

Upton News



Vol 5 No.39 October 2019

Don't worry, the Br•••t word will not be appearing in the Upton News but the other topic that we are seeing and hearing about every day namely Climate Change is a different matter. Even the biggest sceptic must by now be getting twitchy and it is time that all of us were thinking about the little things that we might do to help the situation.

Harwell has set up a Climate Change Group and Blewbury are in the process of doing the same. I understand the objectives of these groups are to identify projects that the villages can sign up to like the planting of more trees and ways of reducing dependence on our cars and to also suggest environmentally friendly actions that individuals may wish to take on board. I can see great advantages in this village following a similar path or better still to come to an agreement with Blewbury to form a combined group with common aims like improving our joint bus service.

I have had a constructive discussion with the leader of the Blewbury group who is very interested in the combined group idea and would like to hold a discussion with representatives from Upton to see if it can be taken forward. If there are any volunteers who are prepared to join me in taking part in this discussion will you please give me a call (after Oct.3rd) and if we can form the start of an active Upton section I will arrange a meeting with the Blewbury Group.

Editor (Mike Brown) 850135

St. Mary's Church Services

Sun. 6th October 9.00am	Sung Eucharist*.
Sun. 13th October 9.00am	Sung Eucharist.
Sun. 20th October 9.00am	Sung Eucharist.
Sun. 27th October 10.30am	Pet Service*—All creatures great and small with their owners will be very welcome.

*Refreshments served after these services.

Please see porch notice for weekday services.

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 3rd, 17th and the 31st, please come along and join us.

Parish Council

I am sorry to report that Jo Fidgeon who has been supplying the Parish Council reports for the last few months has unfortunately resigned from the Council and no report has been received.

Thanks Jo for your recent efforts.

District Council

Last month we had a lovely afternoon at the Upton Village Fete. A fab range of stalls from local groups, selling everything from jams and preserves to zero-waste products, and we enjoyed the delicious homemade pizza and cakes. It was great to chat to residents and learn more about the St Mary's church renovation project, as well as watching the impressive gymnastics display in the main arena. The Morris-dancing horse was definitely one of the highlights of the day! A brilliant event bringing the whole community together, well done to the organisers and everyone involved in making it such a success - we're looking forward to next year's fete already.

Festival Grants Available.

Vale funds are now available for community events or festivals taking place within the next 12 months. We'd especially like to see events that bring communities together and projects that aim to become self-funding in future years, or wish to provide residents with new opportunities that may not otherwise be possible without initial funding from us. For more information on this and all of our grants, please see whitehorsedc.gov.uk/grants. If you have any questions, please email the Community Enablement team or call them on 01235 422405.

Community grants worth up to £75,000 are now available.

Local groups in the Vale of White Horse can apply for grants totalling up to £75,000 as part of a community grant scheme which has opened this month. Groups can apply for a minimum of £1,000 (and up to 50 per cent of the total cost) towards projects which benefit the local community. The final amounts awarded will depend on the number of applicants. Applications are invited between 2nd September and midday 28th October. Decisions will be made by the end of January. <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/community-advice-and-support/grants/new-homes-bonus-community-grant>

Changes proposed to support Vale residents on low income.

Residents and local organisations in the Vale of White Horse are being asked to comment on some proposed changes aimed at supporting people on low income. The Council is proposing to make three amendments to its Council Tax Reduction Scheme to benefit some people of working age who receive a reduction in their council tax payments. To find out more and comment on the proposed changes please visit <https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/ValeCTRS/> before 5.00pm on 9th October .

cont.

Jobs Fair in Didcot

On Tuesday 15th October our South and Vale Business Support team are teaming up with Soha to host a jobs fair at Cornerstone Arts Centre. The event takes place between 1.00pm and 5.30pm. There'll be an assortment of flexible and part-time roles on offer, including vacancies that are tailored for young people and for those coming back into work. Please help spread the word to friends and family.

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 and

sarah.medley@whitehorsedc.gov.uk. We have also now set up a dedicated councillor Facebook Page: [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](#) and [@SarahMedley91](#).

Sarah Medley

County Council

August is the time when most committees are not held due to holidays, so this month's report is relatively slim.

Following a motion recently to support the climate emergency, the County has formed a Climate action Cabinet advisory group, which I am joining. As part of that group, we hope to ensure the County Council is taking pro-active moves where possible to reduce its carbon footprint. I will update residents as that progresses.

At the Full Council on 10th September there were several motions, but the worthiest, supported unanimously, was for the County Council to look at the living wage in Oxfordshire. Living costs in Oxfordshire are high and pay relatively low, with housing costs in Oxfordshire having risen at a similar rate to London. So, the County will be setting up a working group to investigate the possible implementation of a living wage in Oxfordshire.

It is also worth noting that the input from the Health Overview Scrutiny Committee earlier in the year has resulted in the Churchill hospital retaining full responsibility for the direct delivery of PET CT Scans for local residents.

Mike Fox-Davies mike.fox-davies@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Upton 50 Club

Prize Winners in the September draw were as follows:-

1st	£25	No.88	Caroline Maunsell
2nd	£20	No.75	Andy Caffyn
3rd	£15	No.27	Georgie Mason
4th	£10	No.132	George Stewart

Jacqui Reid

Rector's Note



An Alternative Harvest Festival

Have you been to a Harvest Festival yet? It's that time of year when many communities hold services to celebrate the harvest, and to recognise the hard work of all those who grow and transport our food. Increasingly, harvest services are used to remind us that there are still people in our own country who go hungry, and families who do not have access to nutritious food at an affordable price. Harvest festivals do more than provide us with an opportunity to say thank you to God for our food; they also provide us with an opportunity to share

what we have with others. Thankfulness and generosity are key values in the Christian tradition.

Perhaps you're not one for harvest festivals or feel uncomfortable about the idea of a church service. Well, here are some suggestions for an alternative harvest festival.

The first is to have a chat with someone who actually produces food - one of our local farmers, perhaps. The modern world tends to separate out producers from consumers, which in turn generates problems of mutual understanding. These problems can only be overcome by mutual conversation. What does it feel like to be a farmer in our country at this time? What are the joys and challenges? How do they see their role? How do they see the future?

Sometimes life as a farmer is particularly challenging. You might want to find out about the work of FCN, the Farming Community Network. This organisation does excellent work to support farmers and their families. Go to their website to find out more! Perhaps you might choose to support the work of FCN in a way which is appropriate for you.

Finally, you might be someone who enjoys facing up to the really big questions facing our world, such as global warming and the urgent need for us to live more sustainably. How does the "environmental agenda" connect in with the production of food, in this country and around the world? This is, of course, a huge question. But let me invite you to look at a recent report from the Global Commission on Adaptation. The report is entitled: *Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience*, and it includes practical suggestions as to how we can tackle the challenge of global Food Security.

Whether a traditional harvest festival or an alternative one - this is a good time of year to think more deeply about the production of our food.

Fr Jason

Theatre Group

Another Op-nin, Another Show beckoned us to the Watermill Theatre on 4th September to see Kiss Me Kate, a musical comedy with an exciting young company of multi-talented actor/musicians spilling onto the tiny stage. Energy oozed through their limbs in exhilarating choreography to their own big brassy arrangements taking them (and the audience) backstage on opening night into Baltimore City's theatre world of the late 1940s.

Malcolm had treated us to front row seats (risky for some), where the stage's simple back wall set needed no more than an illuminated sign and 'his and hers' dressing-room tables to conjure up this intimate revival of Cole Porter's celebration of Shakespeareana. Using the play-within-a-play framework, Kiss Me, Kate was conceived when a young stage manager was amused to hear stars in a Broadway production of Taming of the Shrew, mirroring their onstage roles with bickering offstage and the subsequent production was born, later becoming Porter's most successful show.

The multitasking, multiracial ensemble captured their audience in Act One, with numbers like Wunderbar and I Hate Men being belted out with frivolous abandon but Act Two brought more.

Where Is The Life That Late I Led could lead you to believe a mournful depiction followed but you would be wrong. Weaving within the audience, the lead headed straight for Emma in that risky front seat and we laughed at their tender yet jovial encounter, before he preyed on others throughout the theatre, mistakenly thinking they would be safe from any audience-participation embarrassment.

The cast kept us laughing until the end and Shakespeare's translation of the basic elements of the human condition and human relationships triumphed again.

I loved this musical and I love the Watermill theatre. Join us another time for front row seats, if you dare!

Rosemary de Wilde

Christmas Reading 2019

After the phenomenal success of "A Boy Called Christmas", we know you will want to reserve the evening of Saturday 30th November for this year's show. It's a version of the film called "It's a Wonderful Life", exactly right for the season, with a cast of talented readers to entertain and enchant you. More details in next month's news.

Malcolm Wright

Sponsored Walk

There will be a sponsored walk in aid of Christian Aid starting from Chilton Church on Saturday 5th October starting from 9.00am to 10.00. Sign on at the start. The walk will be on the downs above Chilton, more details from Bruce Hobbs 01235 510119

Astons Online

Free IT advice for Upton computer users is available on Tuesday 15th October 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 short discussion about "Trying something new online".

On Wednesday 16th October 6.00pm to 8.00pm there will be a similar event in The Chequers, Fullers Road Aston Tirrold OX11 9EN which incorporates the "The Fat Frog" restaurant, currently attracting 5* reviews.

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

Refreshments will be available at both events. 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.

Village Produce Association

Don't forget our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 6th November at 7.00pm for 7.30 in the Vale Room, Blewbury.

Please also put Saturday 7th December in your diary - it's our Annual Social in Upton Village Hall. Every year it has been a very popular event and 2019 will be no exception. The social consists of a lovely homemade two course meal together with an evening of special quizzes, games and fun for everyone. It starts at 7.00pm and is all for the price of £9 per person. Full details will be in the November issue of the Upton News.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Using a power mower, with three or four horsepower, for one hour to cut the grass releases the pollution equivalent of driving 350 miles in a car! AND - in one hour the average sprinkler uses the equivalent of two days' water consumption by a family of four. The average family uses approximately 500 litres of water per day!

Eileen

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! Membership is £25 per year, visitors are welcome to attend one meeting as a taster before joining.

This year there has been numerous day trips during the 'long hot summer' which have included Exbury Gardens, Keble College Chapel, the Royal Mint and Southwark Cathedral, to name but a few! And in the coming months we will be visiting Snowhill Manor (7th October) and Beaulieu at Christmas (27th Nov), so there is always something to plan and look forward too!

This month's meeting is on Tuesday October 15th Start time is 2.00pm, early arrival is recommended. The guest speaker is Catherine Jones speaking as Kate Lace—From Guns and Roses to Hearts and Flowers



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Wine Club

The Upton Wine Club started their fifteenth season in the newly furnished village hall with a meeting on 18th September. A great evening, with a touch of “ first day of term” feeling about it. To dust down the taste buds and remind everyone of the wide variety of flavours you can get from wine, the committee held a “Call my Bluff” game. Three descriptions of wine were read out, with only one being correct. The audience simply had to guess the right one!

There was a wide variety of wines tasted, all mainly around the £9 - £12 mark. We use this as benchmark prices for the wines we taste as we feel it provides great quality wine for an affordable price. One of the principle purposes of our club is to give people the opportunity to try wines they may not have tried before. Look at the wines we tasted and if any look of interest give them a try!

Graham Beck Brut - A sparkling wine made from the same grapes used to make Champagne. Made in the same classic way as Champagne but you will pay significantly less! Well worth trying if you like your bubbles!

Definition Viognier - A grape grown all over the world and a must if you like aromatic, floral flavours.

Godello, Katia Alveraz - Not a well known grape but becoming very popular due to its versatility to pair with pretty much everything. Try it with fish to pick up on the citrus flavours.

Blind River, Savignon Blanc - A classic SB from Marlborough NZ. Full of herbaceous flavours and a must try if this grape is a favourite of yours.

Definition Pinotage - a big red wine, full of rich flavours of blackberry and raspberry. Perfect if you like strong bold flavours.

Morgon Chateau de Pizay - A Gamay grape with a fine fruity taste. Lots of blackberries and cherries and a silky smooth finish!

Viñalba Reserve Malbec - Another big red wine from Argentina. Full of dark fruit, cocoa and lip-smacking melted tannins. Perfect with an Autumn steak!

Revival Zinfandel - Picking up flavours of jam, blueberry and black pepper and a smoky finish. It is a lovely smooth red.

If you like your wine and want to try a broad range, whilst catching up with a few of your fellow neighbours from the village then come and join us on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the village hall between 8-10pm. All details on our website: <https://uptonwineclub.com/> Hope to see you there!

Ian

(Club Chairman)

Blewbury Post Office

Again, thanks to everyone for being patient whilst I am recovering, it's very tiring! We may not be opening for Saturdays in October, so check first. New stamp releases for October are British Warships, and some delightful Gruffalo ones! I have seen the new Christmas stamps, apparently they are a 'stylised interpretation of the Nativity', take that how you will! They are on sale from early November.

Royal Mail staff are being balloted on whether they take strike action, so be aware that there may be disruption, and get your Christmas Post off early, October sees the last of the surface mail posting dates, we have the leaflets with all the information already.

I am organising a Christmas Post that will cover Blewbury and Upton, I will have several locations in each village for collection boxes, simply drop your cards into the box, and a willing team of volunteers will deliver them in the week before Christmas. The money raised in Blewbury will help towards the Christmas tree on top of the church tower, whilst in Upton, the money will go to St Mary's church for one of their projects, locations of the post boxes will be confirmed next month.

The usual scams are still doing the rounds, phone calls telling you that you owe money to the police or inland revenue, or that you have a bug in your computer, or by letter saying you've won money in some overseas lottery, a new one is a person knocking on your door, allegedly from the Inland Revenue, saying you owe them money, this is most definitely a scam, close the door and ring 999 immediately, they may have an accomplice who will be attempting to get in through another door, so keep your back door locked.

Please note again that we close for lunch at 12 noon!

Karen and Maggie

Swop Shop

1) Gas BBQ in exchange for donation to St Mary's Building Project.

Clair Lightfoot 850486

2) A substantial, home-crafted set of book shelves. Free Malcolm Wright 850705

3) An exercise bench. Free Malcolm Wright 850705

4) 3 rolls of eco bubble wrap - perforated card that does the same job as bubble wrap (2 x 50cm and 1 x 100cm wide) - Free - Kieron. - 07971009603

Submissions for *Upton News* should be sent to

kameki39@btinternet.com

Deadline for the November edition is

Saturday 26th October