

Upton News



Vol 5 No.52

November 2020

Church Services

The church will continue to be open on Wednesdays and Sundays from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Online church services will continue on Sundays at 10.30am, login or connect using a computer, laptop, tablet, smart phone or landline from 10.00am to chat before the service.

Please see the website or The Churn, if you receive it, for the service access codes and full details of how to join each week.

During weekdays Fr Jason is writing a short reflection and prayer. If you would like to receive this, please contact the office. Tel: 01235 850267 or office@churnchurches.co.uk

Churn Benefice All Souls' Service will be held in Blewbury Church at 4.00pm on Sunday 1st November. All are welcome at this service, which includes the lighting of commemorative candles and reading out of names of those to be remembered. Face coverings must be worn. Please notify the Benefice Office if you wish to attend.

The November Pram Service will be held in Blewbury Church on Wednesday 4th November at 12.30pm. Please be prepared to wear face covering inside the church. Parking is available at the benefice centre. This month we will celebrate "Saints". After a short service we will have a socially distanced lunch together. Happy meals are going to be prepared in boxes for you - or bring your own. For more details please contact Revd Louise Butler 07837 009 730.

Carol Service by Candlelight

This traditional Advent Carol Service will be held in St. Michael's Church Blewbury on Sunday 29th November at 6.00pm. Please notify the Benefice Office if you wish to attend - office@churnchurches.co.uk or 850267.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2020

Poppies are now available in the George and Dragon and also in St. Mary's Church on the days that the Church is open for private Prayer. These are from 10.00am to 4.00pm on Sunday 1st and Wednesday 4th November.

Many thanks for your support.

Helen Weston. (Poppy Appeal Organiser for Upton)

Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 26th November. Anyone is welcome to join the meeting which will be held via an e-conference system. Please inform the Clerk at least 24 hours before the start of the meeting that you would like to be present and joining instructions will be sent to you.

On the recreation ground, the small goalposts have been removed due to their poor state of repair. The large multi-use goal posts remain in use, while spare parts are being sourced.

Slow progress continues on the decommissioning of the old toddler play area and the installation of a new toddler play area. A single contractor has been sourced for all work involved and for future maintenance on all play areas. No concrete decisions have been made by the PC on any work at this stage.

Village Survey - the PC is asking residents to complete a short survey via this link: - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/9H56H2X>. A paper version will also be posted through letterboxes shortly. The PC is asking for responses within a 2-week window. The survey responses will then form a questionnaire, from which future plans will be formed. The results will hopefully be published in January.

The PC has been notified by the owner of the piece of land on the other side of the fence to the rear of the recreation ground, that people are cutting down trees and other foliage on what is private land. This is criminal damage and must stop immediately. If anyone has any information regarding this or would like to talk to the PC or the land owner, please make yourself known.

If you'd like to help make a difference for your village, either as a councillor or as a volunteer, then please contact the Parish Council Clerk on 07968 772935 or email parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk. We'd love to hear from you.

Liz Cooper—Clerk to Upton Parish Council

District Council

Hello! We hope that everyone is still staying safe and well now that the weather is distinctly autumnal and the darker evenings are closing in. We kindly ask residents that if you have not yet responded to your yellow letter from the Vale, please do so as soon as possible - by law the council needs to issue these letters every year to ensure that the electoral register is up to date.

As always, we will keep you updated on council matters and the council's response to COVID-19 through these newsletter articles, as well as on our dedicated councillor Facebook Page: [Cllrs Hayleigh Gascoigne & Sarah Medley](#). Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any issues or concerns - our email addresses are hayleigh.gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk and sarah.medley@whitehorsedc.gov.uk.

NHS Test and Trace App

Protect your loved ones with the official NHS COVID-19 contact tracing app for England and Wales. It's the fastest way of knowing when you're at risk from coronavirus (COVID-19). The quicker you know, the quicker you can alert your loved ones, and your community. The more of us that use it, the better we can control coronavirus. It has a venue 'check-in' feature - where you scan a QR code on display at any places you visit like pubs and restaurants. This provides you with a digital diary and can send you alerts if you have visited a venue where you may have come into contact with coronavirus. Users must be over 16 to have the app and own a smartphone that has Bluetooth. The app will be used alongside traditional contact tracing, in case your phone is not compatible. Here's a [video explaining more](#) - you can also head over to [the NHS website](#) for more information.

Air Quality Campaign

To mark Clean Air Day (Thursday 8 October), South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils have launched a new campaign to encourage people to use less polluting means of transport, such as walking and cycling, for local journeys. Since March many of us have changed where we work and how far we travel. This has resulted in fewer miles driven and as a result considerably less air pollution especially at peak times. According to a recent survey of the councils' staff, those who responded have saved an average of 110 miles per person per week by no longer commuting to the office in Milton Park and other council sites.

Fast Tracking of UK's Vaccines Manufacturing Centre

The Vale of White Horse District Council has granted planning permission for the highly specialist facility that will house the UK's Vaccines Manufacturing and Innovation Centre (VMIC) based at the Harwell campus.

VMIC, a not for profit organisation based at Harwell Campus, will provide the country's first bespoke strategic vaccine development and manufacturing capability. In an unusual move, the district council allowed construction of the facility to begin whilst simultaneously processing the planning application because of the critical nature of the facility and the role it will play in manufacturing vaccines for COVID-19 and beyond.

Didcot Gateway

The Vale and South Oxfordshire District Councils are intending to move into a new building that's proposed for the Didcot Gateway site opposite Didcot Parkway Station, a site that sits on the border between the districts.

Like many organisations around the world, the move to home working demonstrated to the councils that they could work successfully with most of their staff working in a more flexible and remote manner. However, the councils have learned over the past six months that there is still a need to have some office space for certain activities and for staff who are unable to work from home for practical, personal or well-being reasons.

Cllrs Hayleigh Gascoigne and Sarah Medley.

Rector's Note



A Nation Remembers

On the 26th April 1923, a young bride laid her bouquet on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, as a tribute to her brother Fergus, who had died in the Battle of Loos. Perhaps you have seen the tomb when visiting Westminster Abbey. The bride in question was Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, and her husband was the Duke of York, later King George VI. Many years later, before her own death, Elizabeth expressed the wish that her wreath be placed on the same tomb, on the day after her death. And this is indeed what

happened, her daughter Queen Elizabeth II laying the wreath herself.

At this time of year, many of us will be gathering around war memorials to remember all who have given their lives for this country in war, especially in the First and Second World Wars. Some will be able to attend an act of remembrance in person; others will be attending virtually. But whether the act of the remembrance is made in person or virtually, it will be made. The names of the Fallen will be read out, and their sacrifice will not be forgotten.

It is a time to pledge ourselves to work for peace between nations. This might seem an impossible task, but there are things that we can do. For example, we could find out more about the work of peace makers and peacekeepers around the world and see what we might be able to do to support their work.

There can, of course, be scope for disagreement over the best way to keep the peace in any particular situation. For example, some would say that there should be no role for a Nuclear deterrent, while others would say that, given the world as it is, a Nuclear deterrent is necessary and effective. Another issue where people disagree is over the doctrine of "Just War" - are there ever circumstances where it is morally right to start a war?

There is room for a variety of opinion on these and other issues. But surely, we can all agree that we must strive, as far as possible, to be peace makers and peacekeepers in our world.

As Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers". And at this time of Remembrance, what better words are there than these to honour the memory of all who have given lives for the freedoms we enjoy today?

Father Jason

Swap Shop

Single Electric Adjustable Bed - Free but a contribution to the Village Hall or Parkinson's UK would be welcome.

Elizabeth 07771640860

Wine Club

Whether you love wine or are a bit indifferent, the one thing most of us will agree on, is the importance of having a good laugh with some friends. And so it was, at this month's wine club meeting.

Our village hall can still comfortably take up to 30 people at a social distance and with the use of bistro tables, we were able to spread members out at a safe distance with still the same (arguably more) good humour and banter that we have come to expect from our evenings.

The challenge for this month was for the committee to select wines they had enjoyed over the summer that could still easily be drunk now, as we put our clocks back and see in the darker evenings.

We opened with a lovely white from Austria called Gruner Veltliner. This is a lovely light aromatic wine, with plenty of zesty lime flavours and touch of white pepper. If you don't want to cook one evening and fancy a Thai, then do try this as a wonderful accompaniment to the spicy food.

Next was a Florent Rouge, Vire Clesse. One of the best wines of the evening (Ed opinion) and a classic example of a Chardonnay from the South of Burgundy at a very reasonable price (have a look when next in M&S!) Crisp, dry and full of peach and honeysuckle flavours, but nice and deep. Perfect with any creamy pasta dish!

Our third white was called Villebois, a classic example of a Pouilly Fume from the Loire. If you like Sauv Blanc, then you will love this wine. Try it with white fish or meat dishes, the crisp flinty flavour will match perfectly.

The last white was a Roussanne called Chateau Montfin. This was pretty much a wine made with 100% Roussanne grape. If you've not tried Roussanne before then worth a try.

We had 4 very different reds to try. The first was a Gamay grape from Touraine in the Loire valley called Domaine de la Chaise. Normally known for making Beaujolais, this was a really good wine, perfect slightly chilled and with a plate of sliced red meats.

Next was a Pinot Noir from the Saint Clair winery in Marlborough, New Zealand called Pioneer Block. A selected wine made from a specific block of vines grown on the estate - yep they can differ from area to area within the vineyard! This was another excellent wine, full of red fruits and one for that Sunday roast Lamb!

The penultimate wine was a Grenache/Syrah blend called Me & Monsieur Jones. A lovely wine from the Languedoc region, France. A strong but very smooth wine full of rich dark berries. Definitely one for your beef stews!

The evening was nearly over but not without trying a "GSM", a three classic grape blend called The Cutler from South Africa. Full of Raspberry, Cherry and peppers. Again, a great wine and very versatile. Try it with a late season BBQ or some simple French onion soup!

We all really look forward to the time when this blasted COVID-19 is but a memory or at least something we can cope with whilst living much more

“normal” lives. Until then, the healing powers of laughter, I believe, benefits everyone and there is never any shortage of that at the wine club meetings!

The next meeting is on the 19th November. If you would like to come along, then look out for the invite as norm or contact ian.langley@yahoo.co.uk. Hope to see you there!

Ian

Village Produce Association

I've been sorting out my laptop recently and checking my word document folders to try and reduce some of the volume. When I checked the VPA files I couldn't believe that I've been writing on behalf of the VPA every month for the last five years.

Looking through the files in previous years it was clear that the VPA was busy with monthly meetings including speakers, plant sales, summer and autumn shows, outings, AGM and an end of year social. However, given the reduction in support of our events and activities over recent years we have had to reduce our events to a Summer Show, an occasional outing and a Social in December in order to keep the VPA going. Please remember - all Upton and Blewbury residents have free membership to the VPA.

With the lockdown and other Government restrictions it has become apparent that more residents are becoming involved in 'grow your own'. So, maybe when this ghastly coronavirus has been dealt with and we can get back to some sort of normality, we will be able to build up the VPA as it was a few years ago to help and support budding gardeners in Upton and Blewbury.

It has been so disappointing that because of the Covid-19 pandemic we had to cancel our Summer Show which should have taken place in July and with the current 'Rule of Six' restrictions in operation we now have to advise that we are cancelling our planned Social in December. It is unlikely that things will have improved sufficiently by the beginning of December to take the chance of having (or being allowed to have) a large social gathering.

But, don't forget we have organised a special competition to take place on Saturday 12th December. The details were in the October issue of the Upton News and are also available at Blewbury Post Office or from Maggie Maytham at Toad Hall (850126). If you want to take part, register your details at the Post Office by the 30th November or if you want more information, you can send an email to vpa.in.bl.up@gmail.com. Please support the VPA and take part

Did you know:-*The average tree will drink roughly 2,000 litres of water each year and did you know wood from the pear tree is still used in the manufacture of high-quality woodwind instruments.*

Happy Gardening, keep well and safe

Eileen

<p style="text-align: center;"> Foot Care </p> <p style="text-align: center;">A Mobile Foot Clinic for Upton</p> <p>Treatment provided in your own home for Routine Foot and Nail Care Toenail Trimming Corn and Callous Removal Diabetic Foot Care</p> <p>Contact Jill Allen DipFh MCFHP MAFHP Foot Health Practitioner 07767763441 or 01235 815917</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> Gary Cuddon </p> <p style="text-align: center;">9 Harwood Road East Hagbourne Painter and Decorator</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Providing a High Quality Service Free Quotations Fully Insured</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tel. 01235 510680 or 07827752904</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Scotlands Ash Garage</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Main Street West Hagbourne Oxford's award winning local Independent Garage</p> <p>MOTs from 6.00am by appointment Vehicle Servicing and Repairs Tyres, Clutches and Exhausts Paint and Bodywork TerraClean Service Free Courtesy Car Tel. 01235 850707</p> <p style="text-align: center;">enquiries@scotlandsashgarage.co.uk</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Family Nursery, Florist,  Gift and Farm Shop</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Visit Savages to discover fresh quality fruit and veg, home grown plants, flowers, giftware and foods</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Nurseries, London Road, Blewbury 01235 850352</p> <p style="text-align: center;">shop@savagesblewbury.co.uk</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">LJD Bell Plumbing & Heating Services</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All Domestic Plumbing and Heating Work Undertaken</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A1 High Efficiency Boilers Fitted Gas Appliances Fitted and Serviced (Inc LPG) Landlord Gas Safety Check and Certificates Aga/Rayburn Servicing Fully Insured</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Water Safe Approved Operative CIPHE Registered Plumber</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mobile 07555100848</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ljd-bell-plumbing-heating@outlook.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> N Drum </p> <p style="text-align: center;">Landscaping, Fencing and Maintenance Garden and Grounds Maintenance</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hedge Planting and Cutting Grass Cutting and Turfing Power Washing and Winter Gritting Licensed Waste Carrier Fully Insured</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tel. 01235 859229 or 07922701634</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ndrumlandscaping@gmail.com</p>

Astons On Line

Free and friendly help for computer users is available every Tuesday morning from 10.00am to 12.00noon. We provide help remotely using telephone, Facetime, Skype, Zoom, Teams, WhatsApp or whatever is best for you. Book a 30 minute appointment by emailing theastonsonline@gmail.com or, if this is not possible, by phoning 07780 958249.

Join in an online meeting 10.30am to 11.15am on Tuesday 17th November to exchange good ideas about using health related on-line services including the NHS Covid-19 app. Please book a place using the above email address.

Go to www.astonsonline.uk for more information”

Blewbury Post Office

Thank you everyone for the good wishes while I was off work and getting my dodgy leg sorted out. Hopefully I won't get it again.

We've got two new trainees, and hopefully they'll be working very soon. From Monday 2nd November, we will be back to our normal opening times, including Saturday mornings, however, if we all get moved into tier2 or 3, our opening times will be reduced again. Please remember that a face mask is mandatory, and we will refuse to serve anyone with a cough, a cold or similar. Please also remember that we are heading into our busiest time of the year, all post must be wrapped and addressed before you get to the counter, and all post must be processed by 4.30pm, or 10.30am on a Saturday. The bags are sealed at those times and we will not accept any post after that.

Christmas stamps will be on sale from Monday 2nd too, stained glass window depicting the nativity. Royal Mail are forwarding letters to Father Christmas, 'Santa's Grotto, Reindeerland, XM4 5HQ', the deadline is 8th December if you want a reply. Most of the Surface Mail deadlines are at the end of October, and I would recommend a really early start to your Christmas posting, there are long delays over the network.

The Bell Ringers will be delivering Christmas cards to Blewbury and Upton, the post boxes will be in the churches, the Post Office and at several other places in the villages, from the end of November, cost 25p a card.

We have Christmas cards, bags, wrapping paper, labels, Jiffy bags, tape and string in stock, and no plastic glitter! Caddy bags have arrived.

Karen

Harvest Festival

The Didcot Emergency Food Bank would like to thank everyone for the Harvest gifts donated by villagers. We were pleased to be able to deliver over 300 gifts which were collected at our Harvest Festival.

The food bank operates from the Baptist Church in Wantage Road, Didcot and opens on Tuesdays and Fridays from 11.00am to 1.00pm. to give emergency help to the needy.

Please note that Jennie Slatter, Pentreen, Stream Road, has offered to collect food and toiletries and will deliver them to the Food Bank on a weekly basis.

Garage Wanted

Wanted to rent, a secure dry garage in Upton for the storage of a classic car. Please contact Neil Thorpe 01235 850756

HUGS

'Tis the season to plant trees in!

According to The Woodland Trust, it's best to plant trees between November and March when they're dormant and there's less risk of causing damage.

There are lots of reasons people plant trees - to replace an old one that had to be felled, to help wildlife, to grow fruit, to soak up carbon, to remember a loved one, just to watch it grow.

But there's another compelling reason to plant a tree this year. Because it will help us reach our target of 1000 new trees in the 3 villages!

Native species have the dual benefit of capturing carbon and supporting indigenous wildlife so we've got a great list of natives for you to choose from - and they're all under a fiver.

Depending on what space you have available, how about a beautiful flowering tree like a guelder rose or a bird cherry, or if you've got a bigger gap, why not a sweet chestnut so you can be roasting your own in a few Christmases from now. For the full range, see the tree-planting section of our website: <https://www.hugsustainability.org/trees-1>

We'll also be able to put you in touch with expert local gardeners for advice on where and how to plant.

Owls over Upton

We're launching an exciting project with Lu Barton of Lu's Owls in Didcot to monitor owls in our area. Owls are an indicator species, helping us understand what state our local nature is in. We know tawny and little owls are still around, but we think we've lost barn owls in recent years.

Using the data we collect together we want to put up more nest boxes (several with web cams) and we'd like to work with landowners to improve habitat for our owls. More info next month!

Village Questionnaire

You'll be getting a questionnaire from the Parish Council asking what you'd like to see happening in the village in your mail/email soon.

It's a good opportunity to register your support for activities and expenditure which promote nature, the rural landscape and sustainable lifestyles.

Members of the Parish Council committee aren't opposed to these things - in fact they've been very positive about protecting the environment and biodiversity. But they need to know what your views are, and what you expect them to take into consideration when making decisions.

If you're concerned about the environment, biodiversity or climate change, please speak up.

Kieron

United Charities

Christmas is coming and the United Charities can share some goodwill this festive season

We are a local charity that supports people living in Blewbury, the Astons and Upton. 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. 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 Hazel the Clerk at unitedcharities@outlook.com who can send you an application form. Paper application forms are also available at Blewbury post office. If required, one of our trustees can assist with the application, details are on the form.

Hazel

Faber's Fables

"Johnny! Mrs P's got a job for you."

"Oh, Mum, do I have to? I've arranged with Luke to go on line."

"You know how much she needs help - and she's always so grateful."

Mrs P was an elderly, infirm widow who lived a few doors up the road. Granted, she was usually generous when he did something for her, but it was always hard to get away, and she treated him as if he was still in primary school. He began to argue with his mother, but she was insistent.

"Suppose you just go and find out what she wants, and see if you can do it another day when you haven't fixed something with Luke."

More than somewhat reluctantly, Johnny rang Mrs P's doorbell. She always took for ever to answer, but eventually opened the door. "I'm so pleased to see you, Johnny. I asked your Mum if you could tidy the shed for me. I've got a new lady gardener coming, and she wants to leave some of her tools with me. So we need to make some space, and maybe we can throw out some of the rubbish. There are some black bags in the kitchen. Would you like an orange squash and biscuit before you start?"

Johnny realised he was expected to start at once, but with as much politeness as he could muster, he asked if he could come another day. Although surprised, Mrs P settled for a couple of days later.

Accordingly, but still reluctantly, Johnny turned up on Thursday. Mrs P's

offer of an orange squash and a biscuit he declined. Then she added, "I've done a kind of Treasure Hunt for you - I hope you enjoy it."

"Stupid old woman," he thought as he unlocked the shed door. It needed tidying. It was a total mess of cobweb-covered rubbish - a push lawn mower, a sideboard, bulging boxes and sacks, plastic -covered shelves of books, stacked flowerpots. At random, he picked up a box; it was full of newspapers, years old. On top, though, was a new five pence piece. "What is she thinking of?" Johnny grimaced. But he pocketed the money.

Ten dirty minutes and already two sacks later, he had shifted about a tenth of the rubbish - and found three more coins. This thoroughly disagreeable job had realised 9p in total. If that was all he was worth, he was going to cut corners. He shifted three boxes without checking their contents, he vaguely swept the top of the sideboard but didn't bother with the drawers, he blew the dust from just some of the books on the shelves. He surveyed his handiwork cursorily - well, there was at least some space for the tools - and went to report to Mrs P.

"Oh well done," she said, beaming. "You were quick. Did you find everything?"

"Er - I think so," replied Johnny. "Thank you for the money."

"I'm sure you earned it. And what did you think of the book?"

"The book?"

"I hid it with other books on the shelves. I wrapped it up and put your name on it. I wonder how you missed it. I bought it for my grandson, you know, the one that died of meningitis. I put a £20 note inside, too. Would you like an orange juice and biscuit before you go?"

My thanks to Malcolm Wright for sending me the above. It goes to prove that if you have a job to do then do it to the best of your ability otherwise the result may come back to bite you.

If any of you have similar items of interest that I can use to make up the printed version of our Newsheet to a full 8 or 12 pages then please send them along. I prefer not to send out blank sheets of paper.

Editor

Upton in 1933

1933 was a very notable year in the history of Upton.

A proposal was made for the first time for Upton to purchase land that could be used as a recreation ground. A committee of six was formed to investigate the possibilities, at the very first meeting it was announced that there had been an offer of £50 towards the purchase, but, with a condition that no cleric should be elected on the committee nor act as trustee - someone did not like the new vicar. This immediately divided the committee and so a Public Meeting was called where it was decided that the money was the most

important factor and it should be accepted in spite of the condition imposed. Only a few weeks later, a second offer of £50 was made - unconditionally - so yet another Parish Meeting was called and 50 parishioners attended. The first offer was subsequently withdrawn, but there were still strong feelings about both offers, at the meeting several people wanted to refuse the second offer as well and raise money by voluntary means. However, they were out-voted and the second offer of £50 was accepted. Later in the year it was discovered that under a Local Government Act of 1894, it would be necessary for the Parish Meeting to become a Parish Council before it could purchase land for recreational purposes and as this did not happen until 1947 the idea was mothballed and our present field was eventually purchased in 1952.

The plans to add a new vestry on to the church were no longer just a pipe-dream. Some materials which would be useful in its construction were bought from the Upton Estate and a general appeal for funds was made.

The Church safe was bought for £10 and the man who very kindly did some work looking after the church had his salary raised to 1s. 0d [5p] per week.

The great fire that was to drastically change the appearance of Upton forever, took place in 1933 on June 6th. The fire started in Manor Farm that stood at the bottom of the garden of what is now known as Corderoys in Pound Lane. The farmhouse was a fine, timber-framed house, probably built at the end of the 16th century and it was surrounded by mainly timber barns and outhouses. At the time of the fire the house was unoccupied as the farm bailiff was Lelius Corderoy, who lived and farmed in Blewbury.

As a result of the timber construction of the farm buildings the fire spread rapidly and engulfed several cottages in what is now Stream Road leaving a large section of the centre of the old village totally destroyed. Re-development of the area with modern houses took place over the following 30 years to give us the present make up of the village.

Considering the enormity of the fire very little was recorded about the incident or the aftermath in which several families were left homeless. One known fact is that it was the first outing of the new Didcot fire engine but judging by its appearance in the short video of the incident available on our village website it probably took at least 30 minutes to arrive at the scene and stood no chance of controlling the spread of the fire, hence the scale of the damage.

Submissions for *Upton News* should be sent to

kameki39@btinternet.com

Deadline for the December edition is

Thursday 26th November