

Upton News



Vol 5 No.32 March 2019

St. Mary's Church Services

Sun 3rd March 9.00am	Sung Eucharist*
Sun 10th March 9.00am	Sung Eucharist
Sun 17th March 9.00am	Sung Eucharist
Sun 24th March 9.00am	Morning Prayer
Sun 31st March 10.30am	All age service celebrating Mothering Sunday*

*Refreshments served after these events

The Annual Church Meeting will be held on Monday 1st April at 7.00 pm. in the Church.—Everyone welcome.

Please see porch notice for weekday services.

Upton 50 Club

Prize Winners in the February draw were as follows:-

1st £25	No 129	Lesley Shaw
2nd £20	No 35	Jane Smith
3rd £15	No 108	Linda Macbain
4th £10	No 157	Stuart Norman

Lesley Shaw

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 March are the 14th and the 28th.

Upton Oil Syndicate

The next bulk order will be placed on 18th March 2019 with delivery expected to be completed by the end of March. If you wish to be included, please send me an email to colin@oil-syndicate.co.uk letting me know how much oil you need (minimum order 500 litres) by Saturday 16th March.

Please note that I am struggling to get emails to BT account holders but receive all emails OK.

Colin Batchelor

Parish Council

Meet the Village: the new-look Annual Parish Meeting

You are cordially invited to the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 16th April at 7.15pm in the Village Hall.

It will be a little different this year. The main purpose of the meeting is for villagers to find out what has been happening in the parish and talk to councillors about what you would like to see done.

We want this year's event to be a chance for villagers old and new to get to know each other; share information about the many social and interest clubs; volunteer skills; and promote businesses run by Uptonites.

The annual reports - instead of being read out - will be published on the Upton Village website, and displayed on the walls of the Village Hall at the time of the meeting. There will be an opportunity to ask questions of the writers of the reports on the night.

The big thing we need to talk about is the village recreation ground. Do we want to revamp it? And if so, how?

The reason for discussing this now is that the slide in the toddlers' play area needs to be replaced. One option is simply to put a new one in its place (at an estimated cost of £5000). But we could take this as an opportunity to make larger changes.

Below are some possibilities - you may have other suggestions which you wish to bring to the meeting.

Leave the toddler play area where it is; replace equipment as and when necessary.

Move the toddler play area closer to the older children's play area, and find a new use for the toddler play area.

Suggested alternative uses for the toddler play area:

Extra car parking.

An 'adult play area' with outdoor exercise equipment, and/or a boules court, and/or picnic tables. (This could also be created elsewhere on the Rec.)

The Hall will be open from 6.45pm for people wishing to read the reports and look at some basic designs for the Rec.

The main meeting will begin at 7.30pm, with a brief introduction by Stuart Fraser, the outgoing chair of the Parish Council; parishioners' questions; and a discussion about the future of the Rec. We will then ask for a show of hands to see if there is a clear preference for any of the Rec options, which we can then pursue and get fully costed.

That will be followed by a game of skittles for anyone who is up for it.

There will be free wine and nibbles to keep us going.

Any village clubs or businesses that wish to have a table in the hall to draw attention to their wares, take questions, sign up new members or customers - please let Jo know in advance at jekfidgen@yahoo.co.uk or drop a note into Old Stream Cottage at the Frogalley end of Stream Road.

We hope to see you there.

The Upton Parish Councillors - Stuart F, Ian, Stuart N, Brendan, Karen, and Jo.

PS. Stuart F and Karen are stepping down as councillors, and we need two new volunteers. 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.

Any offers? Please let one of the councillors know, or email Liz at parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk - or tell us on the night.

The Annual Litterpick will be on the morning of Saturday 16th March. We just need YOU. Picking sticks, gloves and high viz jackets will be provided. Meet in the Village Hall car park at 1030. We'll be done well before the rugby final starts... Adults and children welcome. Thank you!

Jo Fidgen

Please 'Clean it Up'

No one likes dog poo and on a gloriously sunny day last year, I collected too many bags of the offending piles at the start of the footpath between St Marys and the burial ground.



We live in a beautiful village, with lovely walking opportunities which attract locals and visitors alike but not everyone follows the 'Clean It Up' mantra.

Getting people to change their behaviour takes time and encouragement, so I asked the PC to help by providing a bin that was both accessible and visible. I am hoping that the new bin plays a part in keeping our paths poo-free zones. Thank you PC - a result!

Rosemary de Wilde

Blewbury Post Office

On March 25th, 1st and 2nd class stamps are going up 3p each, so buy before that to beat the increase! With the closure of Santander bank in Didcot in July, you can make free cash withdrawals here at the Post Office and make cash and cheque deposits too.

Wednesday 13th March, we will be closing at 10am for a funeral.

Karen and Maggie

The Wine Club

The theme of February's Wine Club evening was the pairing of food and wine from the same country, with the added challenge of the foods being a little out-of-the-ordinary as far as wine pairing goes.

First on the menu was a very tasty Peri-Peri chicken dish. This spicy dish from Portugal was matched with a very drinkable vinho verde, Casal de Ventozela (Majestic Wines, £7.99 as part of a "mix six" discount). There was general agreement in the crowd that the match worked well and was a good one to remember for the summer BBQ season.

Then we hopped half way around the globe in one bound and landed in Thailand! Here we were met with Thai butternut squash soup, which although absolutely delicious proved to be a real challenge on the wine-pairing front! There had been valiant attempts to get hold of a Thai wine, but the gods were against it and so after much head-scratching the dish was paired with a 2017 Dr Loosen Riesling (£15.99 @ Waitrose) from the southern end of the Mosel valley in Germany, where the Riesling wines are more fruity and sweeter than their more northerly counterparts. Despite not being Thai, everyone agreed it was a great pairing and one to remember for the next visit to your favourite Thai restaurant.

Next we brought it back home to Blighty where we were served traditional fish 'n' chips, and to cut through the cholesterol, what better than the fine acidity of an English sparkling wine: in this case it was Ridgeview Bloomsbury (£25.99 @ Waitrose). The fizz worked very well with the richness of the food and the citrus notes chimed well with the fish.

Of course, no globetrotting wine tour would be complete without a visit to France and here we were treated to a delicious pâté. The wine pairing here worked brilliantly and was a pinot noir from Burgundy ('Les Pierres Rouges' 2015 Louis Jadot @ Majestic Wine - £14.99 as part of a "mix six" discount). The richness of the food was balanced well by the lighter and slightly tannic wine.

Travelling back to the Iberian peninsula, Spain was our next port of call. Here we tasted sautéed chorizo and sweet peppers which were set off superbly by the higher alcohol and tannins of a rich Rioja (Hacienda Don Hernan Rioja 2016 @ Naked Wines, £11.99). Again one to remember for those looming summer months.

Next we jumped over The Pond and landed in South America: Argentina to be precise. Here we were treated to Morcilla (black pudding to me and you), which again proved to pose something of a challenge on the wine pairing front. However, after a little thought and a lot of help from the nice man at Majestic Wines, we found a very succulent Argentinian "Bordeaux" blend (Arraigo Benegas Single Vinyard Blend 2011 - £11.99 as part of a "mix six" discount) which did a better than average job of matching up to the food.

Heading north from there we entered the land of the burger (USofA) where that king of foods was paired with a wine which is one of my personal favourites - Zinfandel (F. Stephen Millier Black Label Old Vine @ Naked Wines - £10.99). A match made in heaven!

And finally, back to Spain to match one of the most delicious meringues that

I and most others there had tasted, with a great example of a Floralis Moscatel dessert wine (Floralis Moscatel Oro Catalunya @ Waitrose - £8.25 per half bottle). A perfect end to a great evening.

NB Special thanks to Maddy Langley for her 'to-die-for meringues'. I swear there were scuffles for the last few!

If you're curious about wine and want to join us in learning more (we're no experts!) or just fancy a good night out, drop our chairman a note (ian.langley@yaoo.co.uk) or just come along to the next evening on 20th March at 8pm in the Upton Village Hall - all welcome!

Nick

Rectors Note—A Different Take on Lent



I wonder what you might be doing on Wednesday 6th March? As you will know, for Christians the celebration of Easter is preceded by the forty days of Lent. This year, Easter will be celebrated on 21st April, so working backwards, the 40 days of Lent will start on Wednesday 6th March. (If you are doing the arithmetic, Sundays aren't counted when doing the calculation.)

Many people try and give things up for Lent, and perhaps donate to charity the money they would have spent on luxuries like chocolate or alcohol. Supporting a particular charity can of course be an excellent way of marking the 40 days of Lent.

But there's another take on Lent. The 40 days refer back to the 40 days which Jesus spent in the wilderness. Before Jesus started his work as a preacher and healer, he deliberately set aside a period of 40 days to think things through, without distractions from his family or his friends. Jesus needed space, and the only way he could find this space was by going out into the wilderness.

Most of us are unlikely to be able to take 40 days off, away from the duties and distractions which surround us. But all of us can try and carve out at least some space in which to think about things - about the things and people that are most important in our lives, about the opportunities which we have, the choices which we face. If we are to make good decisions about ourselves and about those we love, we need to give ourselves a bit of space in which to think things through.

Sometimes space is simply about time; sometimes it is also about a physical place, a building perhaps where we can just sit and be quiet and reflect. Many people find church buildings helpful for this purpose. This is one reason why I try and keep our church buildings open, so that there's somewhere to go, simply to sit and reflect. There's no charge - you just open the door, walk in and find somewhere to sit. Stay as long as you like.

Our lives are busy and complicated, but I do hope that we will all manage to find a bit of space this Lent - space for ourselves, and space for God.

Fr Jason

Village Produce Association

Well, so far so good with the weather - a bit of snow just to remind us all it's still winter, but not too much rain to make it difficult to get into the garden and onto the allotments.

Many of you know I infiltrated the Blewbury and Upton VPA a good few years ago (although it was by invitation) and have been on the committee for quite a while. I live in Didcot on the Ladygrove Estate - I'm one of its original residents, having moved from London in 1988 and I've had an allotment on New Road since 2001. That's the allotment site on the road coming into Didcot from Blewbury and Hagbourne.

The reason I am boring you with this information is to let anyone who is currently reading this edition of the Upton News and is not a resident of Blewbury or Upton know - "where ever you live, you are more than welcome to join us and take part in all our activities and events, especially our Summer Show. Best of all Membership is free!"

If you would like a copy of our 2019 Programme send an email to vpa.in.bl.up@gmail.com and I will send you a copy on line, or pop into Blewbury Post Office and pick one up.

Our first 2019 committee meeting took place last week and we discussed the Schedule for the Summer Show which takes place on **Saturday 13th July** at Blewbury Village Hall. Despite the really hot weather last year the Show was very well supported with over 30 exhibitors. Categories include exhibiting fruit, vegetables, flowers, cookery, handicraft, photography and also a childrens' section. We also have a novice section in each category, so if you've never exhibited before - give it a go. It's all great fun and you could win a trophy and prize money!!

Next month will have more details on the visit to The Vyne on the 8th June and we will let you know when the Summer Show Schedule is available.

DID YOU KNOW ? "Apart from being bad for cabbages, rue, is bad for many herbs. Some old wives' tales say that it can make sage planted near it positively poisonous; but it is more likely to simply kill it, as it may basil. Many people plant gladioli in the vegetable garden, simply because the stakes that they need look ugly in the flower beds. They are, however, extremely bad for peas and beans, and so bad for strawberries that these will suffer from them planted up to fifty feet away."

Happy Gardening—Eileen

Computer Advice

Free IT advice for Upton computer users is available on Tuesday 19th March from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon in Aston Tirrold Village Hall (OX11 9EQ). At about 10:30 there will be a short presentation "Make your computer perform better (tablet, smartphone, laptop etc)".

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 for more information.



Foot Care



A Mobile Foot Clinic for
Upton

Treatment provided in your own home for
Routine Foot and Nail Care
Toenail Trimming
Corn and Callous Removal
Diabetic Foot Care
Contact Jill Allen DipFh MCFHP MAFHP
Foot Health Practitioner
07767763441 or 01235 815917



Gary Cuddon



9 Harwood Road
East Hagbourne

Painter and Decorator
Providing a High Quality Service
Free Quotations
Fully Insured
Tel. 01235 510680 or 07827752904

Scotlands Ash Garage

Main Street West Hagbourne
Oxford's award winning local
Independent Garage
MOTs from 6.00am by appointment
Vehicle Servicing and Repairs
Tyres, Clutches and Exhausts
Paint and Bodywork
Terraclean Service
Free Courtesy Car
Tel. 01235 850707
enquiries@scotlandsashgarage.co.uk



Family Nursery, Florist,
Gift and Farm Shop
Visit Savages to discover fresh quality
fruit and veg, home grown plants,
flowers, giftware and foods
The Nurseries, London Road, Blewbury
01235 850352
shop@savagesblewbury.co.uk

LJD Bell Plumbing & Heating Services

All Domestic Plumbing and Heating Work
Undertaken
A1 High Efficiency Boilers Fitted
Gas Appliances Fitted and Serviced (Inc LPG)
Landlord Gas Safety Check and Certificates
Aga/Rayburn Servicing
Fully Insured
Water Safe Approved Operative
CIPHE Registered Plumber
Mobile 07555100848
ljd-bell-plumbing-heating@outlook.com



N Drum



Landscaping, Fencing
and Maintenance
Garden and Grounds Maintenance
Hedge Planting and Cutting
Grass Cutting and Turfing
Power Washing and Winter Gritting
Licensed Waste Carrier
Fully Insured
Tel. 01235 859229 or 07922701634
n drumlandscaping@gmail.com

Qualified Chef

Do you need a starter, main course,
dessert or any combination
prepared for dinner parties,
suppers or just something for
tonight's meal?
Contact Ros on 07538 605188 or
dinnerdelivered365@gmail.com
Local Authority Food Hygiene rating 5



Upton Dog Days



We walk, rest and play
Doggy Daycare
Dog Walking
Pop-In Service
VoWH Licensed Boarding 2018
Tel. 01235 850549 or 07753635038
Email: uptondogdays@hotmail.com
Facebook: Upton Dog Days



Blewbury W.I.

There are lots of things to do with the Blewbury WI during March and we would welcome any new Members to join us at the following events.

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

Wednesday, 6th March at 9.00am. - Lyn's Walk. Meet at the Village Hall, Destination unsure at the moment, but have coffee pennies anyway.

Wednesday, 13th March. - WI Spring Lunch with Flavia.

Wednesday, 13th March at 7.00pm. - Scrabble at Bernardine's. Please ring beforehand.

Thursday, 14th March at 10.30. - Coffee at Style Acre.

Friday, 22nd March at 1.30pm. - Talking Science lecture at RAL Harwell. "Kingdom of the Cumulus Clouds." Dr. David Hooper.

Wednesday. 27th March at 7.30pm. WI Main Meeting in the Vale Room 7.30 AGM and Social Evening.

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.

Local Services

Debbie Evans who has recently moved into Upton is offering a mobile service to groom your cat in the comfort of your home. The service includes clipping claws, removing mats, de-shedding, full wet baths, 'dry' baths, coat shortening, lion cuts and a pet sitting service.

For more information contact thecatswhiskersgrooming@gmail.com or 07792564010.

Irene Pierrakou is providing hour long fitness classes suitable for all at East Hagbourne Village Hall on Tuesdays at 6.30pm and at Blewbury Village Hall on Thursdays at 6.30pm. Improve your general fitness, burn calories, have fun and socialise in the healthiest way.

For more information contact ipier@outlook.com or 07521226369.

Submissions for *Upton News* should be sent to

kameki39@btinternet.com

Deadline for the April edition is

Wednesday 27th March