

# Upton News



Vol 5 No.31 February 2019

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## St. Mary's Church Services

Sun 3rd Feb 9.00am	Sung Eucharist*
Sun 10th Feb 9.00am	Sung Eucharist
Sun 17th Feb 9.00am	Sung Eucharist
Sun 24th Feb 10.30am	All Age Service* theme Scones of Praise

\*Refreshments served after these events

Please see porch notice for weekday services

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## Upton 50 Club

Prize Winners in the January draw were as follows:-

1st £25	No 172	Judy Robertson
2nd £20	No 57	Bob Lott
3rd £15	No 113	Paul Bibby
4th £10	No 181	Julia and Godfrey Nehring

*Lesley Shaw*

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## Computer Advice

Free IT advice for Upton computer users is available on Tuesday 19th February from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon in Aston Tirrold Village Hall. At about 10:30 there will be a short presentation "*Stay safe using social media*".

Astons Online helps people be confident, effective and safe users of email and the Internet. Our free-of-charge events cater for all types of computer and user issues in a friendly and informal atmosphere, see [www.astonsonline.uk](http://www.astonsonline.uk) for more information.

Tell us that you're coming if you can, especially if you want one-to-one help. [theastonsonline@gmail.com](mailto:theastonsonline@gmail.com) or phone 07780 958249.

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## 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 12.00pm. Dates for February are the 7th and the 21st.

## Rectors Note



### Letting Go

Well, it's February, and you might be thinking that I'm going to be writing something about the keeping of Lent - that period of 40 days prior to Easter, which have traditionally been used as a time of reflection and self-discipline.

However, this year, because Easter is late, Lent doesn't start until Wednesday 6th March. So, I won't be writing about Lent this month.

Well, yes - and no. I would like to recommend a particular practice, which can be a good preparation for Lent itself. The practice is open to anyone, of whatever age and religious belief.

It costs nothing, in terms of money at least. It has the power to transform lives - our own lives and the lives of others. It doesn't require an expensive training course, or any training course at all.

I'm talking about the value of simply letting go of stuff that's clogging up our lives and hearts and minds. It might be that we need to get rid of something material - a piece of property, perhaps, which has come to dominate our lives. But it might be that we need to get rid of something far more intangible- intangible, yes, but very real, nonetheless. It could be that we're eaten up by anger at someone or something. It could be that we've been nursing a grudge against someone for a very long time. Or it could be that there is a profound sadness or disappointment in our lives, which has come to overshadow everything else.

I'm not going to suggest that letting go of stuff that matters to us is easy. Of course it isn't, if it were, we might well have given it up years ago. But letting go allows us to find space in our lives for something different- something more life-giving. Saying "no" can enable us to say "yes" to something much better.

Letting go is very much at the heart of the Christian life. Christianity is about trying to let go of the stuff that destroys us and our world, so that there is room for the good stuff to come into our lives: such as love, and joy and peace and hope. It's very hard for us to do this in our own strength, so we pray to God for God's help.

May God help you and I to "let go" in the days and months ahead!

Fr Jason

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## 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 the 19th February 2.00pm in the Didcot Civic Hall. The speaker will be Jill Wigmore-Welsh - Exercise Your Brain to Keep Moving.

## **Wine Club**

Following on from the most expensive time of the year, but not kow-towing to dry January, the welcome theme for January's village wine club was the January Sales! Interesting wines, significantly discounted by big retailers, were carefully selected by enthusiastic committee members looking out for a bargain!

We had a good range of wines from a light Spanish sparkling Cava to some contrasting whites including a WHITE Rioja (Kevin!), a refreshing dry Muscadet and an exotic fruity Australian Chardonnay. Very drinkable and good value reds comprised a New Zealand Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon, a fruity Zinfandel, a meaty Chianti Classico and a classy Barossa Shiraz. All wines had at least a 25% discount on normal prices and are at time of writing still available! For more detail of the wines, please see the Upton Wine Club website at <http://www.uptonwineclub.com/> or follow us on twitter @UptonWine

In other news, would anyone be interested in having a go at designing the first Upton Wine Club logo? Any entries would be very welcome and the prize for the winner will be your own T shirt with the newly designed logo on the front. It will be an excellent addition to your wardrobe and very good for showing off around the village when the summer comes.

Meanwhile, coming up is our very popular food and wine pairing meeting. Please put Wednesday 20th February in your diary and don't forget to book! We would love to see you there. It was great to see some new faces this month; we hope very much to see you again next time for some great wines and hopefully delicious food. All welcome as ever.

Any enquiries about Wine Club, please contact Ian at [ian.langley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ian.langley@yahoo.co.uk)

*Ros*

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

Come and have fun at a Skittles and Supper evening to be held in the village hall on Saturday, 9th Feb at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start in aid of the Friends of St Mary's. Absolutely no previous experience needed but if you're feeling competitive, there'll be prizes for the top-scoring gentleman, lady and under-16!

Fish and chips plus delicious home-made puds will be served. Soft drinks and tea/coffee will be available - if you think a little wine or beer would help your technique, you're welcome to bring your own supplies!

Tickets at £10 a head are available from Paul (851251), Jessie (851206), Gloria (850683) and Celia (850684) - please let us know in advance so we can get the numbers right for catering.

We look forward to seeing as many as possible for a fun evening!

*Paul*

# **Parish Council**

## **Life Saver**

Fantastic news - Upton now has a defibrillator. It's fixed to the outside of the village hall, to the left of the front door, and can be used to help someone in cardiac arrest. It will give a high energy electric shock to the heart through the chest wall.

It can be used by anyone - you don't need to be trained or have any knowledge of what to do. Full instructions are on the outside of the defibrillator cabinet. The basic thing is to call 999. The operator will advise whether the defibrillator should be used. If yes, the operator will give you a code to unlock the box. Take the device to the person who needs it, and the device will talk you through the procedure.

There is no risk of giving a shock to someone who does not need one. If the defibrillator detects a pulse, it will not release a charge.

Huge thanks to those who have contributed: the Lime Walk Gospel Hall Trust, which is the Plymouth Brethren Christian church's charity, has paid for the defibrillator. Particular thanks to the Trust's Stuart Robertson for his help.

Our thanks also to Uptonogood?, which in previous years has donated proceeds from its mountain bike festival to the Parish Council. That money has paid for the cabinet and its installation.

Also to the Upton Village Hall Amenities Trust, for allowing the defibrillator to be fixed to the hall, and for offering to pay for the electricity.

## **Preventing Flooding in Stream Road**

New flood prevention measures are now in place at the top of Stream Road. The Parish Council has been pushing for action by the District Council. They have now laid a new pipe and covered it to prevent damage. We hope this will be an improvement on previous efforts and stop the road flooding.

## **Your Parish Council Needs You**

Parish Council chair Stuart Fraser and Councillor Karen Marshall are both stepping down at the end of April after several years' service. We are looking for two people who love the village to replace them, and join Stuart Norman, Brendan Heneghan, Ian Sykes and Jo Fidgeon on the Council.

The Parish Council exists to promote parishioners' interests, promote the well-being of the village, look after the Rec and playgrounds, and feed back to the District Council on planning applications.

This is your chance to help make the village the place you want it to be.

Meetings are held every two months, with occasional extras to meet planning application deadlines. Councillors need no special qualifications, but must be over 21 and have no criminal record. There's no pay, but there is job satisfaction! It's important the Parish Council stays quorate (there need to be three voting members at a meeting) otherwise we will lose our local voice, and decisions will be made at the level of the District Council.

Please do get in touch with any council members if you are interested in finding out more.

### **Planning Applications**

The Parish Council is fully supporting the application by St Mary's Church to extend the vestry to make it easier for the church to host events.

### **Revamping the Recreation Ground**

A heads up - we're thinking of making changes to the Rec. Decisions have to be made about replacing equipment in the toddler play area and it seems like a good opportunity for all villagers to have a say in how you would like the Rec to develop. In the next Upton News, we'll offer some suggestions as to what we could do with the toddler play area, the larger play area, the pump track and the parking spaces - and we would like to hear from you too. Then we can all get together and discuss the ideas at the Annual Parish Meeting in April.

### **County Council News**

In its budget proposals for the coming year the county council is proposing a 2.99% increase in Council Tax with a 1.99% increase in following years.

Living longer and living better is the drive behind a new Older People's Strategy for Oxfordshire which sets out how OCC and Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group will deliver a positive future for the county's older population. To read the strategy visit <https://consult.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/consult.ti/OPLLLB/consultationHome> or request a paper copy by calling 01865 334638.

Oxfordshire has been named the best performing county council waste disposal authority in England for its recycling rates during 2017/18. The county overall reused, recycled or composted 57.2% of the waste it collected against the national average of 45%.

Hopefully we will all see an improvement in the state of our county roads thanks to an extra £10million being spent by OCC this year on repairing and improving road surfaces and that has now been backed up by an additional £7.4million from central government.

### **District Council News**

The proposal to build 1000 new homes on the Harwell site has been deleted from the latest Vale Local Plan Part 2. Consultation on the latest proposals will take place early this year.

The District Council has written to Thames Water stating that they would like to see a public inquiry to ensure correct processes have been followed in Thames Water's decision to propose a reservoir at Drayton and that all of the implications of such a large structure has been fully assessed and explored to the appropriate detail.

Full reports by our local councillors can be seen on the village website under Parish Council—Minutes of a meeting 14th January 2019.

*Jo Fidgen*

## **Blewbury Post Office**

Thank you for your patience during our busy Christmas time in the office, we process huge numbers of parcels and cards, with customers coming from miles away, as we have easy parking, and apparently, the best brown paper & string! Lots of extra customers are coming in to bank, particularly Nat West customers, who would now need to go into Abingdon, their nearest branch, thankfully they can pay in or make cash withdrawals with us, as many other banks can too!

You may have read of the ongoing court case regarding Post Office Ltd and over 500 sub-postmasters who have been accused of fraud or false accounting, the judgement is eagerly awaited by us postmasters, as we believe the computer system is severely flawed, the next court case will decide whether we are employees of Post Office Ltd, and we will then hopefully receive proper employment rights, a living wage and be treated fairly! We are only paid for our contracted hours, no overtime, no sick pay and we have to do our daily, weekly and monthly accounting before closing time!

Apparently we have Leonardo da Vinci stamps arriving soon, which are on sale from 13th Feb, they've not arrived yet!

If we have significant amounts of snow, there will be no Royal Mail collections or delivery, and we will probably just open in the mornings, check first, 851777

Karen and Maggie

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## **Village Produce Association**



Your village gardening club, known as The VPA, is one of the oldest organisations in Upton and Blewbury (it started in 1947) and every resident in both villages is automatically a member of the VPA. Membership is free!!

We have tools available for use by all the residents of both villages in return for a donation to the VPA. These include a Fertiliser Distributor, a Long Arm Pruner, a Garden Roller, a Lawn Scarifier and Aerator, an Electric Leaf Vacuum and Gazebos available via Margaret Maytham Tel: 850126 and a Mantis Rotavator and various attachments available via Andrew Forman Tel: 850219

VPA activities include our famous Annual Show, Various Outings and our annual Social Evening. Our activities programme is available at Blewbury Post Office or from Margaret Maytham at Toad Hall in Upton.

Hope to see you all soon.

*Eileen*



### Foot Care



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Upton

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Do you need a starter, main course,  
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tonight's meal?  
Contact Ros on 07538 605188 or  
[dinnerdelivered365@gmail.com](mailto:dinnerdelivered365@gmail.com)  
Local Authority Food Hygiene rating 5



### Upton Dog Days



We walk, rest and play  
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Dog Walking  
Pop-In Service  
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Tel. 01235 850549 or 07753635038  
Email: [uptondogdays@hotmail.com](mailto:uptondogdays@hotmail.com)  
Facebook: Upton Dog Days



## **Blewbury W.I.**

Blewbury WI is very pleased with the fact that we have fund raised £766 for the Resound Project in St, Michael's Church. We are now a "1%er" and will have a mention in the book. We would love to welcome any new Members to the following events in February.

Tuesday, February 5th at 9.00am - Lyn's Walk. Meet at the Village Hall at 9am. with bus passes and coffee money. An alternative walk to Didcot - coffee at Great Western Park - bus to Didcot Parkway - 94 bus back to Blewbury. Hoping for a dry day.

Wednesday, February 6th at 7.30pm - Scrabble at Graeme's. Please ring beforehand.

Friday, February 1st at 7.00pm - Craft evening at Liz's. Please ring beforehand.

Friday, February 8th at 1.30 - Talking Science lecture at RAL Harwell. "Let there be light" John O' Hagan.

Monday, February 11th at 10.30am - Coffee at Doreen's. 67 Ladycroft Park. Tel. 850332.

Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm - WI Main Meeting in the Vale Room. Speaker, Stewart Lindford. "The Remarkable Story of the Winsor Chair."

Mah Jong. Every Monday afternoon at 2.30pm. Ring Judy for details.

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.*

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## **Beauty Treatment**

Tracey Reeves is a qualified beautician specialising in Jessica Geleration Manicure and Pedicure, Billion Dollar Brows, Tinting and Waxing, LVL Lash Lift and facial waxing all in the comfort of your own home. Tracey has just moved into Stream Road Upton and is obviously very keen to build up local custom so if you are interested please give her a call on 07887574646 or Email [Tracey@e-gen.co.uk](mailto:Tracey@e-gen.co.uk)

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## **Swop Shop**

A free-standing harmonium in very good condition, free to a good home. Angela Burt, White Cottage Fieldside.

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Submissions for *Upton News* should be sent to

[kameki39@btinternet.com](mailto:kameki39@btinternet.com)

Deadline for the March edition is

**Monday 25th February**