

Upton News



Vol 5 No.1 August 2016

As you will have read in last month's Upton News I am taking over as editor. Just a short introduction, I am Lucy Ross, aged 12, I live in Chilton Road and have just finished my first year at Didcot Girls School. Whilst you may think I am rather young to be taking on such a task, don't worry, I will be working alongside my grandad, Mike Brown, who edited over 50 editions from 2007 to 2011. He will be providing me with all the news and information and I will be putting it all together as a newsletter.

On behalf of the parish I would like to thank Brian Rippon, the retiring editor, who has done a sterling job in editing over 40 editions since 2011. During that time he has used his computer expertise to give us a much more professional looking newsletter and to introduce distribution by email to a large majority of you thus considerably reducing the time and cost of printing and delivering paper copies.

Once we have overcome any possible early teething problems our aim will be to issue the email copies on the first day of each month, printed copies are likely to be with you about a week later. For those of you still receiving a printed copy please consider switching format to obtain an earlier copy and to further reduce our printing and distribution effort. To switch either go on to our village website, click on News and then on to Upton News and enter your details to subscribe or send your email address straight to me at the address below. A big added advantage of being on the list is it will allow us to issue straight to you any urgent information that we feel should go out to as many parishioners as possible at any time during the month.

For those of you who will always prefer a paper copy or who are unable to receive the email version, do not worry, we will still ensure that a copy will be delivered to your door unless you specifically ask to come off the distribution list.

Enough for this month but a change of editor is a good time to look at possible ways of improving our newsletter and next month I will be making some suggestions and looking for ideas from you.

Lucy Ross. news@uptonvillage.co.uk

Parish Council News

Your Council met on 18th July and the first item on the agenda was to discuss the suggested memorial garden in the grounds of the old Methodist Chapel. We had a representative from the Church's architects present who showed us plans of what they were proposing which, by happy coincidence, included a community garden! If the Church passes the proposal, responsibility for the garden area including the three trees will pass to the Parish Council so volunteers will be needed to maintain this area in a pleasant and attractive state. There will be benches! Two dormer bungalows have been proposed for the rest of the site. The Council now awaits the formal planning application.

Our County Councillor returned to the thorny subject of the speed of traffic on the A417 through the village and advised he had initiated some traffic monitoring that had resulted in 15 motorists being stopped in June; more will follow! Hopefully this will have some effect. He had also been assured that the School bus will still come down Chilton Road in the mornings and was urgently pursuing the possibility of the bus stopping on that side of the main road. Watch this space! Cllr Lilly told us he was keen for a second chicane to be installed in Chilton Road as he was aware that the existing one was not having the required effect of slowing traffic, but sadly at present there was no money available.

Our District Councillor commented on a problem currently being experienced by the waste collection people, with green recycling bins being contaminated with nappies and food waste. If you are not sure what goes in each bin, please go to the Vale's website at the following location:

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/household-collections/recycling/what-can-i-recycle

And, if you spot anyone fly tipping in our area, please also get in touch with the Vale.

Our PCSO Keith Jennings was pleased to advise that there was very little reported crime in Upton; however, he would be keeping an eye on the speeding situation! Also Thames Valley Police are instituting a Neighbourhood Watch scheme; if you are interested in joining, information packs are available at Blewbury Post Office.

Cllr Stuart Fraser thanked both Councillors for attending the meeting, but before they left, he requested them to pass on the message that Upton PC (in company with Harwell and many other parishes) deplored the waste of taxpayers' money being spent on expensive consultation exercises to determine the future shape of local government in Oxfordshire.

There has been no response to the request for a volunteer to join the Parish Council, so we are having to cope with only 5; this means that the existing councillors are stretched and have to take on multiple roles. And so far there has only been one application for the role of Clerk to the PC. The deadline for the clerk post is the end of July.

Planning: P16/V0553/FUL Land adjacent to the George & Dragon, provision for Travellers Site, amended from 3 units to 2 units - this matter has been postponed for consultation until September.

P16/V1646/FUL - Dean Hollow Chilton (but within Upton) - change of use from agricultural to equestrian. The PC had no objection but requested that the approach road be improved before work commenced, and that the mobile home be removed should the business cease.

New Parish Councillor Required

As you will see from the previous page, we desperately need to co-opt an additional councillor. You will need to attend the six Parish Council meetings a year which are held on Monday evenings, in addition there will be a limited number of extraordinary meetings to discuss urgent matters like planning applications. Training courses are available for new councillors.

If you're interested in helping to decide what happens in Upton and can spare the time, please get in touch with the Clerk (clerk@uptonparishcouncil.co.uk) with your contact details.

Police Survey

The Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner would like your views on policing and crime.

This Summer, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is seeking views from the residents of Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire on policing and crime. This feedback will help inform the Police and Crime Plan which sets the priorities for Thames Valley Police for the next 5 years.

What concerns you about policing in your area? What would you like Thames Valley Police to prioritise with regards to crime? Have you been a victim of crime and would like to feedback your experience?

To give your views, you can complete a short online survey at www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/survey. It should take no more than 10 minutes to complete and will be open until Friday 30th September 2016.

If you would like a copy of the survey posted to you, please contact the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner on 01865 846780

Theatre Group

Our next outing will be to the Oxford Playhouse on Wednesday 26 October to see "Sand in the Sandwiches" with Edward Fox playing John Betjeman. The price for a group ticket is £20.80. As I write there are 2 seats still available of the block I have reserved, but it might be possible to get more. New members are very welcome; get in touch with me if you are interested.

Malcolm Wright (850705)

Waste Consultation

Oxfordshire Council is implementing the Household Waste Recycling Centre strategy that was passed by cabinet on the 15th December 2015.

mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s32020/CA_DEC1515R03%20Household%20Waste%20Recycling%20Centres%20V9.pdf

Part of implementing the new strategy is procuring a new management contract to operate the HWRC sites. We would like to know residents views on measures that could be implemented at sites to make savings and create income.

There will be a consultation on these proposals running from 14th July to 11th August 2016. This consultation is open to all Oxfordshire householders to comment on.

Understanding public views, opinions and preferences is key to our decision making process.

The consultation documents are available online at:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste and we encourage people to complete the response questionnaire. If residents need support to take part in this consultation we recommend they contact the county council on 01865 816043 or email waste.management@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

1st Upton & Blewbury Guides

Guides and Rangers have just come to the end of another busy term. We have enjoyed canoeing , pioneering (building a huge bridge about 8 feet off the ground with the help of the Oxfordshire Pioneering team), earning the "Free Being Me" badge, a theatre trip to Cornerstone and fire lighting and outdoor cooking. Nine Guides took part in an overnight camp near Oxford and we are looking forward to our annual summer camp which this year will be in Wiltshire.

The Guides (ages 10 - 14) and Rangers (14+) have increased in number over the past two years and have now outgrown Upton Village Hall , so from September we will be meeting in Chilton. We will always have very happy memories of our time in Upton.

If you are interested in joining us, either as a Guide or Ranger or helping as a leader please get in touch. lynn.nickerson.holywell@gmail.com

2nd Upton & Blewbury Brownies

Thankfully we managed to avoid too much rain and enjoy some of the last evenings of term outside. The girls enjoyed a sports evening and a visit to Blewbury play park. The last night of term we had a cow girl evening where the girls dressed up and cooked their own hot dogs on BBQs. We said goodbye to 5 brownies but look forward to welcoming some new faces in September.

1st Upton & Blewbury Rainbows

On the 1st of July we visited No Two Things in Didcot where the girls enjoyed deco patching letters.

We also continued to work on the Roundabout festival badge which the girls received on the last night of term. The girls made carnival masks and wore them to the end of term party where one new rainbow made her promise. We also said goodbye to a couple of rainbows who will be moving up to Brownies.

Beavers - Leaders Wanted

Our local Beaver section of the Scouts is based in Chilton and unfortunately it is danger of closing unless new leaders can be found. The section meets in Chilton Village Hall on Wednesday evenings from 6.15 to 7.15, if you can find the time to assist, training and uniform will be provided. It is fun and rewarding as the aim is to provide an outdoor focused programme that provides skills for a lifetime of adventure.

If you would like to know more about the commitment please contact Duncan Cox on 07989 943967 or at duncan_cox_vr4@yahoo.com

Upton 50 Club Prize

Winners

July 2016

£25 - No.36	Mary Gutfreund
£20 - No.133	Jess Haworth
£15 - No.15	Mark Yates
£10 - No.43	Sarah Carter

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

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 and please let us know if any changes need to be made to update the list.

Uptonogood

Once again the event was sold out and we had 1,000 riders tackling 5, 12, 18, 25 or 35 mile routes on the beautiful trails on and around the Ridgeway. This year it was tough going out on the course, muddy and slippery, after a wet week leading up to the event, but everyone seemed to have a great time.



"Excellent event, we will be back next year. Thank you, well organised & well marshalled."

"Wonderful event. Such a great pleasure to ride out with my 12 & 10 year old daughters."



More people than ever stayed on in the afternoon to enjoy the live music, food and drink and we have received some great feedback.

This year we raised just over £10k for local causes, which are likely to include:

- A new roof for the lockup on Upton recreation ground
- Football goals for the recreation ground
- A donation to Blewbury Brass Band who are seeking a grant from the VOWH for replacing the beginner grade instruments
- Further donations to UVHAT (who look after Upton village hall) and to Blewbury School

Plus £20 donations to a variety of causes nominated by each of the marshals, sweepers and other helpers on the day

You can see the full fundraising summary here:

www.uptonogood.org.uk/fundraising/ - soon to be updated for 2016.

A huge thank you goes to all of the villagers that help stage the event, whether marshalling, helping at the recreation ground or baking the wonderful array of cakes - this year was probably the best yet!

Mike & Bob

Uptonogood

info@uptonogood.org.uk

All New Vale News

The Vale of White Horse District Council want to give you more news, more often. Vale News will soon be available for all residents in the district, sent out every two months straight to your email inbox.

If you'd like to receive Vale News, simply email communications@southandvale.gov.uk and they'll add you to the subscription list. They won't use your email for anything other than sending you Vale News, so your details are safe with them.

Visit www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/yourvalenews to find out more.

Rector's Reflections

The Long View

They come in all sorts and sizes. Tall, or short; thin or stocky; carefully shaped or wild and straggling. They come in different colours, and from different parts of the world. Some have particular uses; others are purely ornamental.

Yes - trees! How fortunate we are in this country to have trees of so many different types and species. I wonder if you have a particular favourite. I am particularly fond of beech trees, especially those small groups of beech trees you can see on the Downs. I love to be walking up on the Downs on a fresh day, listening to the breeze rustling through the leaves.

A couple of years ago, I was talking with a country landowner about the farming of his land. He said that he was now harvesting the trees planted by his great (or was it great great?) grandfather. Now, that's taking the long view! Imagine what it must have felt like, as the great (or great great) grandfather planted some trees on his land, knowing that he would never see the benefit of them himself. Knowing, in fact, that they would be harvested in over one hundred years' time. Perhaps they would be harvested by one of his descendants; or perhaps the land would have passed into different ownership. It didn't matter; what mattered was planting the trees.

It can be good sometimes to take the longer view. Often, we tend to focus on the immediate - the next year or

couple of years, or perhaps a little longer. This is, of course, quite right and good. But sometimes a longer term view can be good for us.

There's a challenge to us human beings, a challenge from the trees. Are our human perspectives simply too limited? Should we reflect on our own lives, and ask: what can we be doing to make the world a better place, not just in our own generation, but in years to come? Some of the most wonderful things in life take years and years to come to fruition.

Let us have the imagination, the courage and the generosity to sow seeds which will bear fruit in years to come, long after we are dead and buried.

Fr Jason



The Churn Mother's Union Annual Teddy Bears Picnic

3 August at 12pm

In the Garden of Penny Brassel, Lynchets, Bessels Way,
Blewbury

Please bring a rug/chair and a picnic plus teddy bear.

We welcome all children and any young mums, dads,
friends, grandparents and carers.

Soft drinks and ice-creams will be provided.

See you there!!



Sunday Services at St. Mary's

7th Aug 0900 Sung Eucharist*

14th Aug 0900 Sung Eucharist

21st Aug 0900 Sung Eucharist

28th Aug 1030 - All Age Service*
"Little Church Mouse"

* Refreshments follow these
services

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Sponsored Cycle Ride or Walk

Saturday 10th September

Last year two families took part in
this event. It would be great if we
can get even more people involved
this year. The plan is to visit as
many churches as possible during the
day and get sponsorship for each
church visited. 50% of your sponsor
money comes back to St Mary's for
which we are very grateful.

For more information and sponsor
forms please get in touch with Clare
Lightfoot -

Lthimbles@btinternet.com or 01235
850486

Church Fete and Dog Show

Saturday 17th of September from
1:00pm.

There will be a performance by the
Blewbury Brass Band and Cry Havoc
Dancers and also Juggling Johnny
will entertain the children.

There will be a show of vintage vehi-
cles and all the usual stalls includ-
ing: White Elephant, Bric a Brac,
Books, Preserves, Plants as well as a
BBQ/Afternoon Tea, Raffle and
Games.

We would be grateful for any offers
of help on the day - please get in
touch with Jessie 851206 or Clare
850486

Found

A mini portable speaker has been
found in the vicinity of Alden Farm.
If you have lost one, please call:
07971 009 603.

Tea Birds W.I.

Tea Birds meet on the last Tuesday of every month at 8.00pm in Upton Village Hall but please note our August meeting will start at 7pm.

Our 30th of August meeting will be "Picnic in the Park". We are hoping for some good weather. This will be open to non-members and families. Come along for a good old fashioned picnic with games.

If you can't attend our August meeting - our September meeting will be on the 27th. Our theme is a secret - pop along to see what we are getting up to.

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

U3A

Didcot & District University of the Third Age meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 2pm in Didcot Civic Hall. Visitors are welcome to come to a meeting as a taster before joining.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th August 2016 and our topic this month is provided by Cymon Snow who will talk about Sulgrave Manor and the Washington Family'.

Why not come along and see what we are really about - we look forward to seeing you there. If you enjoy the talk, why not think about joining us and make the most of our 2016/17 programme and visits currently in the planning stage.

For more information phone 01235 211291 or 01235 510048,

Road Closures

Starting on 15th of August 2016 and for the following four nights, two roads in Chilton and Chilton Roundabout area and works, will be closed from 8:30pm to 6:00am.

The roads affected are;

North end of Lower Road at junction of A4185 and North end of Townsend at the junctions of A4185.

Appropriate traffic signs will be used where and when the closures of the respective roads and alternative routes are in force.

Friends of St Mary's

Here we are in the middle of summer but shortening days and dropping temperatures will be with us before we know it. So it will be nice to have something to look forward to as the nights draw in, and what better than the FOSM autumn quiz, which we will be running for the 3rd year in a row. So put Saturday 8 October in your diaries now and start planning your invincible team! We are aiming to have tables of 8, so even if there's just one or two of you, you'll be in a group of friendly and, perhaps, brainy Uptonians with a chance of winning the laurels. As ever, food will be provided and this year we will be trying a change from pizza. Please contact Jessie (851206) or Gloria (850683) for details.

Looking further ahead, we will be holding the Christmas Carols and Readings in the church on Saturday, 10 December at 4.00. An extremely popular event for all the family, we look forward to seeing many of you, friends or otherwise, then. Full details to follow nearer the time.

We have also begun to look into 2017 and in the early spring we hope to have the first of what will be a series of talks on a diversity of topics that will be entertaining, amusing and thought-provoking - perhaps all three at once! We are recruiting the first speaker and full details will follow.

Finally, we will once again be organising a walk on Good Friday, which next year falls on 14th April. In 2016 we had splendid weather - with Easter 3 weeks later next year, it's bound to be better still for 2017!

Works to St Mary's

The good news is that the church building is in pretty sound shape and no major maintenance expenditure is currently planned, though with a 900 year old building it never does to be over-confident...

However, plans for improvements are progressing. In the autumn we hope to clarify our plans for upgrading the vestry and installing a WC. Initially we need to get the in-principle approval of the diocesan architect following which detailed plans can be drawn up and work on costs can begin. It will be a long haul but the benefits will be worth it!

Paul Batho

Bus Service

The new route and timetable kicked off on Monday 25th July.

Thames Travel has listened to our concerns, not only the need to keep our rural transport, vital to those who have no other means of getting to Didcot and further afield. Also have done their best to serve our regular commuters who prefer to leave their car at home rather than have the early morning hassle of fighting the ever increasing traffic and the maddening search for a place to park.

It is appreciated that this first year is a trial period to find out how the new times and route will have the greatest benefit for all concerned. Your views and observations will be welcomed as you experience your journeys.

Contact for Upton; Jessie West 01235 851206

We need to look to the future and not let Upton and the rest of the Downland Villages Transport Group, lose yet another facility. We hope those who think they might use the bus one day, will give it a go, sooner rather than later! You never know- you might enjoy the bus so much, you might want to give up the car altogether.

Seriously we don't expect that everyone will use the bus all the time- but taking a few journeys here and there can make a difference- and we need everyone's support if this is going to work.

There is every possibility that if this Monday to Friday service proves viable that the Saturday service could be reinstated.....something that would be great for younger or older people who can't drive, and people without cars.

Downland Villages Transport Group

Please note that the new bus timetable can be picked up from the driver or ask Jessie to pick one up for you 851206 or see the village website or last month's edition of Upton News.

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

Deadline for the September edition is
Wednesday 24th of August.