

Upton News



Vol 5 No.44 March 2020

St. Mary's Church Services

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Sun. 1st March 9.00am | Sung Eucharist*. |
| Sun. 8th March 9.00am | Sung Eucharist. |
| Sun. 15th March 9.00am | Sung Eucharist. |
| Sun. 22nd March 10.30am | Celebration of Mothering Sunday, posies will be given to all the ladies who attend.* |
| Sun. 29th March 9.00am | Morning Prayer |

*Refreshments served after these services.

Please see porch notice for weekday services.

Upton 50 Club

Prize Winners in the January draw were as follows:-

- | | | |
|---------|---------|---------------|
| 1st £25 | No. 72 | Barry Walker |
| 2nd £20 | No. 180 | Jill McKenna |
| 3rd £15 | No. 9 | Dermot Padden |
| 4th £10 | No. 100 | Susan Ryan |

Prize Winners in the February draw were as follows:-

- | | | |
|---------|---------|------------------|
| 1st £25 | No. 135 | Jo Murphy |
| 2nd £20 | No. 116 | Esther Blandford |
| 3rd £15 | No. 13 | Sheila Concannon |
| 4th £10 | No. 124 | Derek Whitmell |

Congratulations to all the winners.

Jacqui Reid

Cleaner Required

The trustees for Upton Village Hall are looking for a new cleaner to ensure that once a week the main hall, kitchen, toilets and committee room are appropriately cleaned. Estimated time required is 2 hours a week. Rates confirmed on application. Perhaps you have a cleaner who visits Upton and would be interested in some extra work or can make a recommendation. Please contact Jacqui Reid at Jacqui.reid@hotmail.co.uk or on 07973818171.

Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 19th March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall meeting room. This year's Annual Parish meeting is scheduled for Thursday 23rd April, 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Villagers are of course welcome at any Parish Council meeting, but particularly at the APM, so please put this in your diary.

The village web site (uptonvillage.co.uk) is now hosted by the Parish Council. Any one previously allowed to update it still can and we would like to thank those who do these updates and anyone suggesting constructive changes. The PC is also working on bringing its own area up to date.

The PC continues to run with a councillor vacancy. Being involved in village affairs at this level is worthwhile and non-political. The work the council does and the decisions it makes affect the village environment and the wellbeing of its residents, but it is not very high profile. Meetings are held every other month, with the addition of the APM in April and the AGM in May. Extraordinary meetings can be held at any time. Expressions of interest in joining the PC would be welcomed and can be made to the Clerk at parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk. Please come and join us and see what you can do for your village.

Parish Clerk

District Council

Hello! We hope that Upton residents have managed to stay safe and dry during the recent stormy weather. Please take a look at the council's dedicated webpage with tips and advice on dealing with severe weather, and don't forget to check on your neighbours, especially if they are particularly vulnerable: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/weather>

Council News

At the latest council meeting on 12th February, Vale councillors approved the budget for 2020/21. The budget allocates funding in three key areas:

- 1) Tackling the climate emergency - a major priority for the council.
- 2) Working towards a new Local Plan which will work to address residents' concerns about the current plan and put the climate and local sustainability at the heart of any future development.
- 3) Addressing the council's own long-term financial situation by identifying savings that have the minimum impact on residents and businesses, as well as identifying opportunities to generate additional income.

Additionally, the Council voted to approve changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, effective from 1st April 2020, which will see more than 430 people on low income in the Vale of White Horse receive additional support to help them pay their council tax. You can find out more about the Council Tax Reduction Scheme by visiting whitehorsedc.gov.uk/ctrs. Cont.

The Vale of White Horse District Council's Climate Emergency Advisory Committee (CEAC) met on 28th January to recommend new schemes for the council to tackle climate change. The committee recommended a one-year programme of actions to begin the journey to a carbon neutral council by 2030 and a carbon neutral district by 2045. The programme included, amongst other things: identifying opportunities for investment in solar energy, working with interested community action groups and conducting a feasibility study into increasing biodiversity and tree planting. The report also looked at how the council could develop a green travel plan for officers and members, create an action plan to reduce single-use plastic and help to promote healthier lifestyle choices such as walking and cycling to reduce vehicle emissions. To find out more about what the council is doing to tackle climate change visit: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/environment/climate-change>

Didcot Garden Town Project

A new governance structure for the Didcot Garden Town project has been approved, which includes the launch of three new 'sounding boards' - one for local parishes, one for businesses based in the area and one for community representatives. The council will be inviting parish and town councils located within Didcot Garden Town and the wider Area of Influence (this includes Upton) to participate. All the advisory board and sounding board meetings are set to be open for residents to attend. The government also announced on 14th January that South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils will be receiving £100,000 to help support Didcot Garden Town, which the Advisory Board have discussed spending on projects that will help to improve sustainability and connections in the town and highlight smart technology.

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 also have a dedicated councillor Facebook Page: [Cllrs Hayleigh Gascoigne & Sarah Medley](#).

Astons Online

Free IT advice is available at our friendly and informal March 2020 events: Tuesday 17th March from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon in the Village Hall, Thorpe Street, Aston Upthorpe (OX11 9EQ) with a discussion about Android smartphones and tablets. Tell us that you're coming if you can, especially if you want one-to-one help. theastonsonline@gmail.com or phone 07780 958249)

Wednesday 25th March from 10:00am to 12:00 noon in Goring Library, Station Road RG8 9HA. Phone 01491 873028 to book your 30-minute appointment.

Please see www.astonsonline.uk for more information.

Wine Club

This February we asked some of our members to present a wine of their choice (along with the odd story). Whilst we may all have our wines we love and those we don't love so much, the one thing that unites us all is that there is always a story behind some of our most memorable wine moments. That's one of the reasons we all enjoy coming to the club each month!

To start, Ian reminded us that knowing just a little bit about where our wines are from can be very beneficial by letting us try a Sauvignon Blanc from the Loire region in France. From the Upper area we tried a well known SB from Sancerre and compared this with a SB from the Middle region of Touraine. At nearly half the price of the Sancerre, any wine from Touraine is worth a go as a good alternative.

Our newest member of the committee, Natalie spoke fondly of a wine from Greece, Assyrtiko which was a reminder of the wine served at her wedding reception, which was held next to a winery in Santorini. A wine not many had tasted and well worth a try.

Brian spoke about an amazing woman called Samantha O'Keefe, who single handily set up a winery in South Africa on the Lismore Estate, with no previous experience. Along with bringing up two small children, she managed to produce some of the highest rated wines by the worlds most notable wine tasters, only to have it all brought down around her by a fire that took away her vines and also her house. Undeterred, she is selling the last few remaining wines and starting again. You will not be able to try her new wines for another 2 years but there are still some left from the last harvest! We tried the Viognier but they are all good and available at strictlywine.com.

Paul took us through the last of the whites, which he tried presenting a few years back but was unable to find a wine from Lanzarote to present. You would not think vines could grow in volcanic soils with not much more than a few inches of rain each year but this was an experience for us all. Look out for El Grifo, which was a very refreshing drink.

We had three reds to finish. Derek took us through two wines. The first was a red from Austria. Not a normal part of the world to find a red due to the cooler climate. The grape variety called Zweigelt produced a light (9.5% vol) wine that was labelled a picnic wine. To finish we were treated to a wine he had bought 8 years ago and laid down in temperature controlled storage. Bought at just over £10 and now worth over £20, the Chateau Beaumont, Haut-Medoc, 2009 was a real treat.

In between these wines Simon talked mainly about a bit of a road trip in Georgia he had been on where he came across various wineries. We tasted a bottle which was made from 100% Saperavi grape. Another excellent wine 'and equally good story!

It was great to hear everyone talk about their experiences with wine, thanks to everyone who contributed! Next month, we have a real treat with two guys who supply wines to Strictlywine "pitching" for our vote as they present wines from various countries from around the world - all related to the Rugby Six Nations (both current and potential future participants!)

If you would like to come along then please get in touch with Ian (ian.langley@yahoo.co.uk) or try our website: www.uptonwine.com

Ian Langley

Village Produce Association

This is what I wrote in February 2016 - *We might be complaining about the rain and wind here - but aren't we lucky we don't live in Cumbria and further north. I do hope they are drying themselves out and getting back to normal.*

You may recall that Cumbria had serious flooding. It appears that the weather hasn't changed that much over the last four years other than, this year, the wind and rain is worse and has covered the whole of the country. I do hope that everyone is safe and dry in Upton, even though some of the roads have been flooded. I believe we have got to accept that this is the type of winter we are going to have in the future - all because of global warming and climate change.

On a happier note!! Our Summer Show Schedule is now ready. Copies are in the Blewbury Post Office or contact Maggie Maytham in Upton. It is also available on line - send an email to: ypa.in.bl.up@gmail.com and I'll forward you a copy. We've produced it nice and early this year to give you time to decide what you want to enter.

Since writing about my hens last month, I have some sad news. Polly had not been on top of her game for a few weeks and then a couple of weeks ago she was really poorly, not eating and drinking. I took her to the vet and it turned out she had a growth in her digestive system. Nothing could be done for her, so I had no alternative but to have her put to sleep. Holly, who had been with Polly from the start, was a bit unsettled but is now mixing well with the other girls. The hens were flooded by Storm Ciara and since then I have dug trenches and ditches in and around the chicken run and good news - the hens weren't flooded by Storm Dennis! although the allotments are under inches of water at the moment.

The VPA Committee is meeting soon and will probably be planning a garden visit in the spring - so keep an eye out in the next newsletter for details.

DID YOU KNOW? Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-82) said: "The good rain, like the bad preacher, does not know when to leave off."

Happy Gardening

Eileen

Blewbury Post Office

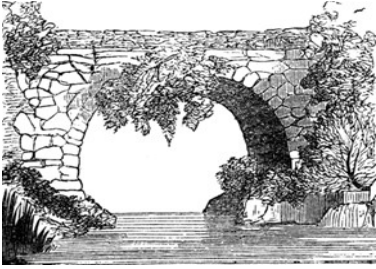
Please note that the Post Office will be closed from Friday 10th April until 2.30pm on Tuesday 28th April. We are having a bit of a revamp as part of the Village Hall refurbishment.

Royal Mail usually put the cost of postage up at the beginning of their financial year, and as usual, it will be at the end of March or beginning of April, so buy 1st and 2nd class stamps before then, as they just revalue themselves!

We are looking to take on another part time counter clerk, (1 or 1½ days a week) full training will be given, if you are interested please pop in for a chat, or ring 851777. I would just like an extra day in the garden!

Karen and Maggie

Rector's Note



Standing on a Bridge

Do you like going for a walk in the countryside? We are fortunate to live in an area where there are so many walks to choose from. One of my personal favourites is the short walk from East Hagbourne to West Hagbourne, along the path which avoids the main road. A few hundred yards or so from the church, there is a bridge

where the path crosses a small stream, and on this bridge is a plaque with two words written on it. It's a lovely spot to pause and enjoy the countryside all around.

You're probably wondering what the words are, and why I have chosen to write about them. The words are "Release" and "Peace". And why have I chosen to write about them?

Well, it's all about Lent - the forty-day period before Easter, during which Christians try to learn more about their faith and become better followers of Jesus. The words "Release" and "Peace" seem to me to be particularly appropriate to the keeping of Lent. Lent is about intentionally getting rid of all the stuff which prevents us from knowing the love of God in all its fullness and gets in the way of sharing that love effectively with all neighbours and our world. We need to be "released" from selfishness, greed, fear, and so much more besides. We need to change our lives so that we can receive God's gift of peace - that gift of God's peace which enables us to feel at peace with ourselves and our world.

I wonder what you and I need to do to be "released" from all the stuff which is getting in the way of our flourishing as human beings? What do you and I need to do to receive God's gift of Peace in all its fullness?

Perhaps we just need to calm down a bit, to give ourselves more time simply to be. Perhaps we need to spend more time with friends and family. Perhaps we need to try and mend broken relationships.

And perhaps we need to be more intentional about spending some time with God. Which brings us back to walks in the countryside. Many people find that going for a walk is an ideal way of reconnecting with our true selves - and when we reconnect with our true selves, we can reconnect with God. I wonder what you and I will discover, on our next walk in the countryside?

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 every other Thursday from 10.30am to 12.00 noon. Meetings this month are in the Village Hall on the 12th and the 26th, please come along and join us.



Foot Care



A Mobile Foot Clinic for
Upton

Treatment provided in your own home for
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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



We walk, rest and play
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Upton 50 Club

Time is running out to renew your Upton 50 ticket online. Each ticket is £10 for 12 months and every month 4 winning numbers drawn receive either a £25, £20, £15 or £10 prize. The lottery runs from each April to end of March the following year, with the draws taking place on the last Friday of each month. We do have volunteers who will visit to collect your monies and issue your ticket however it makes it a much easier job if you are able to pay online direct to Upton Village Hall Amenities Trust. To do this, please follow these easy steps:

- Make a payment for £10 for each ticket you require (you must be over aged 16 to play)
- Payment details are:
 - Account name: Upton Village Hall Amenities Trust
 - Sort code: 40-52-40 Account no: 00025632
 - Reference:- Please use your first initial and surname *eg J Reid*
- Email jacqui.reid@hotmail.co.uk to say you have paid online.

Once payment is verified we will then post through your ticket for the year. Please make any online payment by Friday 13th March

Jacqui Reid

Theatre Group

There are just 2 tickets left for the comedy “A Bunch of Amateurs” at the Oxford Playhouse on Thursday 18th June at 7.30 pm. Tickets for the front stalls cost £23.50 each. Any takers?

Malcolm Wright (850705)

Winston

My mother is moving into nursing care and we need to find a home for her lovely 11 year old all black, male cat. Winston is in great health, fully vaccinated and is micro chipped. He enjoys going outside (although doesn't need a cat flap) but wouldn't be good in a home that already has cats. He does however enjoys the company of dogs! As a family we are happy to continue to cover his health insurance fees. If you think you may be able to offer him a home please contact Jacqui Reid Jacqui.reid@hotmail.co.uk or on 07973818171.

Jacqui Reid

Didcot U3A

This month's U3A meeting is on Tuesday March 17th in the Didcot Civic Hall. Start time is 2.00pm, early arrival is recommended. The guest speaker will be Mike Beach - Secret London.

Patient Resource Room

Woodlands Medical Centre opened their Patient Resource Room at the start of January. This room is a place for patients, of any of the three Didcot practices, to access a wealth of online health and wellbeing resources. You can also sign up for access to your online medical records, request repeat prescriptions, book appointments online, and do self-referrals to services such as Talking Space and Physiotherapy.

In addition Woodlands are delighted to have a fantastic group of volunteers who will be available to assist you with any of the above! So if you have been wondering how to make use of the new smartphone or tablet that you had for Christmas, this is your chance!!

The room is open Tuesday to Friday, 9am to 6pm. There are regular volunteer's sessions, some you can book a slot and some are drop in sessions. The receptionists can assist you with finding a session - Tel. 01235 517760.

Lent Courses and Meetings

The following courses will be held during Lent.

York Course - "On the Third Day"

5 Sessions on Thursdays beginning on 5th March, 11am at Karibu, High Street Upton

Climate change and the Purpose of God

5 Sessions on Wednesdays beginning 4th March, 7.30pm in the Parish Room, St. Andrew's Church Hagbourne

Benefice Churches Pilgrimage

On the following Tuesdays during Lent at 3.00pm at:-

North Moreton on 3rd March, South Moreton on the 10th March, Aston Tirrold on the 17th March, Hagbourne on the 24th March and Blewbury on the 31st March.

Ecumenical Lent Group Meetings

6 Sessions on Fridays beginning on 28th February, 10.30am at 75 Loyd Road, Didcot.

Submissions for *Upton News* should be sent to

kameki39@btinternet.com

Deadline for the April edition is

Friday 27th March