

Upton News



Vol 4 No.30 July 2014

Bigger and better than ever would be a good summary of Uptonogood this year, as can be judged from the entrants' feedback... with a stage, headline music acts, etc. However I hope it can be kept very much a village event – and capitalise on the talents of our own Amy Ireson, and the Upton jam session which closed off the music events, with the audience enjoying a beer on the straw bales...

At the time of writing the exact details of the demolition of the Didcot towers are being kept a secret. Sadly that means that a good number of residents will be unable to witness this landmark in local history – although I'm sure that some nonetheless will be prepared to get up early to watch and wait...

Brian Rippon

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

Deadline for the August edition is **Friday 1st August**.

Try Out Rock Climbing

Calling the curious who wish to try out rock climbing. If anyone is interested in a safe, relaxed try out climbing session at the indoor climbing wall at Reading please get in touch. It is a myth that you need to be strong- it is also about technique and balance. Ages 10 and up.

I am working towards a training / coaching qualification. This requires running a certain number of introductory climbing sessions both indoors and outside.

Ivan Evans ivan.evans@ieee.org

Short-let required

6-8 weeks from late August

We are looking for somewhere to stay in Upton for 6-8 weeks from late August whilst we have some building works completed on our home. So if you are going away for a long holiday or have a self contained flat/annexe to let we would love to hear from you.

If we can't find anywhere in Upton then we will look further afield to surrounding villages/areas - all suggestions gratefully received.

John, Jess and (5 weeks old!) baby Hugo
john_haworth@hotmail.com

Uptonogood– feedback from some of the riders

...I could not walk away without saying a huge thank you to everyone involved in organising and running this event. A more welcoming and friendly group of people will be hard to find. I was greeted with a smile every time I met someone, that's exceptional.

Congratulations to everyone involved in, by far, the best community project I've had to pleasure to be part of.

I would just like to drop you a line to congratulate you and all the volunteers for a great event on Saturday.

I am fairly new to MB events, and have been to several this year, but yours was the best to date by far.

The marshals were fantastic and the event afterwards spot on.

Thanks for organising such a brilliant event, we'll definitely be back next year.

Thanks to you and the team for putting on another extremely well organised Uptonogood? ... Well done to all involved.

Just wanted to let you know how impressive yesterday was. Everything was so well organised and the day was great fun. Thanks for all the mud! Had a brilliant time.

We wanted to write and say what a great day we all had yesterday. The organisation from start to the finish was fantastic. ... the entertainment, safety, food & drink during the day was also spot on. Once again a big thank you to everyone who gave up their time so we could have such an enjoyable day with friends and family.

PS - I also loved the rent a crowd at the finish line who applauded the finishers it did bring a smile to my face!

We all had a cracking time!! It really was fab!! Thank you!!

I just wanted to thank you for such a brilliant day. Well organised, super smiley marshals, amazing views and the mud added to the fun.

Post Office News

No major news in the Post Office at the moment, just some new stamps coming out to celebrate the Commonwealth Games, and we may be closed on Saturday 19th July, Karen is off on Girly Guide camp, and Angela may be busy, we don't know yet!

We have just been told that from late July, eBay customers can print off prepaid "Recorded Signed For" labels with the relevant bar codes, directly from their site, just bring them in, we re-scan them into the system and give you the proof of posting back!

We really don't mind giving out floats for village events, but we need a weeks' notice for more than £100, and as we don't get paid for this "informal" service, it would be nice if the money was paid back into

your accounts via us? Thank you to the groups who already do this!

We have lovely gifts on sale, handmade scented candles, and lots of incense burners and sticks to make your home smell delicious! We have a few plants on sale too!

There is another bank holiday on Monday August 25th, we shall be closed but pensions and allowances normally paid on the Monday, will be paid into accounts on the Friday beforehand.

Lastly, we are taking over from Tina, for the Village Hall bookings, please ring or call in, or leave a message on the answerphone! (851777). Please also call us if you need help or assistance, we have access to the village network! Have a great summer.

Love from Karen & Angela

Church Fete

The Church Fete will be held at 2pm, Saturday 6th September on the Recreation Ground. Fun Dog Show, Blewbury Band, vintage vehicles, etc. etc.

Contact Jessie West for information 851206.

Sponsored Ride and Stride

Saturday 13 September

In aid of Historic Churches Trust.

Two families took part last year, so perhaps we can encourage more this time. Ride or walk around as many churches as possible and be sponsored for each one you visit. Half the sponsorship goes to HCT and half to a church of your choice.

For sponsor forms contact
Clare Lightfoot 850486
Lthimbles@btinternet.com

Rectors Reflections

Small or Large?

Well, you say to yourself, small or large what? I'm thinking about the change in the world around us, sometimes small changes which are a bit of an inconvenience but not much more, and sometimes the really big changes, the sort of changes which change everything.

As human beings, I think we tend to be quite good at dealing with the small changes, but not so good at dealing with the big ones. We can be frightened of the really big changes, and express our fear in terms of denial or anger or cynicism. "Oh, nothing will really change, just you wait and see!" Or perhaps we simply assume that the change will inevitably be for the worse. Yes, it is possible that the change will be for the worse; but it is also possible that it will be for the better - and in any event, if we fear it will be for the worse, might there not be something we can do to try and bring about a more positive result?

It can be good to remind ourselves that change can be for the better. Take a tiny example, connected with the world of travel. Many of us have to travel to London, or travel around the city once we get there. There are two significant changes for the better which are on the horizon. The first is a direct train service from Oxford to London Marylebone, the second is the advent of a 24 hour Tube service. Trivial examples, I know, but they show that change can really be for the better.

The fact that change can be for the better shouldn't surprise us. God is continually at work in our world to transform it for the better. God is also at work to transform our own lives for the better. Some of this transformation happens in this life; and some of it happens at some time in the future - this is at the heart of what we're talking about when we talk about "heaven" and "Resurrection". It's also at the heart of Baptism, because Baptism is about offering our lives up to God so that He make take them and transform them from within, so that we become the people God would wish us to be - people of love and joy and peace.

But God usually works with the grain of His creation, not against it. He respects our freedom as human beings, and seeks our co-operation. He wants to work for our transformation - and not just our own transformation, but the transformation of our communities and our world.

But we have to let Him work in us and through us.

Co-operating with God to affect small changes for the better is, for most of us, probably not too demanding (at least on a good day!). But are we prepared to work with God when it comes to the really big changes He might wish to work? Have we allowed our plans for the future to become about as undemanding and unexciting as a bowl of cold porridge? Do we allow ourselves to dream dreams? Have we lost our sense of adventure?

May this summer be a time for dreaming those dreams!

Fr Jason

Wine Club

In May James from Majestic Abingdon delivered a witty and informative talk on Wines for Summer; with some lovely examples of wines for the BBQ season.

We started the evening off well with a Bouvet Saumur Rose Brut NV (£8.99) which was a perfect light aperitif wine made from the Cabernet Franc grape, a crisp, clean fruity little sparkler.

We then moved on to the Whites with the first White being a Torres Vina Esmeralda, an aromatic blend of Gewurztraminer and Muscat which had aromas of honeysuckle and ripe pears and was quite unusual. The final White was a well balanced complex Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Ema SB Reserva 2013) from the Leyda Valley which tasted of grapefruit and passion fruit with a herby background.

The Red wines started with a light Giles Gelin 2011 Fleurie, which was full of fresh crushed berries and would pair well with pork chops or meat pates. The Majestic BBQ Summer Sizzler for the evening was the Parcel Series Shiraz 2012 at £5.99 after discount which was rich and fruity and went down well with the members.

The final two Red wines of the evening were also very enjoyable and were my personal favourites. The Passimento 2011, Pasqua was a deep, dark wine with concentrated berry fruits and a touch of leather and spice with grippy tannins and a long finish. The Ben Marco Malbec 2012 was another complex wine with

ripe red fruits and a hint of vanilla and mocha; this wine would be perfect with a big juicy steak cooked on the BBQ.

And that was the end of another very enjoyable evening at the wine club!

Village Clubs & Organisations

Blewbury WI

Karen Brooks 850219
karencbrooks@gmail.com

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

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.

We support unpaid carers in your local community

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Opening hours: Tuesday – Thursday 10am – 4pm, email carers@svcarers.org.uk
South & Vale Carers Centre 5 Lydalls Road, Didcot OX11 7HX

www.svcarers.org.uk

Dates for your diary

Mon 7 Jul	3pm-7.30pm, Transport Scheme Exhibition, VH
Mon 7 Jul	A34 Northbound closures, four nights
Thu 10 Jul	Drop In, Village Hall
Fri 11 Jul	A34 Southbound closures, four nights
Sat 12 Jul	VPA Annual Show
Tue 15 Jul	2pm, DDU3A meeting
Wed 16 Jul– Sat 19 Jul	Cider With Rosie
Sat 19 Jul	3pm-4pm, Have Your Say meeting, VH
Thu 24 Jul	Drop In, Village Hall
Sun 27 Jul	Demolition of Didcot A towers
Tue 29 Jul	Tea Birds WI, VH

Upton Parish Plan

Upton Parish Council is in the process of producing a Parish Plan. This will set out how the village wants to develop over the next five to ten years and should reflect the views of as many residences as possible. We are looking for six people, to form a steering group, in order to develop, produce and analyse questionnaires. If you would like to be a member of this group please contact Rob Traynor (850032).

PCSO News

With this warm weather many more cyclists are taking to the roads. Please can drivers of motor vehicles show patience and courtesy when overtaking cyclists on our busy roads. Give them plenty of room when overtaking and do not attempt to overtake into oncoming traffic. Some roads are uneven and present many hazards to cyclists, so be aware when following a cyclist they may swerve out to avoid potholes or drains - always expect the unexpected.

Would anyone like to join the Neighbourhood action group for Wantage east? If you would like to attend our meetings at Milton Park and represent Upton then please contact me

A brown 'Diesel' wallet was recently lost on the Upton Recreation ground. If anyone has found it please hand it into your nearest Police station or email me.

I was called out the other evening for an area search for a person going door to door in Blewbury selling goods. Please bear in mind that anyone selling door to door, in particular goods like chamois leathers and kitchen cleaning items,

must have a Pedlars licence to do this. The pedlars licence will have been issued to them by Thames Valley Police and will be signed by Sara Thornton the Chief Constable.

If you should be visited by a salesperson of this ilk please ask to see their Pedlars licence before making any purchase. They might show you some ID and give you a company name but this is not enough. Some of these sales persons will mention that they are reformed offenders looking to get back to work. There is always a chance that they have more than a professional interest in visiting your property. So please be aware and if you are visited please call the Thames Valley non emergency number 101 as soon as possible.

My next HYS meeting will be held at the village hall meeting room on Saturday 19th July at 15.00 till 16.00 hrs. If you wish to discuss any issues that you feel the Police should be aware of I assure you they will be discussed in the strictest confidence. Stay safe.

PCSO Mike Clayden

Michael.clayden@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Thames Valley Police

Cider with Rosie

16th - 19th July

Orchard Dene Garden Theatre, Blewbury

Christopher Staines says that he is 'thrilled' to be directing this play with a cast of 40 local actors, aged from eight to 80, and live music... "The sights and colours, the tastes, the sounds and even the smells that jump out of the pages of the book make it a fantastic play. The words sing out to your senses. Laurie Lee channels so powerfully the experiences of childhood and growing up, and he introduces you to a whole village full of people, young and old, funny and sad. I hope that by the end of the evening, you've felt you've got to know a whole community. That's one of the reasons I chose to do this play. It seemed a good fit for a village like Blewbury.

This version we're doing does a wonderful job of stitching together the swirl of life in a village. One moment we're in the kitchen with the young Laurie Lee and his family - all 8 of them! Next we're at school, then we're back in the kitchen, then we're at the village pub, then in the church hall, then outside in the fields, or on a picnic, and that's not the half of it. What's more, as in the book, and as happens when you remember things, one memory triggers another, so it's not like, When I was 5 this happened, then when I was 6 that happened. It's more like: Oh, do you remember this? and what about that? And, oh I must tell you the story about that? And the mood of the piece can shift very fast too. I think it will be great fun, but also moving, even haunting in places".

Evening performances start at 8pm and with a 3pm matinee on Saturday. Welcome to bring a picnic to eat before the performance. Tickets available from:

Savages Mon 9-6pm & from 10-12 Sat mornings (cash or cheque only)

Online www.blewburyplayers.co.uk

Cornerstone (credit/debit card or cash - tel: 01235 515144)

Please ask about family friendly and group tickets. Rain-check vouchers may be given - see terms and conditions on website.

www.blewburyplayers.co.uk for more details

Adults £12 Child £6 (student 18 & under)

Transport Scheme Exhibition

Monday 7th July, 3pm to 7.30pm, Upton Village Hall

Oxfordshire County Council will be holding an exhibition of proposed transport schemes in the area. Please come along and view the plans and give us your views on the following:

Harwell Link Road with improvements to Hagbourne Hill

Proposals include:

- A new road running between the B4493 Didcot Road and the A417 Reading Road.
- Diversion of The Driftway bridleway.
- A new roundabout at the A417/Hagbourne Hill junction
- The A417/Main Street junction at West Hagbourne will be realigned and only a left manoeuvre from Main Street to A417 will be permitted.
- Closure of Chilton Road, between Upton and Hagbourne Hill, to general traffic but retaining a public right of way and farm access.

Improvements to Featherbed Lane and Steventon traffic lights

Proposals include:

- Introduction of traffic lights at A4130/Featherbed Lane junction.
- Road widening between Steventon junction and Featherbed Lane junction on the A4130.
- Widening of Featherbed Lane to a uniform width.
- A roundabout at A417/Featherbed Lane junction.

If you are unable to attend the exhibition, view the plans and have your say online by visiting our webpages to leave a comment between Monday 7th July and Monday 4th August 2014:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/harwell

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/featherbedlane

A34 Harwell Resurfacing

The Highways Agency will be carrying out resurfacing work along a section of the A34 north and southbound carriageways near Harwell to ensure the carriageway surface remains in a safe and serviceable condition.

For the safety of our workforce and customers, and to keep overall disruption to a minimum, work will be carried out on weekday nights (between 10pm to 6am) whilst fully closing the A34 between the A4185 Chilton Junction and the A4130 Milton Interchange:

- Monday 7 July 2014 for four nights - Northbound Carriageway
- Friday 11 July 2014 for four nights - Southbound Carriageway

During the closures, a clearly signed diversion route will be in place via the A4185 Newbury Road and A4130 Abingdon Road.

Village Produce Association

In June we had a very lively and interesting talk from John Negus on Shrubs of Distinction. Our members did very well in identifying most shrubs and we didn't let ourselves down. Our next talk takes place on **Wednesday 2nd July at The Vale Room - 7.30pm**. Our speaker will be Malcolm Brownsword giving a talk on the *Butterflies and Orchids of the Upper Thames Region*.

I've noticed a vast change in various allotment sites - bamboo canes are appearing in abundance awaiting the runner beans and it looks as though everyone is going to have a bumper crop of new potatoes. Let's hope the weather holds and doesn't ruin all our hard work. My strawberry blossom has converted into fruit and all being well I should have a good crop. Update on my greengage tree on the allotment - I have more than one greengage this year (so far).

Despite the wind, the fruit survived and I have quite a few on the tree - it's amazing how hard they are to see, let's hope the birds don't eat them before I do!

You will be pleased to hear that I've had plenty of offers of 'old' tools for the display at the forthcoming Annual Show in July. In fact, I have a couple that I think people will wonder what they were used for!! Don't forget to call or e-mail me if you have any tools you think would be good for the display.

Talking about the Summer Show - it's fast approaching (**Saturday 12th July**). Karen and myself gave a light-hearted presentation to the

Blewbury W.I. recently and I think we may have a few extra entries - particularly in the cookery section. Looks as though VPA members may have a bit more competition this year!! Don't forget if you want a Show Schedule, pop into Blewbury Post Office or e-mail me on VPA.in.bl.up@gmail.com

DID YOU KNOW?

With larger seeds like those of the broad bean or the pea, there is a simple, age-old method for determining their quality: fill a tray with water and put in the seeds. The best seeds will sink, the inferior ones will float.

How about this? The Persian word for enclosure was pairidaeza, which became paradeisos in Ancient Greek and eventually park in English.

Happy gardening

Eileen

Notes from the Allotment

The frost may not have got my potatoes, but it certainly clobbered the gooseberry blossom, and there is nary a gooseberry to be seen. Such a pity, because apart from making delicious desserts, they can be turned into wonderful preserves. On the plus side, the rhubarb seems to be having a bit of a recovery, after coming to a grinding halt in May. I thought as it had such an early start it had exhausted itself, but maybe it was due to the water level? Who knows! Anyway, this will make up somewhat for the lack of gooseberries.

I've had three different meals of the broad beans already - the pinched out tips, the slim young beans (cooked whole, pods and all) and the first picking of small tender beans - tasty!

And finally it looks as though will get a decent crop of onions, after two years of small and nondescript samples. As they were planted in October, I have to assume that all that rain has done the trick. The garlic is also nearly ready for pulling; I haven't tested one yet but the tops are turning brown, which is a good sign.

All that rain, of course, has also done wonders for the grass round the edges and on the paths, which keeps on growing at an amazing pace; it's hard work keeping up with it with just a pair of shears.

My experiment with the potatoes (just digging holes and sticking them in) seems to be successful so far, but I was wondering how to earth them up knowing that the soil on either

side of them would be rock hard; fortunately I had a pile of well composted weeds which is now good solid earth and have managed to pile spadefuls of it around each plant, which should stop any potatoes from going green anyway.

The brassica section is coming on slowly; the Brussels sprouts are looking well established, but the kale and cabbages are really taking their time. Beetroot also is taking a lot longer than it should to start developing those succulent roots.

On the plus side, I have tayberries ripening fast and the raspberry crop looks very healthy indeed - fingers crossed!

There are palisades going up all around the allotments to try and keep out the animal predators, particularly from the sweetcorn - last year several crops were devastated, so be warned, they are particularly favoured by deer!

Angela Hoy
angela.hoy@sky.com

Local Crime

On Sunday (22/6) a property in Aston Upthorpe was burgled. Between 9am and 8pm, offender(s) broke into a house and outbuildings at premises off the A417 between Blewbury and Aston Upthorpe. Property stolen included jewellery and a TV.

On Monday (23/6), a garage in Blewbury was burgled. Between 11.10am and 1.10pm, offender(s) gained entry to the garage in Dibleys and stole fishing equipment.

If you have seen any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area or have any information relating to this message please call the police on 101.

Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or online@crimestoppers-uk.org. No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

BLEWBURY WI NEWS

Our May meeting involved the 2014 NFWI Resolution: "The NFWI notes that three people die every day whilst waiting for an organ transplant. We call on every member of the WI to make their wishes regarding organ donation known, and to encourage their family and friends, and members of their local communities to do likewise."

Following an informative presentation and enlightening discussion, votes were: For - 26. Against - 0. Abstention - 4.

A lively presentation was then given on how to exhibit at the forthcoming VPA Show. I think the VPA members will now have more competition this year!

Our July Meeting is on Wednesday 23rd July and our speaker is Dr Ann Borrowdale who is giving a talk called 'The Invigilator Who Set Fire To His Trousers' - should be an amusing evening. Our August Meeting is the annual Garden Party which, this year, will be on the 20th at 5pm at Linnet's, South Street.

Our major dates for July and August are listed below.

1st July - Walk organised by Lyn Blackie. Meet at Village Hall at 9.00am 6.5 miles round Coleshill near Faringdon. Lunch at Radnor Arms, Coleshill. Husbands and non W.I. members all welcome.

8th July - W.I. Coffee Morning at Style Acres, Savages. Meet at 10.30am Maggie is the host.

9th July - Art Dabble at Joyce's - 2pm to 4pm. Call in for a cuppa, even if you don't paint.

JULY SCRABBLE - 7.30pm Monday 30th July at Babeth's.

4th August - Day trip to the Albert Hall, London. Susan Tillbrook has organised a tour of the Hall. Travel by train and underground/bus.

6th August - W.I. Coffee Morning at Style Acres, Savages - Meet at 10:30am Joan is the host.

13th August - Art Dabble at Joyce's - 2pm to 4pm. Call in for a cuppa, even if you don't paint.

20th August - Garden Party at Linnet's, South Street - 5pm.

AUGUST SCRABBLE - 7.30pm Wednesday 6th August at Rosemary's.

For more details of any of our events or to join the Mah Jong or Scrabble Groups, or if you wish to join the W.I., please ring Karen on 850219.

Happy WI-ing
Eileen

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 July meeting will be held at 2pm on Tuesday 15 July, the topic being *The History of Punch and Judy* with Alix Booth.

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