

Upton News



Vol 5 No.60 July 2021

This is the first of the newsheets that I have agreed to produce over the next few months in order to maintain essential communication to the majority of parishioners. It is just an unedited listing of all the information that contributors have sent into me this month.

This is not a satisfactory solution and it is very short term so please consider taking on the role of Upton News editor, I will give you as much help as you require to produce the first few editions.

Upton Village Hall

We are pleased to say that Upton Village Hall opened again in May for certain activities currently allowed under the Government's COVID-19 guidelines - Tea Birds, Karate, Gymnastics and Yoga are amongst those allowed to meet and you can find details of what is on each week on our calendar at www.uptonvillagehall.co.uk. We are hopeful that once the UK gets to "unlock", currently suggested as being the 19th July, that private parties and children's parties can return also. We are taking bookings for all events post 19th July and will offer a full refund if for any reason the hall needs to close again - so do feel free to get in touch to hold some time if you are keen to hold a celebration! Remember villagers can take advantage of reduced hire rates and all the details are on our website or email bookings@uptonvillagehall.co.uk.

Be a local trustee

Upton Village Hall is a registered charity and is managed by the Upton Village Hall Amenities Trust (UVHAT). The Trust, formed in April 1966, when the village hall was built by members of the village, has been well run and governed for over 50 years.

The Trust would like to take this opportunity to offer all our thanks to John Haworth for all his support and commitment over the last seven years. He has stepped down as a trustee and UVHAT's Treasurer as he and his family are moving from Upton (although all being well not moving too far away!).

We are therefore keen for new volunteers as trustee - and ideally our Treasurer too. Responsibilities include attending meetings (3- 4 times a year), helping with fundraising ideas, supporting decisions on maintenance and governance of the trust. The role as Treasurer does not require any special training other than being someone who is comfortable with numbers and a spreadsheet.

It is a great way to give some of your time and expertise for the benefit of our local community in Upton. Applicants must be over 18.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a trustee please email jacqui.reid@hotmail.co.uk or call her on 07973818171.

Jacqui Reid

Upton Nature Garden

Thanks to everyone who's shown enthusiasm for the plan to create a wildlife-friendly space beside the village hall. We're delighted that Upton Parish Council has formally approved the nature garden project.

Depending on the outcome of the grant application to the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment - news due any day now - we may be able to begin work this autumn.

Plans and preparations

A professional horticulturist has been helping draw up the plans and planting scheme. You can see the latest version on the [nature garden website](http://nature-garden.co.uk) (<http://nature-garden.co.uk>)

Lots of you have already kindly offered to help with planting. Thank you! We'll be pinpointing dates as soon as we know about funding.

Others have donated seeds and plants - thanks very much! We'll be posting a wishlist of things that would help improve the garden, including plants, natural landscaping materials like logs and stumps, and benches.

Become a nature garden champion

How would you like to be a champion for nature? You'd be responsible for becoming a bit of an expert on anything from bugs to frogs, from butterflies to bluebells.

Your knowledge would be put to good use ensuring that the nature garden is made as welcoming to your chosen species as possible.

Email support@nature-garden.co.uk if you want to be a champion (and for what species) ... and we'll be in touch.

Upton Nature Volunteer Group

Astons Online

Free and friendly help for computer users every Tuesday morning from 10:00 to 12:00. 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.

Our next Zoom meeting will be 10:30 - 11:15 on Tuesday 20th July discussing shopping online - new payment authentications and how to complain. Book a place using the email address above.

Please go to www.astonsonline.uk for more information.

District Council

Hello from Hayleigh & Sarah

As lockdown restrictions continue to ease, it has been lovely to see residents out and about enjoying the warmer weather. Great news that local markets and community events are starting up again - in the past month we have enjoyed visiting the Hive Market, seeing the renovations in the Harwellian club and litter picking on Great Western Park. We are delighted by the news that the new tennis courts on Great Western Park are finally open and available to hire through the Boundary Park Sports Association. June is Pride Month, so it is great to see the Boundary Park Pavilion flying the rainbow flag in support of the LGBT+ community.

Remember that Covid-19 still presents a real risk, particularly with the emergence of new variants, so please do keep following the *hands - face - space* guidance and exercising caution as lockdown restrictions ease. We will use these monthly updates to keep you updated on our activities, general council news and of course the COVID-19 roadmap. We also post regularly on our councillor Facebook Page: [Cllrs Hayleigh Gascoigne & Sarah Medley](#) - please do not hesitate to get in touch with any issues or concerns, either via Facebook message or email: hayleigh.gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk and sarah.medley@whitehorsedc.gov.uk. □□□

COVID-19 Support

Community Support Hub

The last year has been tough for many residents across Oxfordshire due to the pandemic. Households have been hit financially by redundancies and furlough and have found themselves with a day to day struggle to afford food and manage the costs of fuel bills.

We urge any resident struggling financially to contact the councils' Community Support Hub - details below. The support is there for all households: residents needing help do not have to be in receipt of any government benefits and can be given financial support through this funding more than once. Additionally, any residents struggling to get to their vaccination appointment can contact our community hub team who will work with them to find transport.

To contact the Community Support Team: call: 01235 422 600 Monday to Thursday 8.30-5pm and Fridays 8.30-4.30pm
email: communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

fill in an online form at: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/communityhub

Remember, for the most up-to-date coronavirus information relating to district council support and any changes to services, please take a look at the dedicated Vale webpage for updates: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/covid19

Residents can also contact

Citizens Advice - 0808 278 7907

Vale Community Impact - 01235 765348

Cases Data

The latest figures are updated on the county council's [interactive dashboard](#) on a daily basis.

Business Support

A reminder that the Restart Grant is open for applications until **30th June** and final payments will be made by 31st July. More info at sybs.co.uk/restart-grant. For more details about the grants available to businesses visit sybs.co.uk.

Safety measures for landowners

It's important that landowners are up to date with the current Covid safety regulations for hiring out their land now that we've reached Step 3 of the government's roadmap out of lockdown. This includes town and parish councils.

Landowners must help ensure that the hirers of their land are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and the current coronavirus regulations.

Landowners should refer to the latest version of the [working safely sector guidance](#), which includes 'visitor economy guidance' for fairgrounds, events and shows.

Event holders and landowners should get in touch with our Licensing team as soon as possible about their planned activities to ensure they are managed in a Covid secure way.

Guidance on all types of events and information about the Safety Advisory Group can be found on our websites, along with lots of other useful links and guidance: [Vale website](#) / [South website](#)

Landowners can also get advice for any events held on their land by emailing events@southandvale.gov.uk

Local News

Local Elections May 2021

You can read all the elections results across South Oxfordshire and the Vale, including details of Neighbourhood Plan referendums (all of which were approved by voters), using the following link: whitehorsedc.gov.uk/may2021elections

Sports facility opens on Great Western Park

Boundary Park Sports Association has leased tennis courts and a multi-use games area on Great Western Park from Vale of White Horse district council. The sports association, which looks after Boundary Park opposite

the new courts and games area, will be making the new and exciting facilities available to local sports groups and the wider community for various activities and games.

The floodlit fenced courts have various markings outlining four match sized tennis courts and two official netball courts to enable local sports clubs to hire and play their official matches as well as being bookable by residents for tennis. The games area is marked for a wide range of sports activities including mini tennis, netball, basketball and five-a-side football for community groups and residents to use and hire.

The sports association has also been successful in applying for funds towards floodlights for their grassed pitches at Boundary Park. Vale of White Horse district council was able to allocate £25,000 using funds from Section 106 contributions from new developments being built in the Harwell, Blewbury and Milton parishes. The new lights are already installed and are helping training sessions take place for the men's, women's and junior rugby teams now that national restrictions have eased for organised outdoor sports. The park's two training pitches will now be able to be used all year round and will allow the match pitch to be kept in better condition for matches.

Cllr Hayleigh Gascoigne, Local ward member for Harwell Parish, said: "The new tennis courts and sports area are set to be a very popular facility on Great Western Park and will play a vital role in helping our residents lead active and healthy lifestyles. I can't wait to see them in use!"

See link for the full press release: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/uncategorised/sports-facility-opens-on-great-western-park/>

Cornerstone Arts Centre to open again to the public

South Oxfordshire District Council is delighted to announce that Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot will begin opening to the public again this month and is promising that a fantastic line-up will greet visitors when it's fully reopened in September - a line-up that the public can help to influence.

The centre's café bar Nourish will be the first part of the centre to reopen on 21 June with a brand-new menu of locally sourced baked goods and great coffee in a light, open and welcoming space for all the family to enjoy. The council aims to reopen the centre fully on 7 September. As always, audiences can expect first class service and a diverse arts scene on their doorstep in Didcot from September. In the coming months Cornerstone will release a line-up of shows, concerts and events in its theatre, along with plans for its gallery, and returning classes for all ages within the coming months.

In the meantime, the council is calling on everyone who has used the centre in the past, and those that haven't, to help plan that exciting new programme for the September re-opening. It has launched a public survey inviting everyone for their thoughts on what kind of events they would like to see at the centre and how they would like to use the centre in the future: survey.southoxon.gov.uk/s/CornerstoneArtsCentreSurvey. See link for the full press release: <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/cornerstone-arts-centre-to-open-again-to-the-public/>

Council Meetings

The AGM of the Vale of White Horse District Council was held in person at 135 Milton Park on Tuesday 18th May. This was the first in-person meeting of Full Council since February 2020, due to the recent legislation change requiring councillors to be present in person in order to vote. However, the meeting is held in a new hybrid format where it is conducted and broadcast online, and members of the public can choose to attend remotely or in person. Councillors can also attend remotely but are not permitted to vote. At the AGM, Cllr Margaret Crick and Cllr Jerry Avery were re-elected as Chair and Vice-chair of the Council. The meeting agenda can be found [here](#). The minutes of the previous meeting on 24th March can be found [here](#).

Vale Scrutiny Committee met virtually on 27th May to review the Performance Management framework for the corporate plan. The papers can be reviewed [here](#).

Members of the public and ward councillors are able to participate in meetings remotely, as well as in person and via written statement. If you wish to speak at any council meeting (full council, cabinet, committees etc), you just need to register in advance with Democratic Services.

democratic.services@southandvale.gov.uk

Councils welcome call on climate action

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have welcomed a call from Oxford Friends of the Earth for all Oxfordshire councils to do everything they can to tackle the climate emergency, while highlighting the positive work that is already taking place. Oxford Friends of the Earth published a report entitled 'In case of emergency...' that looks at what the six Oxfordshire councils have done in the two years since they all declared a climate emergency. The report is the first independent analysis of climate action by councils and shows that they have all set ambitious targets and carried out positive work, and that there appears to be genuine commitment to act, but it says more needs to be done if those targets are to be met.

In February 2019 both councils declared a climate emergency and since then have published new Corporate Plans which put tackling the issue at the forefront of their councils' work. The Vale launched its own [Climate Emergency Advisory Committee](#), while South Oxfordshire also declared an Ecological Emergency and introduced a [Climate and Ecological Emergencies Advisory Committee](#) (CEEAC).

Both councils have set targets to become a carbon neutral council by 2025 for south and by 2030 for Vale, and a carbon neutral district by 2030 and 2045 respective. South Oxfordshire has also published updated [Air Quality Guidance for Developers](#). There are some exciting new projects just around the corner too, both districts are working closely with Oxfordshire County Council on a park and charge scheme which aims to install electric vehicle chargers in the district.

New Community Lottery

The Vale of White Horse District Council's new lottery, the White Horse Community Lottery will launch in June with a special virtual event. Organisations from the district's voluntary and community sector will be invited by the council to attend the online event on Monday 14 June to find out how they can benefit from income raised through the Vale's new community lottery. The lottery will have a weekly jackpot of £25,000 and will be available for residents to play online. The draw will take place every Saturday, with a jackpot going to anybody who matches a sequence of six numbers. The other prizes are £2,000, £250, £25 or three free tickets.

Residents can get involved by buying tickets which will cost £1 per week with 50p going towards the player's chosen local good cause. 10p of the remaining money goes into the central community fund, 20p to the prize fund, 17p towards the administration of the lottery, and 3p on VAT. Proceeds from the White Horse Lottery central community fund will be spent on providing vital support to a wide range of local organisations and community initiatives which have a beneficial impact on the local community.

The first draw for the White Horse Community Lottery will take place in September. Any community groups and charities operating in the Vale of White Horse wanting to register their interest and find out more are being asked to email communityenablement@southandvale.gov.uk. See link for the full press release: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/new-community-lottery-to-launch-in-the-vale-of-white-horse-next-month/>

A big "thank you" to all the volunteers across southern Oxfordshire

During the 37th annual Volunteers' Week, which takes place from the 1-7 June, the leaders of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils have offered their thanks and gratitude to the thousands of volunteers across both districts ahead of volunteers' week; highlighting the invaluable contribution volunteers make to community groups and voluntary organisations across South Oxfordshire and the Vale.

This time last year England had started to come out of its first lockdown. Voluntary organisations and community groups had stepped up to help in any way that they could with some people volunteering for the first time. The councils Community Hub team worked with hundreds of volunteers as part of their Covid-19 response co-ordinating emergency food deliveries, collections of prescriptions and providing calls and a voice to speak to for those in need. Many council staff also took on new voluntary roles as part of their Covid-19 response throughout the last year. Whilst the pandemic has put a spotlight on the work of volunteers and their positive impact on our communities, the councils have worked alongside voluntary groups and organisations across the districts for many years. They are a vital resource to help connect council services to those who are vulnerable and in need. The councils are

supporting Oxfordshire's Covid-19 Heroes awards. The new High Sheriff for Oxfordshire, Imam Monawar Hussain, is inviting award nominations to honour those who have played an important role in the county's local response to the pandemic. Residents can nominate people via an application form, and the judging will take place in June, with an awards ceremony in July. *See link for the full press release: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/wed-like-to-say-a-big-thank-you-to-all-the-volunteers-across-southern-oxfordshire/>*

HGV drivers needed for bin crews

Like many parts of the UK, the districts are facing a shortage of HGV drivers for their bin crews due to several factors. This is currently affecting a number of rounds in the districts where residents' waste collections have been disrupted, and so the councils' waste contractor, Biffa, is on a proactive recruitment drive to prevent it becoming a wider problem. Biffa is currently managing the situation by providing staff the opportunity to work Saturdays and Sundays as overtime to catch up with missed collections, but this is not sustainable in the long term either financially or for the bin crews' wellbeing. It also inconvenient for residents. *See link for the full press release: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/calling-all-hgv-drivers-we-need-you-to-drive-our-bin-lorries/>*

Sarah and Hayleigh

Hugs News

Letting the wildflowers grow

Nationwide, verges add up to an area the size of Dorset. A recent study by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology in Crowmarsh has called for the country's roadside verges to be managed for nature.

Given that an area of grass with just dandelions can support 93 species of insect, there's huge potential to support biodiversity. Verges are key for pollinators, in turn feeding birds and other animals.

And it's not just verges. Larger unmown areas like the overflow cemetery and between the trees on the rec can do wonders for nature too. They've been buzzing with bees and brimming with butterflies for several weeks now.

In July or August, when the seeds of any wildflowers have dropped, we'll cut the hay with scythes and scrub-clearance tools, ted it (fluff it to allow it to dry) and rake it, then remove it. This will help set the seed for next year. If you'd like to join in, please email kieronhumph@gmail.com

Corridors, networks, mosaics - and a quilt

Say you left the verge outside your house to grow. What good would that do?

If it was the only untended verge, perhaps not a lot, but ecologists talk about the value of even very small amounts of wildlife-supporting habitat (known as 'patches') when they form part of a wider 'network' - all the wild and less wild green spaces in an area, like woodland, streams, scrub, parks

and gardens. Invertebrates, birds and mammals can travel around the network safely when there are established 'corridors' such as hedges and verges.

When there are diverse habitats close to each other, for example grassland, woodland and wetland on a reclaimed quarry, that's a 'mosaic' - important because some species need different environments for their life stages or routine activities.

And if the jargon leaves you cold, maybe think of all those untamed strips and corners as contributing to nature's big, messy, beautiful and original patchwork quilt.

The HUGS team

Village Produce Association

I've been having awful problems with my technology to the extent I've had to invest in a new laptop and while waiting for it to be set up I'm using my very, very old HP machine. I was browsing through my Word folders and found the VPA news folder for June 2020. This is what I had written then. *"Well, has much changed since the last newsletter? Not a lot! A slight improvement on the lockdown, but I do find it strange why only one family member can make a visit?! Let's hope everyone is still keeping well and safe and staying alert!"* Given that in June 2021 the Govt has delayed the full unlock until the end of July, it's fortunate that the VPA Committee decided to cancel the Summer Show. It would have been such a shame if everyone had worked hard to provide exhibits and then not been able to show them. Hopefully the unlock in July will be successful.

However, the weather wasn't quite the same. In June 2020 I wrote *"The weather wasn't very kind in May, with a couple of nights with minus-2 degrees of frost in Didcot. We complained about the wet winter and now we're complaining about the lack of rain. It will be nice to see some rain as it really does make the plants grow better..."*.

So, hot and dry in May 2020 but wet and cold in May 2021. My friend in London who usually helps at the Summer Show told me (when I was Skypeing her) that in May they had 15 consecutive days with rain!

So, 12 months on and not a lot has changed - Covid-19, with the added Delta Variant, is still with us and the weather is still as unpredictable as ever. Fortunately we have had a bit of summer in June 2021.

DID YOU KNOW? *Grasses and cereals are wind-pollinated plants so they don't have the colourful flowers or distinctive scents that other plants need in order to attract insects. Grasses and cereals produce an enormous amount of pollen, which explains why pollen allergy has come to be known as HAY FEVER.*

Happy Gardening - Keep Safe

Eileen

Benefice News

Online Services

Sundays at 10.30am - login or connect at 10am to chat before the service.

Weekday evenings - Compline at 8pm

Please see the Churn for the service access codes and full details of how to join each week.

Services at St. Mary the Virgin

4th July The 5th Sunday after Trinity 09.30 Parish Eucharist

1st August The 9th Sunday after Trinity 9.30 Parish Eucharist

July Pre-School Praise

Our MU Pram Service team invite families to this monthly event.

12 noon on Wednesday 7th July outside St. Michael's Blewbury; in church if wet.

Please bring a rug and your lunch or order free HAPPY MEALS from Revd Louise Butler 07837 009 730

Looking forward to seeing you.

The Churn Mothers' Union Annual Teddy Bears Picnic

4th August at 12noon

in the garden of Penny Brassell, Lynchets, Bessels Way, Blewbury.

Please bring a rug/chair and a picnic plus teddy bear.

We welcome all children and any mums, dads, friends, grandparents and carers.

Soft drinks and ice-creams will be provided.

Rector's Note

Beside the Seaside

I wonder if you have any summer holidays planned for this year? If so, I wonder whether you will be spending time at the seaside? Or perhaps even spending some time at sea?

The Second Sunday in July is traditionally designated Sea Sunday, a day to celebrate the role that seafarers play in our daily lives. Over 90 per cent of world trade is carried by sea, and there are some 1.5 million seafarers around the world. Sometimes, life can be very hard for seafarers, and they can suffer from poor working conditions.

There has been a long tradition of Christian ministry to seafarers. One of the major charities working in this area is The Mission to Seafarers. Do have a look at their website: missiontoseafarers.org. This charity was founded back

in the 19th century, and it currently provides welfare services in 200 ports around the world. They provide support to seafarers “regardless of rank, nationality, gender or religion”.

I had the joy of experiencing their ministry at first hand when I worked for a while as part of their chaplaincy team in the New York area. On one occasion I remember welcoming a crew from mainland China, who had come to the chaplaincy centre for some rest and recreation. Communication was challenging, as the crew spoke only Chinese! But this didn't matter, as the crew knew that they would be welcomed and cared for at the chaplaincy centre. We helped crew members make money transfers to their families back home, and together we sat down and watched an adventure film on the TV. The crew was only with us for a few hours, but it was a joy to be able to share hospitality with them even for such a brief period. Our visitors knew that the Mission to Seafarers could be trusted to put their interests first. The Mission would not discriminate against them on the basis of their nationality or language. Furthermore, the Mission would not seek to exploit them, financially or in any other way.

Seafarers often have a hard life. Yet we depend upon them for much of the food we eat and the products we consume. I wonder how we might help to make their lives a little easier?

Father Jason

Yoga therapy for the Menopause, *a safe and transformational journey*

Start Date/Venue/Price TBC

Menopause can bring with it some unpleasant symptoms. Why some women experience more severe symptoms than others isn't fully understood. Research reveals stress can have a big impact on how we journey through the menopause, making the process much harder. Developing some self care routines, having some loving kindness towards self can really help to make room for the menopause and provide the transformational experience that it is. Using yoga therapeutically can provide the opportunity for our bodies to perform the tasks in the way it was naturally designed to do, providing a more natural, symptom eased transition through to menopause.

A combination of small group sessions (limited to 6), and one to one's tailored to your individual needs.

MIXED ABILITY HATHA YOGA, Monday evenings, 7.15pm, at Upton Village Hall.

GENTLE HEALING YOGA, Wednesday mornings 10.30am, Start date/Venue TBC.

To find out more: <https://www.hopeinyoga.com/groups-workshops/> or Catherine Watsham Accredited Yoga therapist (PGDip), CNHC registered, cath@hopeinyoga.com, 07786 210177.

‘How are you? (really)

As my New Years resolution for 2021 I told myself I would finally create my own mental health podcast, Therefore ‘How are you? (really) was born, a question which should be used much more frequently. My podcast, which can be found on both Spotify and apple podcasts, shares tips to maintain mental health in the form of self-care, discussions of topics that affect mental health and information about mental illness to reduce stigma. Topics I have now covered include eating disorders, stress, bereavement, body dysphoria and dysmorphia. Speaking about such topics helps educate others, and removes the stigma towards mental health helps individuals feel supported more by society as a whole. Inviting others to speak on my podcast allows personal experiences to be celebrated and cherished, and despite the struggle often experienced with mental ill health, it helps show others that there is hope and they are not alone. My goal with this podcast is to show others that seeking help is the first step in recovery, and in each episode description I provide tailored helplines and information specific to the topic explored. In the future I hope to invite more individuals to share their stories and show that mental health affects everyone. My dream guest would definitely be Matt Haig, author of ‘The Midnight Library’, he is an incredible mental health advocate and has helped many people with his novel concerning the choices someone makes to have the happiest life. I hope to continue my podcast long into the future, and help as many people as I can through my platform.

If you have a mental health story to share please email Eve at E.LOW19@outlook.com

Eve

Drop In

The village Drop In is up and running again on alternate Thursdays at 3.00pm The aim is to meet at people’s houses, although we are not in the village hall as in the past we very much want this to be open to all villagers. Please come along if you want to have a nice friendly chat over a cup of tea or coffee. Please email me at richmondbinov@gmail.com if you’re interested and to find out the venue for the meetings which this month are on the 1st, 15th and 29th.

Richard Burrow

Pet Sitting or Dog Walking

I’m a 15 year old student living in the village. I’m available to work outside of school hours (7:30am-4:00pm Monday to Friday) and at weekends. Please contact Daisy Tibbetts on 01235 851474.



Foot Care



A Mobile Foot Clinic for
Upton

Treatment provided in your own home for
Routine Foot and Nail Care
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Foot Health Practitioner
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please contact

Mike Brown on 850135 or at
kameki39@btinternet.com

Upton Shop

I was around 11 years old when my sister married Michael Butler who was the Son of Ted & Vera Butler owners of Upton Stores. The shop was on the north side of a house then called 'Dulce Domum' which has been nicely extended and is now called 'Lavender House'

Most stock was purchased from a local wholesaler, Harvey, Bradfield & Toyer in Didcot, Bread was supplied by Livings Bakery also from Didcot. Incidentally there used to be a Bakery in Upton in Frog Alley owned and operated by Mr A. E. Rowland and deliveries were done using a Horse Drawn Cart.



Two Paper rounds covered the whole village, the Post Office was operated by Vera, there was also a Village Phone Box next to where the Post Box is now. Paraffin was sold by the gallon, measured and filtered to remove any water. I remember bacon was sliced on what seemed to me to be an extremely dangerous machine with a large spinning cutter on one side.

On Saturdays I used to go on the bread round with Ted Butler to Churn Estates and used to meet a rather jolly gentleman who was Sir Charles Colston

he lived in a house called Saltbox and he owned Colston Washing Machine Co. The Mobile Shops were driven by Michael, the first was a converted Horse Box called 'Lucy' which if I remember was very smokey. As time went on she was retired and a nice new blue Karrier Bantam Shop was purchased and was named 'Bluebird'. This was later overturned and written off by a future owner of the business. The mobile shop covered Blewbury, Churn Estates, Chilton and the houses and prefabs at AERE Harwell.

As time went on the shop became less profitable and the upper store was let out to 'Upton Craft'. Things such as Pottery, Knitted items, Clocks, Corn Dollies, Honey, Paintings and Jewellery were all for sale and made locally by village residents.

Sadly the shop closed some years ago now and I somehow doubt if we will ever have another, but bearing in mind what has happened this last year who knows what may develop in the future.

Chris Smith

Submissions for Upton News should be sent to
kameki39@btinternet.com

Deadline for the August edition is
Wednesday 28th July