

Upton News



Vol 5 No.19 February 2018

St. Mary's Church Services

- Sun 4th Feb. 9.00am Sung Eucharist followed by refreshments.
Sun 11th Feb. 9.00am Sung Eucharist
Sun 18th Feb. 9.00am Sung Eucharist
Sun 25th Feb. 10.30am Scones of Praise, an all age service. Sing some of your favourite hymns. Refreshments, including scones, will be served after the service

The church is open every day from 10.00am to 4.00pm for personal prayer. Please see porch notice for weekday services.

Theatre Group

My ribs still ache from laughing at the hilariously enjoyable "The Play That Goes Wrong" which we saw on 23rd January. I hope there will be a more detailed account in next month's Upton News.

Our next outing is to "The Rivals" at the Watermill on Thursday 29 March. It's a fair way ahead, but I'd be happier if the remaining 4 tickets (£21.50 each) were paid for! Then we can decide whether we want to dine beforehand.

Suggestions for a Summer show would be welcome. Meanwhile I can tell you that Blewbury Players are performing "Lark Rise" in late July.

Do let me know if you would like to have advance notice of any outings we arrange.

Malcolm Wright

Upton 50 Club

Prize winners in the January draw were:-

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|--------|---------------|
| 1st | £25 | No 110 | Ian Sykes |
| 2nd | £20 | No 112 | Stuart Fraser |
| 3rd | £15 | No 173 | Ben Mallet |
| 4th | £10 | No 101 | David Barton |

Lesley Shaw

Rectors Note



Gallery 46

Do you like looking around art galleries? The other day I was visiting the Ashmolean Museum. I came across an intriguing picture in one of the galleries devoted to European Art, Gallery 46, to be precise. The picture in question was probably painted in the 1620s by a northern European artist working in Rome.

The title of the painting is “Truth Presenting a Mirror to the Vanities of the World”. The picture depicts a woman holding a pair of scales in one hand, and a mirror in the other hand. In the foreground of the picture is a table, and on the table is a book. On the top of the book is a skull, and this skull is reflected in the mirror.

This picture presents us with a dramatic and challenging message. It reminds us that death and judgment come to us all. Seen in this context, the things we tend to care so passionately about in this life - wealth, beauty, success, status - are in fact nothing more than vanity.

As I was looking at the picture, my thoughts turned to the season of Lent. Lent provides us with a time of reflection, in which we can think about our lives and our priorities. When we hold up a mirror to the reality of lives, what do we see reflected back at us? Do we like what we see? It can be painful to take a long, hard look at ourselves. We can discover that the person we have become is not the person we would like to be.

A time of self-reflection can be pretty sobering. But it can also provide the opportunity for a fresh start. We can look at our lives and think seriously about how we can change for the better. This is not only about our improvement as individuals. It is also about our improvement as a society, as we reflect on our common values, and to think how our world can be a better place for everyone.

Changing our lives for the better inevitably means saying “no” to those things which are destructive of ourselves and destructive of others. But it also means saying “yes” to all that gives life and joy and new hope. As we hold up the mirror to ourselves and our world during this season of Lent, may it be for us all a time of deep refreshment and renewal.

Fr Jason

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 February are the 1st and the 15th.

Village Produce Association

As my last newsletter gave everyone the dates of our forthcoming meeting and events, in this newsletter I would like to highlight our Annual Summer Show.

Our Show for 2018 is to be held on Saturday 7th July and will take place in the Blewbury Village Hall.

Anyone, no matter where they live, can enter. In fact, a couple of years ago we had an entry from Canada!!

The VPA committee prepare the Show Schedule which gives details of the fruit, vegetables, roses, cut flowers, container plants, cookery, handicraft, informal floral art and photography which anyone can enter into the Show. Especially important is the Children's Section which allows youngsters, in different age categories, to display their skills in gardening, cooking, together with arts and crafts. There are trophies and certificates to win.

Bring your entries on the Saturday morning between 8.30am and 11.00am and then judging takes place between 11.15am and 1.00pm. The Show is open to the public between 2.30pm and 4.00pm when the prize giving takes place.

We would love to see more people entering the Show - it really isn't difficult. If you have some lovely fruit, vegetables or flowers - give it a go! If you enjoy photography - give it a go! If you enjoy cooking - give it a go! If your hobby is handicraft - give it a go! Just take a look at the Show Schedule to see what the Classes are for each Section - it's so simple!

The Show Schedule will be available at the end of February from Blewbury post office or you can receive it online by emailing Eileen on vpa.in.bl.up@gmail.com or ring Margaret in Upton on 01235 850126.

We are looking forward to a bumper crop of entries this year!!

DID YOU KNOW ? Broad beans should not be eaten in the evening because they are difficult to digest and have been known to cause nightmares. In the Middle Ages it was thought that the souls of the dead lived inside the humble broad bean because it disturbed people's sleep. The Greek philosopher and mathematician Pythagoras would not eat broad beans under any circumstances, so convinced was he that they were possessed by evil spirits.

Happy Gardening

Eileen

Swop Shop

19) Greenhouse - Free - Gill Jones Springside Cottage, Stream Rd.
07971440219 or gill.jones7@icloud.com Interested parties will need to be prepared to dismantle it from its current site.

Tea Birds W.I.

Tea Birds WI meet on the last Tuesday of every month January to November at Upton Village Hall from 8.00pm. We are a group of ladies of all ages from all over the local area who come together to enjoy all the wonderful things WI has to offer. We are a laid back bunch and welcome anyone to come and give us a try and see if the group is for you. The kettle is always on and there is always cake!

Our 27th February meeting will include a talk from Becky Loveless of Autism Family Support.

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

Lilian

Volunteer to Help the Police

Thames Valley Police is asking members of the public to get involved in policing in their community as part of their New Year's Resolutions. TVP are marking this fortnight of activity by releasing a new video about how members of the public can get involved in Community Forums as well as launching a brand new specialist volunteering opportunity for those interested in Fraud Prevention.

Below are just a few ways people can get active in their community:

Community Forums are open to all members of the public and held both online and in person at times to suit everyone. They let people have their say on what matters most to them, enabling the public and police to work together to solve local issues.

Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs) exist in each local police area.

Meeting four times a year (usually in the evening) the groups are made up of, and chaired by independent members of the public, supported by officers from local policing teams.

Fraud Prevention Assistants to work closely alongside officers and staff to help raise awareness and understanding of fraud and cyber related crime, arranging and attending events as well as offering advice and guidance to both members of the public and businesses.

Cadet Leaders to help inspire and support our young Police Cadets, developing their skills and confidence.

Applications for all of the above and other volunteer positions including a driver to move police puppies around the area can be made via the TVP website <https://matthewbarber.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=13d77bd51fa65f9f7de4ba149&id=b45717f359&e=21399581ac>

Council News

Parish Council

A regular parish council meeting was held on Monday 15th January.

Two planning applications were discussed at this meeting:-

P17/V3341/FUL Willows, Stream Road, Upton - change of use of land to residential curtilage to willows and the erection of a garage/workshop including the erection of a 1.8m high boundary fence.

The council voted 'No Objections' to this application.

P17/V3081/FUL Alden Farmhouse, Aldens Lane, Upton - construction of equestrian facilities, including stable building, ménage, horse walker, hay storage barn and associated landscaping including access track; conversion of existing stables to form ancillary accommodation.

The UPC voted to OBJECT to this application. The details of this objection can be found on the Vale of the White Horse web site (Planning section) or in the minutes of the meeting to be published shortly on the village web site.

Your Parish Council is in desperate need of residents to come forward and offer their services as a Parish Councillor—see page 6.

The next regular meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 19th March at 6.00pm in the village hall meeting room. Please see the village noticeboard and web site for agendas of upcoming meetings and for minutes of previous meetings when they are approved for publication.

District Council

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have appointed Mark Stone as their permanent Chief Executive. Mark has spent a successful six months as Acting Chief Executive.

Waste collection information is now just a screen tap away in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse. The two district councils have launched a brand-new smartphone app, which is available free of charge for iPhone and Android phones right now. The app is called Binzone - by simply tapping their postcode in and selecting their address, residents can find out which bin is being emptied this week and when, as well as information on what goes in each bin and everything else you need to know about waste collection.

County Council

During December the OCC and its partner Viridor marked the receipt of the one millionth tonne of residual waste received at the Ardley waste processing plant. The plant converts waste into electricity, rather than burying it in landfill. It produces enough energy to power 38,000 homes and can export up to 27MW per hour of electricity to the grid.

Your Parish Council Needs YOU!

The Parish Council is looking for new people to join the council and get involved in looking after your village and its facilities as a parish councillor. The Parish Council welcomes enquiries from anyone in the village who would like to bring their expertise to the role and help in all Parish Council matters. Please see the information below and we look forward to hearing from you.

Did you know that Parish Councils have their origins in Saxon and Norman times? Villages were ruled by the Lord of the Manor and sometimes the villagers all met to make decisions which affected the whole community. Parish Priests and later Schoolmasters took on roles of leadership and by 1601 Church Vestry Meetings were given the responsibility of levying the poor rate. These were the first effective local taxes.

Parish Councils are the lowest tier of government in England and provide the statutory tier of local government closest to the people. The funding of Parish Councils for their limited range of services is via an annual "precept" which, is added to the annual District Council's precept plus the Police and Fire Authority charges. This is collected by the District Council from residents, as the Council Tax.

Whilst a Parish Council can exercise influence, it does not have the final say in some matters such as planning, for example, where the ultimate ruling can go right up to the Secretary of State for Local Government and Communities! Your Parish Council will represent you to the best of its ability - it is neither political nor sectarian.

By becoming a Parish Councillor you become someone your community will look to for help, guidance and support. The Parish Council has ability to influence decisions for the benefit of the people within Upton Parish. Probably the most common topics that parish councils get involved with are planning matters (they are statutory consultees), crime prevention, managing open spaces and campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities. Seeing your community change for the better, as a result of decisions you have helped make, is something that can give you a sense of achievement and pride.

A vacancy currently exists on your Parish Council. If the above information is important to you then why not step up and make enquiries about how you can help, protect and support Upton and its residents? You need to be over 18 and have resided within the parish of Upton for the previous twelve months. Please see contact details on the Upton Village web site (<http://www.uptonvillage.co.uk/upton-parish-council/council-members-and-employees/>).

Thank you on behalf of your Parish Council and we hope to speak to you soon!



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Upton

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Email: uptondogdays@hotmail.com

Facebook: Upton Dog Days



Wine Club

A French Wine Trail Less Trodden
*8 delicious wines from artisanal,
family-run vineyards*

Curtesy of **JOIE & VIN**

After the excesses of the festive period there was, we have to admit, a hint of a concern that Dry January would take its toll on this month's Upton Wine Club in the Village Hall - but how wrong we were, we had a full house!



News had got around that Tim and Jill North, founders of Joie de Vin, were coming along to share with us their passion for French wines created by individual producers who craft wines in small quantities, few of which are usually available in Great Britain.

These small producers work the land themselves and know if a particular parcel of vines is exceptional. They can choose to pick at the time they think is best and make the wine exactly as they want. Most of the wines are made in very limited quantities - 2 to 3,000 bottles.

Here are the wines we tried:

Domaine de la Chaise, Fines Bulles de Touraine £13.95

We started with a light and crisp sparkling wine from the Loire region. It's made by the traditional method (like Champagne) from Chenin Blanc grapes. It has hints of apples and citrus fruits and goes well with lighter fish or chicken dishes as well as light fruit desserts, or by itself just for fun.

Domain de la Chaise, Touraine Sauvignon 2016 £9.95

We then tried a delicious white (Sauvignon Blanc) from the same vineyard. It was similar to the wines from the nearby, but much more expensive Sancerre region, although this wine had a bit more oomph in the body which we thought put it above many Sancerres! It was fresh and fruity, with plenty of depth about it and a nice long vanilla finish. This wine went well with goats cheese and also goes well with seafood, fish and chicken.

Domaine Salmon, Chardonnay 2015 £9.95

Another wine from the Loire valley, this unoaked Chardonnay was great: fresh, crisp and strong flavours, with a bit of depth to it - not unlike some Chablis wines, as it comes from about the same latitude. Fish and chicken would be ideal pairings for this wine, and given its clout it can stand up to these being in rich, creamy sauces.

Domaine de la Grange, Patrimoine blanc 2014 £14.95

Another Loire wine, this one is 90% Chenin Blanc, 10% Chardonnay, and is aged in new, large oak barrels which give it a subtle rather than in-your-face hit of oak and also curbs the natural acidity of the Chenin Blanc. The general consensus was that this wine was gorgeous and would go well with rich food, including cheeses.

Domaines des Pampres, Beaujolais les Geurins 2015 £9.95

Having had the odd neck-slapping, lip-puckering Beaujolais Nouveau in my time I wasn't quite sure what to expect with this wine, but Tim did us proud again. This Gamay based wine was full of ripe plum and red fruit flavours and can be enjoyed (as indeed it was!) on its own or with grilles/ roast meats, sausage, salami or hard cheeses.

Domain Trilles, Tio Tio Rouge 2016 £9.95

Next we delved down to the border with Spain for a Cabernet Sauvignon/ Syrah blend from the Cotes Catalanes area. This was something else and oozed the sunshine that ripen the grapes. Fruity, well balanced with some spiciness, it goes well with Mediterranean dishes such as pizza and pasta.

Domain Trilles, Calignan 2016 £12.75

So, from the same vineyard but from vines that were not 10-15 years old (as for the Tio Tio) but over 100 years old! And boy could you taste the difference. Rich, full-flavoured and intense, but softened by aging in oak barrels, this was a real winner and delicious either on its own, or accompanying steak or roast lamb.

Chateau Montfin, Cuvee Pauline 2014, Corbieres £14.50

This wine from the Languedoc-Rousillon area was my personal favourite of the evening. It was fruity, it was rounded and it had a lot going on under the bonnet thanks to the aging in oak barrels. Lovely to savour on its own or with roasted meats or strong cheeses.

Our next meeting will be at 8.00pm in the Upton Village Hall on Wednesday 21st February when we will have a guest speaker taking us through the ins and outs of Brazilian wine.

All are most welcome, newcomers in particular and if you feel you don't know enough about wine to join in, don't worry we're all in it to learn - not to mention have a good time.

You can book your places in advance by e-mailing frankie.jacklin@btinternet.com or by contacting Ian Langley on 01235 850793 / ian.langley@yahoo.co.uk.

Nick Thackray

Didcot U3A

The U3A aims to encourage and enable people no longer in full time employment to help each other to share their knowledge, skills, interests and experiences; the word 'University' is used here in it's original sense, as a group of people coming together to learn for the pleasure of learning. What could be better for anyone who is newly retired, or semi-retired, who still wishes to Learn, Live and Laugh than to come along and join your local U3A!

Useful Contact: <http://u3asites.org.uk/didcot>

This month's meeting is on 20th February at 1.45pm in the Didcot Civic Hall. The talk will be about SERV (Service by Emergency Rider Volunteers) by Captain Kamran Irani.

What's on at Earth Trust

Mud Pie Monday! on 12th February, 10.00am-11.30am

Come and get messy in the mud kitchen - buckets of mud and buckets of fun! Wellies and waterproofs advisable. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

Winter Activity Trail on Tuesday 13th February, 10.00am-4.00pm

Pick up your map and explorer backpack from the Earth Trust Centre and head out for a self-led adventure in the woods! Can you complete all the winter-themed activities along the trail? Bookable slots to collect your map/backpack, last slot 3.00pm. £4 per child (plus refundable deposit required for backpacks); booking essential: book online (incurs a fee) or call 01865 407792 during office hours.

Wildlife Wednesday at Mowbray Fields on 14th February, 10.00am-12.00pm

Our roving Wildlife Wednesday visits a different Earth Trust community nature reserve during each school holiday; this half term, come out and play at Mowbray Fields in Didcot (OX11 8SU). Explore the reserve and learn about local wildlife. £2 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

Build a Bird Feeder on Thursday 15th February, 10.00am-11.30am and 1.00pm-2.30pm

Make three different bird feeders to take home for your garden. £5 per family; booking essential: book online (incurs a fee) or call 01865 407792 during office hours.

Discover and Play on Friday 16th February, 10.00am-12.00pm

Forest School fun for the under-5s; join us for a morning of play and discovery in our woodlands. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

River of Life Walk on Thursday 22nd February, 1.00pm-3.30pm

Come and see how the River of Life wetland has progressed, four years after it was created. £8; booking essential: book online (incurs a fee) or call 01865 407792 during office hours.

As always, more information can be found on our website

www.earthtrust.org.uk All events take place at the Earth Trust, Little Wittenham, OX14 4QZ unless otherwise stated. There are lots of exciting events coming up 2018, including some that are exclusively for Earth Trust Friends - find out more about becoming a Friend at www.earthtrust.org.uk/joinus

Sunglasses and Gloves

If you left your sunglasses and gloves at Maslina when you collected the piano please ring Brenda on 850354.

Recycling Survey

Residents are being given the chance to talk rubbish and recycling and tell Oxfordshire's county, city and district councils how they can help them recycle more and create less waste.

Did you know that each household in Oxfordshire produces one tonne of waste each year?

While we are among the best in the country at recycling and composting, recycling rates have started to drop in Oxfordshire.

This consultation will inform the review of the joint countywide waste strategy, which sets out shared priorities across Oxfordshire for waste and recycling until 2030 and which will be approved by the Oxfordshire Environment Partnership over the summer. Then, each council partner will adopt changes later in the year.

We want to do better at recycling and the new joint countywide waste strategy is critical to this. We know that, on average, more than half the items put in the general waste bin could have been recycled by placing them in the other available bins.

Through this consultation, residents are being asked what would help them to recycle more and reduce their overall waste. This could include expanding the range of materials that can be recycled at the kerbside and tips and advice on leftover food, upcycling clothing or donating or buying second hand goods. The councils are also seeking views on more radical schemes that have been implemented elsewhere in the country, such as changing bin sizes and collection frequency.

Do you want to recycle and reduce waste? So help us by taking part in the online survey at www.recycleforoxfordshire.org.uk. The survey is now open and will close on 18 February.

GP Practices Locality Plan

Local GP practices across the county have been working with Oxfordshire CCG and patient representatives on plans for the future of GP and primary care services. A period of public engagement was undertaken between 3 November and 3 December 2017. The draft plans for each locality were presented and discussed at a series of public workshops around Oxfordshire, and discussed at various stakeholder meetings. The full engagement report and first versions of each of the locality plans are now available at

<https://consult.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/consult.ti/LocalityPlansOxon/consultationHome>

Blewbury W.I.

Hello Everyone and hoping 2018 will be a very good year for all of us. Any new WI members will very welcome to join us at the following February events.

Friday, 2nd Feb. at 7.00pm. - Craft Evening at Liz's. Please ring first.

Tuesday, 6th Feb. at 9.30am - Lyn's Walk. Meet at Village Hall. The route will be local but weather dependent, so no definite choice until nearer the day. Expect a coffee stop, probably at the end.

Tuesday, 6th Feb. at 7.30pm - Scrabble at Susan's. Please ring first.

Monday, 12th Feb. at 10.30am - Coffee at Style Acre.

Friday, 16th Feb. at 2.00pm - Talking Science Lecture, RAL Harwell. "A science rapper's guide to the Solar System" Jon Chase.

Wednesday, 28th Feb. at 7.30pm. - WI monthly Meeting in The Vale Room. Speaker, Dr. Valerie Calderbank, "A Tour of the Universe."

Every Monday at 2.30pm. - Mah Jong.

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> where you will find more information.

Cilla.

Blewsing Choir

The Blewsing choir started six years ago and has grown from strength to strength. There are no auditions and no requirement to read music; the only requirement is simply to have a love of singing. Following a series of successful concerts, we continue to look at new songs for our ever-growing repertoire. We meet fortnightly in the Clubhouse, Blewbury Recreation Ground on Thursdays 8.00 pm. to 10.00 pm.

We sing a wide variety of mostly modern music to the best standard we can achieve under the guidance of our conductor Clive Grant. Clive is a lecturer in Music Education and the Music PGCE subject leader at the University of Reading; an organist and choral trainer.

For further information, including rehearsal dates see <https://www.blewsing.org/> or contact Sheila Loy - 01235 850537 or sloy24@gmail.com.

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

Deadline for the March edition is
Saturday 24th February