

Upton News



Vol 4 No.32 September 2014

Tour of Britain Cycle Race

The Tour of Britain will pass through Upton on Friday 12 September en route from Bath to Hemel Hempstead. The tour is expected to pass Upton sometime between 1pm-1.45pm (est 1.26pm!). Rolling road closures will be in place throughout the region between 11am and 3pm. Photos for the next *Upton News*, please!

Upton Parish Plan

What are your thoughts, future concerns, wishes and hopes for the village? Please feel free to drop a line to the steering group. This will assist them in formulating questions for the new Parish Plan.

Contact Rob Traynor at ronyart5@hotmail.com.

Stream Road Meeting

A reminder to all properties bordering the stream, that Upton PC invite you to attend our meeting on the 16th September, 8pm at the Village Hall. Following the flooding earlier this year the PC would like to discuss what can be done to prevent the situation occurring again.

Thermal Imaging Camera

The VoWH has purchased a thermal imaging camera to loan to community groups in the district over the autumn and winter months.

Groups can use the camera to take thermal images of homes and buildings in their communities. The images will show residents and owners where their homes and buildings are losing heat.

Upton has been on the waiting list for a while but UVHAT and the Parish Council have now booked the camera during December.

If you would like your property to be included in the survey, please complete the form at www.uptonvillage.co.uk/thermal-imaging

We will do our best to include you, but please bear in mind that the survey has to be done after dark and is subject to weather conditions and the patience, goodwill and warmth of the volunteers operating the camera!



A417 Plans

OCC is considering improvements to the A417. Possible changes within Upton include a 'transition zone' at each end of the village, pedestrian crossing(s), a one-way system on Prospect Road/Station Road, no right turn towards the Horse and Harrow, and footpaths / cycleways on one or both sides of the main road through the village.

Notes from a recent meeting and accompanying maps can be found on the web site under Village News.

Village Hall News

I'm delighted to say that we have been successful in our application to WREN for partial funding of the kitchen refurbishment project. As a result, we now have most of the finances needed and assuming that we receive the extra funding for which we have applied we will be pretty much in a position to proceed with the development.

At this stage, I'd like to thank the users of the hall who have supported us in the WREN application process and the members of the kitchen sub-committee for all their hard work in securing this and other grants.

However, the kitchen is not the only project on which we are working, and we are now applying for grants which would contribute towards other improvements to our amenity. We are grateful to Uptonogood for the promise of a charitable donation in support of equipment for the hall – donations such as this from local organisations and individuals benefit much more than their face value, as they demonstrate to grant providers the level of support from the community.

Projects we would like to undertake next are the refurbishment of the

gents' toilets and the entrance hall, both of which currently detract from the appeal (both visual and hygienic!) of the hall. We are also applying for a grant towards projection equipment that would facilitate the film shows for which I know many residents have shown support, as well the ability to put on presentations and side shows. Film nights have become regular and popular events in neighbouring villages.

On the committee front, we are very pleased to welcome John Haworth as our new treasurer. John brings his professional accounting skills to the management of the hall.

Members of the committee are always very grateful for offers of assistance. In particular, the hall is becoming increasingly popular as a party venue (and no doubt will continue to do so once we have the new kitchen), so if you would be able to help with the administrative side of these bookings please contact Yvonne Collins - bookings@uptonvillagehall.co.uk or on 850989.

Brian Rippon

Upton Coven

Upton Ladies Coven (Ladies Social Group) meet on the first Thursday of the month in the George & Dragon Pub from 7pm for those wishing to eat, or any time to suit to join us for a drink and a chat.

If you would like to join us please do come along any time or contact Lesley Shaw (07739 047688) for further information.

Dates for your Diary:

- Thursday 4 September 2014
- Thursday 2 October 2014
- Thursday 6 November 2014
- Thursday 4 December - Christmas Meal
- No Meeting in January 2015 - New Years Day!!
- Thursday 5 February 2015
- Thursday 5 March 2015
- Thursday 2 April 2015
- Thursday 7 May 2015
- Thursday 4 June 2015
- Thursday 2 July 2015
- Thursday 6 August 2015
- Thursday 3 September 2015
- Thursday 1 October 2015
- Thursday 5 November 2015 TBC
- Thursday 3 December 2015 - Christmas Meal

Village Clubs & Organisations

Blewbury WI

Karen Brooks 850219
karencbrooks@gmail.com

Carl Gas Syndicate

Lesley Shaw 07739 047688

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.

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

Deadline for the October edition is Friday 26th September.

Rector's Reflections

A Friendly Act

Friends - how important they are to us all. People to pass the time of day with; people to share good things with; people to support and encourage us through difficult times. Our lives would be so much the poorer without our friends (although on occasion they might be a quite a bit simpler too!)

It's not just human beings who benefit from having friends. Buildings also can benefit from having friends. Imagine you're an old building yourself. You're getting on a bit, perhaps 800 or 900 hundred years old. You've been there for the local community for all those years, always available and never complaining. You've provided a home for significant events in people's lives. You haven't asked for much - just a bit of regular maintenance, and perhaps some more substantial repair every hundred years or so.

Church buildings need their friends. This year, two of the churches in our Benefice are setting up schemes designed to make befriending a church building easy and straightforward: The Friends of St Mary's Upton and the Friends of St Andrew's Hagbourne. By giving money to these organisations, you can be 100 per cent certain that your money is going to one thing, and one thing only: taking good care of the building itself. You are befriending the building - it's as simple and as worthwhile as that.

If you are not a Christian, or not religious at all, this is a definite advantage. You don't have to worry about your money being spent on the "religious stuff". It's helping to ensure that the building remains in reasonable repair, for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

Of course, if you happen to be a Christian, you will feel that the "religious stuff" is actually pretty important. That is why any donation you may choose to make to the Friends will - naturally! - be in addition to your donation to the ongoing life and work of the church community. Yes, buildings are important, but of what use is a building which does not communicate the love of God in Jesus Christ? Church communities matter too!

Fr Jason

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust – Sponsored Ride or Stride

Saturday 13th September 2014

Cycle or walk to visit as many churches as you can between 10am and 6pm and get sponsored per church. It is fun to take part as a family, with friends and even on your own as most of the churches you visit will have someone waiting to welcome you. This event raises money to help fund churches in Oxfordshire. Money raised will be divided between the trust and your local Church.

Clare Lightfoot has sponsorship forms.

Blewbury WI

We've been pretty busy during July and August with the monthly talk by Dr Anne Borrowdale on the subject of being an exam invigilator proving quite amusing. Our trip to London involved a guided tour around the Royal Albert Hall, a visit inside the Wellington Arch and culminated in a visit to Harrods for tea and cakes. A fantastic day!!

We are all looking forward to our August Meeting which is the annual Garden Party at Linnet's, South Street, commencing at 5.00pm. Our September Meeting is on Wednesday 24th September and the speaker is Roger Shaw who is giving a talk called "Sailing in New England". This talk has a nautical tack, together with the history of whaling.

Our major dates for the coming month are:

3rd September - Lynn's Walk. Local walk - meet at Village Hall at

10.00am. Bring stout shoes and pennies for coffee.

7th September - Visit to the Rare Plant Fair at Adwell Estate. Meet at Village Hall at 1.1pm - transport will be available. Husbands and non W.I. members all welcome.

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

10th September - Art Dabble at Joyce's at Abners - 2pm to 4pm. Even if you don't paint - pop in for a cup of tea and chat.

SEPTEMBER SCRABBLE - Monday 8th at 7.30pm at Graeme's.

For more details of our events or if you would like to join the Mah Jong or Scrabble Groups, or you wish to become a member of the W.I., please see Karen in Blewbury Post Office or ring her on 850219.

Happy WI-ing, Eileen

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT - DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: MONDAY 6th OCTOBER

To support this year's fund raising for the refurbishment of the Blewbury Village Hall, the W.I. is hosting

"AN EVENING WITH A BBC CELEBRITY"

at Blewbury Village Hall

The evening will begin with a glass of wine and nibbles

The guest speaker is a BBC Celebrity (author, broadcaster and explorer)

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR FULL DETAILS. TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN DUE COURSE

PCSO News

The hare coursing season is well and truly upon us and I ask villagers to remain vigilant when out about near the fields. Hare coursing is not only an illegal 'sport' but the offenders are also causing damage to land owners crops and fencing. The perpetrators are usually linked to other types of rural crime and the Police will deal with them robustly. It's most unfortunate that a Blewbury villager had their dogs stolen on the 26th of August and a description of the offender's vehicle was given as a pale gold coloured range rover. Police began an area search for the offender's vehicle and I'm pleased to report that most of the dogs were later found although one had sadly died. Please keep an eye on any dogs you have when left in your yard or garden. If you have been approached by anyone asking whether your dogs are for sale or anyone has been asking after your dogs, then please call the Police. As with hare coursing, please note descriptions of persons/ vehicles and registrations if you can. Please call the police using 101 or if it's an emergency dial 999.

On Sunday the 24th of August, I did a speed check on the A417 in the lay-by by the cider shed. Out of 60 vehicles checked with the Speed Indicator device, 3 of the 60 were driving well above the 30mph speed limit. The drivers of these vehicles will be receiving a letter of advice from yours truly and their details placed on the 'Speed watch' database.

My next police 'Have your Say' meeting will be held on the 13th September at Upton Village hall meeting room at 3pm till 4pm.

Stay Safe

PCSO Mike Clayden C9732
Thames Valley Police

Dates for your diary

Fri 12 Sep	Tour of Britain cycle race, 1pm-1.45pm
Sat 13 Sep	3pm-4pm, Have Your Say meeting, VH
Tue 16 Sep	UPC Meeting, Stream Road Flooding
Wed 17 Sep	Wine Club
Thu 18 Sep	Drop In, Village Hall
Thu 25 Sep	8.30pm, Upton Jam Session, G&D
Tue 30 Sep	Tea Birds WI
Wed 1 Oct	VPA, Vale Room
Thu 2 Oct	Drop In, Village Hall
Thu 2 Oct	Coven, 7pm, G&D

Blewbury Choir

The Blewbury Choir started three years ago and has grown from strength to strength. We sing a wide variety of mostly modern music to the best standard we can achieve under the guidance of our conductor Mark Stanley. Mark is a teacher of singing, piano and organ. He is also a Tenor soloist. There are no auditions and no requirement to read music; the only requirement is simply to have a love of singing. Following our successful concert in June we are looking at new songs for our ever growing repertoire. New songs may include: World's Greatest by R Kelly, Firework - Katy Perry, Just a Small Voice, Happy - Pharrell Williams, Fields of Gold, Something inside so Strong, Lovely Day - Bill Withers, Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow.

Here are the dates for the Autumn Term. All dates in the Clubhouse, Blewbury Recreation Ground - unless otherwise specified.

Thursday 11th September 8 - 10

Thursday 25th September 8 - 10

Thursday 9th October 8 - 10

Thursday 23rd October 8 - 10

Thursday 6th November 8 - 10

Thursday 20th November 8 - 10

Thursday 4th December 8 - 10

Thursday 18th December 8 - 10 tbc

If you would like to join us and/or would like further information, please contact Sheila Loy - sloy24@gmail.com or 01235 850537.

Post Office News

Over the summer, all mail to Libya has been suspended, we are also able to take donations to the DEC Gaza appeal, and we will be able to take cheque deposits for customers of RBS & Nat West very soon.

We have now taken over the Blewbury Village Hall bookings, please ring or call in, or leave a message on the answerphone! (851777), the keys will be left in the "keysafe box" outside the Post Office, and hall users will be given the code.

We have been told that once again, customers are getting calls allegedly from banks, asking them about PPI claims. Please do not give out your bank details to anyone on the phone or by email unless you are sure they are real. Also Microsoft do not ring people about viruses on your computer!

Love from Karen & Angela

Upton Calor Gas Syndicate

Calor Gas users with Bulk Tanks (Green Above Ground or Below Ground Tanks) can enjoy a substantial discount on price paid per litre and other benefits (sorry, orange cylinder users are not covered by this scheme).

Contact Lesley Shaw on 07739 047688 for more details and how to join the scheme.

Uptonogood

Now the dust has settled on this year's event we wanted to let you know how much the event has raised this year and how the funds have been used.

In summary we raised £8,766, which is less than last year due to the cost of the stage and bands, but is still a significant amount for local good causes. It brings the total amount raised by the event since it started 5 years ago to £36,500.

This year the money raised has been used as follows:

	£	Notes
Money raised	8,766	
Charitable Donations:		
Upton Playground / Recreation Ground	850	1
Blewbury School	1,472	2
Upton Village Hall (UVHAT)	1,010	3
Didcot Air Cadets	350	
Marshals Causes - Air Ambulance	120	
Marshals Causes - UVHAT	140	
Upton Table Tennis Club	300	
Benson Vintage Bike Club	50	
Marshals' Causes:		
Friends of St Marys	200	
MS Society	40	
Yattendon CE Primary School	80	
Style Acre	40	
Water Aid	40	
Macmillan Nurses	60	
Cancer Research	40	
Diabetes UK	40	
Parkinson's UK	40	
Christian Aid	40	
Samaritans Newbury	20	
Prostate Cancer	20	
Breast Cancer	20	
Hagbourne Scouts	20	
Brain Tumour Charity	20	
British Heart Foundation	20	
Hope For Justice	20	
	5,052	
Unallocated	3,713	

1. Pump track repairs (£350) and the pump track annual maintenance contract (£500)
2. Further funds for the new year 6 classroom
3. For the new kitchen and other hall facilities

The unallocated funds may partly be allocated to UVHAT once we know if the grants for the new kitchen are successful. Also some money will be carried over to fund next year's event. Full details of the money raised can be viewed on the Uptonogood website:

www.uptonogood.org.uk/history/fund-raising

Thank you again to everyone who helped on marshalling, car parking, event registration, cakes etc.

Mike & Bob (info@uptonogood.org.uk)