

Upton News



Vol 5 No.34 May 2019

St. Mary's Church Services

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sun. 5th May 9.00am | Sung Eucharist*. |
| Sun. 12th May 9.00am | Sung Eucharist. |
| Sun. 19th May 9.00am | Sung Eucharist. |
| Sun. 26th May 10.30am | All Age Service*. |
| Thurs. 30th May 8.00pm | Ascension Day Sung Eucharist. |

*Refreshments served after these events.

Please see porch notice for weekday services.

Upton 50 Club

Prize Winners in the April draw were as follows:-

- | | | |
|---------|--------|----------------|
| 1st £25 | No.118 | Sue Bibby |
| 2nd £20 | No.150 | Diane Rabbetts |
| 3rd £15 | No.52 | Gill Potter |
| 4th £10 | No.151 | D. Tyler |
- Jacqui Reid
-

Theatre Group

It's been a while, but I'm trying to resume normal service.

Today I reserved 16 seats for Cole Porter's marvellous "Kiss Me Kate" at the Watermill Theatre for the evening of Wednesday 4th September. The group discounted price is £26.20 for seats in the front two rows of the stalls. As usual, the first to pay secure their places.

I cannot, as far as I know, get a group discount for the Blewbury Players' production this year, Arthur Miller's "The Crucible", but I can perhaps co-ordinate tickets or transport. The dates are 16th-20th July. Let me know when booking opens.

Malcolm Wright Tel 850705

Drayton Waste Station

Please be aware that the Waste Recycling Station at Drayton will be closed on Thursday 16th and Friday 17th May.

Parish Council

A great turn out this year for the APM - around 50 villagers turned up to discuss the future of the recreation ground. Thanks to everyone who came, contributed and voted. Before we announce the results, a special thank you to councillors Karen Marshall and chairman, Stuart Fraser, both standing down after several years of stalwart service. They will be sorely missed. The good news is that Ann-Kathrin and Peter have volunteered to join - we are hugely grateful! As Stuart pointed out at the meeting, without enough people to keep the council quorate, we wouldn't be able as a village to make choices about our Rec because all decision-making would pass to the district.

So... to the main news. There was a hearty discussion about plans for the Rec and the stated preferences were as follows:

The toddler play area should be moved closer to the older children's play area so that parents can keep an eye on both at the same time. This was unanimously agreed.

There was broad agreement that there is no need for so much toddler play equipment; that toddler swings should be kept and possibly a slide or improved access to the slide in the main playground. If you wish to register an opinion about this, please contact the council (address below).

There was overwhelming support for improving and demarcating the overflow parking area, and not to extend the parking area into the to-be-decommissioned toddler area.

There was some support for the idea (copied from the French) of re-surfacing the overflow carpark to allow it to double up as a boules pitch. And for benches to be placed at strategic points, for example near the playground and perhaps the boules pitch, should it materialise. Again, let us know if you have views on this.

There was whole-hearted support for turning the current toddler play area into a planted area. Suggestions included wild flowers, a rose garden, or a small woodland. Any views on how we might develop this?

There was less consensus about whether we should make other changes to the main area of the Rec. It was agreed that a football-pitch-sized space should be kept clear, but there was an unresolved discussion about whether to plant more trees and whether to abandon mowing between the trees. Any thoughts?

The installation of picnic tables and keep fit equipment received little support.

The idea was mooted of trying to monetise use of the Rec by people from outside the village by running a tea stall from the village hall. This would require thought about staffing, licensing etc.

The parish council has some money to enact the changes and will seek grants to cover the rest of the cost. Exact costs will be determined and publicised as the plans are firmed up.

Cont.

Other issues that were raised: whether the Rec should be locked at night to prevent Travellers from setting up camp there. Stuart explained that the parish council had already looked into this and rejected the idea on the advice of the police.

The parish council was asked to organise training for the defibrillator on the village hall, a request that received widespread backing. It has agreed to do so and will announce dates as soon as possible.

The main contact for the parish council is Liz at parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk

Karate

There is a new beginners Karate class just starting in the Village Hall every Sunday at 1.00pm, why not come along and give it a try. The first two lessons will be a free trial. Karate is an activity the whole family can do together and everyone over the age of 4 is welcome. No special clothing is required just come along and join in to see how much you enjoy the activity. For information contact John Hogan on 07548784929 or at johnhogan@icloud.com

It's Not Worth the Risk

Do you know that 95% of collisions are due to human error? Distraction, speeding, not wearing a seatbelt and driving under the influence of drink or drugs are the big fatal four on our county's roads.

Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service have put together top tips to help you avoid the fatal four at 365alive.co.uk/fatalfour.

Local Services

Sarah Bolton has recently become a Body Shop at Home consultant. You can join her group on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/413985752687462/>, by emailing her on mrsbolton@hotmail.co.uk or give her a call 07540 739966 to discover great deals including great discounts off selected products and bundle deals.

Footpath

Unfortunately after seven years of keeping the footpath next to the George and Dragon trimmed and reasonably tidy I am unable to continue. Please could someone volunteer to take over this task which takes a bit less than an hour about 8-9 times a year. It is a very well used path which makes it important that we keep it well maintained. You can use your own mower and be reimbursed by the Parish Council for your petrol or you can arrange to use the P.C. mower. If you are prepared to take over please give me a call on 850135.

Mike Brown

The Wine Club - Are you paying for the brand?

Have you noticed the price of wine has gone up recently? If, for example your favourite tipple is a Sancerre or Pouilly Fume, then you will be paying a few extra pounds for the same bottle this year than last. There are a number of reasons for this and not all down to Brexit! Low yields, increases in tax and the simple economics of supply and demand to name but a few. Maybe, you are also paying a bit for the brand?

With this in mind, April's wine club took on the challenge of comparing similar wines but with a significant price difference! Members compared two wines at a time, served blind. First, we looked at two sparkling wines. A Cremant de Loire and Taittinger. Both excellent wines with the Champagne giving classic notes of yeast and "burnt toast" flavour synonymous with that quality wine. The members were split on opinions and with the Cremant nearly 3 times cheaper the overall consensus was that you could taste the difference but if the flavours of Champagne are not your thing then at £12.99 a bottle, what a great alternative!

Next we looked at two Sauvignon Blanc wines from the Loire region. The North or "upper regions" are famous for producing excellent SB's. Some of the most well known wines come from the Sancerre and Pouilly-sur-Loire region, which produce excellent but rather expensive whites. We looked at a Pouilly Fume and another SB from the less know area of Touraine, 60 miles to the West. If you like this wine then please do try some from the Touraine area, based on the reaction from our members, there was little to tell between both wines (other than the Olivier Dubois from Touraine was £7.99, over half the price of the Les Cascadeles).

We moved on to the reds and tried two wines with a base grape of Tempranillo. A classic Rioja was compared with wine from Ribera del duero (North West of Spain). The Vina Alarde Reserva Rioja was considered an excellent example of a good Rioja, which at £5.48 per bottle, was a third the price of the Emilio Moro (which was still an excellent wine!) if you have never tried wines from the Ribera region then definitely worth a try from something a little different.

Our last comparison of the evening looked at two wines from Bordeaux. The Wine Societies house Claret was compared with the Society's Exhibition Margaux. With the Margaux being one of our most expensive wines of the year at nearly £25 per bottle, we were all keen to see if there was much difference. One only had to look at the different quantities of wine in each of David's (the presenter), tasting glass to see which was his favourite wine of the evening! Sometimes it really is worth paying a bit extra.....but do not always go with the wine just because of the brand!

Next month's wine's club is on the 15th May and is a must for new and existing members. We are combining food from the Upton Baking club with Members stories - a chance to hear what everyone else has been tasting over the past year or so. Also, we will be voting for the Wine Club Logo! There is still time to submit your entry! For all the details please visit our website: <https://uptonwineclub/>

Ian Langley (Chairman)

Rectors Note



A Thrush on a Branch

This morning, as I looked through the kitchen window, I saw a beautiful thrush sitting in the branch of a tree. It was looking at me, and I so looked at it, and we looked at each other for quite a while. Then I turned away and by the time I looked back, it had flown away.

It made me think of the natural world all around us, and how we share our world with so many other forms of life.

Many Christians are actively involved in caring for the environment. There are Christian charities which have a specific focus on environmental work, such as the John Ray Initiative and A Rocha UK, which includes the Eco Church project. There is also the Living Churchyard project, which manages churchyards in an environmentally friendly way, to preserve rare species and promote bio-diversity. There is a local example of a churchyard managed in this way, at St. Michael's Blewbury. One of the delights of St. Michael's churchyard is the collection of Fritillaries on the north side of the Church - thank you, Living Churchyard project!

What inspires so many Christians to care for the environment? For some, it is simply the joy which comes from appreciating the wonders of nature, and the wish to preserve these wonders for the benefit of future generations. For others, it's about how we understand the idea of Creation. In Christian teaching, the idea of Creation means that we humans and the world around exist for a reason: we exist because God wants us to exist. Yes, human beings are important to God; but so is the rest of the world around us. Our human life is intimately inter-connected with the environment around us, and so we need to view our world as a God-given whole.

There's a further idea which is found in some early Christian writers such as Paul. This is the idea that God is working through Jesus Christ to transform the whole of Creation for the better: in other words, Jesus Christ is intended by God to be Good News not just for human beings, but for all forms of life.

Which brings us back to the thrush, sitting on the branch, looking at me through the kitchen window. I wonder: are we doing enough to care for the birds and insects and other creatures which surround us and enrich our life?

Fr Jason

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 May are the 9th and the 23rd. Please note the venue for the 23rd may be changed if the election goes ahead.

Uptonogood?

After a couple of years break, Uptonogood? will be back for 2019. The date will be Saturday the 15th June.

Over the past years the event has raised around £50K for the village and helped fund the Village Hall, new play area, and pump track. Other local organization's involved with the day have also benefited including Blewbury School, Hagbourne Scouts, and Didcot Air Cadets. Uptonogood? is a celebration of mountain biking and attracts around a 1000 riders of all ages from 4 to 80!

To pull off the event requires one key ingredient however, the good folks of Upton! The routes are fully marshalled to ensure the safety of participants and this requires some 50 volunteers on the day.

If you would like to be part of this year's event please contact Bob Lott or Mike Tibbetts on info@uptonogood.org.uk or complete our volunteering page online <https://www./uptonogood.org.uk/volunteer>

Christian Aid Week - May 12th-18th.

Envelopes should be delivered and collected during this week, and this year's focus is on Sierra Leone, where after the ravages of Ebola there is a desperate shortage of health workers. Women have died on the roadside attempting to reach a health centre to give birth. Please give generously if you feel able; if you don't wish to donate, please decline politely.

There are other attractions for your diary, too:

Saturday 11th May, 10.00am till noon Plant Sale etc, etc, at Chilton Village Hall

Sunday 12th May, 6.00pm Christian Aid Service at St Peter's Church, Didcot

Saturday 18th May, 10.00am till noon Coffee Morning at Didcot Methodist Church

Elisabeth and Malcolm Wright Tel. 850705

Computer Advice

Free IT advice for Upton computer users is available on Tuesday 21st May from 10:00am to 12:00noon in Aston Tirrold and Aston Upthorpe Village Hall (OX11 9EQ). At about 10:30 there will be a short presentation "*Shopping and banking online; how to do without cheques and cash*".

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.

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



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Village Produce Association

Don't forget we have a day trip on Saturday 8th June to The Vyne, Vyne Road, Sherborne St. John, RG24 9HL

The Vyne is a National Trust, 16th century estate and country house. Following its huge 2-year roof project, this former Tudor palace has re-opened to tell the story of a Victorian brother and sister who saved the mansion. Full details of the time and transport arrangements will be available from Karen at Blewbury Post Office or contact Maggie Maytham in Upton (01235 850126).

The Summer Show Schedule will be in the Blewbury post office from May onwards or you can get it online from Eileen on vpa.in.bl.up@gmail.com or by ringing Margaret in Upton on 01235 850126. This is an opportunity for you to show off your skills - growing fruit, flowers and vegetables, or cooking, or handicraft or photography. You don't have to be an expert and it's great fun taking part. There's also a Childrens' Section, so hopefully we will have a few more junior exhibitors taking part this year.

DID YOU KNOW ? "The apple can grow at the highest latitude of all the fruits. Apple trees need almost 1,000 hours of cold autumn and winter air to produce their flowers, which explains why they cannot be grown in hotter climates. The apple was the earliest to be cultivated by man and, like so many other plants, it was introduced to Britain by the Romans. Today, China is the world's leading apple producer."

Happy Gardening

Eileen

Illegal Waste Collection

The Vale of White Horse District Councils are alerting residents after they received a report that a man, wearing a high visibility jacket and a false council ID badge, has been impersonating a council officer to provide a waste collection service. The councils are urging all residents to be aware that their officers and waste crews would never knock on someone's door and ask to take their rubbish away.

Homeowners must make sure their waste is disposed of legally. You can find out more about how the council arranges bulky waste collections and how residents can stay legal when paying someone else to take rubbish away on www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/bulkywaste

Submissions for *Upton News* should be sent to

kameki39@btinternet.com

Deadline for the June edition is

Sunday 26th May

Late Items—email only

Bake Up!

We had a molto splendido spread of Italian tastes and treats at April's meet, all impeccably hosted by Lesley - grazie!

Italian cuisine is no longer classed as exotic, but there were loads of innovative dishes to try including moreish fresh garden pea and shallot tortellini by Dermot, a salad disguised as a pizza by Colin and some seriously good pork 'n' nduja peppers from Ros. Yvonne baked a belter of a focaccia and I made pistachio-filled arancini.

Of course there was pasta! including scrummy lasagne by Lesley and a wonderful baked rotolo courtesy of Mike. Giulia (who has an advantage in things Italian) dished up the quintessential dolce: tiramisu, and Frances and Sarah provided tip-top torte. Frances used polenta with orange in hers, which was the perfect bookend for Joan's excellent savoury polenta bakes that kicked it all off.

Next meeting will be at The Old Forge on High Street, 5 July at 11:30. Frances has invited us to bring our best American bites this time. If you can join us we'd be delighted.

Kieron

Artweeks in Aston Tirrold.

There will be six exhibitors open in Aston Tirrold during Oxfordshire Artweeks from 11.00am to 6.00pm on the weekend 11th-12th May and the following weekend 18th-19th. All open at the same time, free to everyone with no pressure to buy.

Anna Dillon - landscape paintings in oils, originals, prints - Hathersage, Aston Street (site 250)

Susanna Brunskill and Lucy Buletson - paintings, cards, ceramics - Twitten, Aston Street (sites 245 and 246)

Helen Young, Peter Lancaster and Victoria Goddard - paintings, prints, jewellery, cards -

Springfield House, Baker Street (sites 247, 248 and 249)
