



# Upton News

## November 2024

The month ahead .....	2
Village calendar .....	2
Sunrise, sunset & twilight .....	2
Village News .....	3
St Mary's Church .....	3
<i>Service times</i> .....	3
<i>Father Jason writes</i> .....	3
Upton Parish Council .....	4
Upton Wine Club .....	4
Upton Christmas Readers .....	5
Local News .....	5
Blewbury WI .....	5
Blewbury School .....	5
Blewbury Players .....	6
Blewbury Coffee & Kids .....	6
Blewbury Post Office .....	6
Astons Online .....	7
United Charities .....	7
Vale News .....	7
VoWH District Council .....	7
<i>Councillor's report</i> .....	7
<i>VoWHDC Communications</i> .....	7
<i>Current planning applications</i> .....	8
Didcot u3a .....	9
First Steps Baby Bank .....	9
Local directory .....	10
Service centre .....	10
What's On .....	10
Useful contacts .....	11

# The month ahead

## Village calendar

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
	● ●	●	●	●	●	△ ●
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	● ●	●	●	●	●	▲ ●
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	● ●	●	●	●	●	●
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	● ●	● ●	●	●	●	▲ ●
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
	● ● ●	● ●	●	● ●	● ●	

### Village Hall

- Parish Council
- Village Fete
- Uptonogood
- Wine club
- Brownies
- Village drop-in
- Upton Christmas Readers
- Yoga
- Karate
- Dog training
- Kinetic gymnastics
- Tea Birds WI

### St Mary's Church

- ▲ Parish Eucharist
- △ Lay-led service
- ▲ Other service

### Waste collection

- Black bin
- Green bin + Brown bin
- Green bin + Brown bin + extra garden waste

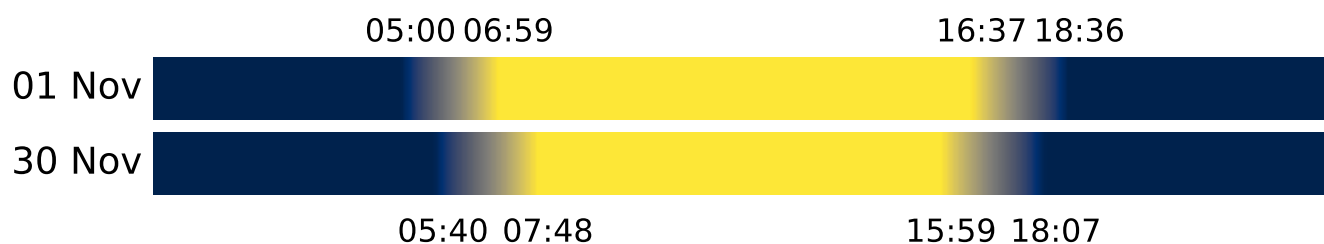
### Other

- Clocks change
- Upton News deadline

For details of events at the Village Hall please see [here](#):

For details of services at St Mary's Church, please see [here](#):

## Sunrise, sunset & twilight



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# Village News

## St Mary's Church

### Service times

Date	Time	Type	Prayer focus
3 <sup>rd</sup> November	9:15 am	Lay-led service	Churchwardens, Church fabric & churchyards
10 <sup>th</sup> November	10:30 am	Service of Remembrance	Clergy All who preach or lead
24 <sup>th</sup> November	9:15 am	Parish Eucharist	Pastoral care & visiting

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The online services continue every Sunday at 10.30 am. Login after 10.00 am to chat beforehand or to check your technology.

Weekday evening Compline at 8.00 pm for 10 minutes. Access via [this link](#).

Please click [here](#) to access the Churn Churches website which gives the log-in details.

### *Father Jason writes ...*

During November, our thoughts will naturally turn to Remembrance Sunday. We shall wear our poppies and remember with pride all who have served our country in war, especially those who have been injured or killed. It is a sobering time.



As we hear the names of the fallen read out, we are often struck by the numbers who died in World War I. There are historians who have tried to work out accurate totals for the number who killed in the Great War. It is not a straightforward exercise, and the accuracy of any given figure can always be

disputed. But having said this, total military deaths from United Kingdom and the colonies has been calculated at 887 858. Total French military casualties were greater: the numbers range between 1 357 000 and 1 397 800. Austria-Hungary lost between 1 200 000 and 1 494 200. Losses in Germany were higher (2 037 000) and the highest number of military casualties of all were quite possibly in Russia (1 700 000 to 2 254 369). Totting up all the military deaths in the 1st World War, we come to a figure of between 8 573 058 and 10 824 240 soldiers killed fighting.

These are only military deaths. We can add to these totals the civilian deaths, caused by military action, and crimes against humanity. These deaths come to 2 250 099. We can then add civilian deaths due to malnutrition and disease. Excluding deaths caused by the flu pandemic, these come to between 5 411 000 and 8 100 000.

So at the most conservative estimate, the combined death toll in World War I, both military and civilian, was approximately 16 million.

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This figure should shock us. It is a reminder of the sheer horror of war. But it is not just piece of information. It should lead us all to re-double our efforts to be peace makers, in our communities and our world. I believe we can never try hard enough to do all that we can to avoid armed conflict taking place in the first place, and where it has occurred, to bring it to an appropriate end as soon as possible.

Jesus told his followers: *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God”*. Indeed they shall ...

## Upton Parish Council

Upton Parish Council would like to highlight a matter regarding the tree on the Recreation Ground under which the bench, dedicated to Sheila Parker, sits. The bench needs to be moved temporarily as the Council has been advised by Ringrose Tree Services that the tree is urgently in need of some attention to remove some dead branches so, for everyone's safety, the bench will be moved until such works are complete.

Also of note, you are probably all aware of the salt bins around the village. These are soon to be emptied and refilled with fresh salt but the Council would like to make everyone aware that the salt is then there for villagers to use when conditions dictate. Unfortunately the Parish Council does not have sufficient funds to offer a gritting service in the inclement weather, but villagers are welcome to take a scoop and spread where and when appropriate!

The Council would like to invite comments from all villagers on any matter with which they have concern. These should be sent to [parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk)

## Upton Wine Club

Brazil's wine regions, particularly Serra Gaúcha, Campanha, and Vale dos Vinhedos, have been gaining international recognition for their excellent wines. The unique terroir, characterised by high altitudes, diverse soil types, and a favourable climate, contributes to the distinct flavours and quality of Brazilian wines. Winemakers in these regions have embraced modern techniques while respecting traditional methods, resulting in a variety of wines that are both innovative and rooted in heritage. Whether you're a fan of reds, whites, or sparkling wines, Brazilian vineyards offer a delightful and diverse tasting experience. And this month members of the Upton Wine Club had the opportunity to sample some of the best with Michael Corfe presenting some of his most popular wines from his company, *Go Brazil!*

Michael has been visiting Brazil for over 15 years and bringing wine back to the UK for us to try. If you are looking for something a little different, that you will not find in most places you commonly buy wine, then look no further!

We had over 30 members at the Upton Village Hall this month, tasting sparkling wines, whites and reds. One of the things, members found most interesting was the suggested food pairing of some of the wines. For example, if you are looking for something to pair with a some spicy Asian food, then it would be worth trying the Don Guerino “vintage” Torreontes. Light in alcohol, so the spices don't burn your mouth but high in floral notes and unoaked, which compliments the intense food flavours. On another note, if you like wines from northern Italy, then you might want to try the Don Guerino “Origine 1880” Teroldego, where the grapes originated from NE Italy, giving some new world influence to an old world grape variety!

The Upton Wine club is all about trying something a little different with friends from the village and having a nice social evening. There is no need to have any knowledge of wine but the hope is that after a while, you will become a little more confident when sitting at a restaurant table and offered the wine list or when you walk into an aisle of wine and are wondering what you should select!

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If you'd like to see what wines we tasted this month or are interested in coming along to the club please take a look at our [website](#). You need no knowledge of wine, just an interest in trying it!!

On **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November** we are starting to get into the festive spirit by offering some sparkling wines, ports and one or two other surprises you might like to try over the next month or two! Please check out our website for more details

## Upton Christmas Readers

The Upton Christmas Readers return with "*Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose*".

It's Christmas Eve, and Sherlock Holmes has been entrusted with the spoils of a rough encounter on the streets of London; a worn felt hat and a goose. As the secrets of both the hat and the bird are revealed, they expose a complex mystery and perhaps even a dastardly crime. Can Holmes and Watson solve the puzzle and get to the truth before dinner time, or will the case of the Christmas Goose leave them both with ruffled feathers?

Come and find out on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November** at Upton Village Hall. Doors open 6:30 pm, and the performance starts at 7 pm.

Tickets £6.00, are available on the door or in advance from Karibu (High Street) or Finches (Stream Road). Refreshments are included in the ticket price. There will be also be a raffle, with all proceeds going to St Mary's Church. Donations of raffle prizes welcome in advance at Karibu or Finches, or bring along on the night.

The game is afoot!

## Note to contributors

Contributions to Upton News are always very welcome. Please include your name, address and contact details (email and/or phone number) in case clarification is needed: we will not be able to publish your contribution without these details. The editor reserves the right to place, edit, shorten or omit contributions as required.

Please send your contributions by email to [uptonox11news@gmail.com](mailto:uptonox11news@gmail.com)

Due to vacation, **the deadline for the November 2024 issue is 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024**. Contributions received after that time will be incorporated into an updated December edition on our return.

# Local News

## Blewbury WI

Blewbury WI's next main meeting will be on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November** at 7.30 pm in the Vale room of Blewbury Village Hall. It will be the much anticipated "Blewbury WI Bonanza". By popular request, this is a gentle games night (mostly sitting down you'll be glad to hear)! We will circulate in small teams to do puzzles, word games and other fun activities, but nothing too brainy!!

Refreshments will be available and we hope there will be much fun and laughter as well as a chance to have a chat!

Blewbury WI play Mah Jong, Scrabble and Rummikub plus go on monthly guided walks. Every month we meet for a coffee morning, run a craft club and meet for a book club. There is always something going on, but most of all we are a group of supportive friends. If you would like to come along to Blewbury WI with someone else or find out more, ring our Secretary, Joy, on 01235-850543 or [email us](#). New members can join at any time and pay a 'pro-rata' rate for the rest of the year.

## Blewbury School

There is no article from the school this month but we hope to be back to normal next month

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## Blewbury Players



The next production will be *Puss in Boots*, written and directed by Andy Jarvis. This will be playing *29<sup>th</sup> January – 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2025 in Blewbury Village Hall.*

Tabbyshire is in trouble. The evil ogre Rotundus is on a mission to control all the land in the kingdom, and the people who work it. Molly Muck's farm is holding out. But, after duping Molly's sons, the dim-witted duo Nik and Nak, and their dog Paddywak, it looks like the ogre will succeed, leaving Molly, her youngest son Peter and their faithful old farm cat out on the street.

The situation brightens up with the help of a little fairy magic, and a few furry friends, as a plan is hatched to help Peter win back the farm and woo Princess Primrose, if she can keep off her smartphone for long enough. Things get complicated as the Princess' suitors stack up, and some cat-like cunning is required to convince King Joe that a certain Marquis of Carabas is indeed a suitable son-in-law.

Based on Charles Perrault's telling of the classic tale, *Puss in Boots* takes you on a journey of a firm friendship, in fantastic footwear.

Priority booking for Friends of Blewbury Players opens 4<sup>th</sup> December, and the General Box Office opens on 6<sup>th</sup> December so start clicking [here](#) and book your tickets for some family fun to cheer up January.... Tickets cost £16 for Adults and £8 for Children. Performances are held 7.30 pm nightly and there is a 2.30 pm Saturday matinee. Please see our website for more info.

Finally, A quick reminder that we will be holding Jeff and Peter's Music Quiz on *9<sup>th</sup> November 2024*. Don't forget to add this to your diary!

## Blewbury Coffee & Kids

Our November session is on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November** with some fun (and safe!) activities based around a bonfire and firework theme. Who can build the tallest rocket I wonder? No fires and loud bangs, you will be happy to hear. We welcome all bumps! babies & toddlers, along with parents, grandparents and carers.

We meet in the Vale Room, Blewbury Village Hall, 9.30 am - 11 am which provides a friendly and safe place to enjoy the company of others and have some refreshment as the little ones have fun with toys, learning to play together. We finish the session with songs and action rhymes. A donation of £2 is appreciated towards our costs. Mothers' Union hosts look forward to welcoming you.

Please contact Louise (07837 009730) for further details.

## Blewbury Post Office

We will soon be heading into our busiest period here at Blewbury Village store and Post Office.

There are a few last posting dates in November. Last posting date for standard services is 26<sup>th</sup> November and the last date for HM Forces mail is 27<sup>th</sup> November.

Please note that it is half term from 28<sup>th</sup> October to 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024, so we will be operating our reduced hours of 9 am - 12 pm. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

I am very excited to announce we have a new local egg supplier. We shall be stocking fresh eggs from the Old Farm Shop, Harwell. These will be available from 16<sup>th</sup> October. We will be getting a delivery every Wednesday so we should always have fresh eggs in store. Furthermore, we also have our delicious local honey, alongside a variety of sweet treats, ice lollies, chocolate and cool drinks on sale.

As well as sending parcels, you can also do banking at the post office, including cash withdrawals, cash deposits and cheque deposits.

We look forward to seeing you in the Post Office soon!

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## Astons Online

Astons Online supports people who want to be digitally confident on the Internet, with smartphone apps or online services like health and banking. Astons Online events and support are free of charge and open to everyone.

This month's event will be a free & friendly Zoom webinar at 10:00 am on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November** when Thames Valley Police will be discussing online fraud and scams. Have your say and ask your questions by joining the meeting either via our [website](#), this [link](#) or [email us](#) for details.

We're also available for Zoom, Facetime, WhatsApp or telephone one-to-one sessions on Tuesday mornings between 10:00 am and 12:00 noon. For more details, please contact us using the links above.

## United Charities

We are a local charity that can support people living in Blewbury, the Astons and Upton by providing one off payments to help you, or someone you know in need. If you are struggling to pay for food, energy, an essential item or school expenditure such as uniform, equipment and trips, please consider applying for help.

There is a short application form to complete which can be picked up from St Mary's Church porch or requested by [email](#). We can help you fill in the form if needed.

All applications are assessed on an individual basis but, as our funds are limited, we give priority to those in receipt of benefits such as Universal Credit, Tax Credits and Pension Credit or those who have extenuating circumstances such as ill health or vulnerability. Please don't be reluctant to ask for help, all applications are dealt with confidentially.

## Vale News

### VoWH District Council

#### *Councillor's report*

Unfortunately, we did not receive a report from our Vale of White Horse District Councillors this month.

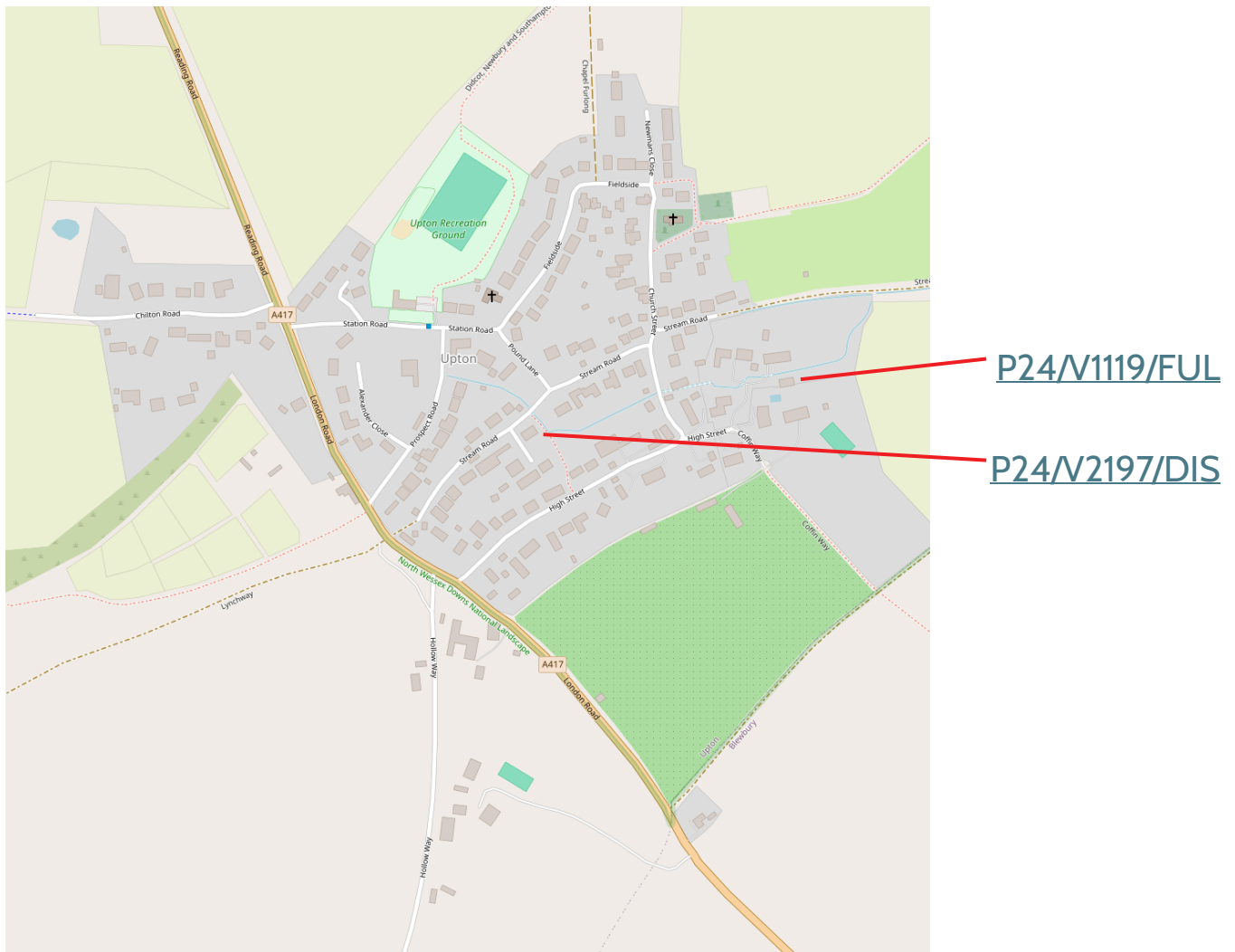
#### *VoWHDC Communications*

Received 17<sup>th</sup> October:

*“Residents who are subscribed to the district council brown bin garden waste service in South Oxfordshire or the Vale of White Horse can have extra garden waste collected for free, on their normal collection day only, between 28<sup>th</sup> October and 8<sup>th</sup> November.*

*You can put out a maximum of up to four additional sacks of garden waste, per brown bin subscription, next to your brown bin. To be eligible for collection, the extra waste must contain only natural garden waste (such as cut grass, plants or branches) and be placed in standard sized (60l) black refuse-style sacks or in boxes/containers totalling no more than a standard bin full. Please DO NOT use tonne builders' waste bags – our crews will not collect any garden waste from these.”*

## Current planning applications



The map above shows the location of all planning applications within the parish of Upton that are Current and were registered between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 and 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024. Details of each application can be obtained by following the hyperlinks on the right-hand side of the map.

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## Didcot u3a

If you are newly retired or semi retired and looking to continue being active both in body and mind, then look no further than the Didcot and District u3a. The motto of this National organisation is 'Learn, Laugh, Live,' and we hope this will encourage you to meet new friends and start new interests through 'time rich' days going forwards into 2025 and beyond!

With over 30 Interest Groups which are as diverse as, learning to play Bridge, photography, a new language, family history, Science Maths & Technology, walking (long or short), wine appreciation, and many more, we are sure there is something for everyone! In addition we meet on the *Third Tuesday of every Month* in the Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road, Didcot, OX11 7JN starting at 2:30 pm where ideas are exchanged and a Guest Speaker provides an interesting presentation. The talk is followed by tea, biscuits and a friendly chat and all new visitors will be most warmly welcomed!

The 2024/5 programme includes:

- 19 Nov The Ridgeway; The Oldest Road  
Speaker: Russell Cherry
- 17 Dec Christmas Lunch & Magic Show  
(Members Only)
- 21 Jan Schooldays  
Speaker: TBC
- 18 Feb The History of Didcot  
Speaker: David Taylor
- 18 Ma The Shrunken Garden  
Speaker: Timothy Walker
- 15 Apr Women and the Victorian Army  
Speaker: Dan Allen

If this is something you have been looking for in retirement then please see [here](#) for further information.

## First Steps Baby Bank

We (Gemma and Leanne) have recently set up a Baby Bank, called First Steps Baby Bank, to support families in need within Didcot and the surrounding villages, which includes those living in Upton.

Baby Banks work in a similar way to Food Banks, supplying families in need with essential baby-related items free of charge. There are more than 300 Baby Banks running successfully across the UK but there were none in the Didcot area. We are a non-profit organisation so rely solely on funding and donations from the local community. We are not yet registered as a charity but hope to be in the future.

Like the Food Bank, we work on a referral-only basis from a professional within the community such as a GP, Nurse, Health Visitor, Teacher, Religious leader. We have recently gone live with referrals and are trying to spread the word so that the community is aware we are here to support families in need. We are currently supporting mums and their children up to the age of 2 years.

If you need further information please see our [website](#) and/or [Facebook page](#). You can also [email us](#).

Many thanks for your help and we look forward to hearing from you.

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# Local directory

## What's On ....

Venue	Telephone	Website
<i>Didcot</i>		
Cornerstone	01235 515144	<a href="https://www.cornerstone-arts.org/whats-on">https://www.cornerstone-arts.org/whats-on</a>
Cineworld	0871 2002000	<a href="https://www.cineworld.co.uk/cinemas/didcot/">https://www.cineworld.co.uk/cinemas/didcot/</a>
<i>Wallingford</i>		
Corn Exchange	01491 825000	<a href="https://www.cornexchange.org.uk/whats-on/">https://www.cornexchange.org.uk/whats-on/</a>
<i>Wantage</i>		
The Beacon	01235 763456	<a href="https://www.beaconwantage.co.uk/whats-on/">https://www.beaconwantage.co.uk/whats-on/</a>
<i>Abingdon</i>		
The Abbey Cinema	01235 616000	<a href="https://theabbey.ac/web">https://theabbey.ac/web</a>

## Service centre

If you are an Upton Village resident and have a skill or trade that other residents might find useful, please contact the editor with a short summary of your skill/trade and your contact details. We will include these in the next edition of Upton News, free of charge.

Listings will initially be restricted to Upton Village residents but if there are any skills or trades not covered, then we may include entries from residents of nearby villages.

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# Useful contacts

Contact	Telephone	email
<i>Upton News</i> Upton News Editor	n/a	<a href="mailto:uptonox1news@gmail.com">uptonox1news@gmail.com</a>
<i>Churn Benefice</i> Father Jason St. John Nicolle Revd Louise Butler Revd John Clarke Revd Dr Mark Rhodes-Smith Elaine de Ridder	01235 850267 07837 009730 01235 510073 01235 850267 01235 850267	<a href="mailto:office@churnchurches.co.uk">office@churnchurches.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:revlouiseb@aol.com">revlouiseb@aol.com</a> <a href="mailto:jphclarke@gmail.com">jphclarke@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:mark.rhodes-smith@churnchurches.co.uk">mark.rhodes-smith@churnchurches.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:office@churnchurches.co.uk">office@churnchurches.co.uk</a>
<i>Parish Council</i> Chair Clerk	n/a n/a	<a href="mailto:bens@uptonpc.co.uk">bens@uptonpc.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk">parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk</a>
<i>VoWH District Councillors</i> Hayleigh Gascoigne Debra Dewhurst	n/a n/a	<a href="mailto:hayleigh.gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk">hayleigh.gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:debra.dewhurst@whitehorsedc.gov.uk">debra.dewhurst@whitehorsedc.gov.uk</a>
<i>Afternoon Drop In</i> Richard Burrow	n/a	<a href="mailto:richmondbinov@gmail.com">richmondbinov@gmail.com</a>
<i>Astons Online</i> Bruno Brunskill	07780 958249	<a href="mailto:theastonsonline@gmail.com">theastonsonline@gmail.com</a>
<i>United Charities</i> Main contact	n/a	<a href="mailto:unitedcharities@outlook.com">unitedcharities@outlook.com</a>
<i>Blewbury WI</i> Joy	01235 850543	<a href="mailto:blewburywi@gmail.com">blewburywi@gmail.com</a>
<i>Didcot U3A</i> Chair Secretary	n/a n/a	<a href="mailto:chair@didcotu3a.org">chair@didcotu3a.org</a> <a href="mailto:secretary@didcotu3a.org">secretary@didcotu3a.org</a>
<i>First Steps Baby Bank</i> Chair	n/a	<a href="mailto:contact@firststepsbabybank.co.uk">contact@firststepsbabybank.co.uk</a>