

Upton News



Vol 5 No.27 October 2018

My apologies for the late delivery of last month's edition with the email version not going out until the 3rd October and the printed version much later than that, I am afraid that we had unavoidable holiday delays.

For those of you receiving the printed version please consider switching to the email version as it will mean you will usually receive your copy on the first day of the month and it will save on printing costs and be less effort for the delivery team. A copy of the newsletter is delivered to every household that does not receive an email version whether or not you have asked for one. If you would prefer not to receive a copy at all please also let me know as again it would save cost and effort.

If you wish to make a change to your present arrangement please send me an email at kameki39@btinternet.com or give me a call on 850135.

I did not receive any suggestions as a result of my request last month for ideas on improving our newsletter so it will continue very much as it is.

Editor

St. Mary's Church Services

Sun 7th Oct. 9.00am	Sung Eucharist*.
Sun 14th Oct 9.00am	Sung Eucharist.
Sun 21st Oct 9.00am	Sung Eucharist.
Sun 28th Oct. 10.30am	Pet Service* - All creatures great and small will be very welcome.

*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

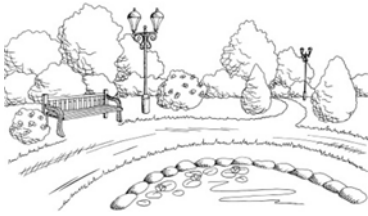
Prize winners in the September draw were:-

1st £25	No 153	Jo (George and Dragon)
2nd £20	No 87	Peter Lewinton
3rd £15	No 42	Sarah Bolton
4th £10	No 116	Frank Harber

Congratulations to all the winners.

Ben Shaw

Rector's Note



A Bench with a View

Do you like to give yourself the occasional treat? Well, this morning I thought I would treat myself. I was out at Great Coxwell for a meeting. The meeting finished early and instead of driving straight back, I thought I'd make the best of a fine, blustery day and go for a walk. I went to

the church and came across a bench, carefully sited at the base of the tower. Sitting on the bench, you have a wonderful view across the Vale of the White Horse. So I sat there for a good quarter of an hour, simply enjoying the view.

From the bench you can see the gravestones marking the resting places of various villagers over the last couple of centuries. I wonder what these men and women were like when they were alive? Were they wealthy and powerful in their day? I wonder what they did for a living? Did they ever leave the village of their birth?

A little further on, you can see the cars along the A420, rushing through the landscape at great speed.

And in the far distance, there are the Downs, and the White Horse itself.

It can be good to remind ourselves that we live our lives as part of something bigger than ourselves: the villages and countryside around us, the centuries which have passed by, the centuries which are still to come. It is so easy for us to feel that our individual lives, and our immediate surroundings are all there is. It is so easy for us to allow ourselves to become the centre of the universe and to start to think that our particular concerns and worries are all that matter. And then we take time out to sit on a bench looking out across the Vale of the White Horse and realise that we are only a tiny part of God's wonderful creation.

Over the centuries, Christians have sought to affirm two truths about ourselves and the world around us. The first is that each individual expression of life is infinitely precious in God's sight. The second is that the big picture stuff matters as well - God is at work in and through the whole of the Universe, and the whole of Time. Christians continue to explore how these two truths come together in Jesus.

I wonder if you have a favourite bench with a view?

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 October are the 11th and the 25th.

Parish Council

The Parish Council held a regular meeting on Monday 17th September.

The Kick Wall in the Recreation Ground is in a bad way. The poles need replacing and cementing in. One option is to get rid of it altogether. But if any users of the Kick Wall (or their parents) would be willing to give up some time and labour to repair it, we could keep it going. Any expressions of interest to Jo Fidgeon please - jekfidgen@yahoo.co.uk

The children's main play area in the Recreation Ground has received a new layer of woodchips to bring it up to safety standards. Huge thanks to the 20 or more villagers who turned out last Friday and did a stint with a shovel. You'll know who they are because they'll be bent double for a week.

A further inspection of both play areas is to be carried out by the councillors following the formal inspection in August. If the council find it necessary to tape off areas while repairs take place, please abide by this and do not use the equipment.

The next regular Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday 29th November at 7.00pm in the village hall meeting room. Previous minutes and other information can be found on the village web site.

Blewbury W.I.

The time of the year already when the leaves are falling, the days are shortening and the nights are getting colder, but Blewbury WI have some good events and outings in October and if anyone out there is thinking of joining us as new members, you will be made most welcome.

Tuesday, 2nd October at 9.00am - Lyn's Walk. Meet at the Village Hall. Destination undecided but we will be walking from Blewbury. Bring bus passes and pennies for coffee. (Note change of day and date.)

Friday, 5th October at 7.00pm - Craft evening at Liz's. Please ring beforehand.

Monday, 8th October at 7.00pm - Scrabble at Judy's. Please ring beforehand.

Wednesday, 10th October at 10.30am - Coffee at Style Acre.

Thursday, 11th October at 12.30pm - Lunch at Kingswell. Car rota being arranged.

Friday, 19th October at 1.30pm - Talking Science Lecture at RAL Harwell. "How the Universe will end." Professor Brad Gibson.

Wednesday, 24th October at 7.30pm - WI monthly meeting in the Vale Room - Speaker, Cyril Mannion - "From Routine to Abnormal in the blink of an eye."

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.

The Wine Club

The start of a new season for the Upton Wine Appreciation Club and proof that no matter how long you have been enjoying your wine, it's never too late to remind yourself about which grape is your favourite!

For September we tried some single grape variety wines to remind all members of the wide variety of tastes and to give everyone a steer on which wines to select when next buying a bottle. It is more unusual to get a single grape of wine these days, more common is a blend however, the opportunity to pick up that single flavour as a base marker, really helps for perhaps more complex wines to come later in the year!

Following a routine AGM where last year's committee and Chairman were elected back in for a further year we took a look at our first wine, a typical French Sauvignon Blanc. Like many grapes it depends on where it is grown and how it is made that influences the taste. Looking at the colour, smell and of course taste we judged this wine against other whites made from the Chardonnay and Riesling grape. For the reds we looked at Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah.

The beauty of a wine is that there are so many flavours which creates many opinions. All the wines tasted can be found on the Upton Wine Club's website <https://uptonwineclub.com/> . If you would like to try just two then we would recommend The Society's Saar Riesling 2015 (£10.50), a classic taste for Riesling and something that would go well with any spicy dish due to it's naturally low alcohol volume. For the red we recommend the Society's Red Burgundy 2017 (£9.95). For a Pinot Noir, this is great value and will go well with a warming sausage casserole or some lamb! Both wines can be purchased from the Wine Society.

Next month we have invited Joie de Vin back to talk about some real gems from France that you will not find in any supermarket. These proved a real hit last year! If you would like to join the wine club or just come along and try it for an evening then please drop an email to our Chairman: ian.langley@yahoo.co.uk The October meeting is on the 17th between 8.00pm and 10.00pm, we hope to see you there!

Ian Langley(Chairman)

Bake Up

If you like your rice sticky and your curry jungly, don't miss October's food fest.

Of course not all Thai cuisine has to top the Scoville scale. It also boasts fragrant chicken dishes, tangy fish cakes and, um, fried fruit bat. There's even a truly unapologetic snack called Phat si-io. Eat a couple of these and you'll find out why.

Yvonne is kindly hosting at Manor Lawns on Friday 5th October at 11.30 am. As always enthusiasm is the only entry requirement!

Kieron

Theatre Club

The most recent Upton Theatre Group outing found us at The Oxford Playhouse on 4th September enjoying a Trademark Touring and Watermill Theatre production of *The Wipers Times*. This is based on a true story set during WW1 and was written by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman.

The Oxford Playhouse has seen a trendy makeover since my last visit some years ago and the auditorium is now a masterful palette of grey walls and multi-coloured comfortable chairs, a real bonus following a recent visit to the Adelphi Theatre in London in which you needed to be no more than 5 feet tall to sit with any degree of comfort!

Fifteen years ago Ian Hislop came across *The Wipers Times* while working on a documentary for Radio 4. The story originated in the spring of 1916 when a group of Sherwood Foresters led by Captain Fred Roberts discovered a printing press in the bombed out ruins of Ypres, otherwise known to the Tommies as 'Wipers'. Hence the satirical weekly publication was born. The dynamic stage setting seamlessly changed rapidly with some well-rehearsed choreography by the cast to depict a variety of scenes from the trenches to French cafes. Although familiar with the story of WW1 I found myself surprised at the months our troops had spent in one place and could not imagine how desolate it would have felt living in a sea of mud and barbed wire with the unrelenting noise of warfare and rats devouring your food supplies. Captain Roberts and his Lieutenant Jack Pearson provided a very popular distraction in the form of a newspaper which celebrated the camaraderie of those whose existence relied on humour as a coping mechanism and as an antithesis to the 'hate hymn' which was sung incessantly by the Germans just a few yards away. A few of the cast members held dual roles and their energy and timing was engaging to watch from the outset, many of the satirical articles within the newspapers were directed at the perceived "safe" positions senior officers held during the war and their apparent total lack of empathy and compassion towards the soldiers on the front line. These senior officers appeared ignorant of the squalid, desperate conditions the troops were experiencing and together with the Temperance movement also objected strongly to the alcohol consumption on the front line which further illustrated their lack of understanding. Even after the war finished, those who hadn't fought on the front line questioned the accuracy of the *Wipers Times* and almost dismissed it as a bit of trivia.

The play was certainly very humorous in places, although perhaps not as much as the marketing material led me to believe. I felt, however, huge gratitude that so many sons, brothers and husbands (many of whom did not return) found a shared camaraderie through *The Wipers Times* during a period in our history which we must never forget. It ran from 1916 until just after the end of the war and published 23 issues.

Jane Strange

Upton Village Fete 2018

We could not have had a better day for the fete this year. The beautiful blue sky, the warm but not too hot sunshine with an occasional gentle breeze.

The support from the village is always amazing and this year was no exception. Thank you everyone for the effort put into all the preparation that goes on beforehand. The planning, making, donating and baking. The putting up and taking down, all with a smile and never a frown.

All this however would have been to no avail without the good advertising so a special thank you to Lesley Shaw for the posters, boards and local papers, and to Frankie Jacklin for her internet updates. This brought in so many visitors from outside the village all of which added to the feel good factor.

We also made some money! The net profit being £2,502.93 which is divided between St Mary's Church and the Village Hall

Jessie West

Fitness Classes

Fitness classes suitable for all take place at East Hagbourne Village Hall every Tuesday 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm and will also be taking place at Blewbury Village Hall every Thursday 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm starting on the 4th October. The classes involve easy dance and aerobics for cardio, body weight and elastic bands for strength, floor exercises for glutes and core and a full stretching routine to improve flexibility and relax.

Improve your general fitness, burn calories, have fun and socialise in the healthiest way.

For more information about the Classes, Small Group Training and Personal Training, please contact: Mobile: 07521226369, Email: jpier@outlook.com. Website: <http://funnfit.co.uk/>. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FunnFitUK/>.

Astons Online

Free IT advice for Upton computer users is available at Astons Online events on Tuesday 16th October from 10:00am to 12:00 noon and Wednesday 24th October from 5:00pm to 8:00pm in Aston Tirrold and Aston Upthorpe Village Hall (OX11 9EQ).

Astons Online helps people be confident, effective and safe users of email and the Internet. Our events cater for all kinds of computer and user issues in a friendly and informal atmosphere, see www.astonsonline.uk for more information.

At each event there will be an informal panel discussion "What to do if....?" to talk about trying something new online as well as computer problems etc. 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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Crazy Over You

AmEgos Theatre are performing Crazy Over You, the new Gershwin musical at the King Alfred's Academy Theatre, Portway, Wantage, from Thursday 25th to Saturday 27th October, 7.30pm each evening plus 2.30pm on Saturday. Tickets are available from www.wegotickets.com/AmEgos

For more information contact Sarah Carter 850222

Congratulations

Congratulations to Ian Ross of Chilton Road on being selected to represent England in the European Senior's Badminton Championship held last month in Guadalajara, Spain. This was Ian's first time playing for his country and came about as a result of some excellent performances in recent national tournaments.

In the over 50s section of the tournament Ian played mixed doubles with a lady from Lancashire and lost very narrowly in the second round. In the men's doubles he played with his regular partner from Somerset and managed to reach the third round where they lost to an Irish pair who were seeded second having won the silver medal at the recent World Championships.

As well as being a very good player Ian regularly travels abroad to act as an umpire where he has reached the highest possible grade and has recently been refereeing international tournaments having achieved the second highest possible grade as a tournament referee.

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 16th October -Angela Nightingale will be giving a talk Sleuths, Spies and ASBOs that will hopefully inspire you to look into your past?!

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

Submissions for *Upton News* should be sent to

kameki39@btinternet.com

Deadline for the November edition is

Saturday 27th October