

Upton News



Vol 5 No.16 November 2017

It is unfortunate in some ways but good news in another that Lucy is progressing so well at school that her homework load has reached a point where she can no longer continue as editor of the Upton News. Over the last few months we have slowly changed roles such that each month I have been undertaking a greater proportion of the 8+ hours that it takes to produce the newsheet. We have now reached a point where it is sensible for me to assume the role of editor and Lucy will continue to help me out with the necessary computer quirks.

A big thank you must go to Lucy for her efforts over the last 15 editions to produce an interesting and, more important, a regular and on time publication. I must also thank her for her efforts in improving my computing skills to a level where I hope I will be able to produce a newsheet of comparable standard without needing to call on her too much. I know that she has enjoyed the role and has benefitted from the experience.

Mike

St. Mary's Church Services

Sun 5th November 9.00am - Sung Eucharist*.

Sun 12th November 9.00am - Sung Eucharist.

Sun 19th November 10.30am - All age Service* - theme Exploring Advent.

Sun 26th November 9.00am - Sung Eucharist.

*Refreshments follow these services.

Please see the porch notice for weekday services.

Following the pet service in October we were able to send a cheque for £60 to the Donkey Sanctuary in Brightwell.

Bake Up!

This month's meet-up is at eleven on Friday 24th November. Yvonne is kindly hosting at Manor Lawns and all you knead to bring is 'bread'. As always everyone is welcome. *(I like the spellings Ed)*

Thanks to Frances for welcoming the bakers last time. The holiday-themed meet featured baked goods from as far afield as Peru, Israel and Sicily. I'm told the fare was truly scrumptious - eat your heart out, Bake Off judges!

Kieron

Oxford to Cambridge Expressway

Be warned, within the next 7 years there could be a four lane Expressway going through our parish. As part of the continued improvement of the Strategic Road Network in England, the UK government is proposing an Oxford to Cambridge Expressway to cut journey times in what is known as the 'Brain Belt'. The Expressway will run from the M4 at Chieveley and one of the proposed routes leaves the A34 at the West Ilsley junction and travels between Chilton and Prospect Farm, up across the hill crossing Alden Farm halfway to Alden Farm. It then descends pass the front of Upton Lodge, crosses the A417, passes between Blewbury and East Hagbourne and on across our beloved rural environment to pass between the two Moretons. It goes on past Dorchester to eventually link up with the M40 near Lewknor, the M1 near Milton Keynes and the M11 near Cambridge.

Can you visualise the destruction to our parish that this will cause, it could easily mean a giant swathe being cut through the hill up near Alden Farm from where there are such beautiful views and an elevated section of dual carriageway going over the A417 destroying the view towards Blewburton Hill.

The work is scheduled for completion by 2025, it is not a government distant dream. A report giving the proposed route for the central section is expected in November and an announcement regarding the go ahead for the whole scheme could be in the next budget.

You may well think this local route is madness since it will destroy such a swathe of open countryside and have such a detrimental effect on so many local villages but it has advantages over the other proposed routes and cannot be dismissed. (See Map).

The two alternative routes leave the A34 just south of Oxford or at the junction with the M40. Whichever route is chosen the A34 will be widened to six lanes up to the junction with the new road. Either of the alternative routes will mean a much longer section of the A34 will need to be widened causing massive disruption and huge expense, probably more expensive than constructing a new road and certainly with a lot more long traffic delays for everyone.

A further major problem is that from the information I have seen so far I get the impression that our District Council are in favour of the local route as they suggest it will help with the development and growth of the local Garden Town and with the local Science Parks. I am trying to get hold of a letter recently issued by the leader of the council to see if they really are intent on destroying the rural nature of this part of Oxfordshire.

As a parish we need to wake up to the threat, there is a very real chance that the route through our parish will be the chosen option.

Villages on the proposed route that passes just south of Oxford have organised themselves into a fighting unit. All the affected parishes appear to have got together and had meetings with representatives of the County Council, District Council, CPRE and other information groups and they are underway with a well organised letter writing campaign to anyone they think they can influence in order to ensure their route is not the chosen one. On the plus side they are not arguing for the Upton route but for the widening of the A34.

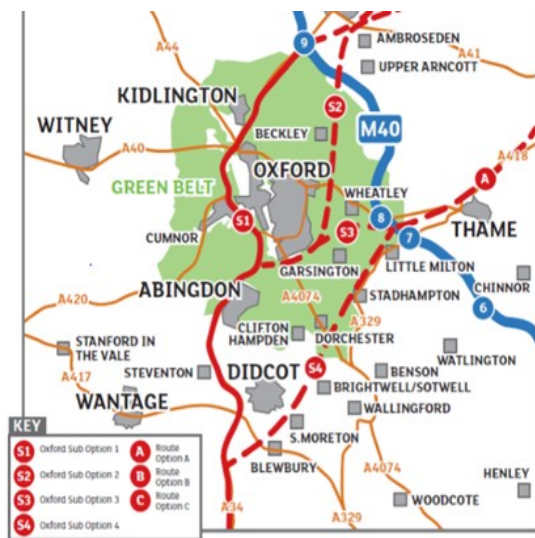
Of all the parishes on the route that passes through Upton the only parish that seem to be awake to the situation is Dorchester on Thames who have formed an Action Group and set up a website.

The CPRE are opposed to both routes that pass through open countryside as we would hope they would be but I can find no evidence to back up the claims they are making that this is a secret plan that councils are trying to keep secret from the general public or that the new road will have to be financed by the building of another 100,000 houses in Oxfordshire in addition to those already in the Local Plan. Available on the web is all the information on the Expressway that you could ever look for, including reports on all the studies that have been undertaken to date, the amount spent to-date and the proposed cost of the whole scheme.

What can we do as individuals?

You will see on Page 10 that on November 15th there is an opportunity to talk to officials from the District Council about the latest Local Plan. Please go along if you can and make the Vale representatives aware of your opposition to the local route. Note there is a scant mention of the Expressway on page 57 of the Plan.

I trust that an open parish meeting will be held in the very near future to



meet with representatives of the County Council, the District Council and the CPRE and I also trust that all the local Parish Councils will get themselves organised into an action group. If those actions do take place please give them all the support that you can. If they are not immediately forthcoming then do your best to make sure that they happen. From my point of view, I am looking to get on any distribution lists that will keep me up-to-date on the progress of the project and if important developments take place I will send the information out to you using the urgent email distribution system.

Editor

Upton 50 Club

Prize Winners for October

£25	No. 78	Cathy Brown
£20	No. 177	Hilary Powell
£15	No. 120	Mrs Ireson
£10	No. 128	Ali Lewinton

Lesley Shaw

Blewbury W.I.

Autumn has arrived, very beautiful but will keep us very busy with all the fallen leaves to sweep up and the garden to put to bed. But we can look forward to bonfires and fireworks to keep us entertained and the following list of WI November events will keep us happily occupied. All new members will be made very welcome to join us.

Wednesday 1st November at 10.00am. - Lyn's Walk, leaving from the Village Hall and probably finishing at Style Acre.

Wednesday 1st November at 7.30pm. - Scrabble at Lin Page's, Please ring first.

Friday 3rd November at 7.00pm - Craft Evening at Liz's, please ring first.

Monday 6th November at 2.30pm - Mah Jong at Steve's, please ring first.

Wednesday 8th November at 10.30am. - Coffee with Trish at Style Acre.

Wednesday 22nd November at 7.30pm - WI monthly meeting in the Vale Room. Craft evening making Christmas items.

Friday 24th November at 1.30pm - Talking Science Lecture at RAL Harwell. Pressing fire on the most powerful laser in the world. Dr. Ceri Brenner.

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.

Art Exhibition and Sale.

Brian Arnold a long time resident of this village will be holding an exhibition and sale of many of his paintings in the Village Hall on Saturday 18th November from 2.00pm until 4.00. The paintings are mainly of buildings of interest from throughout the country.

Motorway Closure

Please be aware that the M4 motorway will be totally closed for repairs between Junction 12 (Theale) and Junction 13 (Chieveley) from 9.00pm on Friday until 5.00am on Monday on all of the following weekends.

- Friday 24th to Monday 27th November 2017
- Friday 8th to Monday 11th December 2017
- Friday 15th to Monday 18th December 2017
- Friday 12th to Monday 15th January 2018
- Friday 19th to Monday 22nd January 2018 (contingency)

Upton Wine Club

Wednesday 18th October saw the UWC hold a food and wine pairing evening at the village hall. Wine and food pairing can be a little daunting but in a very informal setting we had a lot of fun looking at some typical characteristics of wine including sweetness, acidity, tannin, alcohol levels etc. and matching them with some food you may enjoy at a dinner party.

The results were fantastic! Eight wines were tasted, which were paired with the following foods:



Starter: Thai spiced salad (pictured) was matched with a Leckford English Sparkling Brut 2013, a great aperitif or sparkling wine that cleansed the palate after every mouthful. We also tried a Riesling called Staatliche Weinbau Domane Oppenheim 2013, which had wonderful depth and was light in alcohol which complimented the spice really well.

Main: To match a hearty beef stew we tried a white oaked chardonnay 2015 from a grower in Argentina called Rutini, unusual for a red meat, but for anyone not a fan of red wine the oaked flavour worked really well with a “heavy” meal. More traditionally we tried La Grange des Comes, 2015 St-Chinian-Roquebrun,

a great French red from the Languedoc region that works really well if you make a stew with spices such as sage, rosemary and thyme.

Cheese: To match a soft camembert style cheese from France called Mont D’or we paired a white Savagnin-Domaine Jean Louis Tissot 2012 and a red Saint-Pourcain “La Ficelle” Rouge 2016. The white was sherry like in style, which often divides opinion but an excellent example of matching food with local wine. The red was a good wine to go with most soft cheeses.

Dessert: Matching a wonderful cherry and amaretto cake we looked for something sweet, following the typical rule of pairing a wine sweeter than your dessert. We matched it with a Monbazillac Rech la Calevie 2013 and a Moscato d’asti, Elio Perrone 2016, both great wines that went down very well.

Next month’s meeting is at 8.00pm on the 15th November at the village hall where Brian from Upton’s Strictly Wine will be talking about wines from Italy. If you enjoy wine and want to come along to try some new varieties in a very relaxed environment then please give Ian a call on 850793.

Ian Langley

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 November are the 9th and the 23rd.

Village Produce Association

It's reminder time for everyone - our Annual General Meeting takes place on Wednesday 1st November in the Vale Room at Blewbury Village Hall. It commences at 7.00pm for 7.30pm which gives you time to have a complimentary glass of wine and some nibbles. Look forward to seeing you there.

Tickets are now available for our Annual Social which takes place on Saturday 2nd December 7.00pm - 10.00pm at Upton Village Hall. This year will be "A London Evening" with delicious home made food (those with special dietary requirements will be catered for), quizzes, games and lots of fun and we have some very special entertainment!! Tickets which have been held at last year's price of £9 per person are available from Karen at Blewbury Post Office or ring Margaret Maytham in Upton on 01235 850126 or contact Eileen on 01235 510095.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the above events.

We are in the process of planning our programme of events and visits for 2018 and this will be available soon. We are planning a visit to West Green House Gardens in Hartley Witney and a trip to Wisley - the details will be announced in the new year. Our Annual Summer Show will take place in July and we are re-arranging the classes for the Children's Section to try and encourage more of them to take part. Full details will be available at the beginning of 2018.

DID YOU KNOW ? Thrushes love the berries of the rowan tree and distribute the seeds in their droppings. The rowan used to be carried on ships to ward off storms and was also planted on graves to stop the dead returning to haunt the living!!

Happy Gardening

Eileen

Plea from Edna Napper

Some years back I lent 4 volumes of books called "Didcot and Villages Peoples Photographs" to Henry Bucknell. Sadly they were not found when his house was cleared. I have since discovered that they were passed on to friends of his, one of whom has kindly returned volume 2 to me. Unfortunately this is the only one still in print.

If anyone has volumes 1.3.or4 could they kindly let Yvonne Collins (01235-850989) have them. I shall be extremely grateful to get them back as there is so much of my family history there, going back to the 1800s.

Sincerely - Edna Napper

Film Club

The next showing is on Friday 17th November at the Village Hall - Doors open 7.30pm - drinks available.

The selections for the next showing are -

1) My Cousin Rachel Cert - 12a

A dark romance, 'My Cousin Rachel' tells the story of a young Englishman who plots revenge against his mysterious, beautiful cousin, believing that she murdered his guardian. Stars Rachael Weisz and Sam Claflin.

My Cousin Rachel is a fascinating hybrid. It uses clunky devices out of a 19th-century melodrama, but its subject is modern: mistakes of perception and of metaphor. - David Edelstein - Vulture.

2) Hampstead - Cert 12a

An American widow finds unexpected love with a man living wild on Hampstead Heath when they take on the developers who want to destroy his home.. Stars Diane Keaton and Brendon Gleeson.

3) Their Finest - Cert 12a

In 1940, a married woman (Gemma Arterton) and a screenwriter (Sam Claflin) develop a growing attraction while working together on a propaganda film about the evacuation of Allied troops from Dunkirk, France. Also stars Bill Nighy.

Their Finest” is one of the smartest, funniest and most surprising movies I’ve seen in years. - Wall Street Journal

Please send your choice 1, 2 or 3 to - filmclub@uptonvillage.co.uk

You can sign up to receive film selections and screen showing at the Upton web site -<http://www.uptonvillage.co.uk/organizations/>

Rob Traynor

Tony Loy Trust

A big thank you to everyone who supported the Quiz and Raffle held at the George and Dragon. We raised £1145. Special thanks to Kenny and staff for their generosity and hospitality and to Jeff - quizmaster extraordinaire.

The aim of the Tony Loy Trust www.thetonyloytrust.org is to advance the education and support the development of, and provide opportunities for, children and young people under the age of 25 in Blewbury and the neighbouring area in the arts and sport. This will include: providing grants, allowances or scholarships; supporting training; and assisting travel, events or projects. We are more than happy to receive and consider applications. If you would like to be considered, please write to the Trustees with a brief outline of what you are intending to do and how you might use any financial support.

The Trustees

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07767763441 or 01235 815917

Friends of St Mary's

Friends of St Mary's continues to flourish and is providing essential funds to keep the church well-maintained and in good repair.

We have been making steady progress on the plans to install a loo and better catering facilities in the church vestry. An architect has been appointed and has drafted some preliminary plans; these will be worked into detailed drawings that can be used to seek the necessary approvals and to obtain costings. Then the fundraising can begin!

Meanwhile, we have planned a series of what we hope will be enjoyable and fun events over the next few months. Please make a note of:

Christmas Carols and Readings in St Mary's - Always popular, this event will take place on Saturday 16th December at 4.00pm. We would love to see as many Uptonians as possible, young and older, to enjoy a good sing of some familiar carols interspersed with seasonal readings. Mulled wine, soft drinks and mince pies will be provided at the end to soothe the vocal chords. No charge, just a collection for a local charity.

Skittles, Fish and Chips - a change from our usual quiz (and more energetic!), this new event will take place in the Village Hall on Saturday, 3rd February at 7.30pm. Full details to come later but in the meantime, keep the date free!

Good Friday Walk - Limber up before tackling all those chocolate eggs with a 5-7 mile walk through the local countryside, finishing up at the church for tea and hot cross buns. The date is the 30th March and we'll be starting around 2.00pm.

Talk and Nibbles in the Village Hall - Come and listen to one of our neighbours presenting interesting, amusing and perhaps thought-provoking tales. Still a lot to be fixed at this stage, but the date's set for 19th May - look out for further announcements in Upton News.

We look forward to seeing you and in the meantime if you would like to know more about the Friends of St Mary's, pick up a leaflet from the church

FOSM Committee

Parish Council News

Two small meetings to cover individual topics were held on 2nd and 12th October. Minutes can be viewed on the village web site www.uptonvillage.co.uk.

Planning application P17/V2172/HH (3 Fieldside) and amendments, were approved by VoWHDC on 23rd October, details can be found on their web site, planning section.

The VoWHDC has also recently applied a tree preservation order (17V21) to two trees on the old Methodist Chapel site, details can again be found on their web site, planning section.

The Parish Council has a vacancy for a councillor and would welcome enquiries from anyone in the village who would like to bring their expertise to the role and help in all Parish Council matters.

The next regular meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 27th November 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 once they are approved for publication.

Village Fete

The sun shone, the band played, tea flowed and cakes rapidly disappeared. We were entertained by gymnasts, dogs, juggling, donkeys and even a bake-off competition. People came from, literally, miles around to revel in the joys of an old-fashioned village fete.

It seems to be widely agreed that the 2017 village fete was a great success. Not only was it fun, it also raised a substantial sum (about £2,600 net) for the Village Hall and St Mary's Church.

All this would not have been possible without the small army of Uptonians who baked cakes, manned stalls, put everything up and took it down again, contributed to the medley of things to buy on a myriad of stalls or even just came along and bought them. Many thanks to all of you, too numerous to mention individually, but you know who you are!

Scarcely is the last gazebo packed away before planning starts for the 2018 fete. Keep Saturday, 1st September free in your diary - we are preparing something even better for next year!

Speaking of planning, we would welcome a few more to join the committee which plans the fete. Volunteers sought! We meet about half a dozen times before the event for an hour or so, the first meeting being in January. Do contact Brian (850158), Jessie (851256) or Paul (851251) if you'd like to help. And thanks again to everyone for making it such a successful day.

Paul Batho

Theatre Club

I have reserved stalls seats for the hilariously successful “The Play That Goes Wrong” at The Oxford Playhouse on the evening of Tuesday 23 January 2018. Tickets have been going very fast already, but they have found room for us. Assuming that car transport will be preferable, the cost will be £20 per person.

Rush round with your cash or cheque; first paid, first served. In any case, I will need to know if the tickets are sold by the end of November.

If anyone was half hoping I would book for the new Stratford “Christmas Carol”, I balked at the price - best seats were £75 each.

Malcolm Wright 850705

District Council’s Local Plan Part 2

Following consultation and gathering of evidence the Vale of the White Horse District. Council is nearly ready to submit their Local Plan 2031 Part 2 for independent examination. See [current draft plan \(LPP2 p57\)](#) or obtain a copy from your local library.

The Plan sets out policies and locations for housing for the Vale of White Horse district’s proportion of Oxford’s housing need up to 2031, which cannot be met within the City boundaries. The document also contains policies for the part of the Didcot Garden Town that lies within the Vale and detailed development management policies to complement Local Plan 2031 Part 1. It replaces the saved policies of the Local Plan 2011 and allocates additional development sites for housing.

Before the plan is submitted there will be a six week publicity period during which time there will be opportunities for the Public to comment.

The publicity period is different from the previous consultation, as the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012 dictate that the Council ask specific questions relating to the soundness and legality of the Plan.

The Council will be hosting public events across the district to help explain the publicity process and how to comment. The events will take the form of an exhibition from 4.00pm to 6.30 and then a public meeting from 7.00pm to 8.30. The nearest event to Upton is at Harwell Village Hall on Wednesday 15th November.

The publicity period closes on Wednesday 22nd November

If you have any queries, please contact the planning policy team on 01235 422600 or email planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Papagena

Papagena is a female voice group directed by Upton resident Sarah Tenant-Flowers and their next performance is a local one, taking place in Wallingford (St Mary le More Church) on Sunday 26th November at 4.00pm. The concert is called *The Darkest Midnight* and will feature medieval, Celtic and contemporary carols, seasonal songs and refreshments. Tickets (£12 or £10 concessions) are available from Sarah on 850488, info@papagena.co.uk, on the door and from www.wegotickets.com. Visit www.papagena.co.uk for more information and to hear the group.

Police and Crime Plan 2017-18.

The Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley has recently produced a Police and Crime Plan for 2017/18 - see www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk

Some interesting statistics extracted from the plan relating to this year's performance are:-

The Thames Valley Police Force covers an area of 2,200 square miles with a population of 2.3 million. It employed 3,886 officers, 424 PCSOs, 486 Special Constables, 523 Police Volunteers and 2,604 staff.

The total spend for the year was £392.6m of which 40% came from council tax and 60% from government grants.

The force dealt with 1,277,436 telephone calls of which only 20% were crime related. A call relating to domestic abuse was received every 11 minutes and a fear of welfare call was received every 14 minutes.

Swop Shop

Items

15) Upright Piano - Excellent tone and touch, complete with stool and sheet music - Free - Brenda Arnold, 850354

16) A Victorian Wardrobe - Free - Malcolm Wright,850705.

17) A home-made set of (book)shelves - Free - Malcolm Wright,850705.

18) Two glass-fronted display cabinets, ex MFI? - Free - Malcolm Wright,850705.

Children's Christmas Party

It is planned to hold a Christmas party for the children (age 3+) on 22nd of December from 4.00pm to 6.30. If you and your children would like to come to the party please email Jennie Slatter jennifer.slatter976@btinternet.com to give us an idea of numbers for catering. Children must be accompanied by a parent. More details will be in the December edition.

Didcot U3A

Summer may have long gone, albeit, October did give us some very pleasant 'Indian Summer' days, we now settle in for the cosy Autumn and Winter seasons, and there is plenty to provide you with interest at the Didcot and District U3A!

With an ever expanding list of Interest Groups (no fewer than 31 at the last count!) we now have an additional three more groups that may well interest any recently retired or semi-retired couples or individuals; Railways and Industrial Archaeology, Learning Latin and Using Your Senior Travel Pass (Bus and/or Rail), we can never be accused of lacking diversity!!!

As always at the monthly meetings, held in the Didcot Civic Centre (third Tuesday of every month) commencing at 2.00pm, a friendly welcome greets you at the door, with new members always welcome

On the 21st November Bill Spectre (real name!) our guest speaker, will be presenting 'Victorian Ghost Stories' some spooky tales with some audience participation.

Astons Online

The next meeting of Astons Online is Tuesday November 21st from 10.00am to 12.00pm.

Astons Online is a free-of-charge drop-in workshop for the residents of the Astons, Blewbury, Chilton, Cholsey, Goring, the Moretons, Streatley and Upton to bring along their problems when using computers, tablets, smartphones, emails or browsing the Internet.

You'll find a warm welcome at our event where the atmosphere is friendly, engaging and inclusive.

You can contact us using theastonsonline@gmail.com or 07780 958249

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

Deadline for the December edition is
Sunday 26th November