

Upton News



Vol 5 No.23 June 2018

St. Mary's Church Services

Sun 3rd June 9.00am	Sung Eucharist.*
Sun 10th June 9.00am	Sung Eucharist.
Sun 17th June 9.00am	Sung Eucharist.
Sun 24th June 10.30am	All Age Service.*
Sun 1st July. 9.00am	Sung Eucharist.*

*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

We'll be baking Portuguese treats for our next baking social. So if you fancy a natter over a nata, please come along. Our hosts will be Chris and Rob Traynor, the venue - Pentrose (on Fieldside opp. Chapel Furlong) and the date and time - Thursday 14th June at 11.30am.

Last month we proved ourselves fluent in Spanish dishes, from Murcian meat pie to burnt Basque cheesecake. We also devoured plenty of delicious, but non-alliterative food.

Demographic observation: so far the balance of the sexes at the meetings has tipped towards female. Nothing wrong with that whatsoever, but gentlemen bakers are also very welcome. In fact the regulars will be doing some press-ganging this month to get more men involved.

Kieron

Upton 50 Club

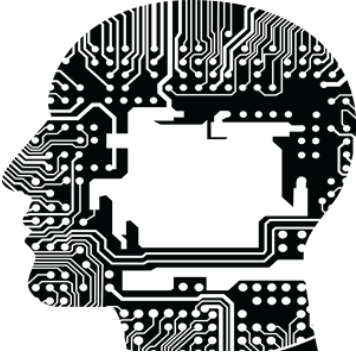
Prize winners in the May draw were:-

1st	£25	No 135	Jo Murphy
2nd	£20	No 20	Elizabeth Wright
3rd	£15	No 134	Derek Vokins
4th	£10	No 149	Katie Dickens

Congratulations to all of the winners

Lesley Shaw

Rectors Note



An Interesting Report

I wonder what you think about Parliament? If someone told you they were an MP or a member of the House of Lords, what would you think?

It is easy to attack an institution, and overlook the good that it does. For example, Parliament has many Select Committees, whose members work hard to seek the best approach to some of the complex issues facing our society.

One of these committees, the House of Lords Select Committee on Artificial Intelligence, has recently published a substantial report: AI in the UK: ready, willing and able? The introduction of AI is having an ever increasing impact on our economy and our lives. Robots are getting much cleverer, and so are the computer programmes which govern so much of our lives. Several jobs that used to be done by human beings are being replaced by robots and computers, who have the advantage of not needing to be paid, who never go on holiday, and who never go on strike. The perfect employee!

The increasing use of AI in our society poses significant ethical questions, and the Select Committee report rightly focuses on the need for our society to think through these ethical issues. For example, if a computer or robot makes a mistake, who is legally liable? Should we insist that a computer or robot has a “conscience”, and if so, what might such a “conscience” look like?

These sorts of questions need to be discussed by society at large. What sort of future do we want? What sort of decisions do we wish to delegate to our machines? Are there certain roles which, from a moral point of view, must be performed by human beings, and not by a machine? What are the implications for education and social justice? Will the increasing use of AI simply allow the rich to get richer and the poor to get poorer?

The Christian tradition contains 2000 years of reflection on what it means to be human, and how we can create caring and just societies. It is a rich and diverse tradition, which has a valuable contribution to make in our exploration of the ethical dimensions of AI. How can we make good choices in the years ahead? And what might a good choice look like? Let the debate commence!

Fr Jason

Theatre Group

I have reserved tickets (at last) for “The Wipers Times” at the Oxford Playhouse on Tuesday 4th September at 7.30pm. This is a play by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman based upon the newspaper produced by soldiers fighting in the First World War, and is returning to Oxfordshire after its success last year “by popular demand”. It’s billed as “a moving comedy”. Hislop is answering questions after the show if anybody feels like staying.

Assuming that we arrange our own transport the cost will be £19.25 each. Payment is due by mid-July at the latest, so please book - cash with order - as soon as possible.

Malcolm Wright

Blewbury W.I.

Hopefully we will have some real Summer weather in June, lovely long, warm, sunny days and balmy evenings, sitting on the patio, watching the sun go down. Well, we can dream. Following is a list of our Blewbury WI events being held during June and we would love to welcome some new members to join us.

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

Tuesday, 5th June at 9.00am. - Lyn’s Walk. We will be re-doing a previous walk outside Blewbury. Meet at the Village Hall, transport sorted on the day. Hopefully the weather will not beat us this time and the paths should not be water logged. We will definitely be having lunch, so pennies will be needed.

Wednesday, 6th June at 7.30pm. - Scrabble at Cilla’s. Please ring beforehand.

Wednesday, 13th June at 10.30am...-Coffee at Style Acre.

Friday, 15th June at 1.30pm. - Talking Science lecture at R.A.L. Harwell. “Seeing cancer before it is cancer: illuminating the way with ALICE by seeing the invisible.” Dr. Michele Siggel-King.

Wednesday, 27th June at 7.30pm. - WI monthly meeting in the Main Hall. Speaker- Gilly Pusey. “Hand Spinning and Natural Dyeing”

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.

Didcot U3A

This month’s meeting is on the 19th June in the Didcot Civic Hall commencing at 2.00pm (early arrival advised!). Our guest speaker will be Steven Barry Bruce a professional auctioneer talking about Buying and Selling at Auction, he will also exhibit and value selected antiques.

Wine Appreciation Club

Member's Selections

A slightly reduced number came this month for members' selections as quite a few of our usual attendees were off trekking around the globe but that didn't detract from an excellent evening, with a fabulous selection of wines to try for this Summer, with some real bargains!

The first wine of the evening was presented by Will and was the lovely Mirabeau Provence Rose from Waitrose. A versatile Summer wine that will pair with a variety of BBQ and Picnic foods. This wine is bone dry with light red fruits and a fresh acidity, try it with some BBQ mackerel or some classic lamb - Yum!

Wine No. 2 was presented by Chris Traynor who discovered this bargain wine in Aldi after seeing a review in The Times. The Godello from The Wine Foundry is a fresh lemony wine from Galicia which went very well with the mackerel pate prepared by Chris. You can find this wine in Aldi for £6.99 if it hasn't all been snapped up by Chris. Very versatile "any time of day" wine!

Our 3rd white wine was a South African Chenin Blanc presented by Derek Whitmell from The Wine Society. A pale straw colour with a bright, clean appearance in the glass. This fresh crisp wine has apple and white stone fruit notes on the palate. A nice balance of acidity and fruit, with a streak of minerality throughout. This medium bodied dry wine has a lovely length on the finish and shows all the typical characteristics of a top-class South African Chenin Blanc. Try this for something a little different to the norm!

Wine No. 4 was another bargain wine, this time from Rob Traynor which was the Fire Tree Nero D'Avola. A nice easy drinking red wine that was accompanied by tales of Rob and co attempting to scale Mount Etna in shorts and flipflops, complete with slide show! Another great BBQ wine!

Our 5th wine of the evening was presented by Kieron. A Chianti from Sainsbury's which was lovely but took a backstage to Kieron's accompany story. Apparently when he was younger and studying Italian in Italy he mistakenly entered a marathon in Sienna, he thought he was going for a gently hike and was dressed in hiking boots and back pack. Not wanting to pull out but being slightly overdressed for running he was keen to reach the water stops on route but discovered when he arrived at them, and there were quite a few, they were in fact giving out Chianti and Panforte. He managed to finish the race but don't try this at home!

Our 6th wine of the evening was another South African wine. This time it was the Catoria Pinotage, a smooth full-bodied fruit forward wine presented by David Mason. The wine is made by Carmen Stevens, South Africa's first black winemaker and is available from Naked Wines. One of the favourites of the evening.

Derek presented the 7th wine which was a Grenache centred Lirac from the Wine Society and Ian finished off the evening with soft smooth Bordeaux, Chateau de Lussac from Majestic. Perfect wines for when you have had a long week at work. Open up the fridge get out some cheese, left over meats etc, take a seat outside, pour a glass and relax!

Lastly as we approach the end of this season, please don't forget to book tickets to this year's grand finale, the Picnic in the Park on 30th June. Please note all villagers are welcome! It promises to be a great afternoon and evening and a little different from previous years. We really look forward to you joining us. Please email Ian Langley ian.langley@yahoo.co.uk if you would like to come along. For more details please see the Upton wine website at www.uptonwineclub.com/

Frankie

News Flash – Where's Welly?

Have you seen Welly? You'll find him at various locations around our village! Details of how to get your ticket for the **Upton Picnic in the Park** on the 30th June 4.00pm to 11.00pm are attached to Welly. Come along and enjoy a few fun activities and a picnic with your friends!

If you've missed Welly then here are the details:

Tickets are £10 per adult £5 for 5 to 16 year olds.

Ticket includes drink tokens (approx. ½ bottle of wine or 2 beers).

BBQ Chicken or traditional stone baked pizza (create your own topping)

Take part in no less than 3 WORLD RECORD attempts by the village!

(Including how far can you throw an egg or whang your welly?

Also, join in the biggest game of rounders ever)!

There will be a few extra drink tokens to buy but please bring some of your own (along with any extra picnic items to go with the BBQ)

We will have our own resident DJ with some music but feel free to bring your own instruments for a bit of a jam!

Also your chance to take part in (or simply have a sample and vote) the very first Upton home brew / wine / gin tasting competition!

Tickets must be purchased in advance (so we can estimate the food and drink!) by the 15th June.

Send your money to Ian Langley Barn Acre, Stream Road. Cheques made payable to Upton Wine Appreciation Club or you can pay on-line account 96544929 sort 60-01-01 (quoting your surname and numbers)!

For more information email ian.langley@yahoo.co.uk (850 793)

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 June are the 7th and the 21st.

Blewbury Post Office

I am away from work in late June, Maggie will be open on Saturday 23rd and Monday 25th as usual, but Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of that week will be open mornings only, as Maggie has Granny duties in the afternoons. We will be closed on Saturday 30th June.

We have Owl stamps and Royal Wedding presentation packs available now, Royal Academy stamps come out on 5th June and Dads Army on 26th June.

Tickets for the Summer Dance are now available, and the box for donations for the Didcot Food bank is still here too. We have the schedules for the VPA Summer Show and sometimes we have local eggs, rhubarb, tomato plants and other plants as available.

Don't forget that banking facilities are available for almost all banks now, cash withdrawals and cash or cheque deposits. Royal Mail collect at 4.30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and at 9.30am on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Although the posties do try to leave it to later on if they can, rushing in at closing time and expecting the postie to be waiting just for you is not going to happen. Parcelforce collect at about 3pm.

Dry cleaning is collected and returned on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays, They do a good job, and are very reasonably priced too!

Karen and Maggie

Parish Council

The Annual General Meeting was held on Monday 14th May.

The Parish Council is pleased to report that all councillors agreed to remain on the council and that a new councillor, Jo Fidgen, joined the council at this meeting. The Parish Council still has a vacancy for a councillor, so would welcome an enthusiastic villager to join and help with the work of the council to keep the village of Upton and the surrounding area in good order.

The Parish Council would like to thank Graham de Wilde and his amazing team of volunteers for their work over the bank holiday weekend. The group hired a motorised roller, using it to smooth out the surface of the recreation ground which had become very bumpy over the last year or so, making mowing the grass a bumpy challenge on parts of the field.

Other work completed recently was the replacement of the toddler swings. If anyone can find a use or would like the old swings and chains, please email parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk

Next regular Parish Council meeting, Monday 16th July 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



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Lark Rise

The summer play by the Blewbury Players this year is Lark Rise at the Orchard Dene Garden Theatre from the 18th to 21st July. Adults £13, Children £6. Family friendly tickets and group tickets are available.

Tickets will be available from the Melland Room from 10.00am to 11.30am on Saturday 9th June (cash or cheque only). Online sales will open 2.00pm on Saturday 9th June and a link will be on the Blewbury Players website. Savages Box Office opens on Monday 11th June (cash or cheque only) Cornerstone Box Office opens 10 00am Tuesday 12th June (telephone bookings plus credit or debit card sales 01235 515144).

First performed at the National Theatre in 1978-79 and by the Players in 1983, Lark Rise brings back to life an Oxfordshire village in the late nineteenth century with a large and colourful cast of true village characters of all ages and with music and song.

Keep Fit Classes

Go Active Gold, a Vale of the White Horse District Council initiative for improving the fitness of the over 60s are running the following courses in Upton and Blewbury.

Gentle Yoga (chair optional) at Blewbury Clubhouse on Tuesdays 10.00am to 11.00am. Cost £5 per session.

Keep Fit–Gentle exercise to Music—at Upton Village Hall on Wednesdays 11am to 12.00 noon. Cost £5 per session.

Senior Circuits at Blewbury Clubhouse on Thursdays 9.30am to 11.00am. Cost £4 per session.

To book please contact: Annalie Thomasson on 07766991487 or annalie.thomasson@southandvale.gov.uk

Submissions for *Upton News* should be sent to

kameki39@btinternet.com

Deadline for the July edition is

Tuesday 26th June