

Upton News



Vol 5 No. 13 August 2017

Due to so many regular contributors not providing items for this edition we have had to look around for alternative information that we hope will be of interest to you.

Unfortunately due to a computer related problem it is possible that the September issue may not go out until the 4th but we will do our best to get it out on time.

Lucy

St. Mary's Church Services

Sun 6th August 9.00am - Sung Eucharist*

Sun 13th August 9.00am - Sung Eucharist

Sun 20th August 9.00am - Sung Eucharist

Sun 27th August 10.30am - All Age Service*

Please see the porch notice for weekday services.

* Refreshments follow these services.

Bake Up

The fourth baking session was held in Rob and Chris Traynor's garden with the theme of picnic food. It was nice to see a new face, Karen, who brought along a scrumptious game pie. Other delights included scotch eggs, sausage rolls, focaccia and soda bread, marinated chicken and more. Recipes were swapped, bellies were filled and a good deal of chat was had.

The theme for the next meet-up is 'food from our holidays'. Frances is kindly hosting at The Old Forge (where High Street meets Church Street) at 11am on Friday 29th September.

If you can't wait that long, there'll be some Bake Up fun at the fete.

Bake Up isn't an exclusive club - new faces (and food) are always welcome, so if you have a little spare time and fancy conjuring up something in your kitchen why not come along?

Drop In

The Drop-In is an informal gathering to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a pleasant chat. Meetings take place in the Village Hall on Thursdays from 10.30am to 12.00pm. Dates for August are the 3rd, 17th and the 31st.

Upton Village Fete

The fete this year will be held on Saturday 2nd September starting at 1.00pm on the recreation ground. So keep the date free - it will be worth it! For the first time the fete will be raising funds for both St Mary's Church and UVHAT (the Upton Village Hall Amenities Trust).

We're pleased to announce some exciting new ideas - donkeys, a cartoonist, a car boot sale and a **bake - off competition**. The bake off will comprise:

A pizza baking challenge - **we need the loan of a pizza oven**; can anyone help? If so, please let Kieron know (kieronhumph@gmail.com)

Cake decorating - a master-class from Fliss then try it yourself! If you'd like a go, please let Kieron know (contact above)

Kids blindfold baking competition! - 5 pairs of children to take part, in the ring. Volunteers please!

And we won't forget the old favourites - teas, a book stall, white elephant, preserves, plants, raffle, bottle tombola, and a fab gifts tombola. There will be a barbeque from 1.00pm, so you can start off with lunch and then enjoy the rest of the afternoon!

Entertainment will include a dog show (entries on the day or to Gloria Smith (850683)), gymnasts and the children's popular entertainer, Juggling John. Music will be by Blewbury Brass Band and local musicians. Entrance is via a lucky programme, price £1.00.

Donations will be welcomed for:

White Elephant; please leave with Giulia Rippon or Sarah Carter, or deliver to the Village Hall Friday evening 1st Sept from 6.00 - 8.00pm. Just about anything goes, but no clothing and shoes, please, **and** nothing broken or dirty! Large items can be collected - call Giulia on 07789 777381.

Books, please leave with, or ring for collection, Judy and Ian on 850179.

Raffle Donations of prizes to Lesley Shaw, or bring to the hall on the Friday.

Gifts Tombola, leave with Clare Lightfoot or bring to the hall on the Friday.

Bottle Tombola, leave with Brian Rippon, Gloria Smith. Clare Lightfoot or bring to the hall.

Children's Tombola leave with Clare Lightfoot or bring to the hall.

And not forgetting the famous teas, Rosemary de Wilde will be there at the hall from early morning ready to receive all those amazing homemade cakes that Uptonians so generously make.

Contact Jessie 851206 or Jessie@blushapes.com or Brian 850158 or brian@rippon.net

Parish Council News

Parish Council Meetings

Please note that all regular parish council meetings now start at 6pm in the village hall meeting room. An agenda is posted on the noticeboard inviting members of the village to the meeting. A meeting was held on Monday 17th July and the next one is on Monday 18th September. Please see the village web site for minutes of meetings when they are approved for publication.

Rubbish left on the recreational ground

A topic that repeatedly raises its head is the amount of rubbish that people leave on the recreational ground. Everyone is welcome to use the recreational ground and is asked to abide by the rules that can be found at: - <http://www.uptonvillage.co.uk/recreation-ground-rules>. This subject is currently under review by the council. Any suggestions will be gratefully received at parish.council@uptonvillage.co.uk

Didcot Garden Town

You are reminded that the proposal consultation runs to the end of July. Information is available on South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Council web sites. Paper copies are available at the council offices. Please make know your opinions and comments if you have any. Stuart Fraser, Chairman of Upton Parish Council, has a few leaflets and paper consultations available along with a copy of the hard copy of the "Didcot Garden Town proposed delivery plan". Should you wish to see/borrow the plan or have a leaflet or paper consultation, please get in contact via the above email address.

Chairman's Awards for Volunteers and Achievers in the Vale

Is there someone of any age in Upton who you feel is worthy of an award for their volunteer work or for specific achievements that they have made? The above awards take place in November, but it's never too early to start thinking about nominations.

Over 55s Walking Football

This sport is becoming increasingly popular and many towns/villages now have their own teams. Chairman of the Vale, Reg Waite, has attended an event where over 20 teams took part. Reg and Go Active Gold would be delighted to meet any interested participants from Upton. Please note teams can be all male, all female or mixed. Further details will be published in the next UPC minutes.

Charity Quiz

A quiz will take place in the George and Dragon on Monday September 25th with the proceeds going to the Tony Loy Trust. Entry £5.

Prizes given for each round with a joint of beef for the overall winner.

Book your places asap at 01235 85072.

Mammals on Roads

The People's Trust for Endangered Species has launched a new app, *Mammals on Roads*, created to engage new audiences with wildlife conservation as part of their annual *Mammals on Roads* survey which runs from July to September. The new app boasts charming graphics of a whole host of mammals and there are also informative audio descriptions which provide useful background information and insights into each of the mammals that might be spotted. The survey requires Oxfordshire volunteers to record sightings of mammals - dead or alive - whilst on car journeys of 20 miles or more, allowing conservationists to see any population changes that require conservation action.

To take part, you can download the free *Mammals on Roads* app from the Apple Store or Google Play. Alternatively, the survey can be completed via the PTES website (www.ptes.com/mor) or via a printed survey pack. Email mor@ptesorg or call 0207 498 4533 to request a pack to be sent to you.

Local Landscape Map

The Oxfordshire Historic Landscape Characterisation project, funded by Historic England, has created a map and a linked database of the whole county which captures the history of our landscapes and records what was there in the 20th, 19th, and 18th centuries. A link to the interactive map and instructions on how to use it is available at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/historiclandscape

Blewbury W.I.

Our reduced activities for August are:-

Monday 7th August at 10.30am - Coffee at Style Acre.

Monday 7th August at 7.30pm - Scrabble at Susan's.

Monday 21st August - Tour of BMW Mini Car Plant at Cowley. Time and date to be confirmed.

Wednesday 23rd August at 3.00pm - WI Summer Social in the Melland Room.

For more details of any of our events, or if you wish to join us, please ring Karen on 850219 or visit our web page, <http://blewburywi.wordpress.com>

Cilla.

Swop Shop

Items

Cauliflower and Purple Sprouting plants wanted in exchange for garden produce. Mike Brown 850135

Didcot U3A

The next meeting is on August 15th in the Didcot Civic Hall starting at 2.00pm, to ensure a good seat it is advisable to arrive 15 minutes early.

If you are retired or semi-retired come and enjoy a convivial atmosphere over tea and biscuits and learn more about the numerous interest groups that are on offer, you will be made very welcome.

This month's guest speaker is Debbie Dent, former head of Fairtrading in Oxfordshire, now working for Oxfam advising on fairtrade and products, talking about Fairtrade and Fairtrading.

Astons Online

Astons Online is a free-of-charge drop-in workshop for the residents of Astons, Blewbury, Chilton, Cholsey, Goring, the Moretons, Streatley and Upton aimed at improving your online skills and keeping you safe when using the internet. The next meeting is Tuesday 15th August from 10.00am to 12.00pm in Astons Village Hall.

You'll find a warm welcome, the atmosphere is friendly, engaging and inclusive. Astons Online is the place to bring any problems you may have using your computer, tablet, smartphone, email or browsing the internet.

On our website we have our Broadband and Home Wifi guide to help you make the best of your Internet service. Astons Online is in the 'Community and Services' section of www.theastons.net You'll also find the Thames Valley Police "*Little Book of Cyber Scams*" on our pages to help you avoid on-line fraudsters.

Contact us using theastonsonline@gmail.com or Tel. 07780 958249

Short Mat Bowls

Harwell Short Mat Bowls Club are staging two free 2 hour taster sessions for people interested in taking up the game. The sessions are being sponsored by Vale of the White Horse District Council's program Go Active Gold as part of their health and fitness initiative for the over 60s.

If you would like to give it a try just turn up at Harwell Village Cherry Hall on Tuesday 5th September at 2.00pm or on Thursday 7th September at 5.00pm. Flat soled shoes need to be worn, bowls will be provided as will tea and biscuits.

There is the opportunity to play Short Mat Bowls at Upton Village Hall in the winter season, September to April starting on 6th September. Sessions are held Wednesday evenings 7.45pm - 9.45pm, except the third Wednesday of the month, when the wine club use the hall.

There is no annual membership fee, just pay per session.

For more information about bowls either at Harwell or Upton please contact Joan or Tony Durbin Tel. 850035 or Email jo_ham@btinternet.com

Theatre Group

“Great Expectations”

Blewbury Garden Theatre, 18th-22nd July, 2017

The Blewbury Players have performed over forty years of productions at Orchard Dene and their latest production, “Great Expectations”, was recently enjoyed by the group. Not only were we treated to Malcolm Wright’s accomplished portrayal of Pumblechook but we were also able to pay a silent tribute to Irene Timblick, a theatre club enthusiast who would surely have revelled in Dickens’s novel being brought to life in the charming open air theatre.

We were lucky; we had picked a dry evening but, goodness me, it was cold. While the audience huddled in rugs, there was plenty of action on stage to keep us locked into the story of lost hopes and broken hearts. Experienced actors played alongside novices of all ages, supported by the dedicated crew and all passionate about delivering community theatre.

Many readers will know the story well but for me, Miss Havisham’s bitterness was in stark contrast to Pip’s never-ending charitable nature and I found her death in the fire, a sad ending to an even sadder life. The dark and gloomy mood of the tale was lightened by Dickens himself being brought forward like a chorus figure, using his wit and impish genius, to envelop us. The cold evening needed a warm and happy ending and we got one, with Pip and Estella planning their future together. Luckily for me, my lift home was in a car with heated seats - perfect!

Rosemary de Wilde

Blewbury Players are to be applauded for this impeccable production which was bravely performed despite a persistent shower. The production was well cast and full of exciting twists and turns. A huge thank you to the producer, cast and the whole team who entertained a very appreciative, but somewhat depleted, audience.

Clare Lightfoot at the matinee performance.

Ride and Stride

This is your opportunity to cycle, walk, push a buggy or ride a horse around as many churches in aid of the Historic Churches Trust on Saturday 9th September. Half of your sponsorship goes to a church of your choice, the remainder to the HCT.

If you are unable to take part but would like to be a “Welcomer” we would be pleased to hear from you. This involves spending an hour or so in St Mary’s Church to greet those who check in during the day.

If you would like a sponsorship form or fancy the idea of a bus trip to Reading or Oxford to walk around some churches followed by some retail therapy please contact Clare Lightfoot - 850486 -

Whats on at Earth Trust

All events take place at the Earth Trust, Little Wittenham, OX14 4QZ unless otherwise stated. More information can be found on the Earth Trust website www.earthtrust.org.uk

Pond Dipping - Sunday 6th August 10.00am-1.00pm

Using nets and trays, get a closer look at the creatures that live in our pond.

Woodland Adventure - Tuesday 8th August 10.00am-12.00pm

An expedition for 5-8 year olds to explore, build and play in the woods.

Night Safari - Tuesday 8th August 8.00pm-10.00pm

A night-time expedition to discover Wallingford Castle Meadow's wildlife.

Wildlife Wednesday - Wednesday 9th August 10.00am-12.00pm

Play and learn about your local wildlife at Wallingford Castle Meadows .

Little Explorers - Thursdays 10th and 31st August 10.00am-11.30am

Sensory buggy/sling walk for babies and toddlers.

Discover and Play - Friday 11th August 10.00am-12.00pm

Forest School for the under-5s. A morning of woodland play and discovery.

Meteor Shower Walk - Friday 11th August, 8.00pm-10.00pm

A starlit walk around the Clumps and then settle down to enjoy the show that the annual Perseid meteor shower provides.

Fruit Tree Pruning and Grafting - Sat. 12th and Sun.13th August 10.00am-4.00pm

Two workshops covering both the theory and practice of fruit tree pruning and grafting.

Song Writing - Sunday 13th August, 11.00am-12.00pm

For 6-11 year olds, make some music with singer-songwriter David Gibb.

Night Safari - Tuesday 15th August, 8.00pm-10.00pm

Join us for this night-time expedition to discover Mowbray Field's wildlife.

Wildlife Wednesday - Wednesday 16th August 10.00am-12.00pm

Come out and play and learn about your local wildlife at Mowbray Fields.

Family Bushcraft - Thursday 17th August, 10.00am-4.00pm

Bring the whole family and go wild in the great outdoors.

Beginners Wildlife Photography - Sunday 20th August, 10.00am-3.00pm

Professional photographer Andrew Walmsley will help you get to grips with your camera and provide guidance on capturing images of wildlife.

Clumps Club - Monday 21st-Friday 25th August, 9.00am-5.00pm

Experience some wild adventures in this holiday club for 7-11 year olds.

Woodland Adventure - Wednesday 30th August 10.00am-12.00pm

An expedition for 5-8 year olds to explore, build and play in the woods.

Police Open Day

Saturday 5th August 10am - 4pm

See the police helicopter and team, meet the mounted and dog sections, learn about different departments and tour the police museum

Come and join us at Thames Valley Police Training Centre

at Sulhamstead near Reading (RG7 4DX)

Free Entry - No admission before 10.00am, last entry 3.30pm

Parking available on a first come first served basis

Dis-abled parking and wheelchair access

Food available on site; cash only.

www.thamesvalley.police.uk/openday



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Contact Jill Allen DipFh MCFHP MAFHP

Foot Health Practitioner

07767763441 or 01235 815917

Babysitting/Childminding

Responsible young lady, nearly 16,

is available for all babysitting/childminding requirements.

Confident with and loves children of all ages.

Please call Lisa on 07977 494336

Upton 50 Club

Prize Winners for July

£25 No.186 Kenny Shaw

£20 No.144 Sarah Tennant-Flowers

£15 No.22 Patti Brown

£10 No.145 Margaret Maytham

Lesley Shaw

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

Deadline for the September edition is
Friday 25th August