

Upton News



Vol 5 No.25 August 2018

St. Mary's Church Services

Sun 5th August 9.00am	Sung Eucharist.*
Sun 12th August 9.00am	Sung Eucharist.
Sun 19th August 9.00am	Sung Eucharist.
Sun 26th August 10.30am	All Age Service.*

*Followed by refreshments.

The church is open every day from 10.00am to 4.00pm for personal prayer.
Please see porch notice for weekday services.

Bake Up - Moroccan edition

Our culinary odyssey continues on Friday August 3rd with a visit to North African shores. We'll be trying to master the spices and marinades of Morocco, join us if you can at Old Stream Cottage on the Frog Alley section of Stream Road from 11.30am.

In June we tackled Portuguese cooking with impressive results: a sublime squid and chourico stew with cornbread, rich tomato-ey rice and tapas galore followed by a dreamy honey cake and rival almond tarts. It wouldn't have been complete without a bottle of student's favourite vinho verde. A big thankyou to Rob and Chris for providing a delightfully shady spot under the vine in their garden for the occasion.

Kieron

Upton 50 Club

Prize winners in the July draw were:-

1st	£25	No 41	Mr Pereira
2nd	£20	No 73	Jeremy Ollenbuttlet
3rd	£15	No 146	Simon Powell
4th	£10	No 65	Brian Rippon

Congratulations to all the winners.

Lesley Shaw

Upton Wine Club and Picnic in the Park

The 30th June was another glorious day in Upton. Finally Welly had been found and pointed around 130 Upton residents and their friends to the village park for a picnic! This was an opportunity for all villagers to come along and enjoy an afternoon of fun and games followed by some great food and entertainment. And you did not disappoint! There were several games of rounders with varying numbers playing, with almost everyone trying their hand at Welly Whanging! If there was a record for how far back you could throw the welly then we would have some serious contenders, as it was the winner was perhaps not surprisingly won by one of our countries leading Frisbee champions, Jamie Rabbetts with a winning throw of 25.9m. The egg throwing/catching competition was fiercely fought and no one could hide the joy on the faces of Ben Amos and Ray Troskie when they won with a distance of 23.5m.

With some amazing hard work from all the wine committee members and the film club organisers everyone then enjoyed an evening of music, socialising and some great BBQ chicken and pizza, during which there was the Upton home brew competition. With 12 entries it was close, but the overall winner was Sarah Sayers, who just pipped everyone with her damson gin, congratulations Sarah.

Picnic in the Park started as a small idea by the Upton Wine committee. If you enjoyed it and wanted to continue the party, then look out for an invitation to join the wine club this year or come along to the fete on the 1st September and join. Membership is £15 for the year. There are monthly wine tasting evenings held at the village hall. We will ask for a contribution of between £5-10 for the meetings you can attend, for which you will get to taste 8 different wines along with some fantastic food, a theme that we will be developing even further this year! If you want to join or have any questions then please look out for the application form or contact Ian Langley at: ian.langley@yahoo.co.uk. More information can also be found on our website at <https://uptonwineclub.com/>

Hope to see you all on the 19th September for our first meeting of the season.

Ian

Astons Online

Astons Online free-of-charge drop-in workshop is on Tuesday 21st August in Aston Tirrold and Aston Upton Village Hall (OX11 9DQ) from 10:00am to 12:00 noon with a discussion at 10:30 focused on "On-line shopping".

See <http://www.astonsonline.uk>, email theastonsonline@gmail.com or phone 07780 958249 for further information."

Theatre Group

Surely somebody is itching to see “Wipers Times” For a mere £19.25 you can see this much lauded play which is being brought back to Oxford. It’s at the Oxford Playhouse on Tuesday 4th September at 7.30 pm. We’ll need to arrange transport much nearer the date. I have just one ticket left.

I’d be interested to know which villagers did actually see “Lark Rise” in the Blewbury garden theatre I hope you weren’t booked for the Friday night performance, which didn’t even reach the interval before it was abandoned in the downpour. Do volunteer to write a review for the archives if you’re in the mood.

Finally, if you’re counting down the days before Christmas, please put Saturday 1st December in your diaries. We are planning a dramatized reading of “A Boy Called Christmas”, suitable for anybody between 8 and 88, so probably starting about 6.00 pm.

Malcolm Wright

Blewbury W.I.

Activities for August:-

Friday, 3rd August at 7.00pm - Craft evening at Liz’s, please ring first.

Monday, 6th August at 7.30pm - Scrabble at Graeme’s, please ring first.

Monday, 13th August at 10.30 - Coffee morning at Karen’s (instead of Style Acre).

Wednesday, 22nd August 4.30 to 6.30pm - Summer Social in the Melland Room. Please bring a plate of food.

Please note there will not be a Lyn’s Walk this month.

For more details of any of our events, or if you wish to join us, please ring Karen on 850219 or visit our web page, <http://blewburywi.wordpress.com> where you will find more information.

Cilla.

Farewell

After nearly 60 years of being residents in Upton, Brian and Brenda Arnold have upped their roots and moved just down the road to Didcot. Both Brian and Brenda contributed so much to the village over all those years going right back to the 1960s when Brian played a leading role in the building of our village hall. He was also an original member of the Volunteer Army that carried out jobs around the village to improve our environment and of the mowing mob that has tended to our recreation ground for the last 12 years.

We will keep in touch with them through the Upton News and I am sure they will be back to continue to be part of the village social life.

We wish them health and happiness in their new home.

Parish Council

The Parish Council asks that everyone be careful and vigilant when using the recreational ground. Please take every precaution in these continuing hot conditions so that neither you, your children, your pets, or the environment suffer in any way whilst using the ground.

Please enjoy using the recreation amenities, but always remember to take home all of your things, including your rubbish and please do not use disposable barbeques on the recreation ground at all in the current dry conditions.

Thank you on behalf of Upton Parish Council.

The Parish Council would like to congratulate the organisers and hosts of Upton Wine Clubs Party in the Park, it was a truly wonderful event enjoyed by all who attended.

Next Parish Council Meeting: -Monday 17th September 2018 at 7.00pm in the village hall meeting room.

Please see the village noticeboard and village web site for agendas of upcoming meetings and for minutes of previous meetings when they are approved for publication.

Parish Clerk 30/07/2018

Didcot U3A

The University of the Third Age (U3A) offers the opportunity to share your knowledge, experience and talents with other like-minded individuals with over 35 Interest Groups to choose from! In addition, and to whet your appetites further, we always have a guest speaker to give an interesting presentation.

This month's meeting is on 21st August when the guest speaker will be Nick Thomas - "My Life as a Radio and TV Script Writer". Nick will give an insight into a world where a skill with words pays the bills!

So, calling all semi- or retired individuals wishing to meet with like-minded people who want to Learn, Laugh and Live start by coming to the monthly meetings held on the third Tuesday of each month in the Didcot Civic Hall, meetings commence at 2.00pm, early arrival recommended!

Drop In

The Drop-In is an informal gathering to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a pleasant chat. Meetings take place in the Village Hall on Thursdays from 10.30am to 12.00 noon. Dates for August are the 2nd and the 16th.

Pimms, Pate & Pudding

Those with memories stretching back five or so years will recall the delightful PP&P parties held annually at the village hall. Well, by popular demand this event is being revived on Saturday 18th August!

It will run from 12.30pm until 3.30pm and the cost is £12.00 for adults and £6.00 for children over 5. This will get you a glass of Pimms (or a soft drink) and a buffet lunch including a fantastic array of home-made pates. All profits will go to the Friends of St Mary's.

We'd like bookings in advance so we can cater for the right numbers. Book now with Maggie (850126) or Celia (850684) to reserve your place.

We look forward to a jolly English summer afternoon!

Celia

Village Fete

1st September starting at 1.00pm on the Village Recreation Ground

The day of the fete draws nigh and there are lots of things to look forward to this year. Amongst the new attractions will be a special children's area which will include Carl the magician, a coconut shy and lots of prizes to be won, and music will be provided courtesy of Wantage Silver Band and the Hagbourne Community Choir. There'll be a barbeque, pizzas and of course the traditional tea and cakes a-plenty together with lots of stalls including books, preserves, a beer stall (thanks to Kenny at the George and Dragon), plants, tombola - the list goes on. There's a bigger-than-ever classic car display and there will be a chance to demonstrate the beauty and skills of your pooch at the dog show - dogs of all shapes and sizes are most welcome!

As ever, we will be looking for help on the day in putting everything together and taking it down at the end, and there will be lots to do during the fete itself. If you would like to help, please call Paul (851251), Brian (850158) or Jessie (851206). Many hands....

Finally, would you or your company like to sponsor one of the attractions? This would be a big help in keeping the costs down and maximising the vital contribution the fete makes to the running of the village hall and the church. Sponsorship is welcomed for the band, the dog show, birds of prey, barbeque provisions or children's prizes. Liz Evans, who's running the kid's stalls, would especially welcome jam jars filled with small toys, wrapped sweets, marbles, new hair bands, clips etc plus cuddly toys for the teddy tombola and (ideally!) an unopened Lego box set as a prize for the 'guess the number of Lego pieces' competition.

Looking forward to seeing villagers and visitors on 1st September - don't miss the fun!

Paul Batho

Basia Beckles

Basia Beckles, née Zaba, 69, of Upton died on 12th July 2018.

She was born to the late Jarek and Zofia Zaba on 16th March 1949 in London. Basia graduated from Notre Dame High School, Manchester, in 1967 and received a BSc from Imperial College of Science and Technology in 1972. In 1969-1970, between the second and third years of the degree program she spent a year teaching in Papua New Guinea as a candidate for Voluntary Service Overseas. In 1973 she was a social worker in the Lambeth Social Services. In 1975 she enrolled in the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and in 1976 was awarded an MSc in Medical Demography. She then worked at LSHTM as a Research Fellow, leaving in 1980 to spend 8 years in Trinidad. She married David Beckles in 1981 and they lived together in Trinidad before relocating to the UK in 1988.

In Trinidad she initially worked for the UN Economic Commission for Latin America, and later took a part-time position at the University of the West Indies. On her return to LSHTM in 1988 she was awarded an ESRC fellowship that enabled her to conduct fieldwork in Mwanza, Tanzania.

Basia became Professor of Medical Demography in June 2008 and Head of the Department of Population Health in August 2015.

Basia was diagnosed with cancer in early 2016. With her typical passion for science, she promptly enrolled in a clinical trial for a novel therapy and got on with her life, continuing to work with undimmed drive and enthusiasm. She simply took an occasional day off to undergo rounds of therapy.

Many in Upton will remember Basia as the organiser of a children's New Years party, which originally started as a birthday party for her daughter Zosia and was for several years an annual event in the village hall. One feature of those parties was the novel games that she invented to keep everyone amused, for example 'Turning Daddies into Mummies'. Another annual event was the Guy Fawkes party originally held in the backyard of her home, and then later with the Stimsons in the field on Chapel Furlong. She was a keen cyclist, and with Sustrans sponsored one mile of Route 544, the cycle path between Upton and Didcot. She for several years also took part in the Uptonogood mountain biking rides.

She was a massive fan of Manchester United and great fun to be around. She has been, and will continue to be, a huge inspiration to many.

She is survived by her husband David, son Bruce, and daughters Angie and Zosia.

Basia's funeral will take place on 7th August. If you would like details of the funeral arrangements, please email us at becklesd@compuserve.com

David



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Road Maintenance

Oxfordshire's highways maintenance budget has been doubled for this year (2018/19) and investment of a further £120m for infrastructure over the next ten years, including roads and schools, has also taken a step forward, following a County Council Cabinet decision made last month.

This year's increased spend of £10m will be put into road repairs and other highway maintenance work to tackle the winter backlog of potholes. The investment will be funded through the additional Council Tax income that is projected as a result of population growth in Oxfordshire.

If the £120m spend goes ahead it would be the biggest ever council-funded investment in highways and infrastructure in Oxfordshire, and would address the long-term decline in road condition which is happening across the county.

Drayton Highways Depot will hold an open day on Sunday 12th August from 10.00am until 2.30pm and refreshments will be provided,

It will be an opportunity to visit the depot and look at some of the plant and machinery used to deliver the highway maintenance service, including the Dragon Patcher, Gully emptier, Gritting vehicle, Road marking, Public Rights of Way etc.

Staff from both OCC and Skanska will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about the work and processes and there will be displays and leaflets containing information about the services undertaken.

Swop Shop

Mamas & Papas Pro-tec isofix car seat with removable cover - well used but reasonable condition - free. Jess Haworth: 07834 455602, jessicajhaworth@gmail.com

Submissions for *Upton News* should be sent to
kameki39@btinternet.com

Deadline for the September edition is
Monday 27th August