

# Upton News



Vol 5 No.40

November 2019

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## St. Mary's Church Services

Sun. 3rd November 9.00am	Sung Eucharist*.
Sun. 10th November 9.00am	Remembrance Service, Sung Eucharist and the laying of a poppy wreath.
Sun. 17th November 9.00am	Sung Eucharist.
Sun. 24th November 10.30am	All Age Service*
Sun. 1st December 9.00am	Sung Eucharist*

\*Refreshments served after these services.

Please see porch notice for weekday services.

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## Upton 50 Club

Prize Winners in the October draw were as follows:-

1st £25	No.149	Katie Dickins
2nd £20	No.146	Simon Powell
3rd £15	No.145	Maggie Maytham
4th £10	No.68	Nicky Concannon

*Jacqui Reid*

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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 every other Thursday from 10.30am to 12.00pm. Meetings this month are in the Village Hall on the 14th and the 28th, please come along and join us.

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## Carol Service and Readings

The Friends of St Mary's annual Carols and Readings will be held in St Mary's at 4.00 pm on Saturday 14th December. This is always a very popular event; walking in the dusk up the lantern-lit path into a cosy and welcoming church always seems like the real start of the Christmas season, helped by the mulled wind and mince pies which will be served afterwards!

All are welcome, whether or not you're a signed-up Friend of St Mary's. We would love to see a great turn-out of Uptonians on the 14th to welcome the start of Christmas 2019.

*Paul Batho*

## **Parish Council**

Upton Parish Council's next full Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 28th November at 7.30pm. As UPC only formally meet every other month, planning applications with deadlines between meetings are dealt with in extraordinary (UPCX) meetings. The last one was on 10th October and a further one is planned for 30th October. Agendas are published on the village web site and on the noticeboard at the recreation ground.

A casual vacancy notice was published on 11th October following the resignation of Councillor Jo Fidgen. UPC is therefore looking for keen and enthusiastic volunteers to join the PC who, like Jo, can make things happen. The Parish Council would like to thank Jo for her consistent contribution, help and input during her time as a councillor. We would hope to see her again at some time in the future.

It's very important for the village to keep its Parish Council and for that we need your help and support! The PC is looking in particular for people with experience in play area management or similar, as this is a huge focus for the PC in the immediate future. However, the PC would welcome anyone who wants to ensure the village is maintained to a good standard and facilities improved for all. You must live in or within 3 miles of the village and be at least 18 years old on the day of your nomination. Other qualifications and disqualifications apply.

Please contact the Parish Clerk on [parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk) if you would like any further information. A full job description, together with qualifications and disqualifications is available on request.

*Parish Clerk*

## **District Council**

We were delighted to read in the last Upton News that the village is thinking of joining forces with Sustainable Blewbury and other local groups to proactively take steps to tackle the Climate Emergency. On 15th October Hayleigh attended the Council's first ever Climate Emergency Advisory Committee, which agreed recommendations to commission work to be done by officers and to establish a communications plan to engage the community. They also debated and set target dates for a carbon neutral council by 2030 (75% by 2025) and a carbon neutral district by 2045 (75% by 2030).

The latest Full Council meeting on 9th October saw Council vote to adopt the Vale's Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2), and motions were passed covering EU citizens' rights, investments in low carbon funds, the A34 and changes to working with regional development organisations. Hayleigh spoke on LPP2 to highlight that despite our reservations about the plan, adopting it was the best option to prevent more speculative development, which we know that the villages we represent have hugely suffered from in the past.

Sarah used her maiden speech at Council to propose a motion (which passed unanimously!) asking officers to prepare a report on what more the council

could do to mitigate adverse impacts of the UK leaving the EU on the rights of non-UK EU nationals. The motion also instructs the Leader of the Council to write to the Home Secretary to ask for important clarity on deadlines, and rights of individuals under the current European Settlement Scheme.

### **Pumpkins and extra garden waste**

Hallowe'en usually means lots of leftover pumpkins at the start of November. Any that can't be used in cooking or composting can be collected by the bin crews if left next to the food waste bin. Residents who are signed up for brown bin collections can put out twice as much garden waste on Tuesday 12th November - crews will collect the equivalent of one extra bin's worth of garden waste (around three large bin bags). Residents should leave their extra garden waste out in bin liners or sacks beside their brown bins on that day. Trade waste bags cannot be accepted.

### **An opportunity for communities in Oxfordshire to influence how the Oxfordshire Growth Board works**

The Oxfordshire Growth Board is made up of leaders from the county's district, city and county councils, and non-local authority members from various partners in the county such as the NHS, Oxford Brookes and Oxford University, the Local Enterprise Partnership (OXLEP) and the Environment Agency. It focuses on strategic planning, economic development and sustainable growth. By working together in partnership, the Board is able to oversee large-scale projects across the county that benefit our communities, while also securing millions of pounds in Government funding to help improve people's lives. The survey asks for feedback on all aspects of the Growth Board, from how it is perceived, its priorities and membership, to how the board communicates and the format of its meetings. Residents and community groups can take part in the survey via the Oxfordshire Growth Board website here: [oxfordshiregrowthboard.org](http://oxfordshiregrowthboard.org)

### **Safe Places**

Even more locations across South and Vale are now signed up as 'Safe Places', these are venues where people can go and receive assistance if they are feeling confused, anxious, abused or harassed while out in the community. The scheme is already available in Abingdon and all four market towns in South Oxfordshire. Now all of our leisure centres are registered as Safe Places, with trained staff available to help if someone requires assistance, as well as 16 shops, cafes and community venues in Faringdon, Wantage and Grove. You can find out where the safe places are by visiting [safeplaces.org.uk/member-schemes](http://safeplaces.org.uk/member-schemes). Participating venues can be identified by the distinctive orange and yellow Safe Places sticker in their window. Remember, if you have any queries or issues you'd like to raise with us, please do not hesitate to get in touch - our email addresses are [hayleigh.gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:hayleigh.gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) and [sarah.medley@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.medley@whitehorsedc.gov.uk). We have also now set up a dedicated councillor Facebook Page: [Cllrs Hayleigh Gascoigne & Sarah Medley](https://www.facebook.com/Cllrs-Hayleigh-Gascoigne-Sarah-Medley). To stay up to date with the latest news, please Like our Facebook page and Follow us on Twitter: [@hayleighhelium](https://twitter.com/hayleighhelium) and [@SarahMedley91](https://twitter.com/SarahMedley91).

*Sarah Medley and Hayleigh Gascoigne*

## **County Council**

### **Chilton Road**

First point on my report is that, following an approach from the cycle lobby group 'Sustrans', I have given my support in writing to support the potential to close Chilton Road to through traffic, or at the very least to improve Chilton Road for cyclists and other non-vehicular users. As this issue progresses, I will keep residents up to date.

### **Vale of White Horse councillors approve their local plan**

Very good news for residents in the Vale of White Horse District Council, with councillors voting to support the local plan which had been pulled together over the previous years. The adoption of the local plan protects all our towns and villages from speculative building on top of the new housing already laid out in the plan.

There was also a risk that Oxfordshire could lose some £535 million of infrastructure spending, as SODC were also voting on their plan which their cabinet had voted to turn down. However, central government has stepped in on 10th October to stop them debating the plan at this time, which will protect that infrastructure for the moment. (This report was written shortly after that decision). Once a final position is confirmed I will include it in my next report.

### **Oxfordshire County Council works on action plan to go carbon neutral**

There has been a lot of demonstrations and press coverage of climate issues and Oxfordshire County Council has confirmed its commitment to reducing its own 'carbon footprint' to zero by 2030.

The council started a long-term programme over five years ago to cut carbon emissions, but young people have challenged organisations such as the County Council to move faster.

Since the county council motion in April 2019 acknowledging the climate emergency, the council has been working on a new action plan to accelerate the climate action programme to become carbon neutral by 2030, which is beyond the previous demands of the Paris Agreement.

The council has already delivered an average 6% per year reduction in carbon emissions since 2011 - double its target - but is determined to do more.

Oxfordshire County Council is delivering a series of 'green' initiatives, including installing more solar panels on schools and replacing streetlights with low energy lighting over the next four years which will reduce Oxfordshire's greenhouse emissions from street lighting by 70%.

The council also supports a 65-strong network of Community Action Groups (CAG) at the forefront of community-led climate change action. They organise events and projects on issues including waste, transport, food, energy, biodiversity and social justice.

The county council will report its action plan to full council in December and as a member of the climate change Cabinet Advisory Group I should be fully informed and will include a summary in my report.

## **Councils commit to cutting traffic congestion and improving public transport into Oxford**

Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford City Council announced bold plans to tackle congestion on all major routes into Oxford and improve public transport connections into and across some parts of the city, particularly the city's eastern arc.

The two councils want to make a real improvement to journey times for commuters and quality of life for residents, including improved air quality, by reducing the number of cars travelling into and around the city. The key points of the 'Connecting Oxford' proposal are:

- introducing additional 'bus gates' across the city
- new high frequency fast bus routes
- new and improved cycle and walking routes.
- a potential charge for workplace parking provided by larger businesses.
- improved journey times for commuters driving into and around the city as a result of less congestion

### **Roadwork permits will reduce delays for road users**

One of the main complaints from residents is the effect of roadworks, with utility companies digging the road up one after the other. This is because they can currently state when they are going to work, without a co-ordinated view of other works that may be planned on the same piece of road.

However, new powers have been approved that will give Oxfordshire County Council more control over roadworks. From December the County Council will introduce a new system that means companies wanting to work on roads around Oxfordshire will have to apply and pay for a permit in order to work on the highway.

These will clearly set out how the work will be done, the duration, times of work and how traffic will be managed. When there are clashes between different sets of work the council will also require companies to collaborate more closely to minimise disruption.

While the council will have the power to refuse permission for planned work to take place if it believes the proposed timings or planned approach will cause unnecessary disruption, emergency unplanned work needed for things such as pipe bursts will be unaffected.

The council's highways team hope to achieve a reduction in roadwork duration - removing around 8,900 days of work from Oxfordshire's roads annually - around a 10% reduction.

*Mike Fox-Davies*

[mike.fox-davies@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:mike.fox-davies@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

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## **Found**

A bunch of Keys have been found in Station Road, if they are yours or you might know who they belong to, please contact Lesley on 07739047688.

## Rector's Note



### A Significant Centenary

This year sees a significant centenary: one hundred years since the signing of the Treaty of Versailles.

The Treaty of Versailles was an attempt to bring a just and lasting settlement to a world in turmoil after 4 years of War. The origin of the Treaty can be traced back to 14 principles for peace, outlined by President Wilson of the USA in a speech on 8th January 1918. These principles, known as the 14 Points, were widely circulated, and some hoped that they would encourage Germany and Austria-

Hungary to surrender, in the expectation that all parties would receive a just settlement of their various claims. In the event, some 9 months after Wilson outlined his 14 Points, the fighting did indeed come to an end, when an Armistice was signed on 11th November. Technically, an Armistice was just that: it was an Armistice, not a Victory by one side or the other. The world's diplomats and politicians then got together to work out what was to happen next. Discussions and negotiations lasted into 1919, and culminated in a series of peace treaties, the most famous of which was the Treaty of Versailles. It was the Treaty of Versailles, rather than the Armistice, which can be said to have brought the First World War to an end.

Needless to say, every peace treaty has its problems, and the Treaty of Versailles was particularly problematic. The treaty resolved some issues, but it also created new challenges to the world order. Its treatment of Germany was harsh, and it has often been argued that German resentment at some of the treaty terms contributed significantly to the rise of Hitler. Some would say that the Treaty of Versailles simply provided twenty years breathing space before an even more destructive Round Two, known as the Second World War. Indeed, some of the political issues facing the West today, especially in the Middle East, can be traced to the solutions imposed by those who sought to make and keep peace following the end of the First World War.

It is easy to criticise peace makers for their failures. But at least they have tried to bring about peace. Jesus never said that peacemakers will be perfect people who will always get things right. But what he did say was this: "Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they will be called children of God".

*Fr Jason*

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## Remembrance Service

There will be an All Souls Service on Sunday 3rd November at 4.00 p.m. at St. Andrew's Church, East Hagbourne, when candles will be lit in remembrance of departed loved ones.



### Foot Care



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### Hatha Yoga

For Strength and Flexibility, Mixed ability.  
Monday 9.30am-11.00, Upton Village Hall  
and 7.15pm-8.30pm, Blewbury School.

### Therapeutic Yoga

Gentle self healing practice.  
Wednesday 9.30am-11.00, Upton Village Hall  
Private sessions also available.

Contact Cath Watsham

Yoga teacher/therapist, Dip.  
Tel. 07786210177



### Upton Dog Days



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## Astons Online

Free IT advice for Upton computer users is available on Tuesday 19th November 2019 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon in Aston Tirrold and Aston Upton Village Hall (OX11 9EQ). At about 10:30 there will be a discussion about Making best use of Spreadsheets, Excel 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](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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## Village Produce Association

Well, it's now the middle of October as I write this newsletter and instead of having a very dry allotment like last month, I now have an allotment which is like a quagmire. Our weather is always 'all or nothing' - no rain throughout the summer and monsoon type rain in the autumn - what can we expect this winter?

Our Annual General Meeting takes place on Wednesday 6th November at 7.00pm In the Vale Room at Blewbury Village Hall. We will be announcing the Committee's future plans for the VPA and we are pleased to confirm that members of the Didcot and District Wood Turner's Club will be giving a demonstration on how they produce beautiful items from simple pieces of wood.

Please Join Us.

To end 2019 on a high note we will be holding our usual Annual Social on Saturday 7th December at Upton Village Hall. Our theme this year is "Around the World with the VPA ". A two course meal will be served (which will cater for those with special dietary needs). Please bring any drinks you may want, although non-alcoholic drinks will be available. We have an unusual table quiz and a couple of extra special indoor games!! Everyone is welcome, so why not make it a family evening out. Tickets are £9 per person.

Tickets will be available from the 1st November at Blewbury Post Office, or you can telephone and book your ticket with Margaret Maytham - 01235 850126 or Eileen Bracken - 01235 510095. Please advise of any dietary requirements you may have, at the time of booking your ticket. Tickets will need to be booked by Tuesday 1st December at the latest.

*DID YOU KNOW? There is an old saying that if a shrub flowers before the middle of summer, prune it in the autumn; if afterwards, then wait till spring. There are exceptions to this, but generally it holds true.*

Happy Gardening

Eileen



## Wine Club

On 16th October, we welcomed the return of Tim and Gill from 'Joie de Vin', who have now become an established feature of the Upton Wine Club annual calendar. There was a good turnout of 34 from the village and there was a mood of eager anticipation for the forthcoming wines on offer.

The evening kicked off with a lovely sparkling wine, 'Domaine Des Pampres d'or Cremant de Bourgogne', which is from the South Burgundy area. It is made in the traditional method and is complex; it is recommended as a pair to canapes. It achieved much approval from the members!

The second bottle of the night was a Sauvignon, 'Domaine de la chaise', Touraine Chenoneaux Blanc, AOP 2016 (vegan)'. This was a rich full wine with exotic and citrusy fruit flavours, similar to a Sancerre. This wine particularly works well paired with oily fish or creamy sauces.

The third bottle was 'L'Orfevre Viognier, IGP Cotes du Lot 2017'. This came with a note of peaches and apricots on the palette and Tim advised that it would go well with chicken and cheese. The latter was in fact confirmed by many on the night, as we were able to sample the delightful tapas on each table, which included some lovely strong cheese.

The fourth bottle, our final white of the evening, was the 'Domaine Normand Pouilly Fuisse Les Crays 2017, (vegan)'. This wine is produced in the Burgundy area, with a limited production of 2500 bottles a year as the grapes are handpicked from a small vinyard. The wine exudes rich aromas of exotic fruit, citrus and coconut and is very minerally on the finish.

Onto the reds. First up, the Domaine Pampres d'Or Cuvee Prestige Beaujolais Rouge, 2015 (vegan). This was a complex nose of rich red fruits with a slight hint of vanilla. It is an exceptional Beaujolais made from the estate's best parcels of Gamay. This red goes very well with meat in sauce, cheese... or simply on it's own!

The second red wine of the evening was the 'Chateau Le Plantay, Cotes de Castillon, 2015'. This was a classic right bank Bordeaux, deep in colour and full and smooth on the palate. Again, another particularly appreciated wine.

The next wine was 'Domaine du Bon Remede Le Grange Delay Ventoux, from the Rhone Valley, 2017'. According to the notes provided by Tim and Gill, "this is a wonderfully smooth full wine from the Southern Rhone, to the east of Chateauneuf- du- Pape. Awarded 97 points and a platinum medal by Decanter magazine, this is what they had to say about this wine:- A tremendously fruit intensity. Complex and immaculate. Enough to make you sit back and marvel!

The final wine of the evening was the 'Chateau Montfin Cuvee Margot 2016 AOP Corbieres' which is certified organic (my personal favourite!). This is a deep dark wine with intense red fruit and vanilla aromas. It is made from Syrah (60%), Grenache (25%) and old Carignan (15%). This wine is excellent with roast beef or mature cheese. This is an exceptional wine and a great wine to end a very enjoyable evening.

A big thank you to Tim and Gill for another memorable evening. We look forward to welcoming members (and newcomers) to our next wine club event which is to be held on 20th November, with a focus on 'blends'. See you there! For further information go to: <https://uptonwineclub.com/>  
*Natalie Robertson*, 'new' committee member.

## **The United Charities**

Christmas is coming and The United Charities are able to share some goodwill this season.

Do you know anyone who might need some help this Christmas? Anyone having difficulty making ends meet or who knows of someone in need, be they an elderly neighbour or a struggling young family, someone on pension or universal credit - please contact us. All applications are treated in confidence and are discretionary. As well as small monetary gifts, we are able to help in other circumstances such as assisting with transport costs for frequent hospital visits, breaks for carers, items to help cope with disabilities and many other instances where people are having difficulties paying for essential items such as school uniforms as well as unexpected events. Amounts will vary depending on levels of need.

Remember we cannot help if we don't know.

For self-referrals or nominations, contact the Clerk: Sarah Donne  
[sarahdonne@btinternet.com](mailto:sarahdonne@btinternet.com)

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## **St Mary's Church**

### **Fundraising update**

We would like to thank all those who have contributed so far to the vestry alteration and new toilet project. We are well on our way to achieving half of the total amount which will allow us to start applying for grants. We would welcome any further contributions which can be made by cash or cheque made out to Upton Parochial Council and given to Paul Batho or Ann Parham. Fundraising events are being planned for next year. These will be separate from the activities of the Friends of St Mary's.

We would also like to thank the Friends for all the support they continue to give us which pays for the upkeep of the church building.

### **Christmas card competition**

In the past we have given a Christmas card to every house in the parish and we are intending to do the same again this year. However, we would like the design of the card to be made by a child in the parish so if you are under 16 years of age get out your pens, pencils, paints and crayons and design us a card. One will be chosen and printed for Christmas 2019. Your entries may be given to Paul Batho, Ann Parham, Clare Lightfoot, Jessie West or left in the church in an envelope clearly marked Christmas card competition. The closing date of the competition is November 15th 2019.

*Ann Parham*

## **Bake Up**

This month's remit was to resurrect recipes from the region where we grew up. The challenge produced gems with glorious sounding names like Singing Hinnies - sweet drop scones from Northumberland, and God's Kitchels - a mincemeat pastry from Suffolk and Essex.

We were also treated to iconic Staffordshire oatcakes, Scouse potato scallops, Cornish pasties, Northumbrian Pan Haggerty, Welsh cakes and Irish liver and bacon. A testament to Upton's diversity!

There were a couple of foreign entries in the form of pommes de terre Lyonnaise and Aussie lamingtons, and fodder from more familiar parts including Oxford sausages, New Forest venison stew and treacle tart. Thanks very much to Joan for managing to fit us—and the feast - around her table.

Next meet-up has an Italian flavour: it's a fresh pasta masterclass with Giulia Rippon on December 6th, 11.30am at Autumn Leaves, High Street. Giulia will be demoing how to make ravioli from scratch - and naturally we'll be taste testing! If there's time she'll also be training us in the fine art of Christmas truffle decoration

Everyone welcome - give me a shout at [kieronhumph@gmail.com](mailto:kieronhumph@gmail.com) if you plan to come so we can get the quantities right.

*Kieron*

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## **Christmas Reading**

Do come and listen to a scripted version of "It's A Wonderful Life" in the Village Hall at 6 pm on Saturday 30th November. Tickets - at £6 for adults; free for children at school - will be available from Jane Pitt, Paul Batho, Clare Lightfoot or Malcolm Wright, or at the door. Light Christmas refreshments are included in the price. Any profits will go to the Building Fund for St Mary's Church.

It's a wonder-full story and you'll have a wonderful time.

*Malcolm Wright*

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## **Upton Oil Syndicate**

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

Colin Batchelor

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## **Babysitter**

My name is Daisy Tibbetts and I'm 14 years old. I am a student at Didcot Girls School and would like to offer babysitting services in the village either after school or during evenings or at weekends. Please contact me on 01235 851474.

## Didcot U3A

Winter is upon us as the nights draw ever closer but that will not stop all retired or semi-retired individuals from wanting to find new friends, interests, learning, living and laughing. If they are some of the values applicable to YOU then the Didcot and District U3A could be exactly what will keep you stimulated during the winter months, and well beyond.

Hosting over 35 Interest Groups that provide continued learning and sharing of experiences in such subjects as, Languages, Family History, Walking, Gardening, Wine Appreciation, Creative Writing, Photography and Ukulele, to name but a few! - full list can be viewed on [u3asites.org.uk/Didcot](http://u3asites.org.uk/Didcot)

In addition, there are monthly meetings and presentations held on the third Tuesday of every Month in the Didcot Civic Hall, commencing at 2 o'clock (early arrival recommended) and new members are always most welcome.

This month's meeting is on Tuesday November 19th. The guest speaker is Murial Pilkington - "The Mitfords in the Cotswolds".

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## Vandalism

On the 6th of October between 7pm and 10 pm. someone threw paint stripper over a car parked on Fieldside opposite Chapel Furlong. Please be vigilant and report any similar incident or suspicious behaviour to the police.

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## Climate Change

I am afraid I was not overwhelmed with offers to help set up a Climate Change Group as a result of my note last month with just one person offering to help. I sincerely hope that it was the thought of attending meetings or the lack of time to help organise the actions we can take locally to minimise the damage we are doing to our planet rather than a lack of interest in the subject that kept you from volunteering. If the interest is genuinely not there to look at ways we can reduce our car journeys or reduce our energy consumption and in particular in this parish reduce our burning of oil then I will forget the idea for as an octogenarian currently unable to drive I will not be setting a good example with my contribution, but being in a position to be able to communicate with you hopefully I can help to set up things that will ultimately help future generations.

If you are interested in listening to ideas but just unable to help at this stage please be good enough to send me a short email or give me a call

*Mike Brown* 850135 or [kameki39@btinternet.com](mailto:kameki39@btinternet.com)

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Submissions for *Upton News* should be sent to

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

Deadline for the December edition is

**Tuesday 26th November**