee Morning - VH 10.30 - 12.00
Wed 26 Oct	WI Meeting, Vale Room 7.30
Thur 27 Oct	Theatre Trip - Midsummer Night's Dream
Thur 3 Nov	Drop In - Village Hall 10.30 - 12.00
Fri 4 Nov	Benefice Quiz Night, Hagbourne School 7.30
Wed 16 Nov	Wine Appreciation Club VH 7.30
Wed 14 Dec	Jungle Book, Oxford Theatre, VH
Mon 27 Feb	Some Like it Hotter

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 November edition is **20th October**.



Solar PV Panels in Upton

We have had PV panels for a year now and are very pleased with the results. As with any new enterprise, there is always the unknown. We were guaranteed 3300kW for the year and actually made 3736kW, so we had a small celebration!

We used a company which supplies German made technology but tested in the UK. The Germans have been fitting these for some years and we felt they were tried and tested. You need to do your research carefully as to which company you go with.

If anyone is interested in solar PV's, you are welcome to come and have a look at our system.

Austin Maytham (850126)

Energy Helpline

With the recent announcements from the main energy providers of large increases in the price of energy, the cost of keeping warm is rising quite alarmingly. To help combat this, a free phone helpline has been set up by United Sustainable Energy Agency in conjunction with various Oxfordshire Councils to give advice.

If you are struggling to meet your energy bills or just want free and impartial advice on Cavity wall and loft insulation including the grants available; Grants and loans to help with heating system replacements; Government and Energy company payments; How to switch energy suppliers to get the best deal; Advice on fuel debt; How to be more energy efficient in the home – you can call 0800 107 00 44 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm.

Anyone for coffee?

We are holding a fundraising coffee morning on Saturday **22 October** 10.30 - 12 in the village hall in aid of Cancer Research UK and the RSPCA charities. There will be hot beverages and cakes for sale and also a raffle to raise money for these well deserving charities. Please join us - all welcome.

Any donations of cakes or biscuits will be much appreciated, please bring these along to the village hall at 9.30am.

Any Raffle prizes to be delivered to Karen Fenn - Fernwood, High Street (851072)

Blewbury Post Office News

RBS, Nat West and Ulster Bank customers can now make free cash withdrawals and balance enquiries using their chip and pin. So please support us and save a trip into town to get cash out. Barclays, Lloyds TSB, Santander, Halifax and other banks' customers are already able to do this, but not all, please check.

With the dreaded Christmas posting season almost upon us, the last posting dates for surface mail to Australia and New Zealand is 30 September, and for Far East* 4 October, South Africa, Hong Kong*, USA & Canada 18 October.

Opening Hours:

M/T/Th/F	8.30 - 5pm (closed 12 - 2.30)
Wed:	8.30 - 12 noon
Sat:	9.30 - 12 noon

Ann & Karen

Weather Lore



In this season it is sometimes handy to know if it “might” rain and the saying “the higher the cloud the finer the weather” is usually true. Generally, if the clouds are too high, rain cannot fall. There is also a saying: “*A fair October & a good blast, blows hog the acorns and man the mast*”. As I understand it, mast are beech nuts. From Wikipedia MAST (BOTANY) is described as edible seeds and fruits produced by trees or shrubs that wildlife species will consume. Not only wildlife, or are we still classified as such? Perhaps “animal species” would be better, as that covers everything, and I am sure worms and insects, as well as birds, also enjoy the fruits of the forest. It seems that the benefit to the birds and other animals is well timed, as it may be a very severe winter. The other meteorological occurrence at this time of year is the autumnal equinox on 21 September, and both the equinoxes have bad weather associated with them. For those of you who associate lots of berries with a bad winter, it’s the holly berry that counts, not every berry.

Austin Maytham

VPA News

I have returned from holidays to find my garden very well watered, lots of tomatoes, courgettes and beans and a full water butt, which is strange because we had lovely weather with only a little rain up north!

On 5 October, at Upton Methodist Church, 7.3pm, Audrey Long will give a talk on the “History of Blewbury”; Tea/coffee & biscuits will be served.

Our annual Plant, cake and produce stall is on 15 October, 2pm at Abners, Church Rd, Blewbury. There will be a plethora of lovely plants on sale anyway, and a delicious array of cakes too!

Happy Gardening

Karen Brooks

Upton Plant Stall

The trouble with retirement is that it gives you more time to spend on your interest.

My passion is propagating plants and gardening and with more time I have a

surplus of plants. They are out on a table in Station Road for sale and I hope you will buy some and that they will give you pleasure.

Everything I grow should be happy in our Upton soil and should also be reasonably hardy given a normal winter unless it is labelled as tender.

If you want any advice in choosing your plant, do call me on 07974 919174 and I will try and help.

Simon Powell



Blewbury WI

Our group open evening is on 3 October in the newly refurbished Civic Hall in Didcot, we welcome all members of the WI in South Oxfordshire to a talk on "Sugar & Spice". We think it's about flower arranging, but the cakes & coffee are nice!

The Ewelme walk in September was postponed due to wind and rain, and has been re-scheduled for Wednesday 5 October, 3.5 to 4 miles long, meet at Blewbury village hall at 9.30am. No need to be a member of the WI to join in.

Denman College is holding its 2nd Jam Festival on the 8/9 October, don't think my chilli chutney stands a chance, but the raspberry jam

might - that's if I have any left - kids! Scrabble is at Lyn Page's on 12 October. Please join us for coffee on 13 October at Style Acre Tea rooms, Blewbury, Susan and Joyce will be there to greet you at 10.30am. Fourteen of us are off to see "Sister Act" on the 25th, you might hear us singing on the way home!

There is a change of speaker for 26 October meeting, we now have Michael Braide who will speak on "Travels in Russia", 7.30pm in the Vale Room, Blewbury.

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

Karen Brooks

Brassed Off?

Blewbury Brass band are running a series of "step up to brass" music courses at their rehearsal hall adjacent to the Blewbury recreation ground. The course runs for 8 weeks and costs £50. The next course starts **12 October**, playing each Wednesday 6.30pm-7.20pm. There is also the opportunity to stay on and play with the main band afterwards as playing improves.

The course is aimed both at youths and adults aged between 10 and 100 who can read music and play an instrument to something like grade 2, 3 or 4 standard. We provide good instruments and professional tuition and all you need is enthusiasm.

Instruments include Cornet, Trumpet, Tenor Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Euphonium and Drums. Perhaps you play in the recorder group or are learning the violin? Maybe you played a brass instrument at school (perhaps 20-30 years ago) and fancy starting again. Or just maybe, you have a teenager who wants to play drums in a rock band and you'd like a peaceful evening once a week! Either way, this could be just your cup of tea.

To book or find out more please contact Jolyon Tidmarsh on 07979 031273 or oxtid2@hotmail.com, or check us out on Facebook or www.blewburybrassband.org.uk.