



Upton Village Fete



Saturday 4th September at 1.00pm

Come along to the Village Hall and Recreation Ground

Attractions include:

A fun dog show. No need to pre-book, just turn up with your dog on the day for the chance to win a prize.

Gymnastic display by local children in the ring, from 1.30pm

A dazzling display of local classic cars and vintage bikes

A barbeque, pizzas, teas and home-made cakes on the village hall terrace. John's ice cream van will be present from 2:00.

Music from the Wantage Silver Band

Lucky programme prize

A range of stalls including second-hand books, plants, home-made preserves, tombola and wine club.

A special children's area with a coconut shy, lucky dip and other fun things to do

We look forward to seeing you all

Church Services

Online Services are continuing every Sunday at 10.30am - login or connect at 10am to chat before the service.

Weekday evenings - Compline at 8pm

Please see the Churn or the website www.churnchurches.co.uk for the service access codes and full details of how to join each week.

Services at St. Mary's

Sunday 5th September at 9.30am - Parish Eucharist

We want everyone to feel safe coming to church. Following advice from the Diocese, we will continue to encourage people to wear face coverings and to observe social distancing while in church. Communion will be in bread only. Congregational singing will be allowed when it is safe to do so: as the virus spreads via droplets, to be able to sing will depend on the numbers attending and the ability to be socially distant from others.

Active Angels

Our MU Pram Service team invite families from across the Benefice to this monthly event at 12 noon on Wednesday 1st September. Outside St. Michael's Blewbury; in church if wet. Please bring a rug. Lunch will be provided. Any enquiries, please contact Revd Louise Butler 07837 009 730
Looking forward to seeing you.

Lights on at Blewbury Tennis Club

Blewbury Tennis Club has installed court lighting at the club. By using the latest high tech, low spill, LED components, extended play and coaching can now take place for people of all ages and abilities all year round.

To celebrate this special occasion, British renowned tennis player, Tim Henman OBE will be the guest of honour for the big Switch On.

Everyone is invited to join in the fun on Tuesday 5th October 6-8pm so do join us if you can although booking is essential via <https://buytickets.at/styleacre/555273> We're delighted to be hosting this event in partnership with Style Acre, a local charity supporting 250 people with learning disabilities and autism across Oxfordshire. The occasion will be celebrated with musical accompaniment from Blewbury Brass Band, drinks, refreshments and a raffle. And if you fancy a spot of tennis, bring your racket along and stay for our club social from 8-10pm. This project has been made possible through support from the LTA, which provided both a grant and a loan for the project, National Tennis Association, the club's coaching partners, Vale of the White Horse District Council, whose funding contributed towards the project and of course Luminance Pro who supplied and installed the lighting.

Rosemary de Wilde

District Council

Hello! We are very aware that many residents have been understandably frustrated by the sudden decision by the council to suspend garden waste collections this month. We understand that the reason it was announced so suddenly was because it was a business continuity decision that had to be made at short notice, due to having not enough Biffa staff available for work at the start of the month. This was caused by a number of factors, including the current national shortage of HGV drivers. Despite this, Biffa are confident that they will be able to meet the contracted commitment of 20 collections per year. [Click here for more information on the garden waste suspension.](#)

We will use these monthly updates to keep you updated on our activities, general council news and any COVID-19 developments,. 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

Support is still available to anyone who needs it, either as a result of COVID-19 or just for anyone who needs signposting towards the appropriate support channel. Residents may even be eligible for financial assistance if they risk losing earnings because they've had to self-isolate (this scheme is open until 30th September 2021) - [click here for more information on financial support](#).

To contact the Community Support Team call 01235 422 600 Monday to Thursday 8.30-5pm and Fridays 8.30-4.30pm or email communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk or 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 or Vale Community Impact - 01235 765348

Cases Data

Cases are now decreasing in Oxfordshire, which is good news, although remember that the latest figures are updated on the county council's [interactive dashboard](#) on a daily basis. [Click here for the most recent update from the County Council](#).

Local News

Valley Park Update: Planning Permission Approved

The Valley Park proposal for 4254 new houses between Didcot and Harwell came back to planning committee on 28th July. The decision was deferred back in February due to the three key issues we (Hayleigh and Sarah) and the local community raised at the time: lack of health care provision, inadequate cycling infrastructure and insufficient sustainability commitments.

The planning application was approved this time, and we are very pleased that it now places the following extra requirements on the developers:

Healthcare

- Over £3 million to be provided for local healthcare provision in the area surrounding Valley Park, or

- Dedicated land for a health care centre on the Valley Park site and £2.8million to be provided towards its construction.

- All funding to be ringfenced for healthcare provision in the local Didcot area only.

Cycling

- Mega 5-arm roundabout design now much safer for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians with traffic-light controlled crossings at every junction.

- Traffic lights to use an innovative 'green wave' system which prioritises cycling over driving: automatic detection of cyclists synchronises the green traffic lights to allow unimpeded cycling across the roundabout.

- Full all-weather surface upgrade of the cycle path from Cow Lane through to the UTC at Great Western Park, providing an alternative cycle route between Harwell and Didcot for less confident cyclists and children riding to school

Sustainability

- £200,000 payment for protecting biodiversity brought forward - to be paid before construction starts.

- Existing mature trees on the Valley Park site to be preserved.

- Zero carbon housing standards to be implemented as early as possible.

None of the improvements listed above were in place when the Valley Park application came to committee in February, or when it was first approved back in 2016. We are delighted that by working together with our fantastic local community we have been able to collectively secure these improvements. Huge well done to Harwell Parish Council, Sustainable Harwell, HarBUG (Harwell Bicycle Users Group) and the Patient Participation Groups of the three Didcot Medical Centres.

Although permission has now been granted for this massive new development the size of Wallingford, with a build-out phase of the next 10-20 years, this is not the end of the Valley Park issue - it is only the beginning. The devil is in the detail, and rest assured that when the individual housing plans come through for further approval, we'll be there

every step of the way, scrutinising and challenging to ensure that we get the best outcome for our residents.

For as long as we and your county councillor Sally Povolotsky have the privilege of being elected as the local councillors for the area around Valley Park, we can guarantee that we will continue to work hard to represent the views of our community and campaign for our sustainable vision for Valley Park.

[Click here to watch the Planning Committee Meeting online.](#)

[Click here to read our written statement submitted to Planning Committee.](#)

Table tennis facilities available for all ages and abilities in Southern Oxfordshire

Table tennis tables will be appearing in locations across southern Oxfordshire over the summer. The tables are part of an ongoing initiative with South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils to help residents be active and healthy. The councils are working alongside Table Tennis England, the councils' Didcot Garden Town project team and Didcot Town Council to part fund the tables. The permanent tables will be in the following locations locally:

Edmonds Park, Didcot

Ladygrove Park, Didcot

The Southern and District Community centres on Great Western Park, Didcot

All tables except those at the Southern and District community centres in Didcot will be free for residents to use. At the centres there will be a small charge. [Click here for more information on the Table Tennis Tables.](#)

Building work starts on affordable extra care housing on Great Western Park

The construction of 80 new affordable *extra care* homes got underway earlier this month thanks to support from Vale of White Horse District Council. The new purpose-built apartments on Great Western Park in Didcot were made possible thanks to £2.9 million of funding from the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal and support from the district council. The apartments will be fitted out for older people to help them live independently in their own home, with care staff on hand to provide any extra support they may need. [Click here for the news article on the extra care housing.](#)

Council News

Council Meetings

The latest Full Council meeting of the Vale of White Horse District council was held on Wednesday 14th July at 7.00pm. Three motions were passed at this meeting: on the campaign to re-open Grove Station, on sustainability

work at the council and on the government's proposed planning reforms.
[Click here for the minutes of the July Council meeting.](#)

The next meeting of Full Council will be on Wednesday 6th October at 7.00pm. 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: email democratic.services@southandvale.gov.uk

First tickets for the White Horse Community lottery go on sale

Residents in the Vale of White Horse can help out local good causes and be in with a chance of winning a weekly £25,000 jackpot if they buy a ticket for the White Horse Community Lottery which are now on sale. Players of the lottery can choose which local good cause they want to support when they purchase tickets - they can even choose to support more than one good cause if they like. Tickets cost just £1 per week with 60p from every ticket sold going to support charities and community groups across the Vale. Supporters of the good causes that have registered for the lottery can buy their tickets from the official website. The first draw will take place on Saturday 18 September. [Click here for more information about the White Horse Community Lottery.](#)

Route revealed for prestigious Women's Tour cycling race.

Residents between Bicester, Oxford, Abingdon and Banbury will now be able to pick their spot, ready to cheer on elite riders when this year's Women's Tour professional cycling race comes to Oxfordshire on **Monday 4 October**. The full route details have been revealed - [click here for the full news article.](#)

Your annual voter registration letter is coming.

Residents in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse are being urged to check the details on a letter they will receive from their district council from the end of July. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils will be sending a 'Canvass Communication Form' to every home requiring the residents to check the details of everyone over the age of 16 that live in their property. This is something local authorities need to do by law each year in order to ensure the electoral register is up to date. [Click here for more information.](#)

Consultations

Help to shape the new Oxfordshire Air Quality website

Residents across the county are being asked to help shape a new air quality community website, which will help to raise awareness and understanding of air pollution across Oxfordshire. The website - which is being created in partnership between Oxford City, Cherwell, West Oxfordshire, South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse, and Oxfordshire County Council - aims to

integrate all relevant air quality related information from all district councils in Oxfordshire under one single platform.

Now, residents across Oxfordshire are encouraged to take part in the consultation and share their views on what information they want to see on the future website. **The consultation closes at midnight on 5th September 2021.** [Click here for more information and to access the website consultation.](#)

Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Consultation

The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 will include policies relating to climate change, environmental quality, infrastructure, development, urban renewal, and much more. It will set out how much new development there will be in Oxfordshire to 2050 and where this new development will be located. It will also set requirements for new development, to make sure that it takes account of its environmental impacts and is supported by necessary infrastructure.

We have identified a range of different options for the Oxfordshire Plan and we want to know what you think about them. For more detail please visit our website where you can view the consultation document and submit comments: www.oxfordshireopenthought.org. The consultation will run until 8th October 2021

People in South and Vale urged to have their say on the Ox-Cam Arc

People across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse are being urged to have their say on the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, a government led project which will have an impact on the district in the future. The Oxford-Cambridge Arc includes the area between Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge and aims to make significant economic, social and environmental improvements across the region by 2050 and beyond. [Click here for more information.](#) The consultation is open until 12th October 2021.

Sarah and Hayleigh

Astons Online

Free and friendly help for computer users is available every Tuesday morning from 10:00am 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.

September's Zoom online meeting will be 10:30am - 11:15am on Tuesday 21 September. We'll focus on using the NHS app for health care advice and more. This follows on from August's informative meeting about on-line health services.

Book a place using the email address above.

Go to www.astonsonline.uk for more information.

Rector's Note



A Good Harvest Hymn

Do you like a good sing? It's the time of year when churches up and down the land are holding harvest festivals, and what would be a harvest festival without the opportunity to sing We Plough the Fields and Scatter?

This hymn has an interesting history. Its origins lie in a poem, published back in 1782, which described a harvest thanksgiving in a North German farmhouse. In the mid 19th century, part of this poem was translated into English by Jane Montgomery Campbell, and it was included in the 1868 appendix to *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. Since then, the hymn has become an expected part of any harvest festival.

I wonder why the hymn has become so popular? I think part of its popularity is due to the stirring tune. But the words themselves are also important. They speak to us of gratitude to God for all that he provides: "We thank thee then, O Father, for all things bright and good, the seed-time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food".

And what does God want from us in return? God has already given us everything that we have, so it seems hardly an act of generosity to give back to God what he has chosen to give to us. So what can we give to God in return for his great goodness to us? In words of the hymn, we can give "that which thou desirest our humble, thankful hearts."

Our harvest festivals are a time to give thanks to God for all that he has given us. And it is also a time to think about how we use the gifts which God has given us. Are we sharing what we have with others? There is so much need in our world and in our own communities.

And what is the greatest gift we can share? I think it might well be the gift of love and friendship. Love and friendship are some of God's greatest gifts, and I think the more we can do to share love and friendship around, the better.

Father Jason

Drop In

The village Drop In is up and running again on alternate Thursdays at 3.00pm. It is open to all villagers so 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 9th and the 23rd.

Richard Burrow

Village Produce Association

It's a while since I last put pen to paper on behalf of the VPA. As you are all aware, because of Covid-19 the VPA has been unable to hold its summer show for the past two years and very little else besides. We did have a Christmas craft competition last December and a spring bonnet competition this year. However, neither of these events were particularly well supported. The Committee will be meeting soon to decide the future of the VPA and the decision will be announced at the Annual General Meeting which will be held in November.

Although I haven't been busy with the VPA, the allotment and hens have had to be tended daily. The veggies have struggled with the strange weather we've had through 2021. It hasn't stopped the weeds growing in abundance!! However, the peas were great and broad beans were successful after battling with blackfly - they didn't like being dosed with washing up liquid!! and a good supply has gone into the freezer. Courgettes and marrows (the real thing) were coming out of my ears and it's amazing how difficult it is to give them away. Onions have done well and are currently completing their drying in the greenhouse. Blackcurrants and gooseberries were good and most of them are now sitting in the cupboard as jam - I love toast and jam - although not too good for the waistline! Potatoes and leeks are doing OK and the sweetcorn is coming along nicely. For some reason French beans, carrots, beetroot and tomatoes are not so good this year. Still, one has to be grateful for what has grown well.

The hens are doing well, but they are affected by the variants in the weather and they certainly don't like it when it's windy. Pumpkin, (I recently discovered she's called a dominant amber), is in the process of moulting and there's white feathers all over the run. Holly who is nearly eight years old is still the boss and keeps the other three in order. They are great fun and are pets more than egg producers.

DID YOU KNOW? *Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932) wrote: "I plant rosemary all over the garden, so pleasant is it to know that at every few steps one may draw the kindly branchlets through one's hand and have the enjoyment of their incomparable incense".*

Happy Gardening - Keep Safe

Eileen

United Charities of the Ancient Parish of Blewbury

Are you, or is someone you know, struggling financially?

Do your children need new school uniform or equipment which you cannot afford to buy? Do you have additional expenditure because of illness or disability?

These are just a couple of examples of situations where we may be able to help.

The United Charities are able to support residents of Blewbury, Upton and Aston Upthorpe who are in need and we are happy to consider applications to our charitable fund for all sorts of reasons. We are able to issue small one off charitable payments to help with specific needs and expenditure. If you would like to apply there is a short application form which has to be completed. These can either be picked up from the 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. Please do not hesitate to apply - that is what the charity is there for.

CCCA News and Events

The Churn Churches Climate Action (CCCA) group is formed by people from the seven local Anglican churches (the Churn churches) and other local congregations. We care about the environment and want to take action to reduce climate change, working with other local sustainability groups.

Nations' Climate Sunday Service: Churches prepare for COP26

This takes place at 4.00pm on Sunday 5th September in Glasgow Cathedral and online. It is not just a service: it is a time when collective action and commitments from more than 1600 (and rising!) local churches across the UK, including the Churn churches, will be presented to the UK Government.

See climatesunday.org, and register to be sent details on how to watch the service live online at evenbrite.co.uk or use the link [Find out more to register and attend](#). If you have difficulties with this, email penny@brassell.org.uk for further information.

Tree planting

The CCCA and Sustainable Blewbury (SB) are both getting involved with the Hagbourne and Upton Group for Sustainability (HUGS) tree-planting project in the autumn. This enables you to choose a small native tree for your garden. We will collect your orders in the autumn, pass the order to HUGS and then deliver your trees when they arrive in November/December. See the SB bulletin entry for more details or look at the HUGS website hugsustainability.org/trees-1.

Thank you for the Rain

This prize-winning film stems from the chance meeting of Julia Dahr, a Norwegian filmmaker, with Kisilu Musya, a Kenyan farmer who was using his camera to capture the life of his family, his village and the human costs of climate change. They worked together for more than 5 years to create this film, which shows Kisilu transform into a community leader and activist on a global scale. Thanks to a special Christian Aid licence, we are able to hold a *free* showing of this film in St Michael's Church Blewbury on Wednesday 13th October, doors will open at 7.15pm for a prompt 7.30 start. The film will last 90 minutes, with a refreshment break in the middle. Again contact Penny at penny@brassell.org.uk for further information.

Penny Brassell

Upton Nature Garden – funding target reached!

Really excellent news on the funding front this month - we've now raised over £7K for the nature garden.

Huge thanks to the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment which provided half our total with support from Grundon Waste Management Limited.

And a massive thank you to our County Councillor, Sally Povolotsky, who approved an application for £2.5K from her Councillor Priority Fund.

Here's why Sally selected the project:

'Supporting Upton Nature Garden is one of the wonderful legacy projects that I am proud to assist with a donation from my Councillor Priority Funding. The great outdoors, nature recovery, 'green' therapy as well as biodiversity net gain is at the core of my agenda, and I am over the moon that I could help the team.

Sally Povolotsky - Hendreds & Harwell Division Elected Member
(Oxfordshire County Council)

Thanks also to the generosity and support of local donors, Sherfield Flooring and Strictly Wine, and the many villagers and local organisations who have pledged time, plants, logs or support in kind.

We're getting cracking later in September. Look for the signs on the garden fence (or visit nature-garden.co.uk) for more details.

Green refills - reduce plastic

We create 2.4 million tonnes of plastic waste in the UK each year. But less than half gets recycled.

The good news is there's an easy way to cut down on plastic waste - by refilling your own containers with cleaning products.

Better still, you'll be able to do this in the comfort of your own village hall later this month. Honorary villager Frankie Jacklin has kindly agreed to run a refill station for the village as part of the national Great Big Green Week event - a celebration of nature and efforts to combat climate change.

You can fill up on washing-up liquid, laundry detergent, cleaning products, hand soap and other essential (plastic-free) products. Cash or credit card payments welcome.

All you need to do is bring your empty bottles to the village hall meeting room on Thursday 23rd September, 5.30 to 7.30pm.

Overflow cemetery

We had a great time mowing the hay in the overflow earlier this month.

The next job is to take out the grass thatch and reduce the soil fertility to make it suitable for wildflowers. We had a go at doing this with a reasonably powerful garden rotovator but it's clearly a job for a bigger machine.

A compact tractor and rotovator would make short work of the area - do you have one or know someone who does? Please get in touch if you'd be willing to lend us your horsepower!

Kieron

<div data-bbox="120 116 176 164"></div> <div data-bbox="266 108 381 135" data-label="Section-Header"> <h3>Foot Care</h3> </div> <div data-bbox="473 116 529 164"></div> <p>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>	<div data-bbox="580 100 652 196"></div> <div data-bbox="720 108 871 135" data-label="Section-Header"> <h3>Gary Cuddon</h3> </div> <div data-bbox="938 100 1011 196"></div> <p>9 Harwood Road East Hagbourne</p> <p>Painter and Decorator</p> <p>Providing a High Quality Service</p> <p>Free Quotations</p> <p>Fully Insured</p> <p>Tel. 01235 510680 or 07827752904</p>
<div data-bbox="188 459 448 486" data-label="Section-Header"> <h3>Scotlands Ash Garage</h3> </div> <p>Main Street West Hagbourne Oxford's award winning local Independent Garage</p> <p>MOTs from 6.00am by appointment</p> <p>Vehicle Servicing and Repairs</p> <p>Tyres, Clutches and Exhausts</p> <p>Paint and Bodywork</p> <p>Terraclean Service</p> <p>Free Courtesy Car</p> <p>Tel. 01235 850707</p> <p>enquiries@scotlandsashgarage.co.uk</p>	<div data-bbox="641 443 944 539"></div> <div data-bbox="580 523 652 611"></div> <div data-bbox="921 523 1000 611"></div> <p>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</p> <p>The Nurseries, London Road, Blewbury</p> <p>01235 850352</p> <p>shop@savagesblewbury.co.uk</p>
<div data-bbox="115 826 515 853" data-label="Section-Header"> <h3>LJD Bell Plumbing & Heating Services</h3> </div> <p>All Domestic Plumbing and Heating Work Undertaken</p> <p>A1 High Efficiency Boilers Fitted</p> <p>Gas Appliances Fitted and Serviced (Inc LPG)</p> <p>Landlord Gas Safety Check and Certificates</p> <p>Aga/Rayburn Servicing</p> <p>Fully Insured</p> <p>Water Safe Approved Operative</p> <p>CIPHE Registered Plumber</p> <p>Mobile 07555100848</p> <p>ljd-bell-plumbing-heating@outlook.com</p>	<div data-bbox="585 818 664 906"></div> <div data-bbox="750 821 840 849" data-label="Section-Header"> <h3>N Drum</h3> </div> <div data-bbox="932 818 1011 906"></div> <p>Landscaping, Fencing and Maintenance</p> <p>Garden and Grounds Maintenance</p> <p>Hedge Planting and Cutting</p> <p>Grass Cutting and Turfing</p> <p>Power Washing and Winter Gritting</p> <p>Licensed Waste Carrier</p> <p>Fully Insured</p> <p>Tel. 01235 859229 or 07922701634</p> <p>ndrumlandscaping@gmail.com</p>

Submissions for Upton News should be sent to

kameki39@btinternet.com

Deadline for the October edition is

Sunday 26th September