

Upton News



Vol 5 No. 6 January 2017



We Wish You a Happy New Year!

St. Mary's Church Services

Sun 1st Jan 9.00am	Sung Eucharist*
Sun 8th Jan 9.00am	Sung Eucharist
Sun 15th Jan 9.00am	Sung Eucharist
Sun 22nd Jan 10.30am	Christingle – All Age Service*
Sun 29th Jan 9.00am	Morning Prayer

*refreshments served after these events

Please see porch notice for weekday services

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 January are the 5th and the 19th.

Bake Up!

Like baking? Then you might enjoy Bake Up. It's a new meet-up for baking enthusiasts in Upton. The idea is one morning every month we get together to try out each other's bread, biscuits, cakes, pies, etc and share recipes and tips. Maybe later we can think about demos or the dreaded technical!

The first meeting's theme (very loose) will be Scottish baking as it's just after Burns Night. Hope you can make it. Drop Kieron Humphrey an email if you have any questions: kieronhumph@gmail.com

When and where: Friday January 27, 2017 at 11am at Old Stream Cottage
(Note access may be difficult for anyone with a mobility problem)

Rector's Note



A Different Type of Resolution

Well, it's that time of year when many apply their mind to the question of a New year's resolution or two. I wonder whether you made any at this time last year?

Perhaps we naturally first think about ourselves when it comes to framing a New year's resolution. Many people think in terms of something that will improve their health, or perhaps learning a new skill or a new

language.

But resolutions don't have to be focussed on ourselves. They might instead be focussed on someone else. For example, we might think about how we might improve our relationship with somebody we find difficult.

Most families and workplaces are full of difficult relationships. Human beings are complex, and communication between human beings is not always straightforward. Miss-understandings can easily arise. And then of course there's the question of time. Often, we just don't have the time we would like to give to our relationships. Often friends and family members live many miles apart, and it's easy for months or even years to pass before we get back in touch with each other.

Of course, some difficult relationships are going to remain difficult for many years. There might be a deeply felt hurt, or some factor completely outside our control. And sometimes, even where one party is willing to resolve a situation, the other is not.

However, many relationships we find difficult are capable of being healed. Often a new beginning is possible - and when this happens, what joy it brings!

I wonder whether we might look at our own lives and choose one particular relationship which we would like to improve. Let this be our resolution for 2017! And once we have made the resolution, we can think about what action we might take to make the resolution a reality.

The Bible is full of ideas and experience about how new beginnings can come about. Two themes are particularly prominent. The first is forgiveness: our deliberate decision to forgive someone who has hurt us. The second is hope: the confidence that because God loves us and our world, he is continually at work to bring about new beginnings, in our own lives and in the lives of our communities.

Let me finish by wishing you all every blessing for the year ahead. May 2017 be full of wonderful new beginnings!

Fr Jason

Village Produce Association

Our annual social on the 3rd December was enjoyed by everyone who attended, this included the tasty chilli prepared by Karen to go with the Mexican evening. The quizzes and games also went down well with everyone a winner!!

Work is still going on to finalise our 2017 programme and exact details will be in the next issue of the Upton News. We can only arrange these events if we have the support of the local community - so please do pop the dates in your 2017 diary. This is what we have planned.

Thursday 2nd March - A Meeting with "Three '20 minute talks" being given by committee members. Venue expected to be Blewbury Manor Barn - 7.00pm to 9.00pm.

Saturday 17th June - Visit to Gardener's World Live at the NEC, Birmingham Group ticket price: Adult £18 and Over 65 £16.50, plus travel cost, expected to be £10 per head.

Saturday 8th July - Annual Show

? **August** - Visit to Kew Gardens, London (date to be confirmed)

Sunday 22nd October - Cake & Plant Sale at the Apple Day with Sustainable Blewbury at the Red Lion

Wednesday 1st November - Annual General Meeting

Saturday 2nd December - Annual Social

Have a peaceful New Year and we look forward to seeing you at our meeting in March.

Did you know? The wood of the ash tree is remarkably strong and flexible, and is excellent for construction because it doesn't split when manipulated. In the past it was used to make stagecoaches, railway wagons, cartwheels, oars, early aeroplanes and the frame of the Morris Minor car!

Happy Gardening Eileen

Upton 50 Club Prize Winners

December 2016

£35	No. 4	Jane Smith
£30	No. 74	Clare Lightfoot
£25	No. 163	Roy Lock
£20	No. 23	Julie Williams
£15	No. 11	Mr Hawkins
£10	No. 154	Lucy Ross

Lesley Shaw

Didcot U3A

Didcot U3A meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2:00 pm in the Didcot Civic Hall. Please arrive 15 minutes before the start time to ensure you are all seated for the 2pm start. On Tuesday 17th January - Andrew Steel will give a talk entitled "Banff National Park Canada"

Upton Wine Appreciation Club

“Pushing the Boat Out”

As is traditional for the Club this time of year the committee sourced a selection of wines of various styles to be enjoyed with foods eaten over the Christmas festivities and pushed the budget to approximately £20.00 a bottle; and as always this proved a very popular evening with 40 people our highest attendance of the year so far which made for a very lively evening. Frankie began the evening introducing a Champagne (with Royal Warrant) - **G. H. MUMM Cordon Rouge NV** (Waitrose £33.50 750ml) and one of the best and well known English Sparkling Wines a **Nyetimber Classic Cuvee NV** - (Waitrose £32.99 750ml) matched with homemade roasted / salted almonds, olives and mini cheese straws. The Nyetimber held its own against the Mumm with its fine bubbles and toasty spicy slightly baked apple taste. Frankie did take advantage of the 25% off wine deal offered by Waitrose at the time of buying the wines.

Sue chose to talk about a classic French **Chablis 1er Cru Vaillons 2013 William Fevre** (Majestic £23.40 750ml) on her debut as a speaker (and a great job she did too!) and prepared salmon blinis to match. David described Richard Kershaw MW **Richard's Elgin Chardonnay 2015** from a cool climate area of South Africa (Naked Wines £24.99/ Angel price £13.99 750ml) paired with Epoisses cheese and crackers.

Ian's wines were a French and New Zealand Pinot Noir. A **Saint Clair Pioneer Block Pinot Noir 2015 Marlborough** (£18.99/£16.99 750ml) was first followed by the **Beaune 1er Cru 'Les Toussaints' 2010 Albert Morot** (£25.00/£22.50 750ml) paired with mushroom pate (to match the tertiary notes of the wines we were told) and duck pate.

Finally we came to the Dessert wines. A Rutherglen Muscat from North East Victoria Australia **Jen Pfeiffer The Diamond Rutherglen Muscat** (Naked Wines £17.99/ Angel price £12.99 500ml) described as “Sweet, syrupy, raisiny, yummy goodness in a glass” and a **William Pickering, 20-Year-Old, Tawny Port** (Berry Brothers and Rudd £28.00 750ml) paired with stilton and chocolate brownies. The port with the chocolate brownies seemed to be the most popular combination!

Meeting in the Village Hall between 20.00-22.00 the Club welcomes everyone who has an interest in wine no matter how small. We usually taste 4 white and 4 red wines per meeting which are small tasting measures so hangovers are avoided and being in the village no driving is required!. We try to cater for all tastes and the evening is also enjoyed as a village social to meet with other village residents.

Although we have a membership of 60 members and attract an average of 32 to most meetings we always welcome new members from the village so if you've wondered about joining us, please contact me, an existing member or anyone from the committee for more details. You are very welcome to try with your first meeting as a guest. The more the merrier!

The club's regular meetings continue on the third Wednesday of each month

Subject to final confirmation, we intend to enjoy:

18th January: Lidl/Aldi Tasting. Presenter-Will Betts. £5.00

22nd February: Loire Valley. Presenter-Derek Whitmell. £7.50

Finally have a Happy New Year and hope to see you in January

Cheers! Kevin Jacklin, Secretary

01235 851404

Notes from the Allotments

A week of sub-zero temperatures should have killed off a few slugs and snails but perhaps not their eggs. However, it is a good start to winter. Also this year there seemed to me to be very little aphid activity, although I don't recall seeing a lot of ladybirds eating the few that I did see. White fly were also not such a problem on the brassicas, so from that point of view a good year! Fingers crossed for 2017.

On the other hand, the weeds proliferated... bindweed was everywhere, and if not taken in hand very regularly, began to cover everything in sight. It is particularly difficult to extract from the middle of gooseberry and raspberry patches, as of course is couch grass, despite my best efforts. It might be best to remove every other plant so that the weeds can be removed. After the canes have been cut down would be the best time, room to move then.

My broad beans have started to show in the greenhouse growbags; hopefully they will not get too leggy before it is time to plant them out in early spring.

The brassica patch is really rather pathetic; the suffering they endured in their early life has resulted in a very small growth of sprouts and a couple of paltry cabbages. They're might be one cauliflower, I've not dared to look into the inside of the curled leaves yet. The leeks have done reasonably well considering they went in rather late but there is a lot of coarse green and not a lot of white, which is annoying. I obviously didn't plant them deep enough!

Compost corner: after a mammoth harvesting of leaves from the village footpaths recently, most of them ended up at the allotments. We've filled both bays and taken a few away but the remainder are going to be taken to Agrivert and turned into compost at their depot in Ewelme, a good solution all round as it will then come back to us in the form of ready made compost at the next Compost Giveaway in spring.

Angela Hoy (angela.hoy@sky.com)

Whats On in January at Earth Trust

Winter Fruit Tree Pruning - Saturday 7th January, 9.30am-4.00pm.

Give your trees some TLC and get a bumper crop this year. Learn all aspects of pruning with Andy Howard Cost £50; booking essential.

Sunday Drop-in: Forest School Fun - Sunday 8th January, 10.00am-2.00pm.

Whatever your age, you're welcome to come and have fun at this woodland adventure. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

Wildlife Photography Walk - Saturday 14th January, 8.00am-10.00am.

Learn how to capture images of wildlife with guidance from professional photographer Andrew Walmsley. Cost £20; booking essential.

Hedgelaying - Saturday 14th- Sunday 15th January, 9.30am-4.00pm.

A very practical, hands-on two days learning to lay a Midland style hedge with expert Clive Leeke. All tools provided. Cost £75; booking essential.

Spinning and Weaving - Sunday 15th January, 10.00am-4.00pm.

Discover the world of spinning and weaving and try out different methods of spinning. Cost £30; booking essential.

Botanical Illustration - Sunday 22nd January, 10.00am-4.00pm.

Learn some invaluable tips and techniques from RHS Gold Award winner Romilly Swann. Cost £30; booking essential.

All events take place at the Earth Trust, Little Wittenham, OX14 4QZ. For booking courses call 01865 407792 or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Isabel.hauer@earthtrust.org.uk

Items Swap Shop

Please send in a brief description of the item that you no longer require together with details of what you would like to swop it for. It is not a problem if you want to swop it for cash. Please also send in your name and preferred method of contact (Tel. No or email) to kameki39@btinternet.com

No.	Item Available	Item in Exchange	Name	Tel No.
1	Set of 4 Bar Stools	£15	I Ross	851344
2	Girls Bike Age 10 ?	£10	I Ross	851344
3				

Upton Film Club

The First movie to be shown on 20th January will be 'Nice Guys' (Cert 15). Russell Crowe and Ryan Gosling in this crime caper set in 1977 Los Angeles. Two of the movies on the original list are being screened on TV over the Christmas period.

The charge will be £5.00 per person. This is to ensure that the costs are all covered (£140.00 just to hire the film) It is hoped that future charges will be lower but it all depends upon the numbers of people attending.

There will be food available to purchase as well as a range of wine, beer and non-alcoholic drinks.

So bring a cushion, bring a friend, bring some money and enjoy what will hopefully be a regular activity within the village.

Please note the certification for this movie - it is hoped that family and children's films will be part of future screenings.

Doors open 6.45 film will begin at 7.30

For more information contact Rob Traynor 850032

Harwell Link Road

Work has now started on the Harwell Link Road. It will be 1.2Km of single carriageway linking the A417 with the A4493 with a roundabout at each end. There will also be a footpath, cycleway and a bridleway linking with the existing Driftway bridleway. The expected completion date is March 2018.

The initial work already underway is site clearance by removing trees and hedges, erecting boundary fence lines and bulk earthworks. The contactors aim to be good neighbours, and if residents have any concerns they can contact the contractor's Public Liaison Officer at alan.jones@gallifordtry.co.uk or telephone 0800 028 5199.

The scheme is intended to improve journeys between Didcot and the Harwell Campus but will also result in an increase in traffic using the A417 through Upton as it will become the easiest route for residents of the western end of Didcot to travel towards Reading.

Submissions for *Upton News* should be sent to
kameki39@btinternet.com

Deadline for the February edition is
Friday 27th January

