

# Upton News



Vol 4 No.37 April 2015

Another month with little to publish, then a flurry of contributions which means that the April edition has had to expand to 16 pages.

The annual litter pick yielded the usual mound of rubbish, the sides of the main roads being the worst locations with footpaths appearing to be reasonably tidy. Thanks to all the volunteers, but also to the unnamed individual who cleans up our end of the railway embankment every Thursday – if you see him depositing the resulting bag of waste in the village, please don't complain... he's performing a valuable service.

*Brian Rippon*

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## ***Parish Council News***

Works in Stream Road to prevent a repeat of last year's flooding at several properties have now been completed. The Parish Council would like to thank OCC for their financial support. We would also like to remind all residents with responsibility for the various stretches of the stream to keep them clear of debris and encroaching vegetation.

With Chilton Road to remain open, the Parish Council has been working with OCC to implement alternative speed reduction measures. A feasibility study is currently underway for a chicane above the village and a narrowing of the entrance from the A417. We should know the outcome of this by the next Upton News.

Current council members Lesley Shaw and Duncan Reid have announced their intention to step down at May's election, meaning that we will have two vacancies. We thank Lesley and Duncan for their contributions and hope to find willing replacements.

Work continues on a questionnaire to which the responses will form the basis of the next Parish Plan. You will receive this questionnaire by post in the coming weeks. Please take the time to complete it as fully as possible as it will influence the Parish Council's decisions over the years to come.

*Bob Lott*

## **Annual Parish Meeting**

Contrary to information posted elsewhere, the Annual Parish Meeting will take place on **Monday 20th April**, 7.15 for 7.30pm, in the Village Hall. All welcome.

## ***Parish Council Elections***

Nominations for the parish council elections opened on 25th March 2015.

In May 2015 the current four-year term of the Parish Council will be up and some of your councillors will be standing down.

The village needs new councillors to take their places and this is a great opportunity to become involved in village life. The Parish Council is the first level of local government and the closest to the community it serves.

Members of the Parish Council meet bi-monthly to discuss, report, monitor and, most importantly, make decisions on matters concerning the village of Upton. Minutes are produced afterwards and published on the Upton website once approved at the next Parish Council Meeting. These meetings are usually held at 8.00pm in the Upton Village Hall on the third Tuesday of alternate months, as well as additional Planning meetings when necessary. Dates of meetings are published on the Upton website. Among councillors' responsibilities are:

Overseeing the maintenance and running of village assets, including the Village Hall and Recreation Ground

- Overseeing general upkeep of village surroundings and footpaths
- Safety checks and upkeep of play areas
- Expressing views and recommendations on local Planning Applications
- Maintenance of the new cemetery

The Parish Council has the power to improve the quality of community life by financially supporting services and projects which they believe are in the interests of the parish or its inhabitants. Upton Parish Council is also the focal point for local consultation on matters such as planning applications, District Council strategic planning and roads. On all these issues, parish councillors represent the parish's views to district, county and other authorities.

Candidates must be:

- aged 18 or over, on the electoral role, and a citizen of the UK, Commonwealth, EU or Ireland
- Resident or within 3 miles of the parish, own land or work in the parish
- Able to attend regular evening meetings
- Interested in local issues, preferably not just a single issue
- Have an understanding and willingness to represent the views of the whole community
- Have an interest in being a professional and effective councillor; training will be given

If you want to find out more about the Parish Council or are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please contact Angela Hoy, Parish Clerk, by email: [parish.council@uptonvillage.co.uk](mailto:parish.council@uptonvillage.co.uk), or tel. 01235 851726.

## ***The High Sherriff's Award***

Congratulations to Mr Mike Tibbetts and Dr Robert Lott who attended a special ceremony at the Blue Boar Lecture Theatre, Christchurch, Oxford on 2nd March to receive The High Sherriff's Award 2015 for outstanding contributions to the communities in which they live and work. This was in recognition of all their hard work and achievements with Uptonogood?. The award was presented by Tony Stratton DL High Sherriff of Oxfordshire and watched on by their respective wives Kate and Lindsay, along with Stuart Fraser as representative for Upton Parish Council.

The ceremony was followed by a reception hosted by the Dean of Christchurch in his magnificent historical quarters.

Uptonogood? has been run for the last 5 years, with over 2500 cyclists taking part and has raised over £36,000 for the village and local charities. None of this would have been possible without the organisation skills of Mike and Bob and the help and support of their army of willing volunteers.



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## **New Partnership set up to run The Ridgeway National Trail**

From 1st April a new organisation, The Ridgeway Partnership, will be responsible for the future management, development and promotion of The Ridgeway National Trail. This new body will involve a wide range of organisations representing users and other stakeholders alongside Natural England and the local authorities that manage The Ridgeway at present.

Ian Ritchie, Chair of The Friends of the Ridgeway (FoR), said "The Partnership represents a great opportunity to bring the delights of the UK's oldest path to a much greater number of people, pursuing a wide range of activities. It is a wonderful asset so close to large centres of population. We aim to

encourage more people to get out to walk, cycle, and ride or drive horses along it, and we want to introduce it to young people and make it accessible for the less mobile and those with disabilities."

"We shall enhance the visitors' experience by improving the approach paths to The Ridgeway," said Dave Cavanagh of the Ramblers, a Partnership member, "with the help of volunteers from Ramblers and the Chiltern Society. This will encourage some people to park in villages or use public transport, enjoy many circular routes that take in sections of The Ridgeway, accessing it at more points, and to enjoy local pubs and tea shops on their return."

# Uptonogood? 2015

**Saturday 20th June 2015**

This year's preparations are well underway with all the important elements booked and registrations flowing in. Thanks are due to Brian Rippon for the excellent new website which is working flawlessly.

With the funds from last year we were able to support over twenty charities, but the principle beneficiaries were "village causes", as this is the primary purpose of the event.

We covered the cost of repairs and a maintenance contract for the ever popular pump track, covered half the cost of the new (much better) John Deere Mower after the old one died unexpectedly, and made further significant contributions to UVHAT and Blewbury School. Since the start of the event in 2010, we raised just shy of £37K, with about £22K of this being spent right here in Upton, and another £8K at Blewbury School.

As always this is only possible with the generous contributions of time given by many village residents and the local mountain bike fraternity. A big thank you to you all.

To keep things running smoothly we require about 60 volunteers on the day. This may involve checking the routes beforehand, manning the car parks, working the registration desk, managing the starts, marshalling out on the course, sweeping the routes, or serving up tea, cake, burgers, and beer.

If you would like to be part of year's event, please contact either Mike Tibbetts or myself on 851474 or 851222 respectively or better still email us at [info@uptonogood.org.uk](mailto:info@uptonogood.org.uk) including your current mobile phone number. As a volunteer you will be allocated £20 to direct to any charity or cause of your choice.

*Bob Lott*

## Uptonogood? License Application

Uptonogood? are applying for a premises license for the event to cover provision of a bar and live and recorded music. The application process is underway and we are currently in a period of consultation where any interested parties are invited to raise objections. The process is not dissimilar to a planning application and you may have seen the blue notice at the recreation ground and/or the advertisement in the local paper. The full text of the notice is opposite.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or directly contact the VOWH if you have any comments or objections.

Mike Tibbetts 01235 851474 or [info@uptonogood.org.uk](mailto:info@uptonogood.org.uk)

I: Uptonogood? (Mike Tibbetts / Robert Lott)

Give notice that an application has been made to Vale of White Horse District Council, for a new Premises License, in respect of Uptonogood?

Premises: Upton Recreation Ground, Station Road, Upton, Didcot, Oxfordshire

The details of the new application are as follows:

The Uptonogood? event takes place on one day each year (usually on the 3rd Saturday in June) and will take place this year on Saturday 20th June. Due to the number of attendees we require a premises license for supply of alcohol at the event and for the provision of regulated entertainment: live and recorded music.

This notice is part of the process for applying for the premises license and must be displayed at the “premises” for a period of 28 days during the license application so that any comments or objections can be made.

Any objection to this application must be made in writing to:

The Licensing Officer, Vale of White Horse District Council, Licensing Team, Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3JE  
tel: 01235 520534 email: [licensing.unit@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:licensing.unit@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) by : Saturday 11th April

A record of the application may be inspected between 9.00am and 4.00pm Monday to Friday at the Council Offices, or may be found on the Council website at [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

Date of Notice: Saturday 14th March

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### ***Tea Birds WI***

Tea Birds WI meet up every month at Upton Village Hall. As they say on their web site ([www.tea-birdswi.co.uk](http://www.tea-birdswi.co.uk)) they're a fun, sociable and enthusiastic bunch (and possibly not the traditional image of the Womens Institute!).

Despite the fact that they use our hall for their meetings, they have no members from the village, and they would very much like to encourage our lady residents to give them a try.

Their next meeting is on 28th April - Hand sewing with Caroline from Shelbee Sewing. Come along to the village hall and learn some hand sewing techniques.

## Theatre Group

Upton Theatre Group had a very enjoyable evening at the New Theatre Oxford on Tuesday 24 February watching the National Theatre Touring Production of 'One Man Two Guv'nors'.

The Show originally featured James Corden in the London Production and is now very ably led by Gavin Spokes in the Lead Role



as Francis Henshall who, when fired from his skiffle band, becomes minder to Roscoe Crabbe. However, Roscoe is really Rachel, posing as her own dead brother, who has been killed by her boyfriend Stanley Stubbers.

The show is a brilliantly funny classic British farce with all the usual constituents of slapstick humour, immaculate timing of 'inevitable events', with some excellent supporting roles from Shaun Williamson and Emma Barton from East Enders and in our show some very well crafted ad-libbing from Gavin Spokes about food from the audience!!

The Production is wonderfully supported by the live skiffle band 'The Craze' who are all dressed in early 1960s maroon suits with thin black ties, quiffs and 'Buddy Holly' glasses, and who entertained the Audience pre-show and at interval as well as making a key contribution to the performance overall where all the cast at one stage or another joined in.

The audience were at times besides themselves with laughter even though 'farce' by its very nature is predictable. The pantomime effect of the ad-libbing encouraged one of our own gathering even to call out the immortal line, 'Oh yes it is!'

The reviews say the show is so good and consistent that it's funny every night and based on our experience I would certainly agree - do go and see it if you can!

*Lesley Shaw*

# Upton Litter Pick

## *Great Success!*

Saturday 21st March saw 30 Upton residents sally forth and take part in this essential annual task. Armed with litter-pickers, plastic bags and disposable gloves the group began with a quick coffee and biscuits in the village hall before setting off to clear all roads, footpaths, bridleways and open areas of litter. A couple of hours later some 25 sacks of rubbish (and one old mattress) were piled up outside the village hall awaiting collection by the council. The amount seems to be less than in previous years so let's hope this is a continuing trend. Many thanks and well done to all who took part.

*Rob Traynor*



**Young helpers clearing the recreation area of litter**

## Village Clubs & Organisations

### **Blewbury WI**

Karen Brooks 850219  
[karencbrooks@gmail.com](mailto:karencbrooks@gmail.com)

### **Calor 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](mailto:tea-birdswi@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Theatre Club**

Malcolm Wright 850705

### **Upton Oil Syndicate**

Colin Batchelor 01491 672444

### **Upton Village Hall**

[www.uptonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.uptonvillagehall.co.uk) 887129

### **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](mailto:news@uptonvillage.co.uk).

Deadline for the May edition is **Saturday 2nd May**.

## ***Village Produce Association***

I am writing this newsletter at the end of February as I'm now away on holiday until the beginning of April - so I hope you will have enjoyed the Didcot & District Woodturners' Club demonstration which should have taken place in March. I'm really sorry I missed watching them produce amazing items from a chunk of wood.

Don't forget - our meeting on the 1st April is being held in The Barn at Blewbury Manor at 7.30pm. We have a very special talk by Stefan Edwin White, called: *Skulduggery in the Shrubbery*: The inspiring story of John Tradescant and his family.

You should all have a copy of our 2015 Programme in your March Blewbury Bulletin - if not, copies are available at the Post Office.

Don't forget the gardening tools we have available for hire (for a donation).

On the 6th May our meeting is an evening (6pm) garden visit to Lime Close, Close Garden, 35 Henleys Lane, Drayton, OX14 4HU. The garden is famous for its displays of Iris. Tickets are £6.50 and available from Blewbury Post Office or through Maggie Maytham in Upton on 01235 850126. Don't forget to say whether you need transport.

Our meeting for June is a visit to The Harris Garden, Reading University on Saturday 13th June - in the morning and a pub lunch on the way home. More details will be published in the next Upton News, but in the meantime please pop the date in your diary.

The Schedule for our Annual Show (which is on the 11th July) has been finalised and is currently at the printers. We are hoping for a bumper number of exhibitors this year and included at the Show will be a 'Beetroot Bonanza'. We plan to have beetroot displays, tastings and recipes you have never seen before!! More news next month.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Bees are particularly attracted to blue, white, yellow and purple colours for their ultraviolet properties. It is no use planting red flowers in your garden to attract bees because bees cannot see red.

Happy Gardening

*Eileen*



## Notes from the Allotment

More lovely warm days, one could almost think it was Spring! Thank you to those kind people who have planted daffodils and other flowering bulbs at the allotments, it does brighten the place up.

Despite the state of the soil, still heavy after dry warm and breezy days, I took the plunge and planted the shallots, netting them against the birds, who love to tug them out of the ground. The over-wintered broad beans have been a complete disaster, I think only two plants are showing out of two whole rows. However, all the beans I have put in pots in the greenhouse are showing their heads and will go out in the soil when they have formed root systems.

I've used up all my mature leeks now, but still have quite a few much smaller ones in a raised bed which I never got round to planting out. Rather than throwing them in the compost bin (or eating them) I am going to try spacing them out in a bigger bed and see if they grow on - or of course they may just bolt! Worth a try!

The broccoli has also been a disappointment, still not producing those succulent purple sprouts, they are now overdue...

I'm afraid this year, what with suffering two months of various coughs and colds, I have succumbed to the seductive advertisements in my Gardeners' World Magazine and ordered some plant plugs instead of seeds for tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers; it will cut the workload down a bit and I won't have dozens of seedlings to pot on, always the most trying bit! I also spotted something I didn't know about horseradish, that the young leaves make a spicy addition to salads; I look forward to trying it.

It will soon be time to get the runner beans trench ready, digging in home made compost or other nutritious matter so they can get their roots down and grow on quickly. In the meantime, if it stays fine and dry, we will all be able to dig over our allotments and be ready for the main planting season ahead. Happy gardening!

Angela Hoy

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

# Upton Wine Appreciation Club

February 2015: The Oxford Wine Company - "Wines of Argentina"

Lee Isaacs from The Oxford Wine Company came and gave us a talk on wines of Argentina. As his wife is Argentinian he has an intimate and in-depth knowledge of the Country and their wines and has visited Argentina many times for work and with family. We had three whites and five reds which are described below:

**Tapiz Torrontes - Valle de Uco 13.5% (£11.99)** - The Tapiz Wines come from Fincas Patagonicas one of the most technologically advanced wineries in Argentina. Fincas Patagonicas vineyards are located in the Valle de Uco and Agrelo regions, in the province of Mendoza. Mt. Plata (6100 metres) and Tupungato volcano (6800 metres) overlook the state-of-the-art winery. Delicate and intense aromas of tropical flowers and fruits, fresh and well balanced. I have tried many Torrontes wines and this is one of the best I have tasted in this price bracket.

**La Linda Viognier - Mendoza 13.5% (£9.99)** - Full of peach and apricot fruit with a refreshingly balanced acidity a long aftertaste with piercing acidity. The Finca la Linda wines are where Luigi Bosca's fruit-driven wines that show impressive quality at this price. The Viognier grapes are grown in vineyards 800 metres above sea level on well-drained calcareous alluvial sandy loam over gravel and boulders. A great match for white meats, soft

cheeses and creamy fish dishes. I personally find viogniers a little too fruity but this wine seemed to balance fruit and acidity just right for my palate.

**Pulenta Chardonnay - Mendoza 13.5% (£11.99)** - Greenish-yellow colour. Citrus and tropical fruit aromas with vanilla. Pulenta Estate is owned and run by brothers, Hugo and Eduardo Pulenta. The estate is situated in Alto Agrelo in Mendoza, Argentina's main wine producing region. The area enjoys excellent climate conditions and a fantastic panoramic aspect from up to 980 metres above sea level. Irrigation comes from melted water from the Andes Mountains, and the whole process is organic. Quite a nice chardonnay but I think there are better examples from other wine areas and countries.

*Familia Zuccardi, Serie A Bonarda, Mendoza (£11.99)* - The biggest influence in Argentine wine making is not Spain, but Italy. The Italians' influence on Argentinian culture is self-evident in their love of food and life. One of the Italian varieties most widely used is this juicy, succulent variety Bonarda. Packed with savoury cherry and chocolate character and a supple, smooth finish. Hand picked with 30% of the wine aged in new French oak for 10 months, this has bright fruits, refreshing acidity and a subtle creaminess on the palate due to

some malolactic fermentation. A nice red wine to start with and some good tannin.

**Trapiche Estacion 1883 Cabernet Franc - Mendoza 14.0% (£14.99)** A spicy nose with red and green pepper and plenty of black fruit. Made with minimal intervention from 100% Cabernet Franc from the Las Palmas vineyard in Cruz de Piedra, Maipú, Mendoza. This Cabernet Franc shows aromas of dark fruits such as blueberries and blackcurrants. Fruity and smooth with soft tannins and long lingering finish. Excellent to pair with game, veal and grilled pork. One of my favourite grape varieties and this is a good example with fruit vanilla oak and a deep nose.

**Humberto Canale Estate Malbec - Rio Negro Patagonia 14% (£12.99)** - This wine shows off a very refined style, both in the nose and in the mouth. Its careful oak cask ageing gives the wine an ultimate dimension. A full bodied wine with complex structure and surprising notes of red berries, eucalyptus, spice and black pepper. After a year in the bottle, it becomes more intense and concentrated. A good example of an Argentinian Malbec. Big bold and juicy!

**Bodega Raffy Terroir Malbec - Tupungato, Uco Valley 14% (£13.50)** - Attractive perfume of red berries, violet, liquorice and mild tobacco. Produced in small quantities this is made using vines over 50 years of age. With low yielding vines and manual harvesting this wine has great concentration and the fruit is allowed to shine. A 5

day cold maceration is carried out pre-fermentation, allowing for the development of primary aromas. A long 4 week maceration post fermentation gives soft and silky tannins present on the palate. Another good example of Malbec slightly more refined and more balanced tannins than the previous wine.

**Pulenta Gran Corte (Tannat, Petit Verdot, Merlot, Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon) - Mendoza 14.0% (£26.95)**. The 135 hectares are planted with Malbec, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc, The Pulenta family make excellent Malbec, recognised as Argentina's signature grape variety, enhancing its natural fruitiness with discipline and structure. From the same wine makers of the earlier chardonnay this is one deep smooth and brooding wine and well balanced. A bit pricey but I would have some of this at home for that special celebratory dinner!

There has been a lot of positive feedback from this meeting both on the quality of the wines and the knowledge and passion of Lee on the wines shown. We understand that Lee will be leaving The Oxford Wine Company in the near future but we have enquired and he has confirmed he will still be available to come and talk to us if and when required.

*Kevin Jacklin*

## ***Blewbury WI***

2015 is the Centenary year of the WI, this month sees the centenary baton come to Oxfordshire, and it is in Aston Tirrold on the 14th and then on to the Diamond Light Source at Harwell, on the 15th, there are events in Oxford on the 16th, before the baton is passed on to Buckinghamshire, and ultimately to London for the AGM in June, which we shall be joining in with, without leaving the village!

Mah Jong; every Monday 2.30pm, ring Judy for venue!

Wednesday 1st April, Lyn's walk, meet at 9.45am, village hall, all welcome

Tuesday 7th, Coffee at Style Acre Tearoom's with Joan, 10.30am

Scrabble; Ring Judy for date & venue

Tuesday 14th, Aston Tirrold Baton event

Wednesday 15th, Baton event at Harwell

Thursday 16th, Sound of Music; Abingdon Operatic Society

Monday 20th, Crochet Workshop at Liz's 7.30pm

Wednesday 22nd, Meeting at Blewbury School, guests welcome

Monday 27th, Crochet workshop at Karen's, 2pm

Wednesday 29th, Spring Garden Visit, Greys Court

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

*Love from Karen*

## ***Post Office News***

First & Second class stamps go up 1p each from 30th March, we have plenty in stock if you want to beat the price rise! These just re-value themselves, so as long as they have 1st or 2nd on them, it doesn't matter what you paid for them!

The really good news is that Royal Mail are keeping the 2nd class small parcel rate (under 2kg) at £2.80, and even better, the second class medium parcel rate (under 2kg) is actually down to £4.89, a drop of £3.11, and about time too! Of course, they haven't told us about the first class parcel rates, or any international price rise either!

We still have a brown dotty coat, (age 12), a green chiffon scarf, a mobile phone and a ring in our lost property box!

Duck race tickets are also now on sale, also tickets for BlewTube, and the last two winter lectures!

Please remember we are closed on Good Friday (3rd) and Easter Monday (6th), allowances will be paid early, but we haven't been told when! (Usually the previous working day, Thursday?)

*Love from Karen & Angela*

## ***50 Club winners for 2014/15***

### April

£10	Jacque Reid	38
£7	Kevin Jones	19
£5	Rosemary Dewilde	156
£4	Bob Lott	57

### May

£10	Mr Lewington	87
£7	Ann Parham	89
£5	Mr Yates	15
£4	Mimi Eighteen	44

### June

£10	Brenda Paddon	46
£7	Jo Joel	71
£5	Clare Lightfoot	74
£4	Barry Williams	72

### July

£10	Lesley Shaw	129
£7	Mr Stimpson	51
£5	Sheila Dawson	83
£4	Richard Burrow	31

### August

£10	Richard Brown	136
£7	Helen Weston	121
£5	Mr Ollenbutel	73
£4	Gary Davis	37

### September

£10	Basia Beckles	99
£7	Kay Fraser	127
£5	Carol Jones	174
£4	Irene Timblich	151

### October

£10	John Lightfoot	48
£7	Katie Dickens	149
£5	Mrs Tibbetts	171
£4	Penny Law	173

### November

£10	Sarah Tennant-Flowers	144
£7	Simon Powell	146
£5	Irene Timblich	151
£4	John Abbott	168

### December

£10	Jane Strange	80
£7	Ian Sykes	110
£5	Steve Slatter	77
£4	Mike Collins	126

### January 2015

£10	Elisabeth Wright	20
£7	Jo George & Dragon	153
£5	Andy Caffyn	75
£4	Sue Bibby	118

### February

£10	Mr Stimpson	51
£7	Kevin Jacklin	160
£5	Lucy % Cathy Brown	154
£4	Ellie Bunston	39

### March

£50	Helen Weston	121
£50	Kay Fraser	117
£10	Mrs Potter	52
£7	Jane Smith	35
£5	Vic Dawson	61
£4	Heather Saysell	172

# Rectors Reflections

## *Easter for Scientists*

So it's Easter time - daffodils, bunnies, chocolate eggs, and a Bank Holiday weekend. And, of course, for Christians, it's a time to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. For Christians, death is not the end. Christians believe that in due course, God will raise us from the dead to new life.

This is the traditional Christian belief. But is it compatible with modern Science - is there Easter for Scientists?

One starting point is to explore what it means to think "scientifically". At the heart of Science is the inter-relationship between theory and data. Science often starts with an open-minded acceptance of established data, which it then seeks to explain. It is bad science to edit out potential data by supposing that such and such an occurrence couldn't possibly have happened, and therefore it didn't happen. Good science accepts data but interrogates it rigorously: is it trustworthy? If so, what is its significance?

The relevant data for the resurrection is, largely, the belief of the early Christians themselves, recorded in the New Testament, and of Christians down the centuries. The data itself is trustworthy; but of course, as with any data, its interpretation will vary according to differing assumptions, and the different theories which people wish to prove.

Another aspect of science is the search for patterns and laws which describe what is likely to happen in particular circumstances. One way of looking at the resurrection of the dead from a scientific point of view is to see it as an example of a hypothesis about the circumstances in which something which has been broken-up comes back together again in its original or near-original form. For example, we might think of a piece of pottery which gets smashed, and then the smashed pieces are glued back together again. Might what applies to an inert object, like a pot, also apply to a living creature? Given our knowledge of the natural forces at work in our world, how might they work with the matter once in our bodies to reconstitute the whole? Are there other natural forces which Science is yet to discover?

And so, for me, there is definitely an Easter for Scientists. Of course, some scientists choose to believe in the Resurrection, while others deny it. But belief in the Resurrection as such is as "scientific" as "dis-belief".

Happy Easter!

*Fr Jason*

## ***Mothers' Union***

In November 2014 the Mothers' Union's Relief Fund was able to contribute to the coordinated efforts of the network of Kurdish churches in Iraq to bring refuge and safety to displaced families and refugees from towns that have become war-zones due to IS aggression - Mosul, Qaraqash, and more.

The money and resources we have given through The Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf have helped the local church make a huge difference to these families, restoring some sense of stability and community. Without the presence of international relief agencies in the most desperate of areas, the Church network has enabled families to have shelter, fresh water, food, clothing and medicine.

One of the aims of Mothers' Union is 'to help those whose family life has met with adversity'. Our Relief Fund is founded upon this principle.

If you would like to find out more about Mothers' Union relief work see [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org).

*Jessie West*

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## **Friends of St Mary's**

### **Programme for 2015**

Since its launch last September the Friends of St Mary's scheme has got off to an excellent start with a highly popular quiz night in October and a full church for carols and Christmas readings in December.

The challenge is to keep up the momentum in 2015! Four events are planned for members of the FOSM:

A Good Friday walk departing from St Mary's at 2.00. Our first stop is in Blewbury where local historian Audrey Long will give a short talk on the historical context of St Michael's church on the centre of Blewbury. We will then walk to Hagbourne and thence back to St Mary's by 4.30 for gallons tea and a copious supply of hot cross buns.

Sunny spring weather has been ordered and all Friends of St Mary's and their friends are welcome to join in! Just to get an idea of numbers for catering it would be helpful to let Paul (851251) or Jessie (851206) know in advance if possible.

In June, Daphne Simpson's daughter, an experienced presenter on a variety of subjects, will give a talk on a topic to be finalised soon - refreshments will be served and full details announced shortly.

Book Saturday, 3 October in your diaries now for a second quiz and pizza night in the village hall. Can the 2014 champions defend their crown?

4.00pm on Saturday, 12 December is the final date to note. The 2014 carols and readings was so popular we are planning to repeat it this year.

A new leaflet for the Friends scheme has been produced and will be circulated around the village soon. Looking forward to seeing you in 2015!

*Paul Batho*

## ***Blewbury Brass Band***

Blewbury has had a brass band for over 100 years, and it's going from strength to strength. Becoming ever popular and to cater for all playing abilities the band has now split into three, a beginner band, a learner band and the main band.

The Beginner Band is designed to enable less experienced players (up to about Grade 2 level) to gain an understanding of four-part music before moving on to the more challenging music played by our Learner Band.

The Learner Band is a great opportunity for anyone who already plays a brass instrument to play with other learners, and plays a variety of enjoyable music that is carefully matched to stretch and develop each player.

The Main Band welcomes players from approximately Grade 4 or 5 upwards and plays a wide repertoire of music.

There is always so much going on as part of the band - the beginner and learner band held their Spring concert on Wednesday 25th March to a packed audience, they had practised hard since Christmas and put together a program featuring lots of new and exciting music including *Ghostbusters*, *Mission Impossible* and *Soul Bossa Nova*. The bands also showed their versatility by playing two classical pieces, *Largo* from Dvorak's *New World Symphony*, and *Hall of the Mountain King* as well as the hymn tune *Angelus*. Samuel played a lovely cornet solo with the band in Shenandoah and Ben Lott played a solo called *Men of Harlech* on the trombone.

The main band Spring Concert will be in the Blewbury Village Hall on Saturday 25 April at 7.30pm. There'll be a Licensed Bar and doors will open at 7.00pm. Tickets are available from Savages, Blewbury Service Station, Blewbury Post Office and Martin Holliss (5 Bakers Lane, East Hagbourne) or Lindsay Lott, 5 Fieldside, Upton.

Blewbury Brass Band will also be playing at the Uptonogood? this year on the 20th June and at many fetes and fairs over the summer.

For details about joining the band, please visit our website:

[www.BlewburyBrassBand.org.uk](http://www.BlewburyBrassBand.org.uk) or contact Martin Holliss  
([treasurer@blewburybrassband.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@blewburybrassband.org.uk) / 07931 376501)

*Lindsay Lott*

