

Upton News



Vol 5 No.15 October 2017

The holiday period is probably stretching on as we are missing items from several regular contributors again this month. Swap Shop has also disappeared as our readers appear to have quickly run out of items to pass on and unfortunately our requests for good stories worthy of congratulations continue to fail to produce anything even during this period of exam results. Someone must have achieved good performances in the academic or sporting fields they would like to share with us and we would also like to be able to add our congratulations to those of you who have achieved a significant milestone in life so please send us something to report.

Mike

St. Mary's Church Services

Sun 1st October 9.00am - Sung Eucharist*.

Sun 8th October 9.00am - Sung Eucharist.

Sun 15th October 9.00am - Sung Eucharist.

Sun 22nd October 10.30am - Pet Service*. All pets very welcome.

Sun 29th October 9.00am - Morning Prayer.

Please see the porch notice for weekday services.

*Refreshments follow these services.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the Food Bank collection taken at Harvest Festival, 100 items of non perishable food was gratefully received by the Didcot Food Bank.

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 October are the 12th and the 26th.

Motorway Closure

A warning to anyone who may want to use the section of the M4 from junction 12 (Theale) to junction 13 (Chieveley). There will be some overnight closures of the section in both directions during October and the section will be completely shut for some weekends in November.

Rectors Note



Soft Refreshing Rain

Now you're probably thinking to yourself: "Soft refreshing rain" - where's that phrase from? It sounds familiar....

The phrase is from the first verse of the harvest hymn, "We plough the fields, and scatter". You will doubtless remember how the first verse goes:

"We plough the fields, and scatter, the good seed on the land,

But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand;

He sends the snow in winter, and warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain."

This hymn will of course be sung in harvest services up and down the land, as we give thanks to God for all who grow our food, and think of practical ways in which we can share our food with others, so that none will go hungry.

You might be interested to know that many Christians are now looking to set the celebration of harvest within a much bigger picture. The period 1st September to 4th October has been set aside as a special time for prayer and care for Creation as a whole. There are plenty of materials on the internet - simply search "Creation Time", "season of Creation" or "Time for Creation".

Which brings us back to "soft refreshing rain". It goes without saying that our crops depend on receiving the right amount of water at the right time. Recent years have seen significant changes to weather patterns around the world. As far as rainfall is concerned, there are two major problems. Firstly, several areas of the world have seen an increase in severe drought conditions, meaning that the production of food becomes impracticable, and forcing large numbers of men, women and children to become climate refugees. The second problem is an increase in extreme weather conditions, where catastrophic amounts of rain fall in a very short period of time.

A significant factor behind these shifting weather patterns is the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Basically, as human beings we are burning way too much fossil fuel. What we need to do is to shift to renewable forms of energy, especially solar and wind.

If we wish to sing about "soft refreshing rain", we really ought to be thinking about how the choices we make have an effect on the weather we experience.

How about shifting to a renewable form of energy, if we haven't already done so? The farmers of the world will thank us!

Fr Jason

Village Produce Association

Well, another growing season is almost at an end and I expect many of us are harvesting and freezing, bottling or drying our produce to be able to enjoy it during the coming winter months.

One of the opportunities available to anyone who has a surplus of apples in their garden is to convert them into apple juice with the help of Sustainable Blewbury. On Sunday 22nd October (1.00pm - 3.00pm) we will be joining Sustainable Blewbury at the Red Lion Blewbury with our annual Plant and Cake Sale. We look forward to seeing you there.

Really pleased to hear that the visit to Kew Gardens in August was very well supported and that everyone thoroughly enjoyed the wonders of this amazing place. I was in Scotland at the time and part of my trip was a visit to Cape Wrath (how many of you have heard it mentioned in the shipping forecast on Radio 4?). It was amazing, but I'm sure the coach to Kew was a lot smoother than the bumpy ride to the Cape Wrath lighthouse!

It's also the time of year for having our Annual General Meeting and this takes place at 7.00pm onwards on Wednesday 1st November in the Vale Room at Blewbury Village Hall (includes wine and nibbles). Look forward to seeing you there.

For the last four years the VPA has had a very successful and enjoyable Annual Social and this year will be no exception. The Social is booked for Saturday 2nd December (7.00pm - 10.00pm) at Upton Village Hall. This year will be "A London Evening" with food, quizzes, games and lots of fun. Watch this space for more details.

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

Did You Know ? *The peach is native to China and it is thought to have reached the Mediterranean region in roughly 2000 BC via the Silk Road.*

Happy Gardening

Eileen

Upton 50 Club

Prize Winners for September

£25 No. 99 Basia Beckles

£20 No. 155 Kim Gould

£15 No. 31 Richard Burrow

£10 No. 130 Jeanne Hammond

Lesley Shaw

Blewbury W.I.

October is here! The trees are showing off their lovely autumn colours and harvest time is with us. The only drawback is the evenings are drawing in to an earlier lighting up time.

Following is a list of Blewbury WI events that are being held in October, and we would love to welcome new members to join us.

Monday 2nd October at 10.30am. - Coffee at Style Acre with Karen.

Tuesday 3rd October at 9.30am. - Lyn's Walk. Starting at Blewbury Village Hall and walking to East Hagbourne to follow the newly opened Poet's Trail round the village. There will probably be a coffee stop at the Fleur.

Wednesday 4th October at 7.30pm. - Scrabble at Cilla's. Please phone first 851966

Friday 6th October at 7.00pm. - Craft evening at Karen's. Please phone first.

Friday 13th October at 1.30pm. - RAL Talking Science lecture at Harwell.

A is for Arsenic: the poisons of Agatha Christie. - Dr. Kathryn Harkup.

Wednesday 25th October at 7.30pm. - WI monthly meeting in The Village Hall. Speaker, Tony King, a respected speaker to the WI.

Friday 27th October at 7.20pm. - Abingdon Operatic Society at Abingdon School - "Sister Act"

Mah Jong will restart shortly - date to be decided.

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.

Digital Volunteers

Your county council is appealing for digital volunteers to teach basic digital skills to people in their community who have little or no experience of using computers or the internet. Volunteer will work in libraries to teach skills such as how to set up an email account, search for jobs, complete online forms, navigate the internet and find useful websites, and use e-learning courses.

If you are patient, have good communication skills, enjoy working with learners of all ages and can spare a few hours a week please contact us Schedules can work around you so that you can fit it around your busy life.

For more information please visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/digitalhelper or contact your local library.

Blewbury Post Office News

We will be closed on Wednesday 25th October.

The last posting dates for surface Christmas mail are, mid-October for the Americas, Canada and Asia, and late October for Europe and BFPO's (the last date for the Far East, Australia and New Zealand was 27th September), we have lots of leaflets, or information is available on the Royal Mail website.

New "Star Wars" stamps will be on sale on 11th October. New £10 notes have started to come in. The old style "round pound" coins cease to be legal tender on October 15th, we will still take them if you find any lurking in a jar!

Please note that we do not accept post after our official LAT, (Last Acceptance Time), this is 4.30pm or 11.30am on our half days, (although the official time given is 9.30am on half days), this is the time that our postman calls to collect, not the time we close.

The last 15 minutes of every day is very busy for us, we do like to leave on time, at 12 noon or 5pm, we don't get paid any overtime whatsoever, so please don't come in at the last minute with eleventy billion parcels!

Karen & Maggie

Artweeks

Registration for Oxfordshire Artweeks May Festival 2018 is now open, closing date for entries is the 31st December 2017.

Artweeks is nonselective and open to all amateur and professional artists and craft makers living or working in Oxfordshire, it is also open to artists that live outside the county but are members of an established Oxfordshire based art group, society or guild.

If you are new to Artweeks you may like to attend one of our free taking part events, come and meet the festival director and hear more at our free session at Cornerstone Arts, Didcot on Wed 4th Oct. 6.00pm-7.00pm. Please do let artweeks@artweeks.org know if you are planning to come in case there is any last minute change to the arrangements.

For more information about Artweeks see www.artweeks.org or contact Jo Golding - Artweeks Administrator on artweeks@artweeks.org or ring 01865 865596.

Wanted

Garage to rent in Upton for a small car. Please contact Paul Batho 851251 or pjsbatho@btinternet.com if you can help. Thanks!

Blewbury Tennis Club

Junior tennis coaching is a great and fun way to introduce youngsters to tennis and see them develop their game with year round weekly sessions and regular tournaments to suit all levels.

The club, in association with CTA, currently offers the following mini and junior coaching sessions at the Blewbury courts:

Wednesday Mini (5-8yrs) 4.00pm-5.00pm. (8-9yrs) 5.00-6.00pm. (8-10yrs) 6.00pm-7.00pm

Friday Mini (5-8yrs) 4.00pm-5.00pm. (5-8yrs) 5.00pm-6.00pm. (8-10yrs) 6.00pm-7.00pm

Saturday Mini (5-8yrs) 9.00am-10.00am (currently full). (8-10yrs) 10.00am-11.00am (currently full).

Saturday Matchball (11-13yrs) 11.00am-12.00pm (currently full). (14+yrs) 12.00pm-1.00pm (currently full).

If you would like to arrange a free taster session or find out more then please contact CTA on 0800 888 6030 or at hello@ctatennis.org

Adult coaching is also available, please call or email to discuss options.

DIY Waste Disposal

Oxfordshire County Council's current scheme for DIY waste disposal which has been running at the Household Waste Recycling Centres for 15 years has allowed residents to deposit up to three DIY waste items for free before being charged a small fee of £1 for each additional item.

From the 1st October 2017 this changes to a small fixed fee per item of £1.50 for most non-household or DIY items. Residents can still deposit household waste for free at their local Household Waste Recycling Centre.

More information about the changes can be found online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/chargeablewaste

Didcot U3A

The next meeting is on Tuesday 17th October in the Didcot Civic Hall starting at 2.00pm, to ensure a good seat it is advisable to arrive 15 minutes early.

This month's guest speaker is Phil Judkins - Enigma, Bletchley and the Hunt for Hitler's Secret Weapons.

After the talk everyone enjoys a convivial chat over tea and biscuits, so if you are retired or semi-retiring you will be more than welcome so give us a try.

Parish Council News

The Parish Council held a regular meeting on Monday 18th September. Interestingly, some of the topics discussed were:-

The preservation of the World War 1 remembrance plaque in the Baptist Chapel by removing it and possibly re-siting it in the village hall. This is to be discussed between the new owners of the chapel and UVHAT.

The installation of a defibrillator machine and cabinet to the outside of the village hall. The village hall trustees have been asked to consider this installation.

Volunteers are being asked for to help rectify a number of items highlighted in this year's playground inspection report. Please contact the parish council at parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk if you would like more information on lending a hand.

Subsequent to the meeting, further planning amendments have been received for the planning application made by 3 Fieldside Upton. The amendments will be discussed at an extraordinary meeting on Monday 2nd October at 6pm in the meeting room in the village hall. Details can be found on the VOWH web site, planning section (P17/V2172/HH).

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. Please see the information below and we look forward to hearing from you.

The next regular meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 27th November at 6pm 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 when they are approved for publication.

Parish Clerk

Astons Online

The next regular meeting of Astons Online to give free help and advice on using the internet to residents of this area will be on Tuesday October 24th, 10.00am to 12.00pm.

There will be a special one-off photo event on the evening of 4th October from 6.00pm - 9.00pm in Astons Village Hall. The purpose of the event is to help people store their digital photos as safely as possible and preferably in one place. The problem is that moving photos around between different devices is difficult. The evening will consist of some short talks starting at about 7.00pm as well as providing the usual one-to-one help from 6.00pm onwards. We are asking people to book their one-to-one help if possible through theastonsonline@gmail.com or by ringing 07780 958249

This one off event is taking place during UK Get Online Week and is supported by a grant from the Good Things Foundation.

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Foot Health Practitioner
07767763441 or 01235 815917

Harvest Supper

October 28th in Upton Village Hall

6.30pm for a 7.00pm start

Harvest, a time of thanksgiving, a time of reflection

We invite you to share a meal with friends and neighbours.

The profit from the sale of tickets will go to support

‘The Gatehouse’

a local charity based in Oxford that offers the homeless supper
and a bed for the night.

There will be a raffle to boost the takings.

Any offers of a raffle prize would be welcomed.

What’s for supper?

Jacket potato cold meat/ vegetarian option and salads

With grated cheese and dressings.

Followed by

Seasonal fruit crumbles with cream.

Tea or coffee available to finish. Please bring your own fruit juice, wine etc

Father Jason will initiate a friendly discussion on what it means to be human

Tickets **£5** available from; Clare 850486 Gloria 850683 Jessie 851206

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

Deadline for the November edition is

Friday 27th October