



## **Upton Platinum Jubilee Street Party**

**Friday 3rd June, 1pm-4pm**

**Church Street**

**(between Stream Road and High Street)**

**Bring & Share food, drink, crockery, cutlery**

**Theme: Red, White & Blue**

**(or wear a crown or a tiara)**

**Children's competition - best King or Queen**

**ALL WELCOME**

**Volunteers needed - contact Brian 07768 224467**

**Adults' Evening Disco at the Village Hall**



## Church Services

The online services will continue on Sundays at 10.30am. Login after 10.00 to chat before if wished. Access the Churn Churches website for login details on how to join:

<https://www.churnchurches.co.uk/services-this-week/sunday-service.php>

The link for the service is published in the weekly Churn, which can be downloaded from this page: <https://www.churnchurches.co.uk/resources/>  
Weekday evenings Compline at 8.00pm for 10 minutes. Access via Churn Churches website above.

If you would like to be added to our weekly mailing list to receive the Churn, please contact Elaine on 01235 850267 [office@churnchurches.co.uk](mailto:office@churnchurches.co.uk)

## Services at St. Mary the Virgin

Please note the slightly earlier time of **9.15am**. You are always welcome to enter the church even if the service has commenced!

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>5<sup>th</sup> June</b>  | <b>PENTECOST</b>                           |
| 9.15am                      | Share a prayer                             |
| <b>12<sup>th</sup> June</b> | <b>TRINITY SUNDAY</b>                      |
| 9.15am                      | Parish Eucharist                           |
| <b>26<sup>th</sup> June</b> | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b> |
| 9.15am                      | Parish Eucharist                           |

Advance notice of a special service in July (please note the time!):

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> July</b> | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b> |
| <b>10.30am</b>             | Family Eucharist and baptism               |

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*Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in our Benefice*



## Flower Festivals

**St Michael's Church, Blewbury**

**Thursday 2nd – Sunday 5th June 10am - 5pm**

In addition to the flowers on display, on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June, we will be serving cream teas in Church between 3 and 5pm** - please come and see the displays and enjoy tea with your friends and family.

## **St Andrew's Church, East Hagbourne**

### **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June**

The church will be open 10am to 5pm on all days except on Saturday, when it will be open from 10am - 3pm (due to a wedding at 4 pm). **Teas will be available on the Sunday afternoon.**

Please also look out for the Scarecrows in both villages!

### **Jubilee Celebration Services**

On **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June** there will be a Jubilee Celebration Service with Sunday Club at **St Andrew's Hagbourne at 10.30am.**

Also on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>, there will be a service of Celebration and Thanksgiving at **St Michael's Blewbury at 6pm.** There will be an opportunity to join in the nation's favourite hymns and the choir will also sing. Following the service, there will be refreshments.

**North Moreton** bellringers will be ringing a Quarter peal for Jubilee, followed by street party at 1.00pm, then **4.30pm Jubilee Celebration Service.**

The whole Benefice are invited to all of these services and events! Please bring your friends and family.

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## **God Bless Her Majesty!**

I wonder if you have made any particular plans for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend? Our Queen's 70 years of service is a truly remarkable achievement. It is something which I am sure we will all wish to celebrate.

You may or may not be aware that the Queen has a deep Christian faith. I am sure her faith has provided a great source of strength and comfort throughout her life, and especially at times of stress and bereavement.

For centuries, there has been a very close connection between the church in England and the royal family. This link was strengthened and formalised back in the 10th century, and our current Coronation Service can be traced back to this time. In essence, a partnership was formed between the Church and the Monarchy : the Church was expected to pray for the Monarch, and the Monarch was expected to protect the Church. This partnership has had its ups

and downs over the years, but it survived the Reformation and continues to this day. Prayers for the Queen and the royal family are said regularly in churches up and down the land, and indeed in some churches they are said twice daily. There is also provision for a special service every year on the anniversary of the Monarch's Accession, although these services have largely fallen out of use in recent years.



Does this close association between the Church and the Monarchy still make sense in our democratic and multi-faith society? What do you think? The closeness of the link can have its dangers: it might- perhaps- encourage an uncritical deference to the Royal Family, and it can lead to a muddling of the necessary distinction between Christianity and Patriotism. On the other hand, the close link between the Church and the Monarchy is in practice perfectly compatible with respect for men and women of all faiths and beliefs.

Personally, I am delighted that services will be held in churches up and down the land to celebrate our Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Whatever your religious, if any, and regardless of whether or not you would consider yourself to be at heart a Republican rather than a Monarchist, there can be no doubt at all that our current Queen is a remarkable woman, and it surely right for us to celebrate her seventy years of selfless service.

*Father Jason*

**Home Communion** is available to anyone who is unable to get to church through sickness or frailty, either for a short time or on a long term basis. If you, or anyone you know, would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact The Revd Louise Butler on [07837 009730](tel:07837009730).

Full COVID precautions will be followed.

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2022

Thanks to the hard work of volunteers, the generosity of supporters - and maybe the weather - the provisional total this year is over £550, an improvement on our last collection in 2019. In addition, the new venture of the Tea Party was much enjoyed.

Elisabeth and Malcolm Wright

## District & County Council News

The month of April was a reasonably quiet one for council meetings, but the work of the council officers carries on and we have included the latest press releases in this update as well as some more information on how the council is supporting Ukrainian refugees, and a link to the latest planning application for a parcel of homes on Valley Park (please submit your comments!).

The next full council meeting is our AGM on 18<sup>th</sup> May. Should you wish to speak at this (or any) meeting, please email democratic services [democratic.services@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@southandvale.gov.uk) by 12noon on the working day before the meeting. You can also attend meetings in person or watch the stream on YouTube.

### Council tax rebate

All households living in properties which are in council tax bands A-D are entitled to a £150 payment. [N.B. *The VWHDC service desk has been advising that only bands A-B are entitled to the rebate – this is incorrect. UPC*] The government is providing this money, also known as the ‘council tax rebate’, to help people with the rising costs of energy bills with the payments being made by local councils.

The Council can pay the money directly to someone’s bank account if they are the person responsible for paying council tax at the property. A letter will be sent to all remaining eligible households (those not on direct debit, or whose bank account can’t be matched to those liable for the council tax at the property) asking them to complete an online form to confirm their bank account details so they are able to receive the money. Anyone who is not able to complete the form online will be able to call a special customer service team for assistance.

### Community Support

The Community Support Hub, originally set up by the council in 2020 in response to the pandemic, is still available for anyone in need of help: if you have COVID-19, or if you are struggling financially, or if you are just finding life difficult due to the pandemic. Whether it’s practical support or just advice, get in touch. Call: 01235 422 600 (Mon to Thurs 8.30-5pm and Fridays 8.30-4.30pm) or visit [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/communityhub](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/communityhub).

### Financial Support Helplines

With rising energy prices and the cost of living increasing, it is a difficult time for many residents. Anyone who is struggling financially can contact Citizens Advice on 0808 278 7907, Vale Community Impact on 01235 765348 or the council’s own community support hub - details below.

*We 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](mailto:hayleigh.gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) and [sarah.medley@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.medley@whitehorsedc.gov.uk). □□*

## **Vale and South Oxfordshire councils step up to support Ukrainian refugees**

The system is working and in full swing across Oxfordshire to support the government's Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Whilst there is still limited government guidance in some areas, all partners across the county are working together to find solutions and put guests at the heart of any action required. The accommodation and safeguarding checks are progressing well, with the backlog of home checks almost completed, and with no significant concerns raised.

The government is providing funds, of which the councils will be the administrators, to provide support to families to rebuild their lives and fully integrate into communities. The county council has continued to process school place applications and is recruiting an additional admissions officer to manage demand and avoid administrative delays.

You may have also seen that the Department for Work and Pensions has laid emergency regulations so those arriving in the UK from Ukraine, as a result of the Russian invasion, can access Universal Credit and jobs support immediately. Families can therefore claim for free school meals in the usual way under the usual eligibility criteria.

And as we approach half-term, the council are working to identify what holiday activities could be offered for children and also activities for children waiting for a school place.

For more information

General Ukraine queries:

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ukraine](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ukraine)

**Oxfordshire Ukraine helpline:** +44 1865 966444 / 01865 966 444 (opening hours: 8.45am - 5pm, Monday to Friday. Closed weekends and bank holidays).

**Email:** [ukraineresponse@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ukraineresponse@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

For housing and community support in South and Vale:

[www.southoxon.gov.uk/ukraine](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ukraine)

[www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/ukraine](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/ukraine)

**South and Vale helpline:** +44 1235 422600 / 01235 422600 (press option one). Opening hours: 8.30am-5pm Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-4.30pm Fridays, Closed weekends and bank holidays.

**Email:** [communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk)

Finally, as we work hard to support the government's Homes for Ukraine scheme, it's important to recognise that we are continuing to work collectively across the county to support people of all immigration status, including refugees, whatever their country of origin.

In recent years, all councils across Oxfordshire have established specific support arrangements for those from Syria and Afghanistan working together with our voluntary and community sector partners to deliver wrap-around support for those temporarily accommodated in hotels. We will all continue to support relocating refugees and work with Thames Valley Police and other agencies to identify and prevent modern slavery.

## **Local News**

### **Valley Park Update**

The planning application for the first 'parcel' of 246 homes on Valley Park has now closed for consultation on the online planning portal - reference P22/V0539/RM. The decision will take at least 6 weeks as the planning officers at the Vale read all the comments submitted, and look at how the application complies to national as well as local planning policies. They may go back to the developer with changes to make, meaning the decision could take longer.

In the meantime, another planning application for a parcel of houses by Persimmon as been submitted, and can be viewed and commented on, reference P22/V0907/RM. The deadline for a response here is 1<sup>st</sup> June.

### **Witness the thrill of elite cycling in Oxfordshire**

People will be able to witness the thrill of elite professional cycling when the Women's Tour returns to the Vale of White Horse on Saturday 11 June. Following successful events in 2019 and 2021, this will be the final year that The Women's Tour will visit Oxfordshire, following a three-year partnership with race organiser SweetSpot. For 2022, the county will host the sixth and final stage of the Tour in what promises to be a spectacular finale.

On the day, you will be able to see the riders pass through Harwell and Didcot. The full timetable will be published closer to the time.

Communities across the district are being encouraged to mark the occasion - this could be as simple as lining the route to cheer the riders on, putting up bunting, flags, or cycling inspired artwork, creating a cycling themed window display or having cycling themed events.

To learn more visit [whitehorsedc.gov.uk/womenstour](https://whitehorsedc.gov.uk/womenstour).

### **New cinema nights at The Beacon**

New film nights will start at The Beacon from Saturday 21 May with a matinée of *Encanto* and an evening screening of *Belfast*. Later screenings include *Sing 2* and *West Side Story*.

## **Cornerstone's summer of fun**

Cornerstone's summer programme is now in full swing with a line-up of shows and activities from science extravaganzas to live blues music. With classes, workshops, and gallery exhibitions including 'Oxfordshire Artweeks: Inspired By Nature' from 3 May - there's something for everyone.

## **Climate & Environment News**

### **Councils to let wildflowers bloom during No Mow May**

Wildflowers could bloom in more public areas next month after South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils pledged their support for No Mow May.

The two councils already designate wildflower meadows which they only cut two to three times a year but this year they will trial leaving several additional areas of land uncut for No Mow May, a national campaign which encourages people to not mow gardens and public areas during May.

For more information about how the council carry out grass cutting visit [whitehorsedc.gov.uk/NoMowMay](http://whitehorsedc.gov.uk/NoMowMay)

## **Council News**

### **Didcot Garden Town**

A wide range of improvement projects and facilities in the Didcot Garden Town area will be prioritised to ensure climate change and pandemic recovery are tackled first.

The Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board discussed the actions set out in 2017's Delivery Plan to identify the projects they thought were the most important to bring more community improvements and assist recovery for the garden town area following the pandemic.

### **Have your say on a new technology park development in Didcot Garden Town**

Residents and businesses can give their views on how greener commercial buildings can be built at a Didcot technology park.

Hill Farm, in Appleford and near to Didcot, is the site of a proposed Local Development Order (LDO), something that local planning authorities use to set out the overall design of a site. It also helps speed up the planning process for preferred types of development there, such as industrial buildings with energy efficient measures. This LDO design includes a data centre, waste management, a wood recycling organisation and a battery storage facility.

The formal consultation is now open until midday 25 May 2022



## Street naming consultation

The government is asking people to comment on proposals to alter process for changing street names. This includes replacing the current system with a single requirement for a residents' vote on any changes to street names and some changes to regulations and statutory guidance for councils. To find out more and to have your say visit the government's consultation.

*Cllr Hayleigh Gascoigne and Cllr Sarah Medley*

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## Steventon Reservoir

The gravity of the Steventon Reservoir and forthcoming multiple level consultation period (anticipated Oct 2022) with WRSE, Thames Water and the OFWAT Rapid Gate 2, means we need a coordinated and holistic view on the situation for Oxfordshire, as the impact of such a proposal will affect every part of this county, its infrastructure, climate, carbon footprint, movement and displacement of people and nature and more!

The event will be chaired by Dr Pete Sudbury and Vice Chaired by Derek Stork the Chair of GARD.

Please RSVP for links and attendance information and do let me know if it is in person or hybrid.



Cllr Sally Povolotsky

County Councillor for Hendreds & Harwell Division

## Parish Council News

### Annual Parish Meeting

was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> May and was attended by a gratifyingly large number of villagers. The minutes are published village website and on the noticeboard and are also available on request from the parish clerk at [parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk)

The Parish Council AGM was held on 17<sup>th</sup> May with the existing Councillors offering their services for the coming year, but there is still a shortfall in Councillor numbers.

As discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting there is a perceived need for additional parking in the recreation ground. A working party is to be set up to consider the options and to report to the Parish Council. A representative from the village hall would be very welcome, together with 2 or 3 representatives from the village to explore options. If you would like to contribute to this debate and be a member of the working group please contact the Parish Clerk.

### The Pump Track

on the recreation ground has been resurfaced and is now very much in use once again. The new surface is expected to last for much longer and so will not wear out so quickly, nor incur maintenance costs in the immediate future. This, together with the new nets for the goalposts, has been made possible

with the generous help of money received from the Thames Valley Police Community Fund (see picture). The new nets are now available to be fitted and may well be in place by the time you read this.

Also on the recreation ground several safety-related maintenance issues on the play equipment have been addressed.



### Speed Watch

The Parish Council has agreed to buy *Community Speed Watch* signs to be placed on the white gates when entering Upton and also agreed to buy our own speed gun and associated equipment.

We now have three people fully trained who have had experience of working with Blewbury and Harwell Speed Watch teams. We are just waiting for the equipment to be delivered so we can start, but we need more volunteers to train to catch cars speeding through the village. Please write to the Parish Clerk. [parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk).

We also need volunteers to paint the white gates before the signs are put up. Again please write to the Parish Clerk.

## Pot Holes

After chasing Oxford Council, they have filled in the dangerous pot hole on A417 going west opposite High Street and the pot hole at the bottom of Hollow Way leading onto A417.

If you see more dangerous pot holes please enter the on Fix My Street and let the Parish Council know ([parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk)).and we will follow it up.

## Bus Shelter

The bus shelter has been repainted, using the correct masonry paint. The oil-based paints used for the smiley faces that were there before was responsible for their distortion (some looked like they were painted by Edvard Munch!)



Dates for your diary:

Next year's Annual Parish Meeting for Upton has been arranged for Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

The next ordinary Parish Council Meeting will be on 19<sup>th</sup> July at 7:00 pm. Villagers are always encouraged to attend.

## Upton Nature Garden

The initial garden creation phase is complete save for commissioning the sign.

The meadow is sown and watered. The gates into the garden are completed and the fire escape path from the small meeting room has been realigned to improve safety. There have regular maintenance visits

during April and May by the Nature Group members to water the new plants and shrubs, and a volunteer day where the meadow area was prepared for seeding and the areas around the new plantings were weeded.

A social celebration event for all the volunteers is being planned.

The five year maintenance plan for the garden is in preparation, drawing on best practice documents from conservation and horticultural bodies.

The nature group would like to thank the Parish Council for their support over the past year, and look forward to next.

Kathryn Fletcher

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## Library books to your door

If you or someone you know are finding it difficult to get to the library, the Home Library Service can help!

Run by Oxfordshire County Council, the Home Library Service is completely free and delivers books and other library materials to hundreds of people across the county. Friendly volunteers choose items you like and visit every three weeks to deliver and collect them.

The service is open to people who struggle to physically visit a library. It's also available on a short-term basis after illness or hospitalisation, and to people with caring responsibilities.

A poster for the Oxfordshire Libraries Home Library Service. The top section features a green header with the text 'Oxfordshire Libraries'. Below this is an illustration of a blue door with a white letterbox, flanked by two windows and two potted plants with red flowers. A green delivery bag with the Oxfordshire Libraries logo is on the floor in front of the door. A pink circular callout bubble on the right says 'Help for people who are unable to visit the library themselves'. The bottom section has a grey background with the text 'Milk, papers... and now library books to your door!' in bold. Below this, it says 'To check eligibility and register for the Home Library Service or for further information call 01865 810259 or email homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk'. At the bottom, there are social media icons for Twitter (@oxonlibraries) and Facebook (Oxfordshire Libraries). The footer is a green bar with the Oxfordshire County Council logo and name.

Oxfordshire Libraries

Help for people who are unable to visit the library themselves

**Milk, papers... and now library books to your door!**

To check eligibility and register for the Home Library Service or for further information call 01865 810259 or email [homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

@oxonlibraries Oxfordshire Libraries

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Registering is easy, simply call your local library or the Home Library Service on 01865 810259 or email [homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk)  
[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homelibraryservice](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homelibraryservice)



### Foot Care



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## 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](mailto:richmondbinov@gmail.com) if you're interested and to  
find out the venue for the meetings. *Richard Burrow*

## **Blewbury post office news**

Thank you to everyone for being so understanding about our reduced hours, I'm getting better very slowly, but I'm still so very tired. Hopefully by the time you read this, we'll be back to our normal opening times. We will be closed for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, open as usual on the Monday morning, I'm presuming that allowances will be paid on the previous working day, but we've not been told that yet.

Please check on the Royal Mail website for prohibited & restrictions for overseas parcels, before bringing in your mail, every country has their own rules, and some countries are still experiencing long delays at their customs offices.

Have a wonderful time at your jubilee celebrations.

Karen, Maggie & Andrew

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### **£ £ FUNDING TO HELP WITH ENERGY & FOOD COSTS £ £**

**Are you struggling to pay for your energy or the weekly shop?**

**Are you unable to buy an item that you really need?**

**If so, please read on..**

United Charities are a local charity that supports people living in Blewbury, Aston Upthorpe and Upton and we have funding to provide 'one off' payments to people who could benefit from some financial help.

If you, or someone you know, are struggling financially then please consider applying. We welcome applications from anyone, whatever their situation.

There is a short application form which has to be completed which can either be picked up from the Blewbury Post Office or requested by email to [unitedcharities@outlook.com](mailto:unitedcharities@outlook.com). Help can be provided to complete the form if necessary and all applications will be dealt with confidentially.

**UNITED CHARITIES OF THE ANCIENT PARISH OF BLEWBURY**  
**Registered Charity No: 203538**

# Uptonogood? Mountain Bike Festival



After an enforced two years away, we are delighted to announce the Uptonogood? - Mountain Bike Festival will take place this year in Upton, Oxfordshire on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June.

As before there will be a range of route options available, catering for riders of all ages and abilities. The routes take in the beautiful North Wessex Downs on and around the Ridgeway National Trail. On route there will be medical and mechanical support, as well as feed stations to keep riders moving.

After the rides, there will be festival atmosphere at Upton Recreation Field where the rides start and finish. Live music will be playing throughout the afternoon and refreshments will be available to suit all tastes. From teas/coffees and lots of homemade cake, to a fully licensed bar and BBQ fare.

The event is community organised and has run most years since 2010, on a voluntary basis. Volunteers may nominate any charity for a £25 donation and receive a free drink and burger back at the festival as a thank you.

Over the years Uptonogood? and has raised £65K for local organizations and charities.

More information on our fundraising can be found here: <https://www.uptonogood.org.uk/fundraising/>

More information on the routes can be found here: <https://www.uptonogood.org.uk/routes/>

Riders may register here: <https://www.uptonogood.org.uk/enter/>

Volunteers may do so here: <https://www.uptonogood.org.uk/volunteer/>

Contact: [info@uptonogood.org.uk](mailto:info@uptonogood.org.uk)

## **Uptonogood?      Call for Volunteers**

*After two years of COVID restrictions and lockdowns, it time to get Uptonogood!*

*You will have read that we are planning to hold the event again this year on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June, and as usual we aim is to raise money for local causes and primarily projects here in Upton. In the past this has included many improvements to the facilities on the recreation field and the village hall. As always though, hosting up to 1000 riders safely, requires a small army of volunteers to help marshal the course and provide support on the rec. Whether it be marshalling, providing “admin” services, pouring pints in the bar, or dunking tea bags, there is much to be done on the day. Before the day there is signage to deploy, cakes to be baked, and marquees to erect. All in all there is much to be done and Upton has always rose to the challenge.*

*If you would like to volunteer to be part of this year’s event, please make yourself known to either Bob Lott (07890316126) or Mike Tibbetts (07966280155) as soon as possible. Alternatively you can register your interest on the Uptonogood website [www.uptonogood.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.uptonogood.org.uk/volunteer)*

## **Get Ready, Set, Bake for Uptonogood 2022**

It’s been a long wait since 2019 to get baking again! The wonderful home-made cakes sold at Uptonogood are always a huge hit with the people that visit our village.

### **WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THIS YEAR BETTER THAN EVER!**

We need everything from flapjacks, muffins and scones to cakes and tray bakes.

You can drop off your cakes to Jacqui at Shearburn Cottage, Pound Lane, between 2-5pm on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> June or please bring them to the village hall before 10am on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> June.

Proceeds will be going to the Upton Village Hall to help with much needed upgrades to some of our toilets and also some maintenance and repair in our kitchen.

Jacqui Reid



# Blewbury School News

## Da Vinci, Dinosaurs and Dens!

As some of you will know all the five classes at Blewbury School are now named after famous artists - Da Vinci, Goldsworthy, Picasso, Klimt and Banksy. A couple of months ago we featured the Goldsworthy Class, made up of Year 2 & 3 children, who had been drawing maps and researching interesting locations within Blewbury village.

This month we are focusing on the Da Vinci Class, which is home to the youngest pupils in the School, who are in either Reception or Year 1. They have had a busy, exciting, and very interesting start to their summer term. Along with their teacher Miss Buckler and their teaching assistants Miss Freeman and Mrs Bayliss they have been looking at plants, nature and dinosaurs. Children at this stage often respond well to opportunities to engage directly with interesting things in their environment. There has been plenty of opportunity for that as their two weeks of plant related work included flower arranging, plant dissection, observational drawing of leaves, painting plants, bean planting, and preparing the School's vegetable plot for summer planting by digging up some weeds.

Every Wednesday this class has a scheduled Nature School session, which

takes place in a dedicated space on the school site. In this the children have been den building, pond dipping, minibeast hunting, flag making and have been observing seasonal changes. All really engaging activities that the children enjoyed while also getting some welcome fresh air and exercise.



And then very recently they have begun a focus on Dinosaurs, including reading *Dinosaur In a Supermarket* and *How to Grow a Dinosaur*. This work has inspired some wonderful writing as you can I am sure imagine.

If you would like to discover more about the exciting experiences of the Da Vinci class then do visit their page on the Blewbury School website ([www.blewbury.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.blewbury.oxon.sch.uk))

Roger Murphy Community Governor

## Didcot & District u3a - Spring Update

Spring has Sprung and Summer is fast approaching . . . . and in amongst the gardening, D-I-Y and long overdue holiday travels the Didcot & District u3a continues to provide a plethora of 'interest groups' for the retired and semi-retired who wish to continue '*Learning, Laughing, Living*' and these range from a new language, musical instruments, gardening, walking, photography, natural history . . . all of which you can be informed if you attend a monthly meeting held on the **third Tuesday of each month** at the **Didcot Civic Hall starting at 2:30**, which also includes a Guest Speaker and refreshments!

Over the coming months we will be presented with the following interesting talks:

**21 June:** '*Flour Generations at the Fairmile*' - Ian Wheeler

**19 July:** '*From Page to Stage*' - Jennifer Cowling

**16 August:** '*Wilts and Bucks Canal - continued . . .*' - Martin Buckland

**20 September:** '*Violet Jessop's Escape from the Titanic!*' - Jane Glennie

So, hopefully your diaries have some gaps over the coming sunny weeks and we look forward to you joining at one, or all, of the above dates; and remember, even in retirement you can still '**Learn, Laugh, Live**' !

For further information you can contact the following;

Chair - [chairman@didcotu3a.org](mailto:chairman@didcotu3a.org)

Secretary - [Secretary@didcotu3a.org](mailto:Secretary@didcotu3a.org)

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## Astons Online

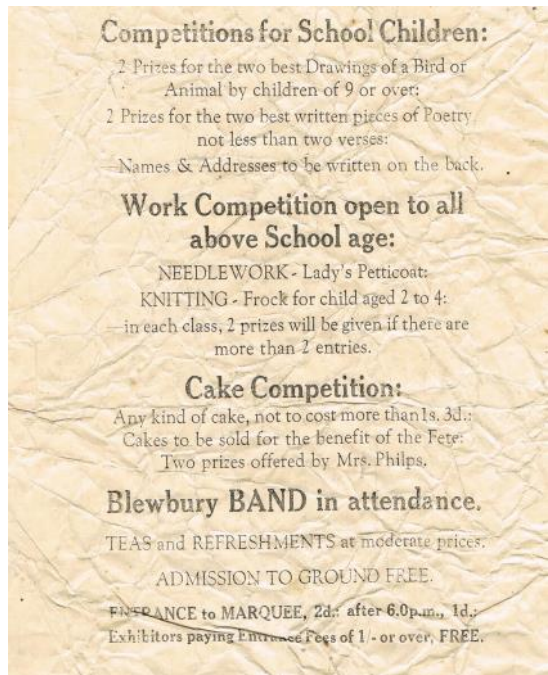
June's Astons Online Zoom meeting will be 10:30 - 11:15 on Tuesday 21 June. The question: "*Upgrade to Windows 11 now or not?*" We'll talk about the advantages and disadvantages of upgrading ... or not. Book your place at [theastonsonline@gmail.com](mailto:theastonsonline@gmail.com) and see [www.astonsonline.uk](http://www.astonsonline.uk).

Free and friendly help for computer users every Tuesday morning from 10:00 to 12:00. We provide help remotely using telephone, Quick Assist, Facetime, Skype, Zoom, Teams, WhatsApp or whatever is best for you. Book a 30-minute appointment by emailing [theastonsonline@gmail.com](mailto:theastonsonline@gmail.com) or, if this is not possible, by phoning 07780 958249.

## 85 years ago

To mirror the front page of this issue of the Upton News, here are some of the events that took place in Upton to celebrate the Coronation of the Queen's father on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1937.

(Discovered under the floor of the then vicarage)



## Contributions for Upton News

For those submitting news items, will you please send them to me at [neilthorp@btinternet.com](mailto:neilthorp@btinternet.com).

A few days beforehand I will send a reminder of the deadline day to all regular contributors but early submission will always be welcome. Anything received past the deadline (usually 28<sup>th</sup> of the month) may NOT be included - if this causes a problem please contact me.

Neil Thorp  
Editor