

Upton News



Vol 5 No. 10 May 2017

We received just one note on your thoughts about future advertisements, the note was in favour suggesting it would be beneficial to local traders and in particular those living in Upton. It has taken a bit longer than we anticipated to sort out how we handle the adverts so we are not going ahead until next month. If you want to place an advert just send us the information you want included and we will put something together for your approval. The cost will be £2.50 per edition or £25 for a full year.

As you can see we are not short of items to include but we would still like to hear news from you that will make the newsletter more interesting including for example any news from ex-residents.

Lucy news@uptonvillage.co.uk

St. Mary's Church Services

Sun. 7th May - 9.00am - Sung Eucharist*

Sun. 14th May - 9.00am - Sung Eucharist

Sun. 21st May - 9.00am - Sung Eucharist

Thurs. 25th May - 8.00pm - Ascension Day Eucharist

Sun. 28th May - 10.30am - All Age Service*

Please see the porch notice for weekday services.

* Refreshments follow these services.

Christian Aid Week

Sunday 14th May to Saturday 20th May.

During the week, envelopes will be delivered to houses in the village, and collected later – hopefully containing a generous donation. This year's focus, not surprisingly, is Refugees. If you do donate, do take the trouble to fill out the GiftAid slip. If you would rather not donate, please tell your collector politely to miss you out in future.

There will be a United Service for Christian Aid in the Didcot Methodist Church on Sunday 14th May at 6.30pm which anybody is welcome to attend.

Malcolm Wright

Rector's Note



Time to Savour

Well, Summer is almost here and there is simply so much to enjoy. The birdsong, the cherry blossoms, the smell of newly mown grass, cricket and tennis and croquet, and a thousand other good things as well.

We tend to rush through life, in our general busyness and in our focus on getting the next thing ticked off our list. It can be like that with our food as well. We can put the next forkful in our mouth, with scarcely a moment to taste it and really appreciate the

flavours and textures.

You might think that I'm now going to suggest that we all slow down a bit, and take life at a more leisurely pace. Well, that's good advice in general, but it's not always easy to put into practice. Circumstances vary enormously, and sometimes our family commitments simply don't allow us the luxury of being less busy. If we work outside the home, sometimes the demands of our job are simply all-consuming. Someone might witter on about "preserving a work/life balance", but so often this is a luxury which eludes our grasp. Our current society expects far more from its workers than used to be the case, and typically there are far fewer workers doing the job in question. Expectations increase, while the number of workers decrease - so it's no wonder that the world of paid employment is so busy and stressful.

Yes, in an ideal world, it would be good for us all to slow down a bit and spend more time simply enjoying life. But what if we're one of those for whom this is going to be a bit of a pipedream?

Well, I think all of us, however busy we are, can make the mental effort simply to appreciate the beauty and wonder of the world around us. Next time we eat or drink something, we could take a moment to really appreciate the taste and texture, and perhaps even take time to think about the men and women involved in the producing and transporting our food.

A spiritual life - a life which seeks to connect with the presence and goodness of God - starts with the discipline of paying attention to ourselves and the world around us. It is about recognising what is real, and putting this in the context of a God who loves us and cares for us.

It's about giving ourselves time to savour.

Fr Jason

Your Parish Council needs 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 councilor you become someone your community will look to for help, guidance and support? The PC 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. In our parish the A417, Chilton Road and speeding traffic continue to be an ongoing issue. 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.

After a few years serving on Upton PC I am stepping down and therefore creating a vacancy. 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 residence through the next few years? You need to be over 18 and been resident within the parish for the previous twelve months. Please see contact details on the Upton web site.

Thank you

Rob Traynor

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 May are the 11th and the 25th.

Vic Dawson (1936-2017)

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Vic Dawson who until recently was a well-known resident of Upton. Vic and his wife Sheila moved to Upton in 1964 shortly after getting married, initially living in Church Cottage and later at No 2 Fieldside. No 2 became well known locally for its wonderful floral displays in the summer months and in the winter for its famous Christmas light show which attracted a large number of visitors. Vic and Sheila turned the Christmas light display into a paying attraction and used the considerable sums of money collected to support local good causes.

Vic was a very keen gardener specialising in his precious collection of fuchsias, after his retirement from a Wantage engineering company in 1997 he was often to be seen pushing his wheelbarrow around the village visiting several parishioners to help out as a jobbing gardener. Unfortunately ill health brought a very reluctant end to his activities and in 2013 Vic and Sheila downsized by moving to Blewbury.

Vic thoroughly enjoyed his time in Upton and had particular fond memories of their family parties in the Village Hall with his 4 sons and their wives and his 9 grandchildren and latterly he has greatly enjoyed the company of his 12 great grandchildren.

Sheila and her family would like to thank all her many friends in Upton for all the kindness shown and for all the cards and donations received following Vic's passing.

Village Produce Association

A reminder of the visit to "BBC Gardener's World Live" at the NEC Birmingham on Saturday 17th June. Tickets £23.50 which includes entry to the BBC Good Food Show. Travel arrangements and cost to be advised. Don't miss out on a great day .

Please order your ticket by 15th May through Karen at Blewbury Post Office or Margaret Maytham in Upton (850126)

Do you want to enter your fruit, vegetables, flowers, cookery, photography and many other categories in the Annual Summer Show on 8th July. The Show Schedule is now available at Blewbury Post Office or from Eileen Bracken (510095) or Margaret Maytham (850126) or email:

vpa.in.bl.up@gmail.com or visit the VPA Website: <https://blewburyanduptonvpa.wordpress.com>

***DID YOU KNOW?** Charlemagne (747-814) wrote: "Herbs are the friend of the physician and the pride of cooks."*

***Also - Did you know?** "To make one and a half pounds of Lavender Oil, you'll need to harvest almost a quarter of a ton of flowers!"*

Happy Gardening,

Eileen

Reminders

Bake Off

If you have a yen to bake (not competitively) the next meet-up is on Friday May 12 at 11.00am at Fieldfare (near the church).

The theme is quite simply 'cake'. Do come along and don't forget some Tupperware for the divvy up.

Kieron Humphrey

Bin Your Bras

It's time for your unwanted/unloved bras to support breast cancer research instead. Blewbury Tennis Club's Bucks Fizz Tournament is fundraising for Against Breast Cancer this year. Please deliver bras in any condition to Rosemary de Wilde, 1 Church Street Cottages, Upton before 17th May. They will fit through the letterbox!

<https://www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk/recycling/>

St. Michael's Church Concert

Richard and Charlotte Good (Burkhard and Brennand) and a couple of their Opera 'Buddies' will give a Concert in St Michael's Church, Blewbury on 20th May at 7.30pm – Doors open at 7.00. It will be an excellent concert of the highest professional standard and will appeal to a wide audience. Tickets £15 include a glass of wine or soft drink on sale at Blewbury Post Office or Pat Mattimore 851088 or at the door.

Profit will be for St Michael's Church Piano Maintenance.

5-A-Side Kick Around

We are looking to get a few people together for a weekly 5-a-side kick around for a bit of exercise and fun one evening a week from 8.00pm for an hour. Send me an email if you're interested: john_haworth@hotmail.com

Zumbathon

A three hour dance session to Latin inspired music will take place on Saturday 6th May between 14:00 and 17:00pm at Williams F1, Station Road, Grove, OX12 0DQ. Admittance is by ticket only, £5 per adult, £3 per child (13 years and under). More information from Angela Burt White Cottage, Fieldside or email zumbathon2017@gmail.com. All proceeds will be split between the charities MND (Motor Neurones Disease), Special Effect and SIA (Spinal Injuries Association).

Blewbury W.I.News

Hello again. May is almost here, with all the beautiful trees in blossom and colourful spring flowers blooming. We can look forward to warm , sunny days and sitting in the garden. We would love to welcome any new Members to join us at the following May events.

Tuesday 2nd May at 10am - Lyn's Walk. A local walk, mostly on paths starting from the Village Hall.

Tuesday 9th May at 10.30am - Coffee at Style Acre with Cilla.

Wednesday 10th May - Visit to Chalgrove Manor.

Friday 12th May at 7.00pm - Craft Evening at Liz's.

Tuesday 16th May at 7.30pm - Scrabble at Susan's.

Friday 19th May at 1.30pm -Talking Science Lecture at RAL Harwell. To Catch a Monopole by Dr. Tom Whyntie.

Wednesday 22th May at 7.00pm - Monthly WI Meeting at the Vale Room .
Speaker: Bruce Duncan - The Loan Soldier.

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.

Post Office News

Well done to all of those who spotted our "April Fool" in last month's Upton News, sorry you are now too late for the 3rd class stamp.

We are collecting the last "Active Kids" vouchers from Sainsburys', for Karens girly guides, please bring them in!

We will be closed on both Monday 1st May & Monday 29th May, for the Bank Holidays, allowances paid on those days will be paid early, usually the Friday before.

Some Bank cash deposits can now be made using your debit card! (Cheques in the envelope as usual) Barclays definitely works! Almost all Bank and most Building Society accounts are now online with us.

We have some beautiful British Bird stamps out in early May.

Karen & Angela

Waste Re-Cycling

There are places available on a food waste tour on 9th May at 10am at the site in Wallingford - learn how your food waste is used to create electricity. If anyone is interested in attending please contact Eleanor Bunn on 01235 422173.

Swop Shop

Items

- 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.
- 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 are 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) Neff combi microwave and conventional oven (larger than a normal micro) - Free. Kieron Humphrey kieronhumph@gmail.com
- 11) Wood and formica table with folding flaps and 2 stools that fit underneath (approx 60 x 50cm with flaps up) - Free. Kieron Humphrey kieronhumph@gmail.com

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.
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Tea Birds W.I.

Tea Birds meet on the last Tuesday of every month at 8.00pm at Upton Village Hall. Our 30th May meeting will be 'Make a Fascinator'. If you would like to attend this meeting, please contact Tea Birds before 17th May to confirm as we need to know the numbers to order the materials. There will be a non-member voluntary contribution fee of £7 at this meeting.

If you can't attend our May meeting - our June meeting will be on the Tuesday 27th. Our theme will be an 'Introduction to Yoga'.

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

Council News

Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Monday 24th April to mainly discuss two planning applications:-

P17/V0837/FULL

Land adjacent to Hakkas Brook, Main Street, West Hagbourne. Change of use from agricultural to garden. The council voted 'no objections' to this application.

P17/V0792/FULL

Development work at Inghams Farm, Hagbourne Hill, Upton. Apex extension to the side and mirror existing hay/straw barn. The council voted 'no objections' to this application.

The council is working through updating documentation on the Village Website, so far Financial Regulations, Standing Orders, Planning Application Procedure and Contracts have been updated.

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday 26th April at 7.30pm in the village hall. The parish council would like to thank the villagers that attended and to all the people who supplied reports which were read out at the meeting. The new PCSO, Gary Kirby, also attended. The meeting lasted for approximately 2 ½ hours and created a good conversation. The reports will be reproduced very shortly on the Village Website.

The Chairman announced at the APM that this was Cllr Rob Traynor's last meeting. The Chairman thanked Rob for all his contributions to the work of the council. This leaves a vacancy on the parish council (see Page 3), so if anyone would like to become a councillor and help with all things to do with the village, please email the council on parish.council@uptonvillage.co.uk

The Annual General Meeting of the council will be held on Monday 22nd May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Liz Cooper

Yoga for Everyone!

Come stretch and relax at the end of the working week on Fridays from 6.15pm - 7.15pm in Upton Village Hall. The next six-week course will start on 9th June.

For more details of the course and to book a place contact Julie at julie@sanctuarygrace.com

For more information about Julie and the style of yoga she teaches visit www.sanctuarygrace.com

Gardening Notes

After a couple of weeks of lovely Spring weather, we are now back to slightly wintry weather, with squalls, sleet and frosty nights! Let's hope those tender salad leaves, fruit blossoms and potato haulms can withstand this latest onslaught from our unpredictable weather. However, the rain will be very welcome, one does not anticipate having to water in April/May!

Just in case, I've earthed up my first early potatoes and put fleece over my lettuce seedlings, but will take this off during the day. The second early and main crop potatoes have now been planted but are not showing yet. I've also planted onion sets (red and white) but need to keep an eye on them as the birds seem to think they are worms and pull them out, requiring re-planting. The tomatoes seedlings have now been re-potted into slightly larger pots and doing nicely, but still need protection, especially on cool nights.

The gooseberries have set very well and are swelling nicely; it will soon be time to close off the netting to prevent birds eating the fruit once it sweetens up - I'm sure they can smell the sugar content!

No sign of the climbing peas I sowed a couple of weeks ago. The runner beans are just starting to germinate, which I'm growing in root trainers and keeping in a cold greenhouse that hopefully will be warm enough.

There was an interesting article in my gardening magazine about the relative merits of mini, medium and large plug plants for bedding plants and hanging basket plants; if you don't have heat in the greenhouse or wide enough windowsills to start plants off indoors, these plug plants are the answer; they are relatively inexpensive and if kept well watered, will save you a lot of work sowing, pricking out and avoiding damping off! I have begonia mini plugs which have been put into larger trays and are doing well, but it will be several weeks before their root systems are robust enough (and the weather warm enough) to plant them in their baskets.

I'm very excited that my Wisteria Sinensis that was planted nearly four years ago has flowered for the first time; only three racemes, but it's a start!

Happy gardening.

Upton 50 Club Prize Winners

April 2017

£25	No 25	Sarah Sayers
£20	No 52	Gill Potter
£15	No.160	Matthew Smith
£10	No. 29	Richard Clayton

Lesley Shaw

Upton Wine Appreciation Club

Upton's Wine Appreciation Club enjoyed an evening of Food and Wine Pairing in April, allowing us to consider what pairings worked well, what worked less well, and why that might be.

To start the evening, a wonderful sherry (Hidalgo's Pastrana Manzanilla Pasada) was paired with olives and salted almonds. It must be said that not everyone expresses delight at the prospect of a glass of chilled manzanilla (a sad fact which helps to ensure that this fabulous fine wine remains available and affordable), but everyone agreed that the light bone-dry sherry worked admirably with the salty nibbles. Following on, we looked at pairing fresh goat cheese with sauvignon blanc and how the acidity of the wine worked with the tangy cheese. Continuing to consider pairings of cheese and white wines, a Macon coped with strong cheddar. Of interest though, the chardonnay didn't match the goat cheese and the sauvignon blanc didn't complement the cheddar. After a classic Cava paired with baked camembert, we turned to a Provencal rose accompanied by prawns warm from the oven. Then on to red wine, with Argentinian Malbec benefitting from its accompaniment of roast beef. Maury (from a solera dating back to 1928!) tamed dark chocolate, and a fortified Tawny from South Africa's KWV cooperative rounded the evening off with blue cheese. But, for those still keen to experiment, while the Maury coped with the strong cheese, it was felt that the Tawny couldn't cope with the chocolate.

If you would like to enjoy a glass of wine in convivial surroundings, perhaps learning a bit along the way, then why not join us? We meet in the Village Hall between 8.00pm and 10.00pm, and welcome everyone with an interest in wine. We usually taste four white and four red wines per meeting - small tasting measures, so as to avoid any deleterious effects! 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 villagers, we regularly welcome more than 30 to each meeting and make a special effort to welcome new members from the village. If you're interested, you are very welcome to come along to your first meeting as a guest. The more the merrier! The club's regular meetings continue on the third Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 17th May and is the last before this season's BBQ - it offers a chance for members of the club to share their favourite wines and related anecdotes. Do join us if you can.

William Betts

Chair

Upton Film Club

The next movie will start at 8.00pm on Friday June 9th. 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.

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

- 1) The Time Of Their Lives. Cert 12A - Determined to gatecrash her ex lover's funeral on glamorous French hideaway Ile-de-Re, former Hollywood siren Helen (Joan Collins) escapes her London retirement home with the help of Priscilla, (Pauline Collins) a repressed English housewife stuck in a bad marriage..
- 2) Lion. Cert PG - A five-year-old Indian boy gets lost on the streets of Calcutta, thousands of kilometers from home. He survives many challenges before being adopted by a couple in Australia; 25 years later, he sets out to find his lost family.. Stars Nicole Kidman, Rooney Mara, Dev Patel, David Wenham.
- 3) Passengers. Cert 12A - Jennifer Lawrence and Chris Pratt are two passengers onboard a spaceship transporting them to a new life on another planet. Stars Jennifer Lawrence, Chris Pratt.

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

Thank you

Rob Traynor

Police and Crime Commissioner's Plan

Anthony Stansfeld, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley has recently published his new five year Police and Crime Plan which sets out the priorities for policing and other crime reduction organisations across the Thames Valley, including the response to regional and national threats.

This new Plan consists of five broad strategic priorities, Vulnerability, Prevention and Early Intervention, Reducing Re-offending, Serious Organised Crime and Terrorism, and Police Ethics and Reform.

The full plan can be found on the PCC website at

<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/police-and-crime-plan/>

What's on at Earth Trust

Moth Night on Saturday 6th May, 8.00pm -10.00pm

Dawn Chorus Walk on Sunday 7th May, 4.30am - 6.30am

Sunday Drop-in: Go Wild! on Sunday 7th May, 10.00am - 2.00pm

Green Woodworking: A 6 week Course starting on Tuesday 9th May,
6.30pm - 9.00pm

Tree Climbing on Saturday 13th May, 10.00am - 5.00pm

Scything on Sunday 14th May, 9.30am - 4.00pm

Intermediate Wildlife Photography on Sunday 14th May, 10.00am - 3.00pm

Bat Walk on Saturday 20th May, 8.30pm - 10.00pm

Drawing from Nature on Sunday 21st May, 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Natural Dyeing for Families on Tuesday 30th May, 11.00am - 4.00pm

Woodland Adventure on Wednesday 31st May, 10.00am - 12.00pm

Wildlife Wednesday at Thrupp Lake on Wednesday 31st May, 2.00pm -
4.00pm

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.

Oxfordshire Young Farmers Show will take place at Earth Trust on
Sunday 28th May 10am-5pm

Fun Dog Show, Animal Farm Corner, Motorcycle Display, Pony Rides,

Local Food & Produce, YFC Competitions, Craft & Trade Stands.

Admission - Under 5's free, 16 & under £5, Adults £7.50, Family £20.

Submissions for *Upton News*

should be sent to

news@uptonvillage.co.uk.

Deadline for the June edition is

Friday 26th May