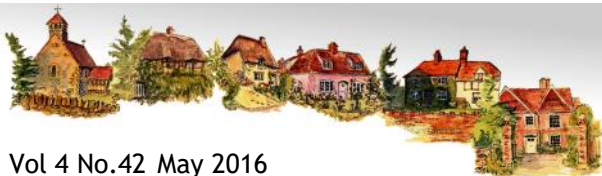


Upton News



Vol 4 No.42 May 2016

Parish Council News

Planning

P16/V0549/FUL - Land at rear of George & Dragon - erection of equestrian structures including stable block to provide stables, tack room and feed store. The Council objected to the application with a number of comments, including restricting the number of horses to 4, removing the leylandii hedge, details on lighting to be given, removal of existing outbuildings and restoration of the land to grazing condition.

P16/V0580/FUL - Engineering works pertaining to levelling of area to north-east corner of site to provide training school/ménage on land adjacent and to the rear of George & Dragon, Upton: After discussion, a vote was taken and the PC unanimously objected to the application, with the following comments: The proposed positioning of the ménage would result in the further loss of pasture. It was recommended that the planned ménage should be moved to the existing flattened ground where the illegally constructed stable block had been demolished; the remaining land should be restored to pasture, conducive to its AONB status.

P16/V0553/FUL - Land adjacent to George & Dragon, proposed Traveller site with provision of three individual plots with individual parking, sharing amenity space and bin storage areas. Forty members of the public attended this meeting and were unanimously opposed to this application, largely because of its unsuitability in an AONB and lack of local facilities for Travellers. The Council is considering its response to the application and requesting advice from the Planning Department.

P16/V0885/FUL - Development work at Maslina, replacement dwelling, garaging and landscaping; the Council fully supported this application.

Annual Parish Meeting on 20th April: the Chairman Dr Bob Lott who was unable to be present at the meeting due to business commitments, announced he would be stepping down from the Chair because of pressure of work, family and Uptonogood commitments. He expressed his gratitude to his colleagues on the council as well as all the hard working volunteers who gave many hours of their time to maintain Upton's amenities. In his report he commented on the recent disappointing planning decision at Owlscote, the ongoing saga at Wattle Cottage Farm, the Chilton Road residents' wish for a pedestrian crossing to the bus stop in Station Road, and the so far undecided

future of the Methodist Chapel site. Bob had also spent many hours recently in collaboration with other villages to try and preserve the 94/95 bus service, which will lose its subsidy in July. He mentioned a further increase in the Precept, which was essential to keep the Council's finances on an even keel, and to keep the village's amenities up to scratch.

The latest Parish Plan is about to go to the printers, so thanks to all the team who have put it together with the cooperation of the whole village who completed the questionnaire, which will guide the Parish Council's actions over the next few years.

Reports were also given by Cllr Reg Waite from the Vale DC, Ms Marion Mills, Headteacher at Blewbury Primary School and Mrs Jessie West, who spoke about the care and maintenance of St Mary's Church as well as the ongoing debate about the local transport; Dr Derek Whitmell brought us up to date with what is happening with the Harwell Site Stakeholder Group which was very positive, and Mrs Lesley Shaw, although unable to be present, had circulated her report on the Neighbourhood Action Group, and the recent appointment of PCSO Keith Jennings to our village.

The Village Hall goes from strength to strength under the stewardship of Brian Rippon; further proposed improvements include a better heating system and redecoration of the meeting room and main hall.

Many residents (and the Council) have complained to FixMyStreet about the incidence of potholes in the village roads; hopefully by keeping up the pressure we will eventually get a result in resurfaced roads.

Finally, it is hoped to hold a Village Picnic on the Recreation Ground on Sunday 12th June to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. Anyone wishing to help organise this event should contact the Parish Council.

The Queen 's 90th Birthday picnic?: To be or not to be??

You will have read in an earlier Upton News that the Parish Council suggested we hold a picnic to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday. It is very sad that there has been no interest shown in such an event. It is possible that it seemed a long way off when you read about it. This is an invitation to everyone in the village to let us know if you would support this picnic?

Unfortunately the village hall already has a booking for the actual day so we've taken the liberty of making a provisional hall booking for the afternoon of SUNDAY 12TH JUNE. If the weather is fine the picnic would be on the Recreation Ground. The hall kitchen and toilets will be available to us. The format would be simple and we would hope to arrange some family sports and perhaps some community singing to round off the afternoon.

Please get in touch with Clare & John Lightfoot so that we can get the ball rolling.

01235 850486 Lthimbles@btinternet.com

Wine Appreciation Society

Attendees of April's Wine Club meeting gave a warm welcome to Katie Jones, all the way from the Languedoc in France, who presented a selection of her Domaine Jones wines after an engaging talk accompanied by wonderfully evocative photographs of the region, her vineyards and her train shed winery.

In 2008, having lived in the Languedoc for many years while working in the wine trade, Katie took the plunge and bought her first vineyard. Katie painted a wonderful picture of this remote ("back of beyond") region, where rugby, boar hunting and the cooperative wine company dominate conversation. With admirable resilience and tenacity, Katie has developed her Domaine to include 12 hectares of vines spread across vineyards in Maury, Paziols and Tuchan. They are small, remote and hard work, which is just the way Katie likes them - the rather poor, sloping ground that the very old, traditional vines cling to provide low yields of high quality grapes. It means most of the work including harvesting has to be done by hand, but Katie explained that the results justify the toil.

During the evening, we were fortunate enough to sample a variety of wines from Domaine Jones, including two Grenache Gris (one demonstrating fabulous minerality, the other showing the grape's affinity for oak), a Macabeu (a grape better known for its role in Cava and some reds from northern Spain), a Fitou and old vine Syrah and Carignan. The evening concluded with a sweet treat, in the form of Katie's dessert Muscat.

We now look forward to our May meeting, led by members of the committee presenting some of their favourite food and wine pairings. If you've wondered about joining us, please do contact an existing member or anyone from the committee - you're very welcome to try your first meeting as a guest, and the more the merrier:

- 18 May: Your committee presenting some of their favourite food and wine matches.
- 25 June: The annual club BBQ

Cheers!

William Betts, Chair

Submissions for *Upton News* should be sent to news@uptonvillage.co.uk.

Deadline for the June edition is **Wednesday 1st June.**

Paul's pan-European pedal for Parkinson's

My father, James Batho, and his bike were together a sort of mobile institution in Ashted, Surrey, where he lived for more than 70 years.

Every week day he would don suit, bowler hat and cycle clips, fix his umbrella to the purpose-built bracket, drop a brief case into the basket and head for the station and the train to London, returning regular as clockwork at 7.30.

For the last 10 years of his life he suffered increasingly from the cruel effects of Parkinson's Disease and he died in 2009. As we cleared the family home the bike came to light in a corner of the garage, flat-tyred, rusty and festooned in a veil of cobwebs. Unable to say farewell to such an icon, it came home to my shed, where Upton spiders eagerly carried on the task begun by their Surrey kin.

Last autumn I decided in a moment of light-headedness to restore the

bike to its former glory (it's a Raleigh dating from the 1930s) and to take it on a Serious Expedition. So on 21 May I will take the train from Didcot to Oberalp Pass in the Swiss Alps, which is the source of the mighty river Rhine. I will point the basket north (and downhill!) with the aim of reaching Hoek van Holland some 2½ weeks and 861 miles later.

I am planning to use the trip to raise money for Parkinson's UK which provides specialist nursing and support for those with the disease and their carers, and undertakes research to find a cure. My ambition is to raise £4,000. I have set up a JustGiving account for donations - www.justgiving.com/Paul-Batho.

With many thanks

Paul Batho

Update...

D-day minus 9 - on 21 May I will board a train at Didcot and by 8.30 that evening I will be arriving in Zurich. The next day I leave at about 9.00 and, via a series of increasingly small trains and steeper tracks, arrive at the source on the Rhine at Oberalp Pass at 11.30.

Viewed in profile the Rhine's course resembles a logarithmic curve (it's been a while since O-level maths, so I had to look this up!). What it means on the ground is that for the first 60 miles the Rhine Cycle Route plummets without a pause from over 6,700 ft to around 1,500ft. It then takes a leisurely 800 miles to drop to sea level. So the first couple of days will be a serious test for the ancient rod brakes (let's hope it's not wet!) while the rest of the trip will be more of a challenge for my almost-as-ancient legs, especially if a cruel wind sets in from the north!

Thanks to the unbelievable generosity of friends, family and colleagues the total money raised for Parkinson's UK has reached £2,500 - the target of £4,000 doesn't look so crazy after all! It's been truly uplifting to see the

amount clocking up daily and thanks for all your messages and encouragement. Comments as to my mental state are also quite understood! If you'd still like to donate, cheques are equally welcome, payable to Parkinson's UK. And more good news - the bike is now up and running and has been on a few test runs without anything too serious falling off either it or me. Still, I reckon we have jointly covered no more than 10% of the total journey's length, so it's early days yet.... There's a picture on the blog page below - I have not included it here as pictures can sometimes prevent e-mails being received.

Astonishingly, given my general feebleness when it comes to IT, I have now managed to set up a blog site so those interested can track my journey and hear of all the terrible disasters and glorious triumphs. The URL (see, I know the lingo!) is <http://www.travelpod.com/travel-blog-entries/paulbikesrhine/1/1462978493/tpod.html>

Still lots of preparation to do, so it's back to the grindstone now but I'll send a final message before I go.

With enormous thanks for your generous donations and support
Paul



Uptonogood?

Preparations for Uptonogood? on Saturday 18th June are now well advanced. We have over 500 riders registered already and fully expect a surge in registrations over the next few weeks to see us at capacity.

As is often the case however, we are struggling for marshals with about a dozen or so still needed as many of our regulars are unavailable.

If you've not marshalled before why not come and give it a go? You will find the comradery with the riders is a rewarding experience and you'll get free food and drink on your return and £20 for a charity/cause of your choice. If you are available that day and would like to help out please contact Bob Lott or Mike Tibbetts on info@uptonogood.org.uk

Rector's Reflections

A Powerful Picture

Sometimes a picture really does speak more powerfully than any number of words. I was thinking this the other day when I popped into the church at Culham, just outside Abingdon.

As I was looking around, I noticed a particular stained glass window, which told the story of the Good Samaritan. You'll remember the story. A man, travelling between Jerusalem and Jericho, was set upon by robbers and left half dead. Two good and religious men, a Priest and a Levite, saw him, but they didn't want to get involved - they passed by on the other side. Then a third man came along - a Samaritan. At the time, many good and pious people would not have had anything to do with Samaritans, because they disapproved of their religious beliefs and practices. But the Samaritan did not walk by on the other side. He saw the need, and actually did something about it. He took practical care of the man who had been robbed, bandaging his wounds and taking him to a place of safety.

One section of the window showed the man who had been robbed, in all his vulnerability and need. Behind him is a man with his back to him, walking away. He is, quite literally, turning his back on a man in obvious need.

It is a powerful picture of our human tendency to turn our backs on the needy in our world. Whether we see them in pictures on the television, or in the street as we walk past, it is so easy for us to harden our hearts against the need in the world around us.

Of course, there can be very good and sensible reasons not to get involved. Our own resources of time and money can be very limited. We might be worried that our intervention will do no good, or even be counter-productive. It might be that the situation is dangerous, and - quite rightly - we need to make sure of our own safety. Or it might be that we feel overwhelmed and just don't know what to do.

And yet, perhaps there are times when we can be so sensible that we cease to be truly human. Surely compassion towards those in need is at the heart of what it means to be a human being. None of us can save the world; but we can all do something, however small, to show care and compassion towards our fellow human beings.

Fr Jason

St Mary's News

Sunday Services are as follows:

1 May - 0900 - Sung Eucharist*

8 May - 0900 - Sung Eucharist

15 May - 0900 - Sung Eucharist

22 May - 1030 - ALL AGE SERVICE*
(non Eucharistic)

29 May - 0900 - Sung Eucharist

Thurs 5 May 8.00 p.m. ASCENSION
DAY - Eucharist*

Tues 10 May Archbishop's Call to
Prayer - drop in between 7.00 p.m.
and 8.00 p.m.

*refreshments follow these services

Weekday services are listed in the
church porch.

Advanced Notice:

St Mary's Fete is being held on
Saturday 17th September, kicking off
at 1.00 p.m. on the Recreation
Ground with a BBQ.

Entertainment by Cry Havoc (Morris
Dancers), Blewbury Band, vintage
vehicles. There will also be a Fun
Dog Show.

As usual we will need all the helpers
we can muster. Contacts: Clare
850486/Jessie 851206

Christian Aid Week

16-21 May

Our volunteer collectors will be
calling on you during this week in
the hope that you have made a
contribution to this very worthy
cause. If you'd rather not be
involved, please say so - politely! -
and you won't be bothered again.

Elisabeth and Malcolm Wright

Village Clubs & Organisations

Blewbury WI

Karen Brooks 850219
karencbrooks@gmail.com

Calor Gas Syndicate

Lesley Shaw 07739 047688

Drop In Sessions

Yvonne Collins 850989

Guides, Brownies & Rainbows

Fiona Coomer
fiona.coomer@gmail.com 511809

Karate

John Hogan
johnhogan67@icloud.com

Short Mat Bowls Club

Tony Durbin 850035

Table Tennis Club

Bob Lott 851222

Tea Birds WI

Jo Christie tea-birdswi@hotmail.co.uk

Theatre Club

Malcolm Wright 850705

Upton Oil Syndicate

Colin Batchelor 01491 672444

Upton Village Hall

www.uptonvillagehall.co.uk 887129

Village Produce Association

Eileen Bracken 510095

Wine Appreciation Society

Kevin Jacklin 851404

Do you run a village club or
organisation? Please let us have
your details and we will add them
to the list.

Short Mat Bowls

How would you like to enjoy 2 free indoor short mat bowling sessions?

Harwell Short Mat Bowls Club has lost several members recently as they have moved away from the area so we are trying to introduce new people to the game. The bowling season is September to end of April but Harwell Village Hall has been booked for 2 Wednesday morning sessions on 4th May and 18th May, 10-12noon. If you would like to come along to try the game or find out how it is played you would be made very welcome, just come along to the hall and introduce yourself or ring us telephone number below.

You just need flat soled shoes and we will lend you suitable bowls, showing you how to stand, hold them etc. to try the game. A game consists of 2 teams of 4 playing 12 ends. We are a very friendly group, mostly of retirement age but some still working! There is the opportunity to play at Upton Village Hall too in the winter season, Wednesday evenings 7.45-9.45pm.

Harwell plays in the Oxfordshire league, Upton is a keen but non league group of players, some of whom have joined Harwell to play

Monday club nights when home league matches are played. Having never bowled before joining Upton, 4 players have regularly played in and won their league matches, the team coming second in Oxfordshire 2nd division. There is also an afternoon league, home games played on Thursdays.

The Upton players at Harwell also received a trophy last Sunday at Oxfordshire & District Final Day for winning the Afternoon League Plate in the final.

Upton bowling will most likely resume on 7th September.

Contact Joan & Tony Durbin,
Tel.01235 850035
Warwick Lodge, Prospect Road,
Upton OX11 9HT



'Learn to Bowl' - Bowls for the over 60's

Bowls for the over 60's will be taking place in Hagbourne Bowls Club on 1 June 2016. Bowls is a social activity that can have an impact on improving hand-eye coordination, relieving stress, weight loss, have an impact on muscle toning and strength adaptations.

Starts: 1 June 2016 (4 weeks); Time: 11:00am - 12:00pm

Price: £2

Where: Hagbourne Bowls Club, OX11 9LS

Tables for Africa

Recent visitors to the village hall might have noticed that we have new folding tables (courtesy of Uptonogood) which have replaced the old stacking ones.

Anyone who misses the former tables can still experience them on occasion at the George & Dragon where some have found a home for overflow dining. However I'm delighted that the remainder will be making their way to a school in Ghana, where I'm sure they will be put to good use for many years to come.

Brian

Tea Birds WI

On Tuesday 26 April Tea Birds WI had a very interesting evening with a presentation by Olivier Bazin on the subject of Mindfulness.

Tea Birds meet on the last Tuesday of every month at 8.00pm at Upton Village Hall. Our May meeting will be for members only due to limited space - our topic is Life Drawing. Our next open meeting is on Tuesday 28th June where we will be having an introduction to some basic car mechanics.

New members are always welcome or if you would like to pop along one evening, either leave a message on Facebook or email

tea-birdswi@hotmail.co.uk

Please check out our Facebook page or website - www.tea-birdswi.co.uk

Blewbury WI News

I love May, one of my favourite months, the warmer weather, the return of the house martins, the lilac is out, and the grass needs cutting! All that, and two long bank holidays to enjoy, without elaborate cooking or shopping to do! Simply marvellous!

Wednesday 4th May, Lyn's walk, meet at Blewbury Village hall, 9.15 am, (everyone welcome) for a walk around Highmoor Cross near Greys Court, and lunch at Rising Sun pub, some cars needed!

Tuesday 17th, trip to Braemore House

Wednesday 18th; trip to London to see "Wicked"

Monday 23rd; Oxfordshire WI Quiz night

Wednesday 25th, cookery demo at Denman

Wednesday 27th Main meeting, Vale Room, 7.30pm, Talk on the "Rather Odd Men Who Have, Over The Years, Become Prime Minister" (visitors welcome).

For more details of any of our events, the date of the next Coffee morning, Scrabble or Mah Jong session, or if you wish to join us, please ring Karen on 850219 or visit our webpage,

<http://blewburywi.wordpress.com>

where you will find more information.

Love from Karen

Girl Guides

The Guides have been busy focussing on service to the community recently. The girls spent an evening in the cold and rain picking up litter from the recreation ground for “Clean For the Queen”. We are learning or refreshing our first aid skills with the help of paramedic Dick Tracy, and will soon be gaining the first aid badge. The Guides have also presented flowers to all the local Girlguiding leaders to thank them for all their hard work running activities for Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers in our area. Finally we are collecting items for the Didcot Food Bank. If you would like to take part, items can be brought to Upton Village Hall during the Guide meeting (7.30 - 9.00) on April 29th or on May 13th.

The full list of items required is here:

www.didcotbaptist.org.uk/content/pages/documents/1237225078.pdf

and current needs listed on the website are these:

- tinned meat/meat pies
- long-life baguettes (i.e. that require baking before eating)
- pasta sauces, preferably tomato
- packet puddings
- whole UHT milk
- packet potato
- long life juice
- biscuits
- treats
- cereal
- sugar
- tinned veg

If you are interested in joining us, either as a Guide or helping as a leader please get in touch.

lynn.nickerson.holywell@gmail.com

Go Active Gold

Go Active Gold is a project funded by Sport England to support people in rural villages with a capacity of 500-3,000 residents to increase physical activity levels; with at least 100 being over 60, with a focus on social and mental well-being too. Therefore we invite the people of East Hagbourne and surrounding villages to get involved in this project.

For more information or to book on to a session, please get in touch:

Email: Conor.Grogan@southandvale.gov.uk

Mobile: 07717 326660

Blewbury Pre-School Playgroup

Registered Charity Number: 300117

Registered Ofsted Number: 134507

Chelsea Flower Show gold medallist shares secret of success at

Oxfordshire Summer Flowers event

We are delighted to announce that Coral Gardiner will be entertaining and inspiring people with her flower arranging demonstration in Blewbury Village Hall, Oxfordshire, on Saturday 21st May, 2016. This is a truly unique event with visitors having the opportunity to meet one of the country's most loved and expertly recognised floral arrangers.

Coral is a highly qualified, much sought after and amusing flower arranger who gives inspirational, educational demonstrations around the country. She won a Gold medal at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2015, and has also featured in several television programmes including BBC One's Countryfile.

The Summer Flowers event will start at 2pm and be followed by tea and cake and a Q&A session with Carol. A raffle will enable visitors to win the fabulous one-off displays that Carol creates during the event.

Tickets are available from Blewbury Post Office for £15.00 and include tea and cake. A small number of tickets can be reserved by calling Lucy on 07799553510. All profits will go to a much loved local charity, Blewbury Pre-School Playgroup.

Free parking at the venue.

Upton 50 Club

April Winners:

1st Prize £25 No 141 Kevin Jacklin

2nd Prize £20 No 50 Mandy Dawson

3rd Prize £15 No 142 Brenda Arnold

4th Prize £10 No 47 Frances Telling

Congratulations to all of this month's winners.

Post Office News

The Queen Elizabeth 90th birthday stamps will be on sale by the time you read this, they are far better than last so called "special" stamps! We have ordered extras!

Much as we would love to work overtime, we don't get paid for any time worked over our allotted 30 hours a week, so please remember when you rush in at 5 minutes to closing time, for us to process your parcels etc, that we are cashing up and dispatching all our paperwork, or attempting to clean the floor!

We will be closed on Monday 2nd May and Monday 30th May, as they are bank holidays, allowances & benefits will be paid on the Friday, if your usual pay day is Monday, Advance warning that we are also closed on Saturdays 6th (VPA garden visit) & 11th June (family fun day on Tickers Folly)

It must be heading towards summer, the ice cream is here!

Love from Karen & Angela

Village Produce Association

Our summer garden visit takes place on SATURDAY 4th JUNE and we will depart from Blewbury Village Hall at 9.30am and have a pick point in Upton at the Village Hall at 9.40am.

Our trip is to HIDCOTE MANOR GARDEN in the morning (arrive 10.30am) and KIFTSGATE COURT GARDENS in the afternoon (arrive 2.00pm), both in CHIPPING CAMPDEN. Cost: Hidcote Manor - £10.90 (National Trust members free) / Kiftsgate Court - £8.00. Plus - Transport £8.00. Café at Hidcote for lunch.

PLEASE BOOK YOUR TICKET AT BLEWBURY POST OFFICE OR THROUGH MAGGIE MAYTHAM in Upton (01235 850126).

A REMINDER FOR ALL GARDENERS IN BLEWBURY & UPTON - We have a selection of tools and equipment available for use - for a donation. Here is a reminder of our list of equipment:

- Mantis Rotavator with various attachments and a Projector for presentations - contact Karen Brooks 850219.
- Fertiliser Distributor, Long Arm Pruner and Garden Roller - contact Joyce Gilbert 850388.
- Gazebos, Lawn Scarifier & Aerator and Electric Leaf Vacuum - contact Margaret Maytham 850126.

Don't forget we have an e-mail address: vpa.in.bl.up@gmail.com If you have any gardening problems, please send us an e-mail and one of our members will be in touch to help you with advice. We do have a lot of experts in our team. Please take advantage by talking to some of our members who have a vast amount of experience and knowledge.

We also have a website!! Please have a look:

<https://blewburyanduptonvpa.wordpress.com/>

DID YOU KNOW? Caterpillars can devastate a crop of cabbages like a biblical plague of locusts, but you can help protect younger plants by adding about half a tablespoon of salt to your watering can. The plants absorb the salt, making them unpleasant for caterpillars who bloat and die if they consume it, but the cabbages will have expunged the salt by the time they reach maturity.

Happy Gardening
Eileen