

Upton News



Vol 5 No. 2 September 2016

There is a very good reason why we try to put together a 12 page newsletter, it means that when it is printed as a paper copy it is 3 sheets of A4 printed on both sides and folded in half giving you the 12 pages. This month, which is always short of news, we are down to just 8 pages and most months there is likely to be space that we will be looking to fill. This brings me to ask whether there are regular features that you would like to see included in our village newsletter that will allow us to make it more interesting and particularly focus on what is happening in Upton.

To begin with we could include a 'good news' feature based on the achievements of parishioners. If you know of any big birthday or wedding anniversaries, any sporting or academic achievements or any events where we can join in offering our congratulations please send us the details.

What about a parishioner's comments section in which you send in your appreciation of what others are doing to make our village a better place or helping you to cope with problems. Perhaps also include constructive suggestions that might improve our parish but please, nothing too controversial, we don't want to create a division within the community.

We welcome your thoughts, ideas and input.

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 10.30 to 12.00. Dates for September are the 1st, 15th and the 29th.

Tea Birds W.I.

Tea Birds meet on the last Tuesday of every month at 8.00pm in Upton Village Hall. Our 27th September meeting will be a super secretive creative project. Details will be given on the evening.

If you can't attend our September meeting - our October meeting will be on Tuesday 25th. Our theme is Movie Night - our planned film will be Rocky Horror Show and all guests and members will be encouraged to dress up as characters from this film.

New members are always welcome or if you would like to pop along one evening, either leave a message on Facebook or email

teabirdswi@hotmail.co.uk

Please check out our Facebook page or website - www.tea-birdswi.co.uk

Parish Council

At the extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council on 8th August two new planning applications were discussed: an amendment to The Gate House on Reading Road, following advice that the building was being constructed much closer to the boundary than that originally approved by the Vale; the PC agreed and objected to the amendment; and outline planning for the old Methodist Chapel site, including demolishing the existing building, erecting two new 2/3 bed dormer bungalows, providing an area for a village War Memorial and altering the access to the site. The PC agreed with all of the application except the amended access, which it felt would increase the risk of accidents in Fieldside. The PC hopes the architects and the Church will agree with their decision and restore the original access on their plans.

At the same meeting it was agreed that the small goal posts on the recreation ground should be replaced, and permission was also given for the purchase of a combined set of football/rugby posts. The cost of these would be covered by a donation from Uptonogood?

The PC is pleased to announce that Ms Elizabeth Cooper has accepted the post of Clerk to the Parish Council commencing 1st September, following Mrs Angela Hoy's resignation due to an imminent move to Canada.

The Church Fete And Fun Dog Show

The Church Fete will be held in the Recreation Ground on Saturday 17th September. The Fete opens with a barbecue at 1.00pm, with the stalls opening at 1.30pm.

Entries for the dog show from 1.30pm with judging by Dawn commencing at 2.00pm.

Features include music by The Blewbury Brass Band, The Cry Havoc Morris Dancers, a display of Vintage Vehicles and Juggling John (possibly the tallest man in the world?) will be there to entertain the children.

Stalls will include Tombola, Bric a Brac, White Elephant, Books and Jigsaws, Preserves, Plants and Games. There will also be Teas and a Raffle.

The fete is renowned for providing delicious biscuits and cakes to be enjoyed by our visitors with a cup of tea during the afternoon. We would be delighted to receive contributions of your favourite tray-bake, biscuits, sponges, cupcakes or fruit cakes which will all be gratefully received. Please bring your donations to the village hall during the morning or if preferred to Jessie West before the day, where freezer space is available. Thank you all for your generosity, we certainly couldn't provide such delicious teas without you!

If you have any items that you are able to donate for any of the stalls or tombola, these can be brought to the village hall between 3.00pm and 4.00pm or 7.30pm and 9.00pm on Friday 16th .

We would also be glad of offers of help on the day of the fete. If you are able to help, please get in touch with Jessie on 851206 or Clare on 850486.

Volunteer for Oxfordshire's Water-Blitz

Volunteers needed for one day only! Schools, 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 and join in on 3rd 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.

For 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

Blewbury WI

Our forthcoming events for September are listed below and everyone is welcome to join us.

- Monday 5th September, Oxford open top Bus Tour. With lunch at the Cote Brasserie.
- Monday 12th September, Coffee at Style Acre, 10.30am with Joan.
- Wednesday 14th September, Lyn's walk, leaving the Village Hall at 9.30am.
- We will be walking field paths above Wantage and finishing at a lovely Farm Shop for lunch.
- Wednesday 28th September, Monthly WI meeting in the Vale Room. 7.30pm.

“Another opening - Another show” The story of Broadway & West End musicals with Tony King.

Please refer to the Blewbury WI web page for the September date for Scrabble.

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, www.blewburywi.wordpress.com where you will find more information.

Chilton Badminton Club

Are you interested in playing badminton for fun? If so why not come along to Chilton Badminton Club at Chilton Primary School on a Monday or Thursday evening from 7.00pm. The club holds very friendly club nights and also plays some friendly matches against other local clubs. For more information give Cathy a ring on 850135 or email secretary@chilton-badminton.org.uk

Didcot U3A

Meetings of the Didcot branch of U3A are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 2.00pm in Didcot Civic Hall. Visitors are welcome to come to a meeting as a taster before joining.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th September 2016 and our topic this month is provided by Tony Gillman who will give a talk entitled 'Reading for the Partially Sighted'.

Why not come along and see what we are really about - we look forward to seeing you there. If you enjoy the talk, why not think about joining us and make the most of our 2016/17 programme and visits currently in the planning stage. For more information, phone 01235 211291 or 01235 510048 or email secretary@didcotu3a.org

Blewbury And Upton Village Produce Association

On Saturday 9th July we held our 69th Annual Show. Although the number of entrants was down on last year, standard of entries was as good as ever, despite the strange spring and early summer weather we had. Well done to those who took part and thank you to everyone who helped to make the event such a success.

Please Note: Our garden visit scheduled for the 4th September has been postponed until the spring because many people who want to attend are still on holiday.

Below is the remainder of our programme for 2016. We look forward to seeing you at these events.

Sunday. 23rd October

Plant Sale at the Red Lion Pub, Blewbury 1.00pm - 3.00pm with Sustainable Blewbury's Apple Day

Wednesday. 2nd November

Annual Garden Meeting - The Vale Room 7.00pm

Saturday. 3rd December

Christmas Social at Upton Village Hall - 7.00pm

Did You Know? Caterpillars can devastate a crop of cabbages like a biblical plague of locusts, but you can help protect younger plants by adding about half a tablespoon of salt to your watering can. The plants absorb the salt, making them unpleasant for caterpillars who bloat and die if they consume it, but the cabbages will have expunged the salt by the time they reach maturity.

Eileen

Upton /Harwell Short Mat Bowls

How would you like to enjoy 2 free indoor short mat bowling sessions for players new to the game, either at Upton Village Hall or Harwell Village Hall? Harwell Short Mat Bowls Club has lost several members recently as they have moved away from the area so we are trying to introduce new people to the game. We would also welcome new league players who may have moved to this area recently from other clubs. The bowling season is September to end of April but Harwell Village Hall has been booked for Wednesday morning sessions starting Sept 7th 10.00am - 12noon. If you would like to come along to try the game or find out how it is played you will be made very welcome, just come along to the hall and introduce yourself or ring us on the number below. You just need flat soled shoes and we will lend you suitable bowls, showing you how to stand, hold them etc. to try the game. We are a very friendly group, mostly of retirement age but some still working! There is also an afternoon league, home matches played on Thursdays 1.45pm - 3.45pm and Monday night evening league home matches played 7.00pm - 9.45pm. Lifts are shared for away league games. There is also the opportunity to play at Upton Village Hall in the winter season, Wednesday evenings 7.45pm - 9.45pm resuming on Wednesday 7th September.

Harwell plays in the Oxfordshire league but Upton is a keen but non league group of players, some of whom have joined Harwell to play Monday club nights when home league matches are played. Having never bowled before joining Upton, 4 players have now regularly played in and won their league matches and another 2 have also joined.

Contact Tony & Joan Durbin, Telephone 01235850035

Upton 50 Club Prize Winners

August 2016

£25	No. 14	Heather Saysell
£20	No. 83	Sheila Dawson
£15	No. 21	David Hartly
£10	No. 156	Rosemary de Wilde

Lesley Shaw

Found

If anyone has left a green coat size 8 in the Village Hall at wine club BBQ or the previous day. Please contact Ellie Bunston or the Upton News to retrieve it.

1st Upton & Blewbury Rainbows

Rainbows starts back on the 16th of September and we look forward to welcoming some new faces to the unit. We still have a couple of spaces, if you have a daughter aged 5-7 who may be interested please get in touch with Emma at cortina3@hotmail.co.uk

2nd Upton & Blewbury Brownies

Brownies starts back on the 6th of September and we look forward to welcoming some new faces to the unit. We are in need of a new helper, if anyone is interested please get in touch with Emma at cortina3@hotmail.co.uk

Rectors Reflections



Something Precious

Well, the summer holidays are over and things are back to normal. I wonder whether you were able to get away at all.

My wife and I were able to have a lovely couple of days in west Sussex. It included a visit to Petworth House, a magnificent stately home with a remarkable collection of pictures, sculpture and furniture. Perhaps you have visited it yourself.

We tend to think of the tourist industry as something which got started pretty recently, but in fact it got going as far back as the Eighteenth Century. The owners of Petworth have been welcoming visitors for well over two hundred years. Interestingly, this hasn't been about making money. The owners of Petworth felt that their beautiful works of art were far too precious to be enjoyed by the family alone - they were merely the custodians, looking after the art on behalf of the wider community.

Of course, it has also been a statement of the family's power: the power bought by huge wealth, which enabled the works of art to be purchased and cared for, and the collection to be developed over the centuries. Yes, it was - and is - a statement of power. But it is also a statement of values. What Petworth House says is basically this: if you are fortunate to have something really precious, you should treat it as something which you look after on behalf of the wider community.

So often we assume that we are the masters of whatever we possess, and can do whatever we like with it. We tend to hoard the precious things which we have, keeping them for ourselves. But the problem with hoarding is that we can become slaves of whatever it is that we are hoarding. We also deprive ourselves of the joy and satisfaction which can come from sharing what we have with others.

If we have something that is precious to us, we can only discover its true worth through sharing it with others. This extends beyond the world of things, to all that is precious to us - our gifts and skills, our memories, our hopes and dreams, our ability to love and to be loved.

Something precious needs to be shared. And this sharing in love is what God is all about - God's desire to share Himself in love, with you, with me, and with all his creatures.

Fr Jason

St. Mary's Church Services

Sunday 4th - 09.00am - Sung Eucharist*

Sunday 11th - 09.00am - Sung Eucharist

Sunday 18th - 09.00am - Sung Eucharist

Sunday 25th - 10.30am - Harvest Festival*

*refreshments follow these services

Ride and Stride

There is still time to take part. Cycle, walk, push a buggy, ride a horse around as many churches in aid of the Historic Churches Trust on Saturday 10th September. Half of your sponsorship goes to a church of your choice, the remainder to the HCT.

Please contact Clare Lightfoot - 850486 - if you would like a sponsor form.

Karate

There is a new Karate class for beginners from the age of 4 to Adult. All families are welcome.

Come along and learn the fascinating art of karate....gain self confidence, fitness and self defence.

The classes are taught by Mr Hogan 4th Dan Black Belt and Enhanced CRB

All are welcome, done at your own pace.

The first 2 lessons are free and start on Sunday the 2nd and 9th of October at 11.30am in Upton Village hall.

Please contact Mr Hogan if you are interested . 07548784928 or johnhogan67@icloud.com or www.tiskakarate-abingdon.co.uk

Wine Club

Emails and letters will shortly be circulated, ahead of the next season of Wine Club events. Full membership is open to all residents of Upton over the age of 18 years plus their immediate families, ex-residents and those closely associated with the village. We do hope you'll consider joining us, and enjoy some interesting wines at our informal and relaxed evenings, which are typically on the third Wednesday of the month at the village hall. If you would like to find out more about what we have done, and what we plan to do, 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!

Notes from the Allotment

It seems ages since I wrote the last episode and much has happened in that time; I feel we have had a decent bit of summer now, although this has necessitated a lot of hand watering - but I'm not complaining!

I ended up with a good crop of (prize winning!) onions which was very pleasing, as well as good crops from the broad bean and field bean trial; interestingly the field beans cropped twice as much weight as the broad beans, smaller and a slightly different taste but perfectly edible. I used some of them for pea and bean hummus, delicious! Runner beans are finally getting into their stride and although there are not very many there are plenty enough for me. Also a pleasant surprise was the potatoes, which have produced some decent size tubers, although a few of them have annoying holes in them - I just have to cut them out.

Winter crops are going to be sparse; leeks are coming on slowly, and out of the brassica seedlings I only have three Brussels sprouts left.....but that will be enough if they reach maturity. However, my spinach beet has gone to seed and little spinach plants are popping up all over the allotment, so that will help with winter supplies.

On the soft fruit side, I ended up with a good crop of gooseberries thanks to the bird netting, a few strawberries (but lots more at home) and a fair few summer raspberries. Hopefully there will be a good crop of autumn ones, which are just starting. I also had a good quantity of tayberries. The little transplanted pear tree is still looking healthy, although it lost all of its baby pears; only to be expected.

Compost corner: Our Master Composter team was invited by BBOWT to man a stand in their wildlife area at the recent Country File Live event held at Blenheim Palace. It was an amazing event, loads of animals, interesting exhibits and presumably lots of celebs, but I didn't see any! Our little team had 528 conversations about composting over the four days, so hopefully we have encouraged a few more people to take up this worthy gardening pursuit. Questions ranged from whether rhubarb leaves (poisonous) can be composted (yes) to what sort of animal poo can be composted (only vegetarian animals!).

Autumn is now just around the corner

Angela Hoy (angela.hoy@sky.com)

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

Deadline for the October edition is **Tuesday 27th September**