

Upton News



Vol 5 No. 8 March 2017

With the help of a senior member of my family I will from now on be responsible for sending out all the email copies of the newsletter. I would like to thank Brian Rippon for his work in getting together the email list (189 names) and for undertaking the distribution of the email copies for the last 6 years. Paper copies will continue to be printed by the Church Office in Blewbury and delivered to about 90 houses by Jessie and her team of helpers.

You will notice a revised format for the Swop Shop that will allow more information to be given and will avoid the embarrassment of last month when information was lost and not detected when converting the compilation file to the distribution files. It is pleasing to see that the idea is becoming more popular but its aims are to promote the exchanging or giving away of unwanted items and not for it to become a 'For Sale' section. We have decided to set a limit on cash sales of £30 as we think that selling off low cost items that otherwise may be dumped could be useful but we would like at this stage to avoid it becoming a place to advertise cars or any other higher cost items.

You can still offer to swop items of unlimited value as long as you state the items you want to swop.

Lucy

St. Mary's Church Services

Sun 5th March - 09.00am - Sung Eucharist*

Sun 12th March - 09.00am - Sung Eucharist

Sun 19th March - 09.00am - Sung Eucharist

Sun 26th March- 10.30am - All Age Service for Mothering Sunday, small posies will be distributed*

Sun April 2nd - 09.00am - Sung Eucharist*

Please see the porch notice for weekday services.

* Refreshments follow these 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 March are the 2nd, 16th and the 30th.

Rector's Note



A Piece of Wood

Do you like to collect things? Many people enjoy going to car boot sales or looking round junk shops, simply looking to see what's there. There are often fascinating objects from times past, or exotic items from some far-off corner of the globe.

Sometimes there is a crucifix or two among the items. Crucifixes come in many different shapes and sizes, and can be made from any material. Literally millions are made every year. We expect to see them in churches, and so, more often than not, we don't even notice they are there. They can

also be seen elsewhere for example, in hospitals, in schools, and in homes.

So, what is a crucifix saying? What does it mean? It is an attempt to draw attention to the reality of Jesus Christ's crucifixion. Whether you believe that Jesus rose again from the dead or not, it is generally accepted by historians that Jesus was crucified, that is, put to death by the Roman authorities by being nailed to a wooden cross and left to die. The process of crucifixion was designed to inflict the maximum amount of pain, for as long as possible. Someone who was crucified was left to suffer in complete and utter agony.

The crucifixion is about pain - pain inflicted and pain endured. A crucifix is a reminder of the pain which Jesus suffered as he hung upon the cross.

Some people find a crucifix much too gruesome. They can be happier with the idea of a plain cross - yes, the cross to remind us of Jesus, but without the reminder of his crucifixion.

But others find the crucifix a vital symbol, a symbol reminding us that the reality of suffering is part and parcel of what it means to be a human being. We like to think that our world can and should be lovely and sweet and pain free, and we struggle quite rightly to remove all sources of pain. But pain remains. A crucifix shows us Jesus, as a human being, offering up his pain to God. Sometimes that is all we can do - to offer up the pain to God, trusting that God will bring release in His good time, and according to His good plans.

Sometimes all we can do is to grasp a crucifix and hold it tight, knowing that our pain is God's pain, and that our tears are God's tears too.

Fr Jason

Jumble Sale Reminder

UPTON VILLAGE HALL - SATURDAY 18TH MARCH at 11am

Entrance: 50p (£2 early bird from 10.30am)

We would like cake donations plus any jumble which you can bring to the Village Hall from 10am on Friday 17th March.

A chance to sort out your cupboards, wardrobes, garage and shed! We are looking for clothing, shoes/boots, children's toys, soft toys, bric-a-brac, kitchenalia, ornaments, accessories such as scarves, bags, jewellery, make-up and toiletries, small pieces of furniture, paintings, pictures, etc. Basically anything you think is saleable at a jumble/pre-loved sale!

All items should be in reasonably good condition, great condition or new!

Please let your friends and family know, as they might be having an early Spring clear out too and all items will be gratefully received.

Thank you to those who have already volunteered to help on the 18th but anyone else able to assist, we would love to hear from you.

The sale is in aid of the continued refurbishment of the village hall.

Please contact Giulia Rippon on 01235 850158 or 07789 777381 or email me at giulia@ripton.net or Sarah Carter at sahanben55@gmail.com if you would like us to collect any donation if you can't get to the Village Hall on the 17th March. Alternatively you could bring items to Autumn Leaves, High Street and leave them in Giulia's porch.

Look forward to seeing you all there!

Giulia and Sarah

Theatre Group

All tickets for the outing on 23 March to the Mill at Sonning are now taken. I'll suggest travel arrangements nearer the day. For "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time" at the New Theatre on 23 May, I have just one ticket left and another not paid for. Both of these will have to be returned if the money doesn't arrive within the next fortnight.

The RSC have just announced a new adaptation of "A Christmas Carol" to be performed between 27 November 2017 and 4 February 2018. Would anybody fancy a trip to Stratford? Say in January? Because I don't want it to clash with Upton's Christmas Show! Another consideration is whether we travel by minibus - or are there now too many of us for whom that is no longer possible? Do let me know.

Malcolm Wright

850705

Council News

Planning Application

Ref. P17/V0252/HH Cherry Cottage, Chilton Road, Upton - proposed ground and first floor extension, plus proposed internal and external alterations. At a meeting on 20.2.17, the council voted 'no objections' to the application.

Details can be found online at:- www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/planning/ApplicationDetails.jsp?REF=P17/V0252/HH

'One Oxfordshire'

The campaign to introduce just one council to control the whole of Oxfordshire continues with information posted on the village hall noticeboard

Waste Tour

Find out how your waste is incinerated to create electricity by attending a 2½ hour tour of The Energy Recovery Facility at Ardley on Friday 3rd March starting at 10.00am. The tour is being organised by your District Council, to book a place please contact Ellie Bunn 01235 422173

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 20th March at 8pm in the Village Hall meeting room.

Blewbury W.I. News

March is here. With all the Spring bulbs shooting through and primroses and snowdrops in full flower, and the days gradually getting longer, we will soon be out in the garden looking forward to Spring. The WI events for March are listed below and any new members would be very welcome to join us.

Tuesday, 7th March. Lyn's Walk. An urban walk to the North of Didcot. Starting at Didcot Parkway at 10.30am. If you are catching the bus into Didcot (it leaves the Village Hall at 10.08am), don't forget your bus passes and money, hopefully for coffee.

Wednesday, 8th March at 10.30am – Coffee at Style Acre.

Wednesday, 8th March at 7.30pm – Scrabble at Bernardines.

Wednesday, 22nd March at 7.30pm – Monthly meeting, AGM, and Social Evening at the Manor Barn.

Friday, 24th March at 1.30pm. RAL Harwell Lecture. Discovering the Universe from beneath the surface.—Emma Meehan.

Mah Jong sessions are held every Monday afternoon at 2.30pm.

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 Maguire

Bake Up

Bake Up! has lift-off

Seven local baking enthusiasts (and a couple of interested onlookers) got together in February to taste each other's baked offerings and swap recipes.

Our theme was Scottish baking, and the spread featured the wonderfully named cloutie dumpling - a steamed pud packed with dried fruit - gingerbread and two types of cookies. We also enjoyed a superior fruit bread, all the better for having been soaked in spiced masala chai. The only savory bake was haggis pasties served hot from the oven.

You'd think shortbread would've featured, but the nearest thing to it was Vanillekipferl - delightfully crumbly crescent-shaped biscuits from Austria. (As you can tell, we're not hide-bound when it comes to the theme; a blast of *Loch Lomond* ensured that another Austrian item, Linzertorte! tasted just as Scottish as the rest.)

Our next meet is on March 24 at 11am. Giulia Ripon has kindly agreed to host at Autumn Leaves at the bottom of High Street.

March's theme is tarts. It'd be good to get a balance between sweet and savory to avoid too much of an afternoon sugar-slump. Drop me an email at kieronhumph@gmail.com if you're coming and I'll do my best to wrangle the ratio.

Nick Parham

Nick Parham passed away peacefully in his sleep on February 3rd 2017. He lived in Upton with his wife Ann and two boys, Mark and Sam for the last 24 years and before that in Blewbury.

He was diagnosed with primary progressive multiple sclerosis in 2000 and he gradually became more disabled. However, he lived life to the full, taking his last cruise to the Mediterranean stopping in Venice last September.

He loved the village and when able was an active member of the Wine Club. He talked about the many happy evenings he spent sampling wine. He joined the Theatre Club when it started and loved to talk about the plays he had seen. He had just joined the Film Club and was looking forward to more evenings in pleasant company and enjoying a film. Nick was an active member of St Mary's Church and was treasurer for several years. He was a keen gardener and although unable to do the practical work was a keen director and planner right up to the end.

Ann and family would like to thank everyone for their kind condolences and the support they have received over the years. Donations are being collected in Nick's memory to be divided between St Mary's Upton and the MS Society and can be given via M & J Didcock independent Funeral Directors website www.didcotfuneraldirectors.co.uk

Upton Film Club

The next movie is on FRIDAY 24TH MARCH

Here is your chance to have an input into what the next movie will be. Simply email or message Rob your preference with the appropriate film number.

Arrival (Cert 12A)

When mysterious spacecraft touch down across the globe, an elite team - led by expert linguist Louise Banks (Amy Adams) - is brought together to investigate. As mankind teeters on the verge of global war, Banks and the team race against time for answers - and to find them, she will take a chance that could threaten her life, and quite possibly humanity..

The Girl on the Train (Cert 15)

Rachel (Emily Blunt), devastated by her recent divorce, spends her daily commute fantasizing about the seemingly perfect couple who live in a house that her train passes every day, until one morning she sees something shocking happen there and becomes entangled in the mystery that unfolds. Based on Paula Hawkins' bestselling novel..

A Street Cat Named Bob (Cert 12A)

This is the film adaptation of James Bowen's much-loved, best-selling book. Starring Luke Treadaway (Unbroken, Clash of the Titans) as James Bowen, 'A Street Cat Named Bob' tells the moving and life-affirming true story of the unlikely friendship between a young homeless busker, James Bowen, and the stray ginger cat named Bob who changed his life.

We have taken on-board the feedback from the first showing and would like to announce the following changes:

The movie will start at 8 o'clock

There will be an intermission approximately halfway through

Drinks will also be available after the showing.

Place the date in your diary. Doors open at 7 o'clock so come early for a drink and a chat.

Email choice to ronyart5@hotmail.com or leave a message on 07475818175

Thank you

Rob Traynor

Village Litter Pick

Volunteers are needed for the annual Village Litter Pick which will take place on Saturday 25th March, meeting at the Village Hall at 9.30.

Hi viz vests, litter-sticks and refuse sacks will be made available but we cannot manage this task without volunteers and the more we have the more litter we can clean up.

It is amazing just how much litter accumulates around our roads and footpaths and how much better the village looks when it has been removed.

Thank you

Rob Traynor

Swop Shop

Items

- 1) Sony 17 inch colour TV - Swop for £25 - available from Heather Saysell Hsaysel1@its.jnj.com
- 2) Electric white panel heater - Free - available from Heather Saysell Hsaysel1@its.jnj.com
- 3) Horse Manure - Free - available from Hilary Powell 850268. After contacting Hilary it can be collected by wheelbarrow or trailer from the field at the bottom of High Street.
- 4) 320cm wide Electric Markilux Patio Awning with remote - Free but needs uninstalling - available from Kieron Humphrey kieronhumph@gmail.com
- 5) Piano and Piano Stool - well maintained but needs tuning - Free, see below.
- 6) Mahogany Corner Display Cabinet 116cms tall. Crack in one glass panel - Free, see below.
- 7) Black Office Swivel Chair with arms - Free, see below.
- 8) IKEA Black Office Corner Unit - Free, see below.
- 9) Electric Mattress Pillow Raiser, excellent condition - Free, see below.
Items 5 to 9 available from Ann Parham 850748. Whilst all the items are listed as free Ann would appreciate a small donation to the MS Society for each item.
- 10) Hostess Trolley - Free - available from Brenda Arnold - 850354

Jobs

- 1) Help is offered with primary core subjects, or secondary English in exchange for help with heavy work in the garden. Malcolm Wright 850705.
Apologies that this item did not print correctly in the February issue.

Swimming Offer

GO Active Gold, in partnership with Better Leisure Centres are offering unlimited swimming for one month at your local pool during April to all over 60s who are resident in a rural community for just a single charge of £5. The objective of the offer is to encourage 400 over 60s to swim more often.

Register your place before Saturday 1 April 2017 by calling 01235 422226 or by completing the online registration form on website: www.getoxfordshireactive.org/go-active-gold. Once you have registered, visit your local leisure pool during April and your one month swim offer will start from the date of your first swim.

Friends of St Mary's

Good Friday Walk

Following the success of last year, the Friends of St Mary's are planning another walk for Good Friday afternoon. The first time we organised this, we arranged a circular walk via Blewbury and Hagbourne, then last year we trekked across the downs from East Ilsley, in fabulous weather, on both occasions finishing at the church for tea and cakes.

This year, the idea is to start at the top of Kingstanding Hill on the A417 between Aston Tirrold and Streatley which will offer two alternative routes back to Upton. The 'low road' will skirt Lollingdon Hill and drop down into Aston Tirrold, continuing on via Blewbury to Upton - this is about 4.75 miles, the same distance as the walk from East Ilsley last year. For the more energetic, the 'High Road' goes up into the downs along the Fair Mile as far as the Ridgeway then runs gently back down to Upton via Saltbox - about 6.5 miles in total. As usual, tea and cakes will greet the weary walkers in the church.

We'll aim to start about 2.00 and reach the finish at 4.00 - 4.30. At the end there will be transport arranged back to the cars left at the start.

It would be great to see a good number of Uptonians out and about on Good Friday - everyone's welcome, children, dogs and all! If you have any questions at this stage please call Paul Batho on 851251 - more details will be published in next month's Upton News.

Paul Batho

AmEgos Presents Sweeney Todd



AmEgos is a local collective of performers and technicians, with a passion to produce professional standard shows for the local community. I have been involved, both on and off stage since their first show, Little Voice in 2012.

We are excited to be putting on **Sweeney Todd** in Wantage, at King Alfred's Academy Theatre. April 5th-8th. Curtain up is at 7.30 and the bar is open from 6.45!

Sweeney Todd is a dark, bitter, comic musical, first seen in London in 1980 and revived many times since, it always thrills audiences.

Tickets from www.wegottickets/AmEgos from Lifestyle in Wantage or from myself.

For more information check out the website <http://www.amegostheatre.com>

I look forward to seeing some Upton faces in the audience.

Sarah Carter

Village Produce Association

Well, it doesn't seem possible I'm writing for the March issue of the Upton News already! Where is the time going? In the meantime we have three of our Committee members giving 20 minute talks on keeping chickens on allotments, how to produce top class compost and growing and propagating snowdrops.

The talks take place at Blewbury Manor Barn at 7.30pm on Thursday 2nd March.

Don't forget the VPA has a selection of tools available for all residents in Upton to use for a donation. Contact Margaret Maytham (850126) for: Long arm pruner, garden roller, fertiliser distributor, lawn scarifier and aerator and an electric leaf vacuum. Contact Andrew Forman (850219) for the Mantis rotavator plus various attachments. We also have a projector which can be hired for a £5 donation - contact Karen Brookes 850219 or at Blewbury Post Office.

Don't forget to put the two dates of our outings in your diary and full details will be issued in the Upton News prior to the event.

Saturday 17th June - Day visit to Gardener's World Live at the NEC Birmingham.

Saturday 12th August - Day visit to Kew Gardens in London.

DID YOU KNOW? The first garden gnomes were introduced to the UK in 1847 by Sir Charles Isham, who brought back 21 terracotta figures from Germany and placed them in the gardens of his home, Lamport in Northamptonshire. Only one of the original batch of gnomes survives. Lampy, as he is known, is on display at Lamport Hall and is insured for one millions pounds!

Happy Gardening,

Eileen

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 21st March Alistair Lack will give a talk entitled 'A Light hearted History of Oxford University'

Upton 50 Club Prize Winners

February 2017

| | | |
|-----|---------|-------------|
| £25 | No. 86 | Kim Powell |
| £20 | No. 58 | Jessie West |
| £15 | No. 175 | Liz Scoates |
| £10 | No. 79 | Ben Amos |

Lesley Shaw

Upton Wine Appreciation Club

“A Trip Down the Loire”

February saw the return of Club member Derek Whitmell to discuss one of his favourite wine regions, the Loire. All the wines were sourced from The Wine Society but some of the wines can also be here found locally.

The River Loire, is the longest river in France, (1000km) with its source in the Ardeche, south of Lyons. It flows north for several hundred km, then west, entering the Atlantic near Nantes. The climate varies from ‘continental’ at Sancerre to an ocean climate warmed by the Gulf Stream at the western end. The region is at the north western limit of vine cultivation in Europe (excluding England) and frost can cause problems. The climate varies from year to year so that quality and style of harvest varies significantly; cool summers can restrict ripening of grapes, whereas hot summers can produce exceptionally sweet white wines but rob dry white wines of their verve. The main wine varieties in the region are Muscadet, Sauvignon Blanc, Chenin Blanc, Cabernet Franc and Pinot Noir.

The wines tasted included **Crémant de Loire** (by Gratien and Meyer, Cuvée 1864) made from chardonnay and pinot noir in the champagne style to give a sparkling wine which could easily be served in place of champagne but cost only £12.95. This was followed by a crisp, very dry, easy drinking, **Muscadet Sèvre et Maine sue Lie, Ch. L’, Oiselinière de la Ramée, 2013, (£7.75)**. Then a **Touraine Sauvignon Blanc, Domaine Guénault, 2015, (£7.95)**, which was young, fresh, dry and light with instantly recognisable aromas.

A **Sancerre ‘La Reine Blanche’, Domaine Vacheron, 2015, (£16.5)** was rated the best white wine of the night. This had a riper rounded style, with freshness and good palate length (and would keep until 2020, if one could resist)! This was followed by a **Vouvray Moelleux ‘Noyer de Cent’, 2002, Chenin Blanc, (£14.05)**, made from Chenin Blanc, the Loire’s signature grape which can range from dry (sec) to sweet (molleux). In exceptional years the Loire Chenin Blanc can produce some of the finest longest lasting sweet wines, but they need to be kept for over 20 years before they really develop and they will then keep for up to 100 years. This wine, in contrast, had been aged for only 15 years but was a pleasant interesting old white wine with subtle fresh sweetness which went down well with members of the Club.

Red wines are in the minority in the Loire but a combination of vastly improved husbandry and climate change are making these wines more and more attractive. They are generally lighter bodied, refreshing and lower in alcohol than wines from the south of France and are often served chilled. We tried **Cote Roannaise ‘Eclat de Granite’, Domaine Sérol, 2015, Gamay, (£9.50)** from Roanne which is about 300km south of Orleans, on the Loire, close to the Beaujolais district and which was similar to its neighbour, Beaujolais Village. We then tasted **Reuilly rouge, ‘Les Pierres Plates’, Domaine Denis Jamain, 2015, (£12.50)** a Pinot Noir now being grown more

widely in the Loire.

We finished with a curious Chinon ‘Pierre de Tuf’, **Domaine de la Noblaie, 2014, Cabernet Franc, 13.0%** (£12.95) which had been vinified in a 15th Century limestone vat, hollowed out in a tuffeau cellar which allows a long, slow maceration, then matured in double barriques, which the maker says “softens Chinon’s somewhat gruff exterior”! This grape remains important in the Loire because it is well suited to cool inland climates, whereas Cabernet Sauvignon can fail in poorer years. This Chinon, regarded as a lunchtime drink had intense cherry and floral aromas, with a touch of pepper and spice; and could be drunk from now to 2024. Overall, we had a great evening with great wines from the length of the Loire!

Meeting in the Village Hall between 8.00pm and 10.00pm, 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. With a membership of around 60, we average 32 to most meetings and 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 us 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

on 15th March; “A Blind Tasting”

on 19th April: “Food and Wine Pairing”

Kevin Jacklin, Secretary,

01235 851404

Blewbury Post Office News

Unfortunately as you may know the improvements to the Village Hall are not proceeding as planned so there will be a considerable delay in our getting the extra space in our lovely new Post Office.

We have “Windsor Castle” stamps on sale at the moment, and “David Bowie” ones in March.

Royal Mail are increasing the price by 1p for standard size stamps and by 2p for large stamps early in April, so if you want to stock up, at current prices, we have plenty in stock! Any marked 1st or 2nd are automatically revalued at the new price, still a better interest rate than many banks! (approx. 2%)

We still have a few special 50p’s, Beatrix Potter commemorative ones, and Squirrel Nutkin, so cute! (known in the trade as BU, bright & uncirculated!)

Karen and Angela

Events at Earth Trust

Sunday 5th March, 10am-2pm - Sunday Drop-in: IncrEdible Adventure.

Foraging for dandelions to cook on the fire and planting herbs and salad to take away. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free.

Saturday 11th March, 8am-10am - Wildlife Photography Walk.

Join photographer Andrew Walmsley for a morning stroll around the nature reserve. £20; booking essential.

Saturday 18th March, 10am-3pm - Beginners Wildlife Photography.

Andrew Walmsley will help you get to grips with your camera and provide guidance on capturing images of wildlife. There are a series of workshops running throughout the next few months - book one or more as a course: first workshop £80, subsequent workshops 15% off. Booking essential.

Sunday 19th March, 10am-3pm - Intermediate Wildlife Photography.

Andrew Walmsley will cover a different aspect of photography over four workshops. Future intermediate workshops: 22nd April, 14th May and 18th June; book one or more as a course: first workshop £80, subsequent workshops 15% off. Booking essential.

Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th March, Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd April, 11am-4pm - Lambing Weekends.

Come and see us down on the farm during our annual Lambing Weekends! Meet lambs, piglets, goats and more. Craft activities and refreshments available. £7 adult, £3 child, £17 family (discount for online bookings), FREE for Earth Trust Friends.

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

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

Deadline for the April edition is
Saturday 25th March