

Upton News



Vol 5 No. 14 September 2017

St. Mary's Church Services

Sun 3rd September 9.00am - Sung Eucharist*

Sun 10th September 9.00am - Sung Eucharist

Sun 17th September 9.00am - Sung Eucharist

Sun 24th September 10.30am - Harvest Festival all age service*.

Collection of non perishable foods will be made for Didcot Food Bank.

Please see the porch notice for weekday services.

*Refreshments follow these services.

A Harvest Thanksgiving Supper, supporting Water Aid, will be held on Saturday 23 September at 7.00pm. in the Village Hall, more information from Jessie 851206, or Gloria 850683

Parish Council News

August has been a quiet month with lots of holidays therefore there are only a couple of items to mention this month.

The zip wire base has now been repaired. The Parish Council would like to thank Rob Traynor and Duncan Reid for their sterling work in repairing the base.

A planning meeting was held on Thursday 24th August to discuss a planning application for work to be carried out at 3 Fieldside, Upton. Details can be found on the VOWH web site, planning section.

The next regular meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 18th September at 6.00pm in the village hall meeting room. Please see the village noticeboard and web site for agendas and minutes of meetings when they are approved for publication.

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 September are the 14th and the 28th.

Rectors Note



Hurrah For Complexity

A question for you - are you someone who enjoys keeping up with the News? We live in an age when there is access to the news 24 hours day. We are surrounded by people telling us what's happening, whether on the TV, or on the Radio, on Social Media , or in good old-fashioned newspapers.

We are surrounded by News. But is all this information as useful to us as we might think? Might all this News actually have a negative effect on how we live our lives?

One problem is that the News represents only a sample of what is happening in the world. What constitutes a “newsworthy” story? Who makes this decision?

Another problem is that there is huge pressure to simplify everything and everyone. Some degree of simplification is, perhaps, inevitable; but over-simplification can have serious implications. It can move us away from the complex realities of our world and lead us into a world of fantasy and make-believe. The culture of the soundbite turns real human beings, with all their complexity and inconsistencies, into one-dimensional stereotypes.

A further problem is how the News deals with questions of morality. Generally, the News will try to take what it considers to be a “balanced” approach on ethical issues - it will have one person speaking on one side of an issue, and then find someone to speak on the other side.

This sounds all very fair and objective. But what if there are more than two-sides to an issue? Furthermore, might there be situations where the “balanced” approach is actually inappropriate? I’m thinking of ethical situations where there is something which is manifestly evil, and the attempt to find someone to justify it, in the name of journalistic balance, is nothing less than the abandonment of basic human decency. For example, what should we think of someone who attempted to justify Racism or Sexism?

So the reality is that the world is a complex place, and that human beings are complex. Very few issues are black and white.

This might sound an obvious thing to say, but our Media tends to assume that the world is simple and that pigeon-holing one another is a good thing.

It’s good to remind ourselves that things are more complex than the latest tweet might suggest. God has given us ears to listen to one another, and brains to think about things. Let’s use them!

Fr Jason

Upton Village Fete

Saturday 2nd September

There will be a barbeque from 1.00pm, so you can start off with lunch and then enjoy the rest of the afternoon!

Stalls include books, white elephant, preserves, plants, raffle, bottle tombola, and a fab gifts tombola.

Attractions include a car boot sale, dog show, donkeys, gymnasts, juggling John, a cartoonist, and bake - off competitions comprising a Pizza Baking Challenge, Cake Decorating, and a Kids Blindfold Baking Competition!

Come along and join in the fun

Upton Wine Club

The Wine Club will be supporting the village fete this year. If you enjoy drinking wine, want to know a little bit more or just enjoy a drink and a bit of a social then come to our stand to see what the club is all about. Buy a raffle ticket and have a go at guessing the number of corks in the bottle to win some very appropriate prizes! Hope to see you there!

Water-Blitz

Volunteers are needed for one day only. Local groups and individuals are invited to take part in the county wide water blitz. Check the water quality of your local stream, pond, ditch or river and help build a water quality picture for Oxfordshire. For your free sampling pack register today by emailing hilary@wildoxfordshire.org.uk subject "Waterblitz" and join in on Monday 2nd October. EarthWatch have volunteered to handle the data and map all results on their global water-hub with the resulting data available to everyone involved.

If you are interested in the latest conservation news, evening talks, or an afternoon of volunteering, plus jobs and training sign up to Wild Oxfordshire's email bulletin. Just click on their website www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk

Culture Crawl for Maggie's Centre, Oxford

Hi people of Upton - Brian and I are taking part in this year's Culture Crawl around Oxford on behalf of Maggie's Oxford on the evening of Friday, 29th September. If you want to know more about Maggie's or even fancy taking part yourself then please visit their website to find about the fantastic work that goes on there: <https://www.maggiescentres.org/our-centres/maggies-oxford/> or <https://www.maggiescentres.org/how-you-can-help/take-part/all-events/maggies-culture-crawl-oxford/>. I think I am safe in saying that we have all been affected by Cancer in one way or another and Maggie's now plays a vital part with support and just being there.

If you would like to make a donation, however small to our JustGiving links then we would like to thank you in advance: <https://www.justgiving.com/teams/theRippons> then scroll down to Team Members and click on Giulia's page OR go directly to it: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/giuliaandbrianripon>

I also have a physical sponsorship sheet if you prefer so call down to Autumn Leaves or I/we can come to you!

Thank you! Giulia and Brian

Blewbury W.I.

September is upon us. The end of Summer and the beginning of Autumn with the nights drawing in. Perhaps we will get an Indian summer to make up for all the recent rain? All our WI events for September are listed below and we would be pleased to welcome any new members to join us.

Friday 1st September at 7.00pm - Craft evening at Liz's, please phone first.

Monday 4th September at 12.00pm - Lunch at The Waterfront Café, Benson.

Tuesday, 5th September at 7.30pm - Scrabble at Judy's, please phone first.

Wednesday 6th September - Meet at 9.30pm at the Village Hall for Lyn's walk. This month it is a little longer than usual, a 5mile circular walk around East Ilsley with lunch at The Swan afterwards.

Wednesday 6th September at 10.30pm - Coffee at Style Acre with Cilla.

Friday 8th September at 1.30pm - Talking Science at RHL Harwell "Dangerous Worlds" by Dr. Elizabeth Tasker.

Saturday 9th September - WI Teas and Cake Stall at Blewbury's Blewfest.

Wednesday 27th September at 7.30pm - WI Monthly meeting in the Vale Room, Blewbury Village Hall. Speaker, Melanie King - Tea/Coffee/Chocolate - Beverages that changed a Nation.

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>

Film Club

The next showing will be:-

The Lost City of Z - Cert 15

Starring Charlie Hunman, Sienna Miller and Robert Pattinson

This film tells the incredible true story of British explorer Percy Fawcett, who journeys into the Amazon at the dawn of the 20th Century and discovers evidence of a previously unknown civilisation.

Friday 15th September - Doors open at 7.00pm. - Cost £5

Film starts at 7.45 with an intermission about halfway through.

Drinks will be available before and after the showing.

Reviews

Time Out 'A British explorer sets out into the trackless Amazon in this gripping, spectacular adventure story'

Daily Telegraph 'Transporting and profound....an instant classic'

Blewbury Post Office News

We will be closed for the Bank Holiday on Monday 28th August, any allowances paid on that day, will be available on the Friday before.

Pretty new stamps are available including "Landmark Buildings" and "Classic Children's Toys", while sometime in September we will also have a "Ladybird Books" edition.

We will continue to accept any old style £5 notes, we have until October 15th to accept the old £1 coins!

Sadly, this is the month that our lovely Angela flies away to a new life in Canada, I thank her for her hard work and dedication to our village life, (and for coming to work in the post office too of course), I wish her every success, and hope we get to see her in the future.

I have managed to coax Maggie from Upton to come back to work on Mondays so I can have a day off, and to cover for my holidays!

Karen and Angela

Upton 50 Club

Prize Winners for August

£25 No. 88 Caroline Maunsell

£20 No. 54 Carol Hubbard

£15 No. 96 Liz Hardy

£10 No. 123 Karen Spackman

Lesley Shaw

Reminders

Ride and Stride

This is your opportunity to cycle, walk, push a buggy or ride a horse around as many churches as you can manage in aid of the Historic Churches Trust on Saturday 9th September. Half of your sponsorship goes to a church of your choice, the remainder to the HCT.

If you are unable to take part maybe you would like to be a "Welcomer", this involves spending an hour or so in St Mary's Church to greet those who check in during the day.

If you would like a sponsorship form or to be a "Welcomer" please contact Clare Lightfoot - 850486

Charity Quiz

A quiz will take place in the George and Dragon on Monday September 25th with the proceeds going to the Tony Loy Trust. Entry £5.

Prizes given for each round with a joint of beef for the overall winner.

Book your places asap at 01235 85072.

Short Mat Bowls

Harwell Short Mat Bowls Club are staging two free 2 hour taster sessions for people interested in taking up the game. If you would like to give it a try just turn up at Harwell Village Cherry Hall on Tuesday 5th September at 2.00pm or on Thursday 7th September at 7.00pm. Flat soled shoes need to be worn, bowls will be provided as will tea and biscuits.

Note—A wrong start time for the session on 7th Sept. was given in last months Upton News.

Bake Up

The theme for the next meet-up is 'food from our holidays'. Frances is kindly hosting at The Old Forge (where High Street meets Church Street) at 11.00am on Friday 29th September.

New faces (and food) are always welcome, so if you have a little spare time and fancy conjuring up something in your kitchen why not come along?

Didcot U3A

The next meeting is on Tuesday 19th September 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 Tony Cullen—Soldiers of the English Civil War

What's on at Earth Trust

All events take place at Earth Trust, Little Wittenham, OX14 4QZ unless otherwise stated. More information and costs can be found on the Earth Trust website www.earthtrust.org.uk

Discover and Play - Friday 1st September, 10.00am-12.00pm.

Forest School for the under-5s. Join us for a morning of play and discovery in our woodlands.

Fantastic Foraging - Sunday 3rd September, 10.00am-1.00pm.

Drop in to find out what food is growing around the Earth Trust Centre.

Drawing from Nature - Sunday 3rd September, 2.00pm-5.00pm.

Take a walk around Little Wittenham Wood with your sketchbook and get top tips on how to perfect your drawings from artist Gareth Lloyd.

Bat Walk - Saturday 9th September, 8.30pm-10.00pm.

A guided walk with the addition of bat detectors to find out more about these marvellous mammals.

Children's Fun Run - Sunday 10th September, 10.00am start.

A 1km race around the Wittenham Clumps for kids! Please register online.

10k Run - Sunday 10th September, 11.00am start.

After a break last year we're pleased to announce that the 2017 10K Run will take place.

Whether you're a seasoned athlete, a novice runner taking on your first race or a Nordic walker looking for a new challenge, all are welcome!

Wildlife Photography Walk - Saturday 16th September, 8.00am-10.00am.

Join photographer Andrew Walmsley for a morning stroll around the nature reserve.

Foraging Walk - Sunday 24th September, 11.00am-3.00pm.

Discover the autumn bounty in the local area and use what you find to make something delicious.

Astons Online

The next meeting of Astons Online is Tuesday September 19th 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

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The Repair Shop

BBC2's "The Repair Shop" are seeking damaged community and family heirlooms for their second series and objects that have special significance during Christmas time for their upcoming Christmas special.

The series follows a team of passionate and skilled crafts people who restore damaged objects of sentimental value. The experts are drawn from different disciplines such as furniture repairers, metal workers, mechanics, ceramicists, clock makers, picture conservationists, restorers and fabricators of every ilk.

A ragged teddy bear given to a grandparent decades ago, a favourite train set a parent would like to pass on to their child on Christmas morning, anything of personal sentimental value or importance to a community or family can be repaired and preserved for generations to come.

If you have a precious object you'd like repaired please email repair@ricochet.co.uk or call 01273 224829

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

Deadline for the October edition is
Tuesday 26th September