

Upton News



Vol 5 No. 4 November 2016

This month we have two good ideas on how we might improve the Upton News and make it more useful, both ideas are very similar.

Angela Hoy has suggested that we offer to do jobs where we have the necessary muscle, skill or know-how in an exchange with someone who needs such help and who will undertake jobs for you that you are not able or not willing to undertake for yourself.

Sarah Carter has suggested that we offer items that we no longer need in exchange for items that we would like to own.

Thank you to Angela and Sarah, let's see if we can make both ideas work. For more details see page 4.

Lucy Ross news@uptonvillage.co.uk.

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 10th and the 24th.

Ride and Stride

The Ride & Stride took place on Saturday 10th September on a dreadfully wet day. We are very proud of Paul (on his trusty steed ~1926) and Karen and her family for braving the weather and taking part. A magnificent sum of £246.50 was collected in sponsorship. Half will go to the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and the remainder to St Mary's. Thank you to everyone who gave up their time to act as hosts in church during the day. As a consequence of the atrocious weather there were fewer visitors to St Mary's. Well done and thank you especially to the cyclists.

Clare

Karate

Congratulations to junior students Luca Placentino and Jack Robins who after 4 years of dedicated effort have passed their black belt grading bringing Upton's total number of black belts up to three.

For more information on the club which meets in the Village Hall every Sunday morning please contact John Hogan on johnhogan67@icloud.com

Blewbury and Upton Village Produce Association

Without saying how many days are left to Christmas, it's hard to imagine that we are almost at the end of another year. Weather-wise, although 2016 began a little cold and wet we have had a pretty good summer and an exceptional autumn. Now it's just a question of putting the garden and allotments to bed for the forthcoming winter.

Our next event is the VPA Annual General Meeting. Taking place on Wednesday 2nd November at 7.00pm in the Vale Room, Blewbury Village Hall, everyone is invited. We commence with a complimentary glass of wine and nibbles, continue with a short meeting at 7.30pm and conclude with a quirky quiz.

The final event for this year is our Annual Social which takes place on Saturday 3rd December at Upton Village Hall - it will be a Mexican Evening! Food, Drink and Fun & Games. Tickets are £9 per head and will be on sale from the 1st November at Blewbury Post Office and from Maggie Maytham at Upton.

Did You Know? The leaves of the laurel tree were made into wreaths and crowns in Roman times for military heroes and poets, hence the title 'poet laureate', meaning 'the wreathed or crowned poet'. Traditionally, laurels were planted near houses to ward off witches and protect the house from lightning.

Happy Gardening

Eileen

Support UK and International Wildlife this Christmas

Wildlife charity People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) has released its annual Christmas gift catalogue, which showcases a variety of quirky and creative gift ideas that will help the most endangered wildlife across the UK and internationally. This year, new additions include fox-shaped cookie cutters and wildlife-themed ice cube trays - perfect for sweet treats and celebratory drinks throughout the festive season.

There are gifts to suit all budgets and interests, from household items to supporting conservation projects. £10 could provide enough food for a newly released dormouse couple until they can fend for themselves, £18 could help support the coppicing of hazel trees to ensure there's enough hazelnuts for red squirrels and dormice so they can fatten up for winter, and £30 could help PTES train forest managers in Indonesia to understand how to help save the Bornean orang-utan.

The full range of wildlife gifts, ideal for any wildlife enthusiast, can be viewed and purchased online at www.ptes.org/shop. 100% of the profits go directly to help wildlife both across the UK and internationally.

Blewbury WI

The Holiday Season is over and it is time to look forward to Autumn events such as Halloween and Bonfire night.

Blewbury WI has some interesting events during November, at which any new members will be made very welcome.

Tuesday, November 1st - Lyn's Walk. Meet at the Village Hall at 9.30am. We will be walking locally but the route is not quite settled yet. Coffee stop at some point but venue also not confirmed.

Tuesday, November 8th - Scrabble at Susan's. 7.30pm.

Wednesday, November 9th - Coffee at Style Acre with Joan. 10.30am.

Friday, November 11th - Craft Evening at Liz's. 7.00pm.

Wednesday, November 23rd - WI monthly meeting at the Vale Room. 7.30pm.

Make Something for Christmas. Craft evening.

Wednesday, November 30th - Visit to Basildon Park. 12.30pm.

The date for the restart of Mah Jong will be announced later.

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.

Theatre Group

I've only just registered that we had our first outing in March 2006; we should have celebrated our first decade!

Actually, I think I originally said I would help out until somebody younger, maybe with more time and energy, took over. Well ...?

Nevertheless, I'm pleased to announce I've just reserved 16 seats for Ayckbourn's "Improbable Fiction" at The Mill at Sonning on Thursday 23 March 2017, at a discounted price of £40.60 if I can confirm numbers within the next fortnight. For anyone who hasn't been before, for your money you get supper before the show, a free programme, and a professional performance in an enchanting amphitheatre. Anybody is welcome, especially someone prepared to drive. Do rush round to Karibu in High Street, with cash or cheque, made payable to me.

I've also reserved 16 stalls seats for "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time", which is playing at the New Theatre, Oxford on Tuesday 23 May 2017 at 7.30pm. The group price is £25 per person. I have till March to secure those, but I'd prefer to pay up much earlier.

If there are questions or you would like to be on the mailing list to get earlier information about our planned trips do get in touch.

Malcolm Wright 850705 or malcolmwright@f2s.com

Events at Earth Trust

Potions and Pumpkins on Sunday 6th November, 10.00am - 2.00pm

Come and experience a naturally spooky Halloween with potions galore and pumpkin soup over the fire. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free.

Cordage and Fibres on Sunday 13th November, 10.00am-4.00pm

A practical session that includes spinning with the fibres you produce from nettles, hemp and flax. £30; booking essential.

Star Walk on Friday 25th November, 6.00pm-8.00pm

A starlit countryside walk with Dr Russell Layberry from Oxford University. For adults and older children. £5 adult, £2 child; booking essential.

Hedgelaying on Saturday 26th - Sunday 27th November, 9.30am-4.00pm

Learn the basics of laying a Midland style hedge, or refine your skills, during this two day hands-on workshop with Clive Leeke. All tools provided. £75: booking essential.

More information can be found on our website www.earthtrust.org.uk. To book a place at any of the events ring 01865 407792

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 swap it for. It is not a problem if you want to swap it for cash. Please also send in your name and preferred method of contact (Tel. No or email) to news@uptonvillage.co.uk

No.	Item Available	Item in Exchange	Name	Tel No.
1	Garden Shredder	£10 Note	M Brown	850135
2				

Job Swap Shop

Please send in details as for the items swap shop giving the jobs that you are prepared to undertake and what jobs you would like undertaken in return. This idea could be more problematic as the agreement needs to consider accident insurance and what you agree if the work you want done takes longer or less time than the work you are doing. This time we cannot publish that you will offer or accept cash but if that is what happens between you so be it. It is going to require trust between the two parties.

No.	Type of Job Offered	Type of Job Required	Name	Tel No.
1	Maths Tuition	Gardening	Example	
2				

Theatre Group Review.

Sand in the Sandwiches at Oxford Playhouse on Wednesday 26th October, 2016

The Upton Theatre Group spent a delightful evening watching Double BAFTA winner Edward Fox starring in this one-man performance, bringing John Betjeman's poetry and his vivacious personality to life. What a tour de force, all those words, and Edward Fox brought it to life with all the charm and presence you would expect from such an actor.

Betjeman is one of the nation's favourite poets. Sand in the Sandwiches celebrated a man famous not only for light verse and laughter, but for his passions, his sense of purpose and his unforgettable poetry. The Arrest of Oscar Wilde at the Cadogan Hotel and Trebetherick were two of the fabulous poems included in the performance.

Through his boyhood, adolescence and on to life as Britain's Poet Laureate, the performance embraced Betjeman's delight for nostalgia and delicious irreverence. The evening gave us a hugely entertaining insight into the world of this much-loved poet. There were moments of laughter, naughtiness and also great poignancy as his relationship with his father was explored. We looked at his love affair with Elizabeth Cavendish, despite his marriage to Penelope, and his amazingly positive view of his Parkinson's and his uplifting view looking towards the end of his life.

It was also an interesting 'spotlight' on how society and attitudes have changed which gave rise to some interesting discussion on our journey home.

There was, I feel, an issue with the sound in the first act. I heard others discussing this at the interval; however, it seemed better in the second act. Had I grown used to it, or had they fixed it at the sound desk? Who knows!

On a slightly different level, the refurbishment of the theatre is wonderful, finished I believe in August, more space, luscious colours, fabulous!

It was a wonderfully entertaining evening and had me digging out my John Betjeman Collected Poems book as soon as I got home.

Sarah Carter

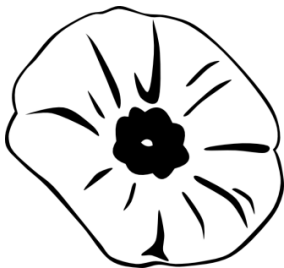
Yoga For Everyone!

Come stretch and relax after a week's work on Fridays from 6.15 to 7.15pm. in Upton Village Hall

The next six-week course begins on 11th November. £30 advance booking for the full six-weeks or £7 to drop in for the odd session.

Contact Julie for booking at julie@sanctuarygrace.com or for more information

Rectors Note



So What Do You Think?

Have you bought your Poppy yet? Remembrance Sunday will soon be upon us. It will soon be time to commemorate the dead of two World Wars, and all who have been killed and injured in countless conflicts in the years since 1945.

I think that everyone would agree that War is one of the greatest evils known to human kind. But given this, is it ever morally justifiable to go to War?

Christians have differed on their attitudes to War. Some have felt that War is simply so horrendous that it is never justifiable, and it is never right for Christians to serve in the Armed Forces. This can be broadly termed a Pacifist approach. Other Christians have felt that in some situations, going to War is in fact a moral obligation. This can be termed a “crusading” approach.

Some Christians have adopted a different way of looking at things. Their view is that, generally, War is absolutely wrong, but that in certain circumstances War can be justified as the lesser of evils. This can be termed a “Just War” approach. “Just War” thinking covers those situations in which it might be justifiable to go to war, but also what is acceptable behaviour once the War has actually started. In recent years, “Just War” has extended to thinking about what should happen after a War has come to an end - the ethics surrounding Post-war settlements.

All these approaches have their critics. The Pacifist approach can be dismissed as naïve and impractical. The “crusading” approach can be dismissed as intolerably arrogant and totally ineffective. And as for the “Just War” approach, critics would say that it is so slippery and subjective that it is able to justify absolutely anything!

Do you resonate with any of these three approaches? Is it possible to imagine a world in which there is no War, and if so, how can we work towards this dream? Or if you think that war is inevitable, what might we do to limit the occasions when people resort to it, and how might we limit the suffering which results?

Let us think deeply about these questions, and share our thinking with one another and with our politicians. Wars are, generally, started by politicians, who declare they are acting on our behalf. War, and the suffering it brings, is therefore our responsibility.

So what do you think?

Fr Jason

WINTER WARMER LUNCH

Raising money for MU overseas funds

Saturday 26th November

12 noon - 2pm

Upton Village Hall

Stalls selling Christmas gifts, crafts & MU goods

Raffle

Display of MU initiatives across the world

ALL ARE WELCOME - suggested lunch donation £5.



Blewbury Church Sponsored Toddle

Our youngest children are "toddling" around Blewbury Church on Wednesday 2nd November between 2.00 and 2.30pm, helping to raise money for the Mothers' Union AFIA fund. "Away from it all" provides holidays for needy families in this area. The benefice centre is open for rest and refreshment. We invite pre-school children to join in and the public to come and cheer us on. If you would like to sponsor us or take part, just turn up or send a text to Revd Louise on 07837 009 730.

"General" sponsor forms are available in the churches.



Carol Service

Sunday 27th November
St. Michael's Blewbury - 6pm

Everyone in the Benefice is invited to attend
this popular
Traditional Advent Carol Service.

St. Mary's Church Services

Sunday Service Times

6th*, 13th, 20th November 9.00am - Sung Eucharist

27th* November 10.30am - Pet Service - all welcome with or without a pet

*Refreshments will be served after these services, this is a great chance to socialise.

Didcot U3A

This month's meeting is on Tuesday 15th at 2.00pm where Alan Copeland will give a talk entitled "Tales of the Unexpected". Please arrive 15 minutes early.

For more information phone 01235 211291 or 01235 510048 or email secretary@didcotu3a.org

Upton 50 Club Prize Winners

October 2016

£25	No. 41	Dr Pereira
£20	No. 118	Sue Bibby
£15	No. 5	Carol Hubbard
£10	No. 72	Barry Williams

Lesley Shaw

Notes from the Allotment

The lone butternut squash has now reached approximately a foot long so I've harvested it to finish ripening in the greenhouse, plus several good size courgettes, although paler in colour than normal - less light presumably, with the shortening days; also a good handful of spinach beet, and a somewhat lacy small cabbage completed my unexpected harvest on a recent visit to the allotment. The tormented brassicas have fully recovered from the depredations of the caterpillars and there are now several decent Brussels sprout plants, a tiny cauliflower and a couple of stunted calabrese. Well, you can't have everything!

I have not got round to planting any onion sets and garlic yet, but it's not too late to put some in now - the ground will still be warm so I might give it a go. My current year's onion stock is still going strong, but last year's garlic has now more or less dried up so I've had to throw away a few bulbs.

Autumn raspberries are now over (although I still have a few at home where it is more sheltered). They were very tasty while they lasted, but smaller than last year and not so sweet. The little transplanted pear tree has lost quite a lot of leaves but still surviving - and currently sporting some blossom! What is going on? It either thinks it is Spring already or it is in its death throes and making a last attempt to perpetuate itself.

Sustainable Blewbury's last apple pressing of this season will take place at the Manor Stable on Sunday November 6th from 12 - 2pm. Bring along your surplus apples and turn them into delicious juice which will keep in the fridge for a week, or on a shelf for a year if you make use of our pasteurisers! The whole kit is also available for hire for the bargain price of a tenner.

Angela Hoy (angela.hoy@sky.com)

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

Deadline for the December edition is **Sunday 27th November**