

Upton News



Vol 5 No.55

February 2021

Church Services

Online Services

Online church services will continue on Sundays at 10.30am, login or connect from 10.00am to chat before the service. Please see the website 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

February Pram Service - Pancake Praise!

The February Pram Service will be a short service with a carnival atmosphere held just before the start of Lent on Tuesday 16th February at 4.00pm. Dress up and join in.

Contact Revd Louise 07837 009 730 for your log in details on zoom.

Bus Service

All through Covid 19 and lockdown, the 94 bus has continued to serve the parishes of Blewbury, Upton, West Hagbourne, East Hagbourne and parts of Didcot through government support and those travellers feeling comfortable in doing so. Unfortunately, some of the most vulnerable have not felt able to use the bus as yet.

2021 has brought some changes however. The new route for the 94 now serves both Chilton and Harwell as the majority of journeys from the X32 are being withdrawn from there, and will come into Upton then continue as normal through Blewbury etc. Unfortunately, it is no longer able to go through West Hagbourne but will treat the Horse and Harrow as a hail and drop off point. The funding support now comes from the new development taking place in Chilton and should be available for up to two years. With a view to the limited funds available following on, the council have made a bid to the Government's Rural Mobility fund for a pilot demand responsive transport project which would replace service 94. The outcome of this bid is expected to be known next December.

It is hoped that those who can/ will/ might/ make the most of what we have in order to help secure a mobile future for the villages.

If you download a copy of the new timetable you will see that it gives us a Saturday service. I am happy to print off copies for those unable to do so.

Jessie West PTR Tel 851206

Parish Council

Upton Parish Council held a meeting on 14th January, where the council welcomed Neil Thorp as a new councillor. Neil brings a wealth of experience from his professional life and we are sure will be an asset to the council.

A new, more substantial fence at the back of the recreation ground has been the subject of some discussion in recent times. However, the council has discovered that it is legally bound to have a fence in this area. The council is now looking at how this can be funded.

A new layer of wood chippings is planned for the adventure play area in early March. Volunteers to help spread the chippings will be requested, especially those with wheelbarrows, rakes and shovels. This will of course need to be carried out in a socially distanced way, so masks and gloves will also be required. More details when a delivery date has been agreed.

Results from the recent village-wide questionnaire have been analysed. Working groups are being organised to work on certain categories. You may also be aware of the Chilton Road Closure Consultation recently launched. For those who'd like to comment, here is the link:-

<https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/ChiltonRoadTrafficCrossing/consultationHome>

The next parish council meeting is scheduled for Thursday 18th March and will be held via an e-conference system. Anyone is welcome to attend if you let the parish clerk know 24 hours in advance of the meeting, in order to receive joining instructions.'

Liz Cooper

Clerk to Upton Parish Council

District Council

For anyone currently juggling working from home around children's remote learning, please note that help is available to access the required technology. There are various local laptop donation schemes in Harwell and Didcot: Harwell Helpers, Be Free Young Carers, Sustainable Didcot and Secret Santa 365 are all doing great work distributing laptops. Their contact details are all online, mostly through Facebook, and if anyone has laptops or tablets to spare then please do let them know.

Winter Support Scheme

Winter, especially January, is always a difficult time of year, and this year it's made all the more difficult because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nobody should have to go cold or hungry, so if you are struggling to heat your home or feed your family right now, help is available from the new Winter Support Scheme at the district councils. Support is available in the form of advice, supermarket and fuel vouchers or through the direct payment of energy or water bills.

The grant is available from 11th January until the end of March 2021. For more information see <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/community-support/grants/winter-support-grant-scheme/> or get in touch with your local Citizens Advice Centre Tel.0300 3309042.

Community Support Group Funding

We (Hayleigh and Sarah) still have a very limited amount of funding remaining in our councillor Covid-19 response grant, so please contact us if you would like to apply. This grant is for community groups and other appropriate organisations delivering community initiatives aimed at stopping the spread of the virus, protecting residents and supporting people's wellbeing, particularly working with vulnerable residents. Examples of projects include:

- Supporting the delivery of food and/or medication.

- Offering an online or telephone befriending service to the elderly/people in social isolation.

- Measures to open-up community facilities such as village halls, day centres, local sporting clubs, and playgrounds in a Covid-19 safe way.

- Initiatives combatting loneliness and isolation, including volunteer driving schemes.

Garden Waste Collections suspended

Low staffing levels at Biffa (the councils' waste contractor) resulted in a recent suspension of the garden waste collection service. More information about this can be found in [this open letter](#) to all Garden Waste Customers. The situation is being reviewed on a week by week basis and it is best to check the [Vale website](#).

Community Centres Update

Due to the current lockdown, and following consultation with the relevant members, The Beacon, Cornerstone, and our two new community centres on Great Western Park will remain closed to the public until at least 31st March. This is so we can protect our community food hub, which is currently running from Cornerstone and enable them to be used to support the vaccine or as additional testing centres, if required. We hope to review the situation around Easter.

Community infrastructure Consultations

We want to hear what people think about how we raise money for infrastructure and the community facilities needed to support planned growth across the district. We are asking people to comment on our draft Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule and the draft Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Both consultations run until midnight on Monday 8th February. To find out more and to have your say visit the consultation pages for the [CIL Charging Schedule](#) and the [Developer Contributions SPD](#).

Civil Parking Enforcement

Vale of White Horse District Councils' Cabinet has agreed to move forward with proposals for Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE). The move could see responsibility for parking enforcement transfer from the police to a new team managed by Oxfordshire County Council. Enforcement for on-street parking in the Vale is currently carried out by the police, however this can put unnecessary extra pressure on police resources and leave parking problems unresolved as the police focus on more serious crimes.

If the proposal is approved by the government, a new team managed by Oxfordshire County Council would be launched to enforce on-street parking. It is hoped that CPE could be introduced in the Vale by the end of 2021. Enforcement for off-street car parks in the Vale will continue to be managed by the district council via its contract with Saba.

We will continue to 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.

Sarah and Hayleigh □□

Next Generation Broadband

A few years ago Upton and Blewbury were at the forefront of activity to improve rural broadband speeds. As a pair of villages sharing the same British Telecom phone exchange we came very near to the top of a competition to get an upgrade to the exchange which resulted in significantly improved broadband speed capability for both villages - this upgrade was called Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC).

Time has moved on and the next generation of broadband is now available - This is called Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) where the fibre cables are extended beyond the exchange (or the cabinet) to the actual premises (a house etc). This would increase speeds to the premises from a theoretical maximum to 65gigabits per second to at least 500gb/s, and more.

OpenReach, who lay the cable infrastructure have changed their approach and require communities to come together to identify who would like the upgrade, and then will cost it out. There are grants available to cover some, but not all of the cost.

If you are interested in finding out what the cost might be for you (but not commit to anything at this moment), can you email me ian.ross.uk@gmail.com. I will collate potentially interested responses and investigate costs with OpenReach.

Ian Ross

Rector's Note



A Special Day

Do you have anything planned for Wednesday 17th February?

You might well be thinking to yourself: why the 17th February? What's so special about the 17th February?

Well, this year 17th February is the day on which Lent starts. Lent always starts on a Wednesday, 40 days before Easter. The date of Easter varies from year to year, and so the date of Ash Wednesday varies accordingly. You will doubtless know why it's called

Ash Wednesday, and the fact that this comes from the tradition of attending a church service on this day and receiving the mark of the cross on our forehead. The mark is made from ash, and there is another tradition of making this ash from the palm crosses which have been kept from the previous year.

Why do Christians do this? In part it's about recognising that we all fall short. We all need to say sorry to God and ask for God's help to change things for the better. The sign of the cross is a way of saying sorry to God and asking for his help. It's a visual expression of spiritual humility - the humility to accept that we're not perfect, and that we need to change.

But the sign of the Cross is also a way of focussing on Jesus, and the significance of his life, death and resurrection. For the last 2000 years, Christians have believed that through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ we can receive God's gift of new life. This has been the experience of countless millions of Christians down the centuries.

Theologians have used various words and theories to describe this experience of new life in Jesus. Sometimes people use words such as "atonement" or "justification" or "salvation". The words used are, ultimately, neither here nor there. The key thing is the reality of new life, which is given to us as a gift from God, and experienced through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

And so the sign of the cross isn't just about saying sorry to God, important though this is. It's also about acknowledging that through Jesus we receive the gift of a new beginning.

The 40 days of Lent which begin on Ash Wednesday is a time when, once again, we prepare ourselves to receive God's gift of new life. I wonder what this might mean for us this year?

Father Jason

Chilton Road

The County Council are seeking your views on the proposals to introduce additional measures that will allow for the safe use of Chilton Road for walking, cycling and wheeling in Upton. Chilton Road is a missing link in an otherwise traffic-free or low-traffic cycle route from Didcot to Harwell Campus and is part of the National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 544.

Following feasibility investigations, the Department for Transport has awarded Sustrans (the Charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle), grant funding to deliver a scheme at Chilton Road. Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), who are responsible for Chilton Road, are consulting on a scheme to transform Chilton Road into a safe walking, cycling and wheeling environment by re-routing vehicular traffic, from Chilton Road, on to London Road (A417) and Hagbourne Hill, utilising the grant funding.

Proposals for a permanent scheme have been in development for over a year, by Sustrans. Government funding was made available to councils during the covid-19 pandemic and provided an opportunity to ‘fast-track’ the closure of Chilton Road to vehicular traffic on a temporary basis. The funding was to provide greater space for people to walk, wheel and cycle in-line with Covid-19 restrictions. The closure has been in place since 19th August 2020 and has been delivered through a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO). The TTRO will remain in place for 18 months.

Oxfordshire County Council is therefore now proposing to introduce additional measures that will allow for the safe use of Chilton Road for walking, cycling and wheeling. Specifically, the proposals comprise of the following measures:

- a) Extending the existing 30mph speed on Chilton Road to cover its entire length.
- b) Introduce banned turning movements from Hagbourne Hill into Chilton Road.
- c) Construct a traffic calming chicane wide enough to accommodate non-standard cycles and wheelchairs on Chilton Road at the junction with Hagbourne Hill, and a gate feature further east.
- d) Introduce a Toucan (for use by pedestrians and cyclists) crossing on London Road between the junctions of Chilton and Station Road.
- e) Construct raised table traffic calming features on Chilton Road and Station Road.

Details of the proposed scheme are available to view on the Councils consultation pages at <https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/ChiltonRoadTrafficCrossing/consultationHome>

Any objections or other representations on the proposal should be submitted by Friday 19th February 2021.

Oxfordshire County Council

 <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 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 Providing a High Quality Service Free Quotations Fully Insured Tel. 01235 510680 or 07827752904</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Scotlands Ash Garage</p> <p>Main Street West Hagbourne Oxford's award winning local Independent Garage 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 enquiries@scotlandsashgarage.co.uk</p>	   <p style="text-align: center;">Family Nursery, Florist, Gift and Farm Shop</p> <p>Visit Savages to discover fresh quality fruit and veg, home grown plants, flowers, giftware and foods The Nurseries, London Road, Blewbury 01235 850352 shop@savagesblewbury.co.uk</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">LJD Bell Plumbing & Heating Services</p> <p>All Domestic Plumbing and Heating Work Undertaken</p> <p>A1 High Efficiency Boilers Fitted Gas Appliances Fitted and Serviced (Inc LPG) Landlord Gas Safety Check and Certificates Aga/Rayburn Servicing Fully Insured Water Safe Approved Operative CIPHE Registered Plumber</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mobile 07555100848 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 Hedge Planting and Cutting Grass Cutting and Turfing Power Washing and Winter Gritting Licensed Waste Carrier Fully Insured Tel. 01235 859229 or 07922701634 ndrumlandscaping@gmail.com</p>

RBL Poppy Appeal 2020

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, we were not able to do our normal door to door collection last year. However, I was able to place a collection box in St. Mary's Church and also one in the George and Dragon, these together with donations which were delivered to me at home and a generous donation from the Parish Council all totalled up to £545.28. This is an amazing amount, thank you all so much.

Helen Weston (Poppy Appeal Organiser for Upton)

Obituaries

It is with great sadness that we report the deaths of two of our oldest residents who have lived in the village for a long time.

Muriel Wright our oldest resident and probably the oldest ever resident of Upton, died on 6th January at the age of 106 years 7 months and 10 days.

Alec Chennery died on 29th November aged 89. Alec moved into a new bungalow in Newman's Close with his wife Yvonne in 1962. He worked in Research Reactor group at Harwell and was a member of the team that built our village hall.

Hugs

The Pioneer Paradox

If you had a massive farm and it was losing money year after year, what would you do? This was the dilemma facing Isabella Tree and her husband at Knepp in Sussex. They ran a mixed arable and dairy operation, but global overproduction and falling prices meant they couldn't keep their heads above water. To cap it all, the launch of Häagen-Dazs stomped all over sales of their successful ice cream brand.

What they did next is recorded in Isabella Tree's book, *Wilding*. It's an inspiring tale - their plans to try to replicate an older, wilder landscape were regarded with suspicion by many. In particular they were thwarted by scientists and policy-makers who wanted proof that the thing they wanted to try would work before they'd even started.

It's the pioneer's paradox: you want to set out in a bold new direction, but you find yourself hampered by the doubts and fears (often based on speculation) of the establishment.

One set of pioneers who are persevering - and with brilliant success - is Sustrans. The railway line is an incredible asset for walkers and cyclists, and the closure of Chilton Road to complete the largely car-free route to Harwell could be another.

Sustrans is worried that after lockdown there'll be an unprecedented return to the roads. Public transport will have much-reduced capacity so everyone will use their cars, creating congestion, pollution and emissions. We'll emerge from one crisis only to exacerbate another. Part of the solution Sustrans proposes is to remove every possible barrier to allowing people to circulate on foot and bike including e-bike.

More bicycles, cargo bikes, free bike servicing, dedicated bike and pedestrian lanes - these are the kinds of things that will help us be mobile, healthy and resilient in future. The pioneers of the bicycle, once ridiculed as eccentrics and fanatics, would be cock-a-hoop.

Kieron

Blewbury Post Office

We are open for our usual opening times, mornings and afternoons, including Saturday mornings. If there are any changes to our opening times due to Covid or government guidelines, I will give as much notice as possible.

Please remember to wear your face mask and to sanitise your hands when you come in and leave. Only 1 customer in the post office at any time

All large letters and parcels to Europe and beyond, now require a customs label

The last acceptance time for post is 30 minutes before closing, 4.30pm or 11.30am on Wednesdays and Saturdays

CCTV will be installed in the next few weeks, all rude and abusive customers will be barred, and footage sent to police.

There are still difficulties at many sorting offices around the country, with long delays for many of us.

We now have new special stamps include 'National Parks' and 'Only Fools and Horses'

If you need anything from the post office, ring on 851777 or 07825154842 and I'll whizz over!

Please note that as the British love a good queue and the opportunity for a moan about the weather, we are providing a free service while you wait!

Wrap up warmly and bring a broly if necessary!

Karen

Vale Covid Assistance Grant

Has Coronavirus affected your income?? If so, please read on...

We are pleased to let you know that we have been successful in obtaining a grant from the Vale to assist residents who have suffered financially as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. The grant is modest, only £5000, but we hope that this fund can be used to give some support to residents whose income has been impacted by the virus. The United Charities are administering the grant and are very keen to receive applications from residents of Blewbury, Upton and Aston Upthorpe. If you would like to apply for support from this fund, there is a short application form which has to be completed. These can be picked up from Blewbury Post Office or requested by email to unitedcharities@outlook.com. Help can be provided to complete the form if necessary and all applications will be dealt with confidentially.

We do urge people to apply as the money has to be distributed by March 2021 and we would like to ensure that all of the grant is used. We would also like to remind you that we are able to issue grants for reasons other than Covid from our own charitable fund so please do apply if you, or someone you know, is in need of some financial support. The application process is the same as for the Covid fund.

We look forward to receiving your applications.

Carol

Photographic Competition

Many thanks to the 20 + people who sent in 41 pictures last time. The ten selected pictures are on the Upton Village Facebook site.

I am continuing with this idea, as a prelude to a larger competition, hopefully in the summer, with prizes and an exhibition.

So, if you want to get in some practice please send in any new pictures on the theme 'Upton and Surrounding Area' to -ronyart5@hotmail.com JPEG pictures please along with your name and a picture description.

This is open to anyone in the village including children. I will put the next ten best on the Facebook site on 16th February.

Rob Traynor

100th Birthday

Some of you will probably remember Edna (Jane) Napper who lived opposite us, together with husband, Guy, in Owlscoote Manor Farmhouse (at the end of the High Street).

Jane/Edna lived there for many years, firstly as Guy's housekeeper and then as his wife. He always referred to her as Jane as he didn't like the name, Edna. As some of you will remember, Guy was a real character. They both made us very welcome when we moved into the village at approximately the turn of the century and we spent many happy hours in their company.

Following Guy's death in 2012 Edna reverted to being known as Edna and she lived all alone in the big rambling farmhouse, quite content with her own company. She eventually needed assistance and moved into residential care in Wallingford where she has been since 2014.

We have kept in touch with her by telephone and by visiting her from time to time. Always cheerful, never complaining, she is a pleasure to be with.

For obvious reasons this year has been different and she has not been able to have her normal string of visitors. Hitherto her only son would visit regularly from Canada, where he lives. Not this year.

On the 24th February this year Edna will reach her 100th Birthday. Not only will her son be unable to visit but nobody else will either. This seems a very sad way to spend such a milestone birthday.

If any of you remember Edna and would like to send her a card to brighten up the occasion we are sure it would be much appreciated. Please give me a call and I will give you her address.

Yvonne Collins Tel 01235 850989

Chilton Road Working Group

Upton Parish Council is pleased to report that a working group was established for the purpose of making a recommendation to Upton Parish Council in response to the Oxfordshire County Council consultation on the closure of Chilton Road and a road crossing on the London Road. The next Working Group Public Meeting will be on Friday 5th February at 7.00pm.

Upton Parish Council invites all interested parties who wish to attend the second meeting to contact bens@uptonpc.co.uk.

If you wish to have a speaking slot the deadline to be included on the agenda is Wednesday 3rd February at 6.00pm. This is to enable an agenda to be published prior to the meeting.

The meeting will be one hour long and so the time will be divided evenly over the agenda items.

It is possible to attend the meeting and listen and if any speaker relinquishes their time to questions you may be able to ask questions if time allows.

If this is not possible at the meeting then there will be a facility made available for questions to be sent to the working group after the meeting for their consideration.

For those without digital ability to join the meeting we encourage you to email your questions and they will be read on your behalf or you can nominate another person to read your question on your behalf with their agreement.

The Parish Council will then hold an extraordinary meeting on 11th February where it will discuss the outcome of the response on this question from the Village Questionnaire and the recommendation put forward to the Upton Parish Council by this Working Group alongside any other information it has available at the time.

The OCC Consultations requests a response on the following areas:-

- 30mph Speed Limit (Chilton Rd)

- Banned Turning Movements (from Hagbourne Hill)

- Traffic Calming Chicane (Chilton Rd)

- Gate Feature (Chilton Rd)

- Toucan Crossing (A417 London Rd)

- Raised Table Traffic Calming (Chilton Rd and Station Rd)

If you have any questions or require assistance joining the meeting please either email the Chairman of the Parish Council on bens@uptonpc.co.uk or call on 07934 389171

We appreciate that some people feel that meetings should be delayed to enable those who don't have online access but we must stress that this is not within the power of Upton Parish Council to do so and therefore UPC feel we best serve the community by assisting in the set up of the working group and the facilitation of the meetings.

We hope you all understand that the pandemic is beyond our control and means no in person meetings can take place and that it is the policy of central government that meetings of this nature should take place online.

We again stress this is beyond our control and appreciate some may feel this does not afford them the opportunity to have their voices heard which is why we have created this working group and online facility.

Ben Shaw

On Behalf of the Upton Parish Council

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 - 11:15am on Tuesday 23rd February to talk about online health resources including vaccination invitations as well as new on-line free self-learning courses. Book a place using the email address above. Please see www.astonsonline.uk for more information.

Nature Notes

Upton is well blessed with hard surface tracks so that as a walker you can avoid the winter mud if you want to. We have the Railway path, the Lynchway, the road up to Alden Farm and now we have Chilton Road.

Closing Chilton Road to motor vehicles allows walkers safe access to Hagbourne Hill which not only has the most magnificent views across to the Chiltern Hills but come springtime it is the perfect place to pause for a while to listen to the skylarks.

But, putting on the wellies and walking the muddy tracks has its advantages, they tend to be quieter so you are likely to see more wildlife and they also provide us with another interesting wildlife activity - identifying tracks in the soft ground. Around this village you are likely to see evidence of foxes, badgers, roe deer and muntjac deer as well as rabbits and hares so there is plenty to look out for.

A fox has four toes, two at the front with two at the side ahead of an oval pad very similar to the footprint of a small dog.

A badger has five toes and you are almost certain to see claw marks at the tip of the toes.

The deer have splayed, cloven hooves very similar to sheep and goats with the muntjac being about half the size of the roe deer.

Spotting the rabbit tracks in soft soil is not easy as with their lighter weight they do not make much of an impression but if the snow should return you will recognise them as they make many tracks in a small area all going nowhere as they look for food.

Countryman

Village Produce Association

Well, at last there's light at the end of the tunnel - with the Covid-19 vaccines being distributed throughout Oxfordshire. However, we must still remember to help the NHS by washing our hands, wearing masks and social distancing. Let's hope that there is easing of the current lockdown in the not too distant future.

We've been very lucky not to have suffered too much with the recent Storm Christoph. I'm sure our sympathies go out to those living in the North of England who have been flooded, some of them not for the first time.



The past few weeks have been pretty cold in the chicken run and to add to the problems Defra has advised the outbreak of avian flu. It means that all chickens must be kept under cover so wild birds cannot gain access. Fortunately my hens have always had an enclosed run, not only protecting them from wild birds, but keeping them warm and dry. Their outer run is covered with butterfly netting which prevents even the smallest of birds getting inside. I thought you might like to see them. Three of them are enjoying an apple on a string!!

The black/white is Borlotti, the brown is Shallot, the

white is Pumpkin. The fourth - Holly - was not interested in a bit of fruit. They are fussy with greens - they like broccoli, cabbage and brussels sprouts but are not very keen on kale. They're spoilt!!

Life on the allotment. The allotments are waiting for Spring - very soggy at the moment. The good news is, I have sweet peas growing in the greenhouse, together with some garlic and six lovely lavender plants, all are waiting to be planted out. It won't be long until it will be seed planting time. My seed potatoes arrived by post this week, so are now chitting in the spare bedroom!!

DID YOU KNOW? *Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932) the famous horticulturalist and garden designer said 'There is no spot of ground, however, arid, bare or ugly, that cannot be tamed into such a state as may give an impression of beauty and delight'.*

Happy Gardening, Keep well, Keep safe.

Eileen

Submissions for *Upton News* should be sent to

kameki39@btinternet.com

Deadline for the March edition is
Thursday 25th February