

# Upton News



Vol 4 No.29 June 2014

A good few members of the village are keeping an eye on the weather and hoping for an improvement this month... Quite apart from a number of social occasions and the Wine Club Barbecue, there is of course Uptonogood on the 14th. It would be good if the ground could dry out a bit before then...

The event is now in its fifth year, and has grown from 300 riders to nearly 1000 this time round. An enormous amount of organisation goes on behind the scenes—entertainment, refreshments, tents, insurance, medical cover, signage, marshalling, registration, car parks, landowner liaison and much more—mostly undertaken by a handful of individuals.

If you haven't already volunteered to assist Uptonogood, please do consider it. There is still a need for marshals, cake baking, and help with tea and coffee. The event has very much put Upton on the 'big stage' - so please try and help out the organisers by lending a bit of your time if you can.

*Brian Rippon*

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

Deadline for the July edition is **Friday 27th June.**

## Get Ready, Set, Bake!

### Uptonogood 2014

The wonderful homemade cakes sold at Uptonogood are always a huge hit with the hundreds of people that visit our village for the event.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THIS YEAR BETTER THAN EVER!**

We need everything from flapjacks, muffins and scones to cakes and tray bakes.

You can drop off your cakes to Jacqui at Shearbarne Cottage, Pound Lane, between 2-5pm on Friday, 13th June or please bring them to the hall before 10am on Saturday, 14th June.

We also need volunteers to serve tea, coffee and cakes at the village hall between 9am and 4pm on Saturday 14th June, if you can help please email when you can do to Jacqui ([jacqui.reid@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jacqui.reid@hotmail.co.uk)) or Lucy ([lucinda.mason@btinternet.com](mailto:lucinda.mason@btinternet.com)).

All proceeds will be going to the Upton Village Hall Kitchen Refurbishment fund and we hope to have the work done on the kitchen later this year.

*Jacqui Reid*

## Parish Council News

Following this year's AGM the Parish Council is now made up of Stuart Fraser (Vice Chairman), Bob Lott (Chairman), Stuart Norman, Lesley Shaw and Rob Traynor. This leaves us one member short, so we would love to hear from anyone who would be willing to join us and help with "village business". Typically this involves dealing with village planning applications, responses to District or County consultations, and general upkeep of the village, its surroundings, and amenities. It is important that the PC keeps a full and active membership. Should it not, control could be removed to county hall resulting in a loss of local influence, concern and interest in our village affairs.

As a reminder the PC meets every other month and residents are invited to attend to raise any issues of concern to them. Details of our meetings are available on the village website and notice board, including the dates, the subjects under consideration (Agendas) and the outcomes of the meetings (Minutes).

Ten years on from the last Parish Plan we will be developing a new plan under the leadership of Rob Traynor. Again if you would like to take an active role in the development of the plan please contact Rob as he will be forming a team to help undertake the task over the coming weeks.

A fund has been established to support the village hall kitchen project. £1000 has been allocated directly from PC funds and we would welcome any further donations towards this worthy cause. Please note that donations given to the PC for this purpose may have VAT reclaimed, while those gifted directly to UVHAT will be liable for 20% VAT. Full control over how any monies are spent will remain with UVHAT.

Two 12m x 6m marquees have now been purchased by the PC thanks to funds raised by and donation from "Uptonogood?". These are mainly for use at village events such as the Church Fete and "Uptonogood?", but they are also available for private hire to local residents.

Once again we have had a clear indication from OCC that our bus service is under threat. The message is use it or lose it, therefore please consider leaving the car on the drive once in a while and take the bus. Apart from anything else, kids love it, and you may be grateful for it when you can no longer drive for whatever reason and come to rely on what remains of our public transport system.

## ***Planning Permission***

Planning permission has been granted for the following applications, subject to conditions:

**Application No: P14/V0560/HH**

Proposed front dormer window, replace side hip roof with gable roof and new rear gable to existing loft conversion.

Site Location: Winterset Newmans Close Upton Didcot OX11 9JA

**Application No : P14/V0827/HH**

Single storey rear & front porch extension internal alteration.

Site Location: Pentreen Stream Road Upton Didcot OX11 9JG

**Application No: MW.0187/12 (MW.0021/14)**

Approval of non-material amendment at Chilton Waste Transfer Station

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## ***Congratulations***

Many congratulations to John and Jess Haworth on their new arrival. Hugo John Sivewright Haworth was born on 27th May at 8.58pm weighing 7lbs 14oz. Both baby and Jess are doing fantastically well.

John complains that there were more false alarms than a smoke detector above a toaster but he was eventually born at Wallingford Community Hospital having been served a conviction order for later in the week... the induction was booked for Friday as he was running late (very un-Haworth-like)!



## ***Jumble Sale!***

What an eye opener! The 'dealers' were out in force and competition was manic on entering the hall! Quite a spectacle!

Thank you so much for all the donations which helped make the jumble sale a great success. A massive thank you to everyone who helped out, both on Friday evening and Saturday. Another thank you for all the cakes that were donated. Also, not forgetting the donations made for the raffle prizes which all went down very well! (I feel like I'm at the Oscars!).

A number of unsold items were kept by and Sarah Carter and I did a car boot sale which added another £70 to the coffers.

The total sum raised was £1082.49! I will be giving it a miss in 2015 but start saving your goodies for Spring Jumble Sale 2016!

*Giulia Rippon*

## Village Produce Association

On Saturday 10th May, twenty five people from Blewbury and Upton visited the RHS Gardens at Wisley in Surrey. We were extremely lucky with the weather and only suffered a couple of showers, although it was pretty windy. The rhododendrons and azaleas were amazing and everything else looked really healthy and fresh. Quite a few of us came away with a few plants from the well-stocked garden centre!!

Our next talk takes place on **Wednesday 4th June at The Vale Room - 7.30pm**. Our speaker is John Negus who will be giving a presentation on *Shrubs of Distinction*.

The weather seems to have gone haywire again. Fortunately I had tied up my peas and sweet peas but my broad beans look like a few rows of leaning towers of Pisa!! Despite the weather, everything I've planted appears to be doing well, especially the onions and shallots. The strawberries are the best ever at the moment with plenty of bloom, but it remains to be seen if they produce fruit. The greengage tree on my allotment has for the first time been smothered in bloom. The blossom survived and teeny weeny fruit appeared but most of them have now disappeared as a result of the awful winds. Hopefully, I will get more than the ONE greengage which I had last year.

Just a reminder - Don't forget the VPA has tools available (for a donation) which might help with some of your more strenuous gardening jobs.

The Summer Show is fast approaching - so if you haven't got a Schedule yet, either pop into Blewbury Post Office or e-mail me on [VPA.in.bl.up@gmail.com](mailto:VPA.in.bl.up@gmail.com)

**DID YOU KNOW?**

To kill off unwanted insects in the greenhouse or cold frame, bash up some laurel leaves and leave them in a bowl overnight. The damaged leaves exude prussic acid gas, which is deadly to most small insects.

How about this? Battersea Park in London was once the site of a giant asparagus field, with over 260 acres set aside for its cultivation!

Happy gardening

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### DDU3A

DIDCOT & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 2pm at Didcot Civic Hall. Visitors are welcome to come to a meeting as a taster before joining.

The June meeting will be held on Tuesday 17 June on the topic of Old Didcot on Film with Eugene Coyle.

Tel: 07804159993

Email: [didcotdistrictU3A@virginmedia.com](mailto:didcotdistrictU3A@virginmedia.com)

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

## Tea Birds WI

Our recent sugar craft demo was a particular success with the ladies producing lots of beautiful fake cakes (polystyrene base) decorated in beautiful flowers etc.

We now have a Book Club and Supper Club, and organise regular theatre trips and sewing days with Shelbee Sewing. We recently had a sewing workshop making craft caddies and our next workshop will be on Sunday 27th July making vintage style aprons. Details of our activities change regularly so if ladies want to hear about it they need to follow us on Facebook or email us at [tea-birdswi@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tea-birdswi@hotmail.co.uk) and get added to the mailing list.

Book Club - We are currently reading *Longbourn* and our next meeting is Tuesday 10th June. Our next supper club will be in August, date and location TBC. The next Theatre trip is to see *Buddy* at Oxford New Theatre on 31st July.

Our 'Knit and Natter' Group meet at the Fleur De Lys in East Hagbourne. All abilities welcome. If you are a complete novice and would like to learn, there are lots of ladies on hand to help you!

## Village Clubs & Organisations

### Blewbury WI

Judy 850381

### Drop In Sessions

Yvonne Collins 850989

### Short Mat Bowls Club

Tony Durbin 850035

### Table Tennis Club

Bob Lott 851222

### Tea Birds WI

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

### Theatre Club

Malcolm Wright 850705

### Upton Oil Syndicate

Colin Batchelor 01491 672444

### 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.

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## Dog Grooming

Ashlyn Saunders has set up a new dog grooming business at Alden Farm.

Called 'Mucky Mutts', Ashlyn offers grooming, bathing, clipping, hand stripping and nail clipping.

Tel 07565 831 355, 01235 851644, [equineandpetservices@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:equineandpetservices@hotmail.co.uk).

## ***Post Office News***

We have been told that there is still disruption to mail going to the Crimea. Please remember that we close at 12 noon for lunch, and then at 5pm, apart from Wednesday and Saturday when we have a half day, it is really trying when people come in at closing time!

We have been made aware of a small number of villagers who are sometimes in need of a little help at times, maybe you are ill for a couple of days, or recovering, but have no one to turn to at that moment. If you need a prescription collecting, or a little shopping, or maybe just someone to pop round and chat for half an hour, please call us in the Blewbury Post Office, 851777, and we will use our considerable networking powers to find someone for you!

Yorkshire Bank have now apparently come online with us too, so now more can get “free” cash! The £50 with one chap on (Houbron) is now being taken out of circulation, if you have any tucked away, bring them in or take to your bank where they can be exchanged, the ones with two chappies on are the new ones!

*Love from Karen & Angela*

## **Dates for your diary**

Wed 4 Jun	VPA Talk, the Vale Room
Sat 7 Jun	Cider With Rosie tickets on sale
Sat 7 Jun	6pm, Marshal Briefing, George & Dragon
Sun 8 Jun	6pm, Marshal Briefing, George & Dragon
Tue 10 Jun	Tea Birds WI Book Club
Thu 12 Jun	Drop In, Village Hall
Sat 14 Jun	Uptonogood!
Tue 17 Jun	DDU3A, Old Didcot on Film
Sat 21 Jun	Blewbury WI Summer Dance, Ashbrook House
Thu 26 Jun	Drop In, Village Hall
Sat 28 Jun	Wine Club Summer BBQ

## Uptonogood - The Final Straight

As I write there are just under two weeks to go to this year's event. The number of riders registered is at a record high and the 12 mile 'Family' ride is already sold out. We expect to be close to capacity of 1,000 riders, with 250 riders for each distance. The schedule has been finalised and you will see that there is more entertainment this year with a full programme of live music including some high profile bands from the Midlands and even New York!

8:00am	Car park opens (Off A417 - Not on the Recreation Ground)
8:00am	Event registration opens
9:00am	Blewbury Brass Band (lawn)
9:15am	Event briefing for 45 mile "Endurance" ride
9:30am	45 mile "Endurance" ride start on recreation ground
9:45am	Event briefing for 25 mile "Leisure" ride
10:00am	25 mile "Leisure" ride start on recreation ground
10:15am	Event briefing for 12 mile "Family" ride
10:30am	12 mile "Family" ride start on recreation ground
12:30pm	Invisible Vegas (Main Stage)
12:30pm	Cut off time for riders doing the 25 mile ride to proceed via A34 Underpass
12:30pm	Cut off time for riders doing the 45 mile ride to proceed to the final 20 miles
1:15pm	Event briefing for 5 mile "Little Wheels" ride
1:15pm	Amy Ireson (Beer Tent)
1:30pm	5 mile "Little Wheels" ride start on recreation ground
1:30pm	Tin Pan Band (Main Stage)
2:15pm	Amy Ireson (Beer Tent)
2:30pm	By The Rivers (Main Stage)
3:30pm	Amy Ireson (Beer Tent)
3:45pm	Dysfunktional (Main Stage)
4:45pm	Amy Ireson (Beer Tent)
5:00pm	Upton Jam (Main Stage)
6:00pm	Event Close

The marshal briefings will be 6pm on both Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th at the George & Dragon. Please do attend if you have volunteered because we also need to give you location maps; hi-vis jackets; precautionary space blankets (for exhausted or cold riders) and tokens for free food and drink for you to use at the recreation ground after the event. There will also be special instructions for the designated water stops and juice stops.

Finally, we wanted to say another huge thank you to everyone who is giving up their time on the day, it simply wouldn't be possible without you.

Mike 01235 851474 and Bob 01235 851222 or email [info@uptonogood.org.uk](mailto:info@uptonogood.org.uk) which will come to both of us.

*Bob Lott and Mike Tibbetts*

## ***Blewbury WI***

Surprise, surprise, you have a new scribe for the WI news and information. Many of you probably know Karen has taken over from Judy White as Secretary, which is a very busy position in the WI, so I have volunteered to keep you up to date with current news and what we are doing during the coming months.

May proved to be a very busy month and included a trip to London Docklands, a walk around the Nettlebed area finishing with lunch at The White Hart, and a croquet evening to give members a taster of how to play the game. Our speaker, Graham Horn, gave a very interesting talk on 100th, 500th and 1000th anniversaries in 2014, giving us details about events and people which really surprised us. A very enjoyable lunch was had at the Red Lion in Blewbury.

Below are events and activities for June.

Wednesday 4th June - Walk organised by Lyn Blackie. Meet at Village Hall 9am. 6.5 miles round Coleshill near Faringdon, via Tithe Barn at Great Coxwell & Badbury Woods. Lunch will be at Radnor Arms, Coleshill

Wednesday 4th June - Trip 'Cosmopolitan London' - 8 meeting at Nettlebed

Monday 9th June - Coffee Morning at Styleacres - Karen hosting

Wednesday 11th June - Food & Flowers - 3 going

Tuesday 17th & Thursday 19th June - A Great Day out in Greenwich - no news on tickets yet.

Saturday 21st June - Summer Dance at Ashbrook House - buy your ticket at the Post Office.

Monday 23rd June - Garden visit with Joyce to Greys Court near Henley. Meet at Village Hall at 10:30am for garden only visit (will probably have lunch out too!)

Wednesday 25th June - Monthly Meeting - 'All About Hats' with Liz Felix

Advance notice - 'ART DABBLE' is about to start again at Joyce's, Abners, Church Road - First session will be 9th July. Bring your own paints and paper and have a painting session plus a great chat from 2-4pm. Karen will be bringing the wine and cakes and Joyce has the chairs and tea/coffee. Remember you don't have to be a Picasso or Rembrandt - just enjoy splashing a bit of paint around!!

Wednesday 11th June - Scrabble will be at Bernadine's at 7.30pm.

For more details of any of our events or to join Mah Jong or Scrabble Group, or if you wish to join us, please ring Karen on 850219.

Happy W-I-ing

*Eileen*



## ***Blewbury Players***

### **Cider with Rosie**

Wednesday July 16th -  
Saturday July 19th

The Blewbury Players' summer production this year will be an adaptation by Nick Darke of *Cider with Rosie* by Laurie Lee on the 100th anniversary of the author's birth.



This atmospheric, autobiographical evocation of growing up in rural Gloucestershire during and just after World War 1, introduces us to funny, tragic and vulnerable characters with whom we can readily sympathise. It takes us back to a way of life which is coming to an end as the Lee family grows up and as the war and its aftermath change the order of things.

See the website [www.blewburyplayers.co.uk](http://www.blewburyplayers.co.uk) for details of tickets, which go on sale Saturday June 7th.

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## **Pictures of Old Upton**



The High Street (looking from the junction of Church Street towards the Manor House) in the 1950s. From the Braund archive.

# Rectors Reflections

## *Journeys*

Well, summer is here. Sunshine, warmth, and, for many, a time of journeys - days out with the family, holidays at the seaside, trips to foreign parts. Easy journeys, difficult journeys; busy motorways and quiet country lanes; crowded airports, and anonymous departure lounges.

Journeys can, of course, be about much more than simply getting from A to B. The image of a journey is often used to describe a spiritual experience, and many people go on journeys with the intention of connecting with some deeper reality. Sometimes we know where we are heading, and what we will find; but sometimes we set out without any real sense of our ultimate destination at all, and are open-minded about what to expect. Sometimes it's the travelling itself that matters; at other times, the travelling is an inconvenience, which we want to be over with as soon as possible.

If you see your own life as a journey, I wonder whether you're the sort of person who focuses on simply enjoying the journey, or whether you're the sort of person who can't wait until you get to the destination? Perhaps you are a mix of both.

Describing life as a spiritual journey is a commonplace. But it begs an interesting question: if our life is indeed a journey, what sort of journey might it be?

Some spiritual journeys are about travelling to an entirely new place. We set out from where we are, and travel to a new place. This new place might be the place to which we had intended to travel - or it might be somewhere which we had never dreamed we would visit. (There is an old joke along these lines. How do you make God laugh? Tell Him your plans!).

Other spiritual journeys are about coming back to where we started from, but finding that things are different. Perhaps the place itself has changed during our absence; or perhaps the place has remained the same, but it is we who have changed. We have gone on a journey, and have come back a different person- perhaps with a different view on life, or with different values.

Where does God fit in with all of this? Where ever we're going, God is there at the beginning of our journeys, He is there at the end, and He is our companion on the way, as a friend and as a guide.

We never travel alone!

*Fr Jason*

## *Notes from the Allotment*

I'm glad I was late planting my second early potatoes, several of my neighbours at the allotment have had the haulms badly frosted, but they will recover after a couple of weeks. Mine were still underground when the frost hit.

You may notice that your rhubarb is sporting large flowering spikes; these are only going to sap energy so whip them off quickly and compost them.

The broad beans will also be flowering now and it will be time to pinch out those juicy tips to make them less attractive to blackfly that seem to materialise out of nowhere. This also encourages the flowers to set, and the tips themselves make a tasty vegetable when lightly steamed like spinach, delicious! A good idea all round.

My second crop of broad beans are sprouting nicely now to follow on from the winter-sown ones, and I'm hoping to plant out some French and runner beans soon - we are promised a warm spell and hopefully no more frost - but you can never tell with British weather. Also in the ground are some beetroot seedlings, they always seem to struggle to get going so I've kept them in the seed tray until quite sturdy, I hope they make it this time.

In my raised bed I have radishes, spring onions and a second row of carrots - the first row was completely eaten, I presume by slugs, when they were barely an inch

high. I've sown another row and sprinkled them with perlite, which I'm hoping they will find uncomfortable to crawl over; it's a better alternative than slug pellets. Whilst on a recent to the Centre for Alternative Technology in Machynlleth, I bought a lovely little book all about slugs, highly amusing and quite useful. In addition to the aforesaid pellets there are parasitic nematodes, which don't seem to work for me. Other solutions offered include sprinkling salt around the plants, ditto bran, crushed (baked in a cooling oven) eggshells, coffee grounds and sawdust. Another idea is to spread comfrey or cabbage leaves on the ground - the slugs gather underneath and you then pick up the whole lot and throw them in the compost bin, where they munch away happily on stuff you don't need any more! And finally, I saw in a local health food store that slug slime is apparently good for the skin - someone has made a body cream out of it! And you thought slugs were only a nuisance...

*Angela Hoy*

[Angela.hoy@sky.com](mailto:Angela.hoy@sky.com)

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### **From 150 Years Ago**

**1864. Thursday, May 26th**

Cut the grass in the Churchyard at Upton, a very good crop, and the hay likely to be fine.

Rev Richard Hooper

## Maggie's Oxford

This summer, the brand new Maggie's Centre will open at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford, offering anyone with any type of cancer and their families and friends, the practical, emotional and social support that people with cancer need.



At such an exciting time, we are looking for new volunteers to join our Centre Support Team to help introduce as many people as possible to our new centre and show them the fantastic support Maggie's can provide.

If you are sociable, confident and outgoing and willing to dedicate half a day a week to help Maggie's, we would like to hear from you. For more information, please contact [eleonor.green@maggiescentres.org](mailto:eleonor.green@maggiescentres.org) or call 07920 848825. For more information about Maggie's, visit [www.maggiescentres.org](http://www.maggiescentres.org).

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## Harwell Village “at risk of losing its identity”

More details have been unveiled for a long-awaited 2,550-home development on the edge of Didcot.

Developers behind Valley Park, near Harwell, will hold an exhibition on its masterplan at Didcot Civic Hall next Tuesday.

The plan - mooted since 2009 - also includes three schools, a neighbourhood centre, shops, a community centre and sports pitches.

Yet there are concerns Harwell will lose its identity as work is underway on 3,300 homes at nearby Great Western Park, to be finished by 2026.

Harwell Parish Council chairman David Marsh said work on Valley Park should not start until work is completed at Great Western Park.

He said: “The parish is roughly about 1,000 homes, with 900 in the village itself, but if all the housing proposals are allowed to go ahead there will be 6,000 additional houses in and around the parish.

“We will lose our village status and become a quaint little suburb of Didcot.”

He added that he was hopeful that a Harwell link road, from the A4130 east of the Milton interchange to the A417, would eventually be built despite funding concerns.

Tuesday's public exhibition will take place at the Britwell Road hall from 2pm to 8pm.

*From the Didcot Herald*