

# Upton News



June 2023

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## Services at St. Mary the Virgin, Upton

You are always welcome to enter the church even if the service has commenced!

**4 June**

*Trinity Sunday*

9.15 Lay-led service

**Prayer Focus**

Sidesmen, those who help with hospitality

Flower arrangers

**11 June**

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity*

9.15 Parish Eucharist

Pastoral care & visiting

**25 June**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Trinity*

9.15 Parish Eucharist

Outreach & Parish magazines

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## Thank you Revd Louise!

**St Michael's Church Blewbury 11<sup>th</sup> June 10.30am**

### MESSAGE FROM REVD LOUISE:

This month of June I have the opportunity to mark nearly 20 years of church ministry as I step back into "semi-retirement". You are warmly invited to a celebration service in **Blewbury Church at 10.30am on Sunday 11th June** with Communion and cake. My vocation has been encouraged, guided and prayerfully held by many in the church family and community through selection, local training and those first tentative steps after ordination. It has been a tremendous privilege to be alongside a good number of you to share times of joy, challenge and sometimes great sadness.

I will take a break and be back in September with a slightly lighter load. Thank you for your support and I look forward to greeting many of you over the next few weeks.

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For details of on-line services and contact information for clergy and staff please see the March copy of the Upton News (always available on the village web site) or contact Elaine on 01235 850267 or at [office@churnchurches.co.uk](mailto:office@churnchurches.co.uk)

## What's in a name?

Tracing the origin and significance of names can be a fascinating activity. Take, for example, the name Barnabas. The name means “son of consolation”: in other words, a person who provides consolation and encouragement to others.



I'm thinking about Barnabas because in a few weeks' time it will be 11<sup>th</sup> June, which is the day on which the Church celebrates an early Christian called St. Barnabas. We don't know much about him beyond what is recorded in a book in the New Testament called the Acts of the Apostles. This tells us that Barnabas was a Jewish Cypriot, who became a Christian and a leader in the early Church. St. Barnabas worked with St Paul, and by tradition he was martyred for his faith in AD 61. As I have mentioned, we don't know much about St. Barnabas, but I think we can guess a lot about his character from the fact that we are told that his name meant “son of consolation”. Barnabas clearly had a reputation for bringing consolation and encouragement to the early Christian community.

I think for all of us, there are times in our lives when we need some consolation and encouragement. Perhaps we can think of people who have encouraged us in the past, or who are encouraging us now. Let us give thanks to God for them. And perhaps we can think of people whom we might console or encourage.

At the risk of making a wild generalisation, I think that there is a great shortage of encouragement in our world at large. Many organisations and workplaces provide little or any encouragement to their members and employees. No wonder there is often unhappiness and under-performance in the workplace.

And the bigger the challenge we face, the more encouragement we need. We need men and women who will encourage us to tackle the really difficult issues in our communities and our world: men and women who will encourage us to keep on going and not give up. A classic example is the challenge of tackling global warming. We need men and women who will encourage us in our efforts to live more sustainable lives. It's so easy to succumb to despair when faced with something as huge as Climate Change. We need men and women who will help us move from despair to hope - men and women who will encourage us in our efforts to live more eco-friendly lives.

We can never have too many “sons and daughters of encouragement”!

Father Jason

# Parish Council News

## Parish Council Meeting Date

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm.

## Elections

New Councillors and their contact details:

Benjamin Shaw

Position on the Council - Chairman & Grants and Finance Portfolio

Email Address [Bens@uptonpc.co.uk](mailto:Bens@uptonpc.co.uk)

Phone No. 07934389171

Neil Thorp

Position on the Council - Deputy Chairman & Planning Portfolio

Email Address [neilthorp@btinternet.com](mailto:neilthorp@btinternet.com)

Nicola Hall

Position on the Council - Communications Portfolio

Email Address - [Nicolah@uptonpc.co.uk](mailto:Nicolah@uptonpc.co.uk)

David Beckles

Position on the Council - Environment Portfolio

Email Address - [davidb@uptonpc.co.uk](mailto:davidb@uptonpc.co.uk)

Graham De Wilde

Position on the Council - Facilities & Grounds Maintenance Portfolio

Email Address - [grahamdw@uptonpc.co.uk](mailto:grahamdw@uptonpc.co.uk)

Brendan Heneghan

Position on the Council - Social & Welfare Portfolio

Email Address - [Brendan\\_heneghan@btinternet.com](mailto:Brendan_heneghan@btinternet.com)

## Chairman's Chatter June 2023

Last month we saw the Coronation of King Charles and despite the terrible weather it was lovely to see so many people attend the get together in the Village Hall and watch on the big screen whilst sharing an indoor pick nick. It was hard not to smile at all the brilliantly patriotic clothing memorabilia and brilliantly designed food with wonderful Union Jack Cakes, Pavlovas and Savoury Tarts! Thank you to all those who



helped to make the event such fun and I look forwards to seeing you all at the next bring and share event!



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Amazon Girls Football has started back up again, and news has spread of the fantastic facilities we have in Upton with another youth football team now in talks with the council about using the fields for their training. We are hopeful that by creating opportunities for young people to play organised sports that this will reflect in a positive way on the social fabric of our Parish and helps us to fulfil our grant award obligations to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

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With all the exciting new visitors to the recreation ground and the ongoing use by businesses the car park next to the Village Hall has never been in more regular use. Sadly, this has resulted in a couple of instances of blocked roads with buses unable to pass causing villagers to contact us.

It has become clear that the car park was in desperate need of maintenance including the remarking out of the white and yellow lines and the clearing of the walkways from weeds and potential tripping hazards around the Village Hall. Luckily Mr De Wilde kindly donned his best workman's overalls and got down to business for which we are very grateful to him for doing as it is no easy task and has already made such a difference that visitors have commented.



Last year the Parish Council began the process of collating information to produce a welcome to the village information pack which we have referred to as "The Welcome Pack". We previously asked what information you would like to see in this and lots of people sent in their submissions. We are now in the process of establishing a working group to help put this together and to distribute it to every household around the village. If there is any information that you would like to be included or if you would like to be part of the team that decides how this is put together and distributed please get in touch via email to [bens@uptonpc.co.uk](mailto:bens@uptonpc.co.uk).

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It is good practice every time there is a newly elected council to make a plan for the next four years and as such we will soon be starting work on the next village survey to find out what you want for the parish that you live in. The Village Survey was very well thought through back in 2004 and three qualitative questions were generated to help make a questionnaire these are

What do you like about the parish,  
what don't you like about the parish,  
what would you like to see changed.

The responses to these questions will then be used to directly to create the quantitative questions that will form the basis of the next four years aims and objectives of the Parish Council. If you would be interested in being part of the working group that helps to form this please get in touch at [bens@uptonpc.co.uk](mailto:bens@uptonpc.co.uk)

Ben Shaw  
Chairman of Upton Parish Council

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## Astons Online

**This month's Zoom online** meeting will be 10:30 - 11:15 on Tuesday 6 June 2023. We'll talk about online entertainment - music, art, theatre etc. Book your place through [theastonsonline@gmail.com](mailto:theastonsonline@gmail.com)

**Astons Online's monthly event in Astons Village Hall (OX119EQ)** will be on Tuesday 20 June from 10:00 to 12:00. Please tell us, if you can, that you're coming so we can have helpers available and bring a mask to keep us all Covid safe. See our website [www.astonsonline.uk](http://www.astonsonline.uk) and email is [theastonsonline@gmail.com](mailto:theastonsonline@gmail.com)

Bruno Brunskill (on behalf of Astons Online)  
07780 958249

## **Upton Village Hall Amenities Trust (UVHAT)**

Following last month's Annual Parish Meeting (APM) and the subsequent write up in Upton News, the trustees of UVHAT, the trust which manages Upton Village Hall, hope villagers find the following information helpful.

We were dismayed to learn for the first time by reading in the Upton News that the meeting felt strongly that "UVHAT was not transparent in its operation...concern was expressed that there was a lack of involvement with the village and it was failing in its role as the centre of the community and was merely a "room for hire". We hope the Upton Parish Council members, who are also trustees, were able to help reassure those villagers who attended the APM that this is not the case.

First, we would like to thank all the villagers whom regularly hire the hall for their own private events, attend the wide range of clubs and classes which are on at the hall and also support and attend the village events held at the hall. We are also grateful for the many kind messages we get regarding the running of the hall and the facilities.

The village hall website [www.uptonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.uptonvillagehall.co.uk) contains all the information on what's on at the hall each week, its availability, how to hire and about the running of the hall. For those new to the village there is a discount on hire of the hall if you live in the village - currently just £8 an hour for use of the whole hall.

### **Who manages the village hall?**

The trustees, all of whom are residents of Upton, are listed on the website:

Mr A Dyson (Treasurer)  
Mrs L Evans  
Mrs L Mason  
Mrs J Reid (Secretary)  
Mr B Rippon  
Mr R Traynor (Chair)  
Mrs J M West  
Mr B Shaw (Appointed Member representing Upton Parish Council)  
Mr B Heneghan (Appointed Member representing Upton Parish Council)

The address of the Trust is Autumn Leaves, High Street, Upton, OX11 9JE. Registered as a Charity, 8 November 1990, Charity No. 1000813 our annual financial history [*total income & expenditure only*] and charity information is publicly available at

<https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/1000813>

### **How to contact us**

If you would like to contact the trustees about anything regarding the village hall please email [trustees@uptonvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:trustees@uptonvillagehall.co.uk) or if it in regards to a booking or use of the hall please email [bookings@uptonvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@uptonvillagehall.co.uk).

These details are also on the website and please note we are a separate

entity from Upton Parish Council (UPC), although members of UPC are represented as trustees - so if you have any concerns or ideas about the hall please contact us directly.

### **Purpose of the trust**

Our aim and responsibility, which is set out in the constitution of the trust is to provide a facility and ensure it is maintained for use by the village and the local community. The current wording is:

*The Property and the trust fund and its income shall be applied for the purposes of a village hall for the purpose of the inhabitants of the Parish of Upton without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, nationality, race or political, religious or other opinion including the use of the Property for meetings, lectures and classes or forms of recreation and leisure time occupation in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.*

UVHAT has always been keen to support whole village activities, we provide free hall use for village events such as the Fete, Uptonogood, the recent Coronation party and numerous residents participate in some of the regular bookings such as the gymnastics, karate, yoga, dog training, Wine Club, Brownies etc while others make use of the venue for private functions. (We are the cheapest village hall in the surrounding area and we think one of the best!).

When we are in fundraising mode we also put on different kind of events for the village. Currently we have saved enough funds for an upgrade to our toilet facilities - like so many we have been struggling to find contractors who have availability to take on this project, although with new leads we are hopeful this will be done soon. If you have any ideas on further improvements to the facilities please get in touch with us.

### **Would you like to be a trustee?**

We are currently on the lookout for new trustees to join us from the village. If you are interested in becoming a trustee or learning more about it please contact [trustees@uptonvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:trustees@uptonvillagehall.co.uk)

### **Next UHVAT Management Meeting**

The next management meeting of the trust is in on Wednesday, 14 June at 7.45pm. If you would like anything raised at this meeting or would like to attend please email [trustees@uptonvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:trustees@uptonvillagehall.co.uk)

Jacqui Reid

*N.B.*

*A Chairman and Deputy should have been elected at the AGM in February but it was cancelled at the last minute and the election is carried over to the June meeting.*

*Anyone who is available and wants to play a part in furthering the success of such a valuable village asset is encouraged to attend. – Editor*



# **Upton Village Hall Amenities Trust Chairman's Report, April 2023**

Existing members include: Rob Traynor, Jacqui Reid, Brian Rippon, Elizabeth Evans, Lucy Mason, Andrew Dyson, Brendan Heneghan and Ben Shaw

Regular hall hirers are returning and bookings continue to come in on a regular basis. There have been no major problems requiring large capital expenditure and UVHAT remains in a good financial position.

The hall remains in good condition with kitchen issues sorted. The ladies and disabled toilets, although functional, are still in need of upgrading and funds are available. We have been let down by builders - not turning up, not providing a quote. The working group are considering dividing the project into smaller tasks i.e. plumbing, carpentry, decorating - in order to attract tradesmen. A paid cleaner is still used.

The Upton Photographic Competition continues and the 'winter' winners will soon replace the existing pictures in the foyer.

Car parking issues have been raised by hall users and local residents.

Work on sorting out the guttering is progressing and small maintenance projects are being sorted by committee members.

Rob Traynor  
Chair, UVHAT





## Board Games

Stephen and Ben are pleased to invite you to a family friendly day of board games in Upton Village Hall on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> of June at 14:00.

Please bring any food or drinks you may want with you as there are fridges on site and options for heating food.

We will supply all the games that you could possibly want but if there's one you want to bring and play please feel free to do so.

This month here are just some of the games that we will be playing King of Tokyo, Santorini, Ticket to Ride Europe & Magic The Gathering.

We ask for donations of up to £5 per person to help cover the cost of hiring the hall but this decreases the more people who attend so bring anyone and everyone with you who might enjoy time away from a screen and challenging your brain!

We look forwards to seeing you if you can make it!

Here are some links on how to play the games;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=difSEK9A6f0> - Ticket to Ride

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWYGlpf6IzE> - King of Tokyo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZi-MZEylRQ> - Santorini

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZyXU1L3JXk> - Magic the Gathering



*Benjamin Shaw*  
Mobile 07934 389171 Tel 01235 850308

## UPTON VILLAGE FETE – 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023

The Upton Fete will once again be held on the first Saturday in September. We look forward to seeing lots of Uptonians there, and invite all your friends too!

This year the start will be at the earlier time of 12:00. There will be a barbeque for your lunch, lots of tea and cakes, soft drinks and a licenced bar. Live music, gymnasts and a dog show will keep you entertained plus a kids' area, all the usual stalls a classic car display and some new features too.

More details next month. In the meantime, hold the date!

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## Christian Aid Week 14 - 20 May

Christian Aid Week had a wonderful cream teas event in the Church Yard. The food was fantastic – something that any resident of the village would undoubtedly expect, a fantastic plant sale and a raffle with even the weather being wonderfully sunny. It was a real pleasure to be a guest at the event and to get to see all the brilliant work that went into its organising. Ben Shaw (UPC Chairman)

Many thanks to all who generously contributed to this year's collection, whether in an envelope or at the Tea Party or both. The final accounts are not yet finished, but we have definitely exceeded last year's total by raising over £700.

There are still a few tomato plants left, too, at only 50 p each.  
*Elizabeth & Malcolm Wright*

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## Didcot & District u3a

Meeting on the **third Tuesday of every month** in the Didcot Civic Hall at 2:30 pm, this very sociable gathering encourages a whole variety of interest groups. At the monthly meetings, where tea, coffee and biscuits are served, a Guest Speaker provides a presentation on diverse topics which in the coming months include

**20:June:** *Oxfordshire on Canvas* - Marie Louisa

**18 July:** *Inside the world of a TV & Film extra* - Peter Hague

**15 August:** *Sue Ryder- A Life Lived for Others* - Joanna Bogle

**19 September:** *A Brief History of Tattoos and their Meaning* - Janine Kilroe

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

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

Additional information can be found on the [u3asites.org.Uk](http://u3asites.org.Uk)

*Brian & Lynn Burscough* - PR for the Didcot & District u3a

## **Upton Wine Club**

### **May Wine Club - Quality wines**

Have you ever wondered why some wines can be purchased for a perhaps £10 but others cost considerably more? What's the difference and are they "worth the price"? In May, we looked at some wines that were in the region of £30 per bottle and asked ourselves this very question.

We started the evening by sampling two Rieslings. The first was from Austria by a wine producer called Johann Donabaum. This was a very dry wine, fresh and with tones of lime and white pepper. The second was called The Florita and was from Clare Valley, Australia. Not perhaps where you might first expect to find a Riesling but made by Jim Barry, known for his excellent quality wines. Another dry wine full of lemon and lime zest. Rieslings are great wines for spicy foods as their alcoholic content is lower, allowing you to enjoy the flavours in the food even more.

Our next two wines were made from the Chardonnay grape. The first was a Burgandy wine from Pouilly-Fuisse, famous for quality Chardonnay wine, called Domaine Ferrand. The rich complex aromas of exotic fruit and vanilla were created in part by aging some of the wine in French oak casks "on lees" – or with some of the stems, pipes etc. still in contact with the juice to create a unique flavour. In contrast the second wine was from a well known vineyard called Sleepy Hollow, Santa Lucia Highlands in California. Carefully selected, hand-harvested grapes that again were aged in 100% French oak barrels, which gave a wonderful taste of pink lady apples, pineapple and caramelised brown sugar.

Our next two wines came from the Rhone region in France. The first was from the Gigondas region by the wine producer, Domaine St Damien. This was a full-bodied wine, rich with intense flavours of warm fig and dark chocolate. Our second wine came from the well known region of Chateauneuf-du-Pape and was called Chateau Fortia. A brilliant example of a wine from this region that produced a flavour of black fruit jam and spice, having been matured in oak barrels for 24 months.

We finished the evening with two wines from Bordeaux. Our first wine was from an AOC region in Medoc called St Estephe and a vineyard called Chateau Le Haye. A well blended Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. The wine had good length with flavours of Cassis and blackcurrant. Our final wine was another real treat. A Chateau Violet Sauternes desert wine. A wonderful sweet wine that would go with sweet desserts or cheese to finish an evening. Made from grapes that are only harvested when a special fungi called botrytis has grown on the grapes, making them small but very rich in flavour, with notes of candied fruit and a beautiful rich taste of apricots and peach fruit.

So, were they worth the price? As always, that's down to the individual but if you consider that these bottles would set you back between £80-£100 typically in a restaurant, then the option to buy some and enjoy a very nice meal in with friends becomes very attractive! If you wanted to try any of the wines, they came from Strictly wine and Grape minds, both local wine merchants.

The next wine meeting is on the 21<sup>st</sup> June and will mark the end of season for this year. We would love to see you there for some fun, food and the odd glass or two!!!

Ian Langley

Chairman Upton Wine Club

For further information, please see our website: [www.uptonwineclub.com](http://www.uptonwineclub.com)

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## Uptonogood 2023

This year's Uptonogood? takes place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June and will be the 10<sup>th</sup> occasion we've held the event! Conceived to raise money for the village hall extension the event began in 2010. Since then the event has helped fund many village facilities including:

- Village Hall Extension
- Village Hall Kitchen
- Village Hall PA system
- New Adventure Play Area
- Pump Track
- Ride on Mower
- Marquees
- Nature Garden
- Friends of St. Mary's



In all, £76K has been distributed to local projects and groups. Full details of these can be found at [www.uptonogood.org.uk/fundraising/](http://www.uptonogood.org.uk/fundraising/). We are very proud of this record but are acutely aware that it is only made possible by the support of Upton village residents.

We need around 60 volunteers to fill the variety of roles needed on the day. These include marshalling on the routes, pre-riding and sweeping the routes, staffing registration and finishing line, serving tea and cake, beer and cider, chilli and burgers! If you think you're qualified to wear a high-vis and would like to volunteer please sign up at [www.uptonogood.org.uk/volunteer/](http://www.uptonogood.org.uk/volunteer/). In return we will make a £25 donation to a charity of your choosing. In addition, you will get tea, a piece of cake, a pint, and a burger (or veggie chilli) as a thank you for helping the day.

If you prefer to dust off your bike and ride the wonderful tracks we have about us, then great! You can sign up for the ride of your choice at [www.uptonogood.org.uk/enter/](http://www.uptonogood.org.uk/enter/)

Finally, if you can't picture yourself on a bike or wearing a high-vis don't worry, we have your back! Purchase Adult Music Only tickets (kids free) from [www.uptonogood.org.uk/tickets/](http://www.uptonogood.org.uk/tickets/) and invite your family and friends to kick back and revel in the music.

Thank you for your continued support,

**Bob Lott & Mike Tibbets**

Organising Team

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

Web: [www.uptonogood.org.uk](http://www.uptonogood.org.uk)

FB: [Uptonogood?](#) | Didcot | Facebook

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## **Get Ready, Set, Bake for Uptonogood 2023**

The wonderful homemade 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, 16<sup>th</sup> June or please bring them to the village hall before 10am on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> June.

Proceeds will be going to the Upton Village Hall to help with much needed continued upgrades to our toilets and also other maintenance.

Thank you

UVHAT Trustees

# Blewbury School Appoints a New Assistant Headteacher

Blewbury Primary School are thrilled to announce the appointment of Sam Coleman as the new Assistant Head Teacher and SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) due to start in September 2023. Mr Coleman will bring his expertise and passion for education to our school community, working closely with staff and pupils to provide the best possible educational experience.



In his role as the most senior member of staff after the Head Teacher, Mr Coleman will be responsible for curriculum development and will work with Miss Reeder to support teaching and learning across the school. As SENCO, he will have dedicated time to help identify

and support pupils who may need additional support and facilitate the 'assess, plan, do, review' cycle that takes place with teachers throughout the year. He will also be the main contact to liaise with a range of professionals.

With a wealth of experience in the education sector, having previously worked as a teacher and English Lead in two primary schools and currently as a SENCO at a secondary school in Oxford. We are confident that his fresh ideas and perspectives will benefit our school community and enable us to provide an even richer and more exciting curriculum to our pupils.

Outside of school, he enjoys spending time in nature, visiting bookshops and the theatre. He currently lives in Abingdon with his wife, daughter, and two very boisterous kittens.

We look forward to welcoming Mr Coleman to Blewbury Primary School, and we invite you to join us in congratulating him on his appointment. He will be a fantastic addition to our team and contribute to our shared vision of providing high-quality education and support to all our pupils.

*Roger Murphy and Sarah Mols, School Governors*



## Appeal

Residents who receive deliveries via the courier firm DPD will probably be familiar with their driver Daniel who looked after many of the villages in the OX11 postcode.

Very sadly we heard of his sudden death earlier this month at the age of 53 as the result of a heart attack.

Daniel was well known to his customers as a friendly professional who would go out of his way to be helpful. His colleagues at DPD found him hardworking, reliable and fun - he would never leave the depot in the morning without greeting all his colleagues with a handshake. He collected from ourselves on a daily basis, but even on his days off he would contact the cover driver to make sure everything was in hand for our collection.

He was working hard in this country to provide financial support for his family in Romania - his wife Anca and two teenage children.

His colleagues at DPD are fundraising to help his family repatriate the body. If you would like to contribute, this is the fundraising link for Daniel. I can vouch for Genti (Gentjan) - he was Daniel's boss at DPD.

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=WUQL6NJBATJ44](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=WUQL6NJBATJ44)

Brian Rippon



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## Blewbury Post Office news

From 1st June, our hours will change to Monday to Friday 9 am to 3pm

*Karen, Maggie and Andrew*

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## Blewbury Open gardens

**Sunday 11 June 11am – 5pm**

Blewbury's renowned gardeners are going to let you in to see the results of their hard work.

One £8 per adult for entry to all the open gardens- children go free with an adult. Card or cash at the main car park, or cash at the gardens. The website has further details and a detailed map you can download.

[www.blewburyopengardens.co.uk](http://www.blewburyopengardens.co.uk)

Full details in the last issue of Upton news



## **CAN WE HELP?**

### **HELP WITH THE COST OF LIVING**

We are a local charity which supports people of all ages living in Blewbury, Aston Upthorpe and Upton, and have the funding to give a helping hand if you are struggling financially during these difficult times.

From the weekly food shop, energy bills, school expenditure such as buying uniform and paying for trips and equipment, we can provide one off payments to help you, or someone you know in need.

There is a short application form to complete which can be picked up from St Mary's Church porch, Blewbury Post Office, or requested by email to [unitedcharities@outlook.com](mailto:unitedcharities@outlook.com). We can help you fill in the form if needed. Please don't be reluctant to ask for help, all applications are dealt with confidentially.

United Charities of the Ancient Parish of Blewbury Registered Charity No: 203538

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## **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*

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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*

# MINI AMAZONS

Upton Recreation Ground



Sundays 10-11am

£1 per session

**4 - 8 yr old**

**Girls sessions**



## Mini Amazons in Upton

Mini Amazons offers a fun and friendly introduction to football for girls aged 4-8. Fully qualified, experienced and DBS-checked coaches from Blewbury Amazons Girls FC will deliver the sessions.

Mini Amazons provides a pathway into organised football for girls who are keen to start playing matches once they've gained some skills and confidence.

If people would like to join in, then they need to use this link:  
<https://forms.gle/NqmHzWUxNJYvK6tx9>

At the moment these sessions will be at Upton due to cricket at Blewbury.

Caroline Flakelar

## Baby Sitting Service

Are you looking for a reliable and caring babysitter for those late-night outings or for when you just need some time for yourself?

Look no further!

I am a 17 year-old with a passion for children and experience in babysitting kids of all ages. With me, you can have peace of mind knowing that your children are in safe hands.

Contact me by email:  
[amelia.thackray@gmail.com](mailto:amelia.thackray@gmail.com)  
or by text: 07718 832079

The fabulous Blewbury



## SUMMER DANCE

### Live music from McFunky

in the gardens of  
Ashbrook House, Westbrook St.

**on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June**



Gates open at 7.30pm, dancing until Midnight

Bring your own picnic & drinks, no bar



Gazebo set-up 4pm-5pm  
collect by 11am Sunday

**Tickets £12.50 in advance**

from Blewbury post office  
email [blewburybvs@gmail.com](mailto:blewburybvs@gmail.com)  
or scan the QR code

