

# Upton News



Vol 5 No. 3 October 2016

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Unfortunately my request in last month's edition for ideas on new items to include in future editions has met with zero response and my ideas for two new sections has also met with zero input for this edition. It is difficult to believe that none of you have achieved anything of merit that could be included in 'Congratulations' particularly at this time of exam results or that there are no Good Samaritans active in our parish whose good deeds we could publically acknowledge. Maybe I have to be patient, not my greatest asset.

In the meantime, this month we have a spare page that I have been unable to fill. Whilst we do not want to get involved in charging for advertisements maybe we could help parishioners who both supply and require services. If you live in the parish and can provide a service as an electrician, plumber, gardener, decorator or something similar please send me your details and I will fit them into future editions when I have a space to fill.

Lucy Ross [news@uptonvillage.co.uk](mailto:news@uptonvillage.co.uk).

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## Quiz Night

Join us for a fun Quiz Evening with a posh Ploughman's & Pudds Supper at the Village Hall. Please Bring your own drinks. Saturday 8th October at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Ticket are £10 and £9 for 'Friends of St Mary's and regular subscribers.

We would like tables of six please! So if any party exceeds that number it would be greatly appreciated if some of that party would make up that number on an adjoining table.

If you are interested please contact Jessie 851206 or Gloria 850683

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## 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 13th and the 27th.

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Submissions for *Upton News* should be sent to [news@uptonvillage.co.uk](mailto:news@uptonvillage.co.uk).

Deadline for the November edition is  
**Thursday 27th October**

## **Parish Council**

Dr Robert Lott has resigned his post on the council owing to other commitments. The Parish Council would like to thank Dr Lott for all his hard work, enthusiasm, dedication and leadership whilst on Upton Parish Council and wish him the best of success going forward.

Mr S Norman has agreed to stand as Vice Chair and takes the post with immediate effect.

Mr D Reid has agreed to be co-opted on to the council to fill one of the two vacancies.

The council would like to thank Angela Hoy, the retiring clerk, for her three and a half years' service and wish her the very best for the future. Mrs Liz Cooper has agreed to take on the role of and was welcomed into the post at the September meeting of the council

### **Planning**

P16/V0553/FUL, Land adjacent to the George and Dragon: provision for Travellers site, amendment from three to two sites; decision was due in June, but still awaiting response from the Vale.

P16/V1646/FUL, Dean Hollow Chilton: change of use from agricultural to equestrian for a race horse hospital. Approved.

P16/V1903/FUL, P14/V2550/FUL - for development work at The Gate House, Reading Road.

PC objected to the revised plans as the building has already been rejected in its current position which has not followed the original approved plan and the building is out of scale, far too close to an existing property and shows an increased footprint from the original approved plan.

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## **Parish Council Vacancy**

Please note that a vacancy exists to become a Parish Councillor preferable to last until elections take place in 2019.

If you are interested in serving on your Parish Council, please contact the Clerk at [parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk), or the Council at [parish.council@uptonvillage.co.uk](mailto:parish.council@uptonvillage.co.uk)

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## **All Souls' Remembrance Service**

A Remembrance Service will be held at St Michael's Church, Blewbury on 30<sup>th</sup> October at 4.00pm.

All are welcome at this service, which includes the lighting of commemorative candles and reading out of names of those to be remembered. Anyone who would like to have a loved one remembered at this service is invited to add their name(s) to the list on the sheets available in all the benefice churches from 2 October until 23 October.

## **Blewbury WI**

October is looming, with colder shorter days, and lots of tidying up the gardens for the winter but we have some interesting events, listed below, to which all visitors would be welcome.

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, Scrabble at Bernardine's. 7.30pm.

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October, Coffee at Style Acre, 10.30am. With Claire.

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October, Lyn's walk. We will be repeating an earlier walk along the Kennet & Avon Canal path, starting from Theale Station at 10am. There will be a stop for lunch during the walk.

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October, Craft session at Liz's 7.00pm. Ring Liz on 850098

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>.October, Evening with Marilyn at "No 2 Things" 7pm - 9pm.

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October, WI monthly meeting in the Vale Room at 7.30pm.  
Experiences of a Wimbledon Umpire. Julia Freeman.

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October, Abingdon Operatic Society--"Barnum" 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.

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## **Green Bins**

From November, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils will only empty green wheelie bins if the recycling in them is loose or in clear sacks.

Despite a recent campaign to raise awareness of the issue, some people are still putting in things like food waste and dirty nappies. When these things are put into recycling bins in black or coloured sacks they're not spotted until it's too late to avoid contaminating whole truckloads of recycling. Throughout October a note will be left on any bins with the wrong colour sack in it to explain the problem but the bins will still be emptied. From November, if there's a sack in a recycling bin and the waste crews can't see what's in it those bins will not be emptied to protect everybody else's recycling from getting contaminated.

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## **Thank You**

Both the Upton Parish Council and UVHAT would like to say a big thank you to Gordon Churchman who for many years has performed so many jobs, including putting out the waste bins for collection, which have made running the village hall and the recreation ground so much easier. Unfortunately Gordon is struggling with a mobility problem and is unable to continue. We all wish him well and hope he will be fit enough to continue to look after his well-tended garden.

## Didcot U3A

Didcot & District U3A meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2:00 pm in the Didcot Civic Hall. On Tuesday 18th October, Dr Michael Keith-Lucas will give a talk entitled Plants in Forensic Science.

The University of the Third Age offers the opportunity to share your knowledge, experience and talents with others and learn from them in friendly surroundings. Why not come along to the next meeting and find out what we are all about.

For more information phone 01235 211291 or 01235 510048

or email [secretary@didcotu3a.org](mailto:secretary@didcotu3a.org)

Website: <http://u3asites.org.uk/di>

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## Wine Club

As the first event of the new season, September's Wine Club meeting commenced with the annual AGM. The formalities were kept brief and, in keeping with club tradition, accompanied by a glass of wine - Carlo Zucchetto's Prosecco Puro Fol had the honour of being the first wine shown this year.

The existing committee was re-elected with one change - while we are sad to lose Ellie Bunston from the committee, we hope to see her at as many future events as her new role will allow, and we warmly welcome Susan Ryan.

The tasting of four white and four red wines was well received and lively, and we look forward to putting together a programme of events using ideas suggested by members. We are also very fortunate to have enthusiastic members willing and able to talk knowledgeably on wine varieties and regions.

While the programme for this season is being decided, we look to maintain the diversity and interest of last year's events which included:

- Wines available from local supermarkets
  - Brian and Giulia Rippon presenting wines available from their company - Strictly Wine
  - Katie Jones presenting her own wines from the Languedoc Roussillon
  - Food and wine pairings
  - Italian wines presented by Lee Isaacs of Wine Traders
  - Wines from Australia, presented by our original chairman, Mike Collins
- If you'd like to learn more about the wines and food from this event, or previous wine club events, then you might like to follow us on Twitter @UptonWine. Alternatively, if you've wondered about joining us, please do contact an existing member or anyone from the committee - you're very welcome to try your first meeting as a guest, and the more the merrier!

*William Betts*

## 1st Upton & Blewbury Rainbows

Rainbows have a busy term planned, we will be working on our healthy me badge. We started off the term with a birthday party as we are 1 year old!

Rainbows welcomed 4 new faces to the unit.

## 2nd Upton & Blewbury Brownies

Brownies have a busy autumn and winter term planned. We will be working on our crime prevention badge, including a visit from the local PCSO.

We are still a busy unit welcoming 6 new girls.

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## Upton 50 Club Prize Winners

### September 2016

£25 No. 113 Paul Bibby  
£20 No. 2 Mat Bunston  
£15 No. 9 Dermot Paddon  
£10 No. 174 Emma Watts-Lay

*Lesley Shaw*

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## Blewbury and Wallingford

### Cricket Club

An emergency general meeting is being called by Blewbury & Wallingford CC on Tuesday, October 11 at 7.45pm to discuss its future viability. The club, which includes several players from Upton, urgently require new players and officials if both the Saturday XIs are to continue. The meeting will be held at the club's ground in Blewbury. For details, please email [richard.body@googlemail.com](mailto:richard.body@googlemail.com) or visit [blewwallies.co.uk](http://blewwallies.co.uk).

## Village Clubs & Organisations

### Blewbury WI

Karen Brooks 850219  
[karencbrooks@gmail.com](mailto:karencbrooks@gmail.com)

### Calor Gas Syndicate

Lesley Shaw 07739 047688

### Drop In Sessions

Yvonne Collins 850989

### Guides, Brownies & Rainbows

Fiona Coomer  
[fiona.coomer@gmail.com](mailto:fiona.coomer@gmail.com) 511809

### Karate

John Hogan  
[johnhogan67@icloud.com](mailto:johnhogan67@icloud.com)

### Short Mat Bowls Club

Tony Durbin 850035

### Tea Birds WI

Jo Christietea-  
[birdswi@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:birdswi@hotmail.co.uk)

### Theatre Club

Malcolm Wright 850705

### Upton Oil Syndicate

Colin Batchelor 01491 672444

### Upton Village Hall

[www.uptonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.uptonvillagehall.co.uk) 887129

### Village Produce Association

Eileen Bracken 510095

### Wine Appreciation Society

Kevin Jacklin 851404

Do you run a village club or organisation? Please let us have your details and we will add them to the list and please let us know if any changes need to be made to update the list.

## Rectors Reflections



### Another Side to Harvest

Yes, it's that time of year again - that time when schools, churches and communities up and down the land celebrate the safe bringing in of the harvest. Churches are decorated with fruit, vegetables and sheaves of corn. The traditional hymns are sung, and Harvest Suppers are held.

There is something about the sights and smells of Harvest which is profoundly comforting. "God is good and we have plenty to eat" - this seems to be the message.

But there is another side to Harvest, which is not so comforting. Yes, Harvest is about our food; but food is also about fairness.

What might or should Harvest mean in a world where there is so much unfairness? Globally, there is enough food for everyone, so in theory, none should go hungry. Yet people go hungry in a world of plenty. This doesn't seem fair.

Unfairness comes up in other ways too. The production of food and its journey to our plates involve many different people and many different processes. But the risks and benefits are not usually shared equally. For example, the primary producers of a crop, say the growers of bananas on a large plantation, can often receive a bare pittance for their work. They can also be exposed to highly dangerous chemicals, which undermine their own health and the health of their communities. So they have most of the risk and hardly any of the profit. This hardly seems fair!

And nearer to home, there is the much publicised case of British Dairy Farmers. Can the current system which produces our milk be considered a fair system? Many would say that is profoundly unfair, in that the dairy farmers themselves have to shoulder most of the burden imposed by a system which allows milk to be sold for less than the true cost of production.

So while it is quite right to be comforted by the traditions of a Harvest Festival, we should also allow ourselves to be open to the questions of fairness which surround the production and sharing of food. Might there be something which we can do to make a world of food a little fairer? Supporting a Food Bank, perhaps? Or writing to our MP to ask why Food Banks are necessary in such a comparably wealthy country as the UK? Or might we even be prepared to pay a little extra for our milk?

Fr Jason

## **St. Mary's Church Services**

Sunday Service Times

2nd\*, 9th, 16th October 9.00am - Sung Eucharist

23rd\* October 10.30am - All Age Service led by Fr Jason

30th October 9.00am - Morning Prayer

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

Advance notice - Sunday 27th November 10 30am - PET SERVICE - all creatures great and small very welcome!

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## **Welcome**

We welcome to the village Lindsay and Benedicte Yue, their 14 year old son and their three daughters aged 12,10 and 8 who have just moved in to Courderoys in Pound Lane. We hope that they will all enjoy their time in Upton.

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## **Buses update: DVTG'S first Annual Meeting**

The Downland Villages Transport Group's first Annual Meeting will be held at the Aston's Village Hall. Thorpe Street, Aston Upthorpe at 8.00pm on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October. An interim Committee has been working for some time, but the Annual Meeting will be asked to approve an ongoing DVTG Management Committee from representatives of the parishes and bus users and to adopt a constitution. The meeting is open to all residents of the Downland Villages.

The meeting will be preceded by a forum at 7.30pm to allow people to ask questions and comment on the new bus service. The DVTG has worked to keep our bus services running after OCC removed all the subsidies from Oxfordshire's subsidised buses. Both services (the Thames Travel 94/94A service to Didcot and the DVTG bus service to Wallingford on Fridays) are operating on a trial basis - they have to be economically sustainable if they are to continue operating - and we welcome your thoughts on the service and how to encourage greater use.

If you would be interested in representing bus users on the Management Committee, please pick up a form at any of the places where tickets are sold for the Wallingford run, (Blewbury or Hagbourne Post offices being our nearest) or available by email from [dvtgbus@gmail.com](mailto:dvtgbus@gmail.com).

If you would like to propose a topic for the forum or an agenda item for the meeting, please contact David Rickeard at [david@rickeard.org.uk](mailto:david@rickeard.org.uk).

If you would like a lift to the meeting please contact me on 01235 851206 so that I can arrange transport for you.

*Jessie West*

## **St Mary's Church Fete & Fun Dog Show**

In order to avoid families being away on holiday it was agreed to run the fete 2 weeks later than usual. We had hoped for beautiful September sunshine but it was not to be! Instead rain started around mid-day and stallholders in particular enjoyed the lunchtime bbq organized by the Fletcher family. Light rain persisted and obviously people were hesitant about venturing out. Nevertheless people trickled in through the afternoon but there were fewer customers than usual.

Seventeen owners brought their dogs along for various challenges including which one was the best sausage catcher, or best rescue dog, there were a total of 7 different classes. Grateful thanks go to Gloria Smith for such a well organized event, and to Dawn Parsons for judging the competition.

Juggling John paraded around on his stilts and looked a bit like the Pied Piper with children following him. His magic show and fire eating left both adults and children asking "how does he do it"?

The Morris Dancers and Blewbury Brass Band, performed during the afternoon, and as their finale did an impromptu rendition of The Floral Dance to much applause. I'm sure Terry Wogan would have approved.

Then there were also classic cars and a microlight on show.

We have to thank so many people for their hard work in putting the fete together: the heavy-gang who erected and dismantled the gazebos; the providers of transport for the tables, chairs etc; those who loaned equipment; all stallholders, too many to mention individually, but you know who you are; all who contributed to the goods on the stalls, the ever amazing preserves, plants, white elephant, books, puzzles, lucky dips, tombola's, etc. The afternoon teas as ever were a huge success.

The £100 first prize in the raffle was donated by GO GREEN TAXIS to whom we are extremely grateful.

One of the raffle prizes was a Photographic Experience donated by Barrett & Coe of Bicester (valued at £160). The winner of this is unable to use it and has offered it to anyone who would like to make an offer for it. Please get in touch with me if you are interested.

We really do need feedback. Even if you didn't attend the fete, please let us know how we could make it more appealing.

*Clare Lightfoot, Fete Working Party, [Lthimbles@btinternet.com](mailto:Lthimbles@btinternet.com)*

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## **Otters**

There is an interesting talk being sponsored by Sustainable Blewbury at the Manor Barn Blewbury on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 8.00pm entitled "Otters - their conservation and Ecology", price £6 including a glass of wine, net proceeds to Water Aid.



## Notes from the Allotment

Due to extra Post Office duties and a flooded ground floor my visits to the allotment have been somewhat truncated so it was with some surprise that on a recent visit I found a half decent butternut squash growing! I've propped it up so its bottom does not get muddy and am hoping for big things.... I also found the usual foot-long courgette which seems to happen whenever I turn my back for more than a couple of days, but it was delicious cut into rings and cooked with a piquant mix of assorted beans and peppers.

I picked the last of the sweetcorn, so for a first ever crop, I was pleased with the 14 cobs picked, they were a real treat. A few runner beans remain but they seem to have acquired a strange purple hue; never seen this before. It does not seem to affect the taste, although at this time of the season the beans are certainly tougher than the earlier crops. The leeks are bulking up nicely and I shall look forward to them in the long winter months and amazingly, the tormented brassicas are showing a new lease of life; I may get something off them after all!

Autumn raspberries are still going strong, and it's a shame I haven't been up there more often because I have missed a fair few that the birds or slugs have enjoyed.

The Blewbury Allotments' Secretary Tony Salter has advised that there are several plots available if there are any Upton residents who would like more room to garden and grow vegetables. If you are interested, you can reach him on [afsalter@gmail.com](mailto:afsalter@gmail.com).

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## Events at Earth Trust

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 11.00am-4.00pm - Autumn Water Festival

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October, 10.00am-5.15pm - Blacksmithing

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October, 10.00am-11.30am = Mud Pie Monday!

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October, 10.00am-5.00pm - Tree Climbing

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October, 10.30am-3.00pm - Build a Bat Box

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October, 10.00am-12.00pm - Woodland Adventure

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2.00pm-4.00pm - Wildlife Wednesday at Wallingford Castle Meadows

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October, 10.00am-4.00pm - Family Bushcraft

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October, 10.00am-12.00pm - Discover and Play

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October, 5.30pm-7.30pm - Spooky Dusk Discovery Walk

More information can be found on all the above events on the Earthtrust website [www.earthtrust.org.uk](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk).

## **Appeal for help for a great organisation**

As I embark on a (late) career change in a couple of weeks time, one of the saddest consequences for me is not to be able to continue volunteering at the Style Acre Tea Room at Savages in Blewbury. I have only been doing this since March this year but have enjoyed it far more than I ever believed I would.

It has been an amazing experience working alongside a team of extremely friendly, fun and interesting people to the extent that it was hard to drag myself away at the end of each shift.

Having had first-hand experience of this environment and knowing that they always need more help, please see below a request for more volunteers issued by Style Acre.

If you have any spare time, do give it some thought, as it really is the most rewarding workplace, enjoyable work and a fantastic organisation to volunteer for.

*Ros Caffyn*

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## **The Style Acre Tea Room Needs Your Help!**

The Style Acre Tea Room at Savages in Blewbury is looking for volunteers to join our friendly team. Our tea room provides work experience for people with learning disabilities, helping them develop important work skills. Our friendly team of volunteers play a vital role in helping us keep the tea room running, serving customers and preparing food.

It offers an opportunity to meet new people, in a friendly but fast paced environment. Current volunteers call it a ‘rewarding experience’, as they see the effect of their help, as the people we support learn new skills and increase confidence thanks to their help.

The team is currently looking for help on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursday, although we would be delighted with help any day of the week.

If you feel you can support us please contact our Volunteer Officer, Chris via email: [cburrows@styleacre.org.uk](mailto:cburrows@styleacre.org.uk) or telephone: 01491 827593.

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## **Apple Pressing**

Sustainable Blewbury continues its autumn apple pressing sessions, with the next one at Blewbury Manor on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October from 2.00pm-4.00pm. Then they are holding a joint event with the Village Produce Association at the Red Lion garden on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October from 12.00pm till about 3.00pm, when the VPA will be selling cakes and plants. Finally there will be a session at the Blewbury Manor on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November. If none of these dates suit and you have apples to press, please contact [angela.hoy@sky.com](mailto:angela.hoy@sky.com) to hire the full set of equipment for a modest fee for 48 hours.

## **Village Hall – Future Plans**

Following the success of the project to refurbish the village hall kitchen and entrance hall, UVHAT is keen to turn its attention to the next phase.

At the moment no proposals have been made and only exploratory work has been undertaken as we are dependent upon future grant availability, but areas being considered include:

Refurbishment or total replacement of the main hall floor. If funds permit we could consider replacement with an oak floor, otherwise the repair, sanding and sealing of the old floor.

Refurbishment of the walls in the main hall, replacing the bare brick with a brighter, more contemporary finish, suitably designed to be resistant to damage by use of specialist materials, panelling, rails etc.

Overhaul of the electrics in the main hall to conceal exposed conduits and increase the number of power outlets.

Provision for audio-visual cabling for projectors etc.

Installation of a hearing aid loop.

Replacement of the heating with a more energy-efficient and comfortable solution.

Upgrading the lighting in the main hall to be more energy-efficient, flexible and amenable.

Replacement of the curtains with new window coverings - curtains and/or blinds.

Replacement of the internal doors to match those in the new entrance hall.

Installation of sound baffles to reduce the reverberation time and increase the usability of the hall for spoken or musical events.

Refurbishment of the meeting room walls and installation of a suspended ceiling - as in the kitchen - to create a brighter, warmer, more professional-looking appearance.

Replacement of the remaining external doors to improve heat retention as well as the external appearance.

Acquisition of a portable modular stage system.

We welcome the views of villagers and hall users - please drop us an email at [projects@uptonvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:projects@uptonvillagehall.co.uk)

*Brian Rippon*

