

Upton News



Vol 5 No.28 November 2018

I am sorry if my note last week made anyone think I was against delivering paper copies, to all of you who prefer to read from paper rather than a screen may I assure you that the delivery team will be very pleased to continue to drop a copy through your letter box every month. The main reason for the note was to make new arrivals in the village aware that copies are available by email and also to point out that email copies will always arrive several days before the paper copies as they are sent out at the same time as the paper version is sent to the printers.

Editor

St. Mary's Church Services

Sun 4th Nov. 9.00am	Sung Eucharist*.
Sun 11th Nov. 9.00am	Sung Eucharist for Remembrance Day.
Sun 18th Nov. 9.00am	Sung Eucharist.
Sun 25th Nov. 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.

Upton 50 Club

Prize winners in the October draw were:-

1st £25	No 109	Carl Pettman
2nd £20	No 97	Keith Eighteen
3rd £15	No 90	Gloria Smith
4th £10	No 28	Yvonne Collins

Congratulations to all the winners.

Lesley Shaw

Accommodation Required

We are looking to rent a property in the village with 2 or 3 bedrooms from 7th December to 19th February. If anybody is away or is prepared to arrange a short term let and wants a very well behaved family to take care of their place during this period please get in touch. Many thanks

Gill Jones 07871440219

Rector's Note



Tubby and Chippie

Well, you're probably thinking to yourself: who is Tubby and who is Chippie? Tubby was the nickname of a Church of England priest called the Revd Philip Clayton, and Chippie was the name of his pet dog, and constant companion. Their effigy can be found in Tubby's church in the City of London, All Hallows by the Tower.

Tubby served as an army chaplain during the First World War, and during this time he helped to establish a rest house for soldiers in the town of Poperinge, Belgium. In due course this became known as Toc H. After the war, Toc H expanded into an international philanthropic organisation. It had four key ideals: to love widely; to build bravely; to think fairly; and to witness humbly.

Tubby saw two values as lying at the heart of the Christian faith: the service of others, and the work of reconstruction. The role of the Christian should be to bring new life and new beginnings, through men and women working together in a spirit of service and comradeship.

The church of All Hallows by the Tower is itself a symbol of the spirit of Toc H. It was bombed out during the Blitz, but Tubby was determined that it be rebuilt - and so it was.

In this year of 2018, and in this month of November, the minds of many are focussed on events to mark the hundredth anniversary of the end of the First World War. It is entirely right that our minds are looking back to the suffering and sacrifice of those years. But what of the present day? What might the tragedies of the First World War have to teach us today?

Well, I can imagine what Tubby might say to us. Work hard to avoid the horrors of war. Build firm and deep relationships between the countries of the world. Work for reconciliation. Be humble; be fair; be brave; be generous minded. And do not try to do all this in your own strength, for if you do, you will fail. Pray to God. Let the spirit of Jesus transform your lives - and work together with others.

As a Christian, Tubby was able to find a gleam of light among the darkness of the First World War. Was he simply a naïve optimist? Or was he the prophet of a new world.

Father 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 12.00 noon. Dates for November are the 8th and the 22nd.

Parish Council

The Parish Council would like to extend its thanks to all those who turned out to help distribute the wood chip floor for the adventure play area at the end of September. Great job! Improving the play area facilities is high on the agenda for the Council and will take some time to implement. While these discussions continue, any thoughts on the play facilities are welcome from members of the parish via the parish clerk at parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk.

The next regular meeting of the Parish Council is at 7.00pm on Thursday 29th November in the village hall.

Theatre Club

A Boy Called Christmas

At long last! Third time lucky, we're going ahead with a reading of an adaptation of this children's book. It's entirely suitable for anyone aged between 8 and 108, a real family show. The story is full of surprises and magic and fun and pathos - something for everyone. Do come to listen to the cast of talented readers in the Village Hall on Saturday 1st December from 4.30 to 6.30 pm. Tickets are available from Paul Batho, Clare Lightfoot, Jessie West or Malcolm Wright at £6 each for any adult. Children at school, however, are FREE! and the price includes drinks and cakes during the interval.

If there are any profits after we've paid for the hire of the Hall, they will go to the Friends of St Mary's.

Malcolm

Blewbury Post Office

Christmas stamps go on sale on November 1st, very pretty festive post boxes! We have some uninteresting WW1 centenary stamps (dreadful designs), and we may have Prince Charles 70th birthday stamps sent to us too!

Letters to Santa need to be sent by 8th December to Santa/Father Christmas, Santas Grotto, Reindeerland, XM45HQ, you will need a stamp on the letter, and he and his elves will try very hard to reply!

Opening times are back to normal now! Please watch out for scams asking you to buy gift cards as payment for bills, or postal delivery cards asking you for your details?

Karen and Maggie

Fireworks

If you will be letting off 'big bang' fireworks this weekend please consider letting any dog owning neighbours know of your intentions. It is most important that dogs are not left unattended when fireworks are going off.

The Wine Club

October's meeting saw the very welcome return of one of our most popular speakers, Tim North from Joie de Vin. The business specialises in importing remarkable French wine from very carefully selected small producers that are not available in UK supermarkets.

It was inspiring to hear Tim's enthusiasm about the individual suppliers he uses, about their environmental ethics and their very conscientious craft production methods. Tim deals directly with each supplier and so avoids the usual overheads of the bigger traders. His selectivity really shows in the quality of the wines. In total, Tim showed us 8 contrasting wines. Although a couple were more expensive than the usual we tend to see at Wine Club, they were very good value for what they were!

Tim purposefully avoided wines he had showed us before and the obvious "bar menu" wines like Sauvignon Blanc, giving us a refreshing change. We started off with a lovely crisp refreshing Domaine Salmon Imperial Sparkling Brut. Going on to whites, there was a classic, crisp, dry Touraine Chenin Blanc 2014 with subtle oak notes, a really delicious, well balanced 2017 Pinot Gris from the Loire and a very complex 2016 Macon white Burgundy to rival the fine wines from Cote D'Or, also at a very fair price. For the reds, there was a soft, fruity 2017 Touraine Gamay, an intense 2017 Cotes de Roussillon partnering beautifully with the paté, a very rich, smooth 2015 Lussac Saint Emillion and for the big showstopper, a wonderful rich red 2015 Pomerol, drinkable on its own but also great with meat or cheese.

All the wines were extremely drinkable and hard to put down and they seemed to go down a storm. I personally enjoyed them all and would recommend a look at this business www.joiedevin.co.uk if you weren't able to come along to the meeting. Certainly, there were a lot of order forms going in at the end of the evening at the special discounted price!

Please see more details of last night's wine at the Upton Wine Appreciation Society website www.uptonwineclub.com or follow us on twitter at @UptonWine

Any queries about membership or coming along to a future meeting, please don't hesitate to contact our Chairman Ian at ian.langley@yahoo.co.uk A big welcome to our new members this month - we really hope you enjoyed the night. It was great to see you there.

The next meeting is on 21st November 2018 at 8.00pm. As always, everyone welcome!

Ros

Upton Oil Syndicate

The Upton Oil Syndicate has been running since 2000, providing cheaper oil to the majority of residents in the village and reducing the number and frequency of lorries too. The syndicate has been very popular and word has spread to other villages in southern Oxfordshire / North Berkshire and currently it has around 400 members.

The syndicate operates by co-ordinating a 'bulk order' and then shopping around for the best price. Orders are placed 5 times a year and you can opt in/out as your needs require. It's a community initiative so there is just a small contribution to admin of £5 per year.

If you are not a member but would like to join in or find out further details then just send me an email - colin@oil-syndicate.co.uk and I would be more than happy to help.

The next order will be placed in November, so now is a good time to join if you are about to fill your tank before the Christmas holiday.

Colin Batchelor

Blewbury W.I.

Autumn has arrived, showing off its beautiful colours on all the trees, but soon we shall be sweeping up the leaves when they decide to fall. Bonfire night will soon be here and we will see a wonderful firework display and some of our WI ladies will be serving hot baked potatoes and mulled wine. Below is a list of our November events and we would love to welcome any new members to join us.

Friday 2nd November at 7.00pm - Craft evening at Liz's, please ring beforehand.

Monday 5th November at 2.30pm - Mah Jong at Judy's, please ring beforehand.

Tuesday 6th November at 9.00am - Lyn's Walk, meet at the Village Hall. destination will depend on the state of the paths, but will probably be around Blewbury. Coffee possible.

Tuesday 6th November at 10.30am - Coffee morning at Sharon's.

Wednesday 7th November at 7.30pm - Scrabble at Judy's, please ring beforehand.

Friday 16th November at 1.30pm - Talking Science Lecture at RAL Harwell. Speaker Dr. Kathryn Harkup - "B is for Belladonna"

Wednesday 28th November at 7.30pm - WI monthly meeting in the Vale Room. Craft Evening.

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>
Cilla.

Karate

Karate beginner's classes take place in the Upton Village Hall every Sunday at 1.00pm. All ages welcome from 4 upwards. Why not come along as a complete family and enjoy learning together. First two sessions are free. For more details please contact John Hogan on 07548-784929 or johnhogan67@icloud.com or have a look at his website www.tiskakarate-abingdon.co.uk

Bake Up

Continuing our bid to cook the world, we were pleased to go Siamese for October's lunch. The show kicked off with a beetroot soup followed by two very different Thai green curries, one without lime and the other one with. A tasty relish went with the lime version. There was also red fish curry, a Thai watermelon and a duck salad. Other textures and tastes came in the form of crab- and fish- cakes and some warm crunchy bread. It goes without saying that we had to have some jasmine rice to mop up all the scrummy juices. Very unusually, we only had one dessert - a sticky rice pudding.

Thanks to Yvonne for hosting and taking the time to write up the menu.

Next up is (drumroll please) our very first live cookery demonstration. Leiths-trained Ros Caffyn has kindly agreed to show us how to make a selection of canapés fit for the finest Christmas gathering Ros says her masterclass will be full of tips to help us get to grips with trickier techniques.

The demo will be followed by a 'crowd-sourced' Christmas smorgasbord.

Date and time: 30th November, 11.15am. Venue: The Village Hall

Please let me know if you'd like to attend (kieronhumph@hotmail.com). I'll need a small contribution from everyone to cover hall hire and costs.

Kieron

Astons Online

Free IT advice for Upton computer users is available on Tuesday 20th November from 10:00am to 12:00 noon in Aston Tirrold and Aston Upton Village Hall (OX11 9EQ). At about 10:30, there will be an informal discussion "*How to make best use of Apps?*"

There is a friendly and informal atmosphere at our events where we help people be confident, effective and safe users of email and the Internet, see 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 or phone 07780 958249.



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Friends of St. Mary's – Armistice Event

At 11.00 am on Monday, 11th November 1918 the guns fell silent on the Western Front and around the globe for the first time in more than four years, marking the end of what became known as the Great War. At least 10 million people were killed including more than one million in the British Army. Few communities were spared: Upton lost 12 of its young men, half of them from just two families.

We will be marking the centenary of the Armistice in St Mary's Church on Saturday 10th November starting at 7.30pm in an event which will also include a fascinating presentation on the history of the church itself. The programme will be:

1. Readings of poetry and prose commemorating the Great War
2. Stories and history behind the men on Upton's war memorial
3. Interval and refreshments.
4. A short history of St Mary's, presented by Fr Jason St John Nicolle

All Uptonians will be most welcome to attend. There will be no entry charge, just voluntary contributions to the cost of refreshments. The evening will conclude at about 9.00pm

Just so we have an idea of numbers for catering purposes it would be helpful if you could let Jessie (851206 - jessie@blueshapes.com) or Paul (851251 - pjsbatho@btinternet.com) know if you plan to attend.

Paul Batho

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 20th November, Ian Wheeler will be talking about the history of Cholsey's Fairmile Hospital.

The meeting starts at 2.00pm, early arrival is recommended.

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

Deadline for the December edition is
Tuesday 27th November