



Upton News

October 2025

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Village News

St Mary's Church

Service times

Date	Time	Type	Prayer focus
5 th October	9:15 am	Lay-led service	Outreach, Parish magazines
12 th October	9:15 am 10:30 am	Parish Eucharist Taizé service	Our Ministry to children
19 th October	3:00 pm	Harvest festival	Those recently baptised, Baptism visitors
26 th October	9:15 am	Parish Eucharist	Our Youth Group, Teenagers

The online services continue every Sunday at 10.30am. Login after 10.00 am to chat beforehand or to check your technology. Please click [here](#) to access log-in details on the Churn Churches website.

Note to contributors

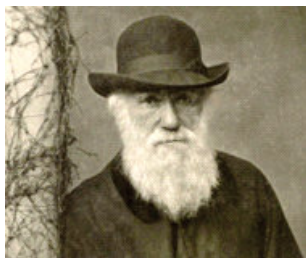
Contributions to Upton News are always very welcome. Please include your name, address and contact details (email and/or phone number) in case clarification is needed: we will not be able to publish your contribution without these details. The editor reserves the right to place, edit, shorten or omit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

Please send your contributions by email to uptonox11news@gmail.com

The deadline for the November 2025 issue is **29th October 2025**.

Father Jason writes

I wonder if you have ever wanted to find out more about the life of Charles Darwin, and about the science of Evolution?



Well, here is your opportunity! As part our commitment to science, our churches will be holding a celebration of the life and work of Charles Darwin, at St Andrew's East Hagbourne on Sunday 19th October. We will do this in both our morning service (10.30 am) and our evening service (6:00 pm) – do come along to which ever suits you best.

The talks are designed for a general audience, and assume no specialist scientific knowledge. The talks also make no assumptions about religious belief – they are accessible to people of all faiths and none. You don't have to believe in God to come along. And, rest assured, they aren't a hidden attempt to try and "convert" people to Christianity. The aim is to celebrate science. So as well as an occasion to celebrate the life and work of Charles Darwin, we will be looking more generally at the science of Evolution, and some of the key developments in this field over the last 150 years or so.

Some people feel or fear that there is a tension or even a contradiction between the science of Evolution and what Christians have traditionally believed about the origin of life and about what it means to be a Human Being made in the image of God. But in fact there is no necessary tension between the Christian faith and the science of Evolution. It is perfectly possible to believe in Jesus Christ and also to believe in the science of Evolution.

And, I should add, that although I have referred to the "science of Evolution", Evolution is itself a complex area of study with many different approaches and a variety of different theories. There are many different ways of understanding



what is meant by "the science of Evolution" and the subject has been continually developing as a scientific discipline since at least the 18th Century. Charles Darwin is a key figure in its development, but there are lots of other scientists who have made significant contributions to the subject.

Interested? Well, do come along on Sunday 19th October to learn more. You will be very welcome!



A CHAPEL IN THE HEART OF THE COUNTRYSIDE
Hill Farm, Church Lane, Steventon, OX13 6SW
www.ridgewayfuneralservice.co.uk
info@ridgewayfunerals.co.uk
01235 355269

Upton Parish Council

Village Fete

What a great day the fete was! There is a full report elsewhere in this newsletter but we would like to say a huge “thank you” to everyone who took part and made it such a success. We are especially grateful to all the volunteers who gave their time; to all the villagers who came along and enjoyed the day; to all the businesses and families who supported us with donations for stalls and prizes; for all the delicious teas and cakes that were made; to all those who entertained us so beautifully from music to gymnastic displays; to all those who brought their classic cars along and to all the dogs who behaved so amazingly in the dog show. The feedback from around the village has been wonderful. It’s great to hear how much people enjoyed the sunshine, the stalls, the entertainment, the food and drink and, of course, the dog show. Raffle prizes have been distributed to winners both in the village and as far afield as Wallingford and Cholsey.

As a bonus the fete raised a significant amount of money for some great causes, including much needed funds for the Parish Council’s playground maintenance. Thank you all for making it such a memorable day.

Autumn Tree Pruning

As autumn approaches, it is time to assess the trees in the playing field. Over the coming weeks we will be commissioning a tree surgeon to check for any safety issues and to carry out remedial work. If you’ve noticed any trees in the playing field that may need attention please get in touch with either the [chair](#) or [parish clerk](#).

Ground Maintenance

This is the time of year again, when we ask contractors to tender for the maintenance of the playground, cemetery extension and a number of footpaths. All in all quite a few kilometres of work, keeping Upton looking its best throughout the year. We know some villagers are keen to volunteer and we’d love to hear your ideas. Please come along to the next Parish Council meeting at 7:00 pm on **Wednesday 29th October** in the village hall (small room) to share your thoughts.

Please note that insurance restrictions mean volunteers cannot use power tools when helping, but there are many other valuable ways you could help and we would love to work with you to help keep the village looking its best. Thank you!

Could You Help Raise Funds for the Playground?

Upton’s playground is a much-loved space for families in the village and beyond. However, it is now over 10 years old and in need of ongoing maintenance. The first priority is repairing the swings but over time each item will need repairing or replacing as it reaches the end of its life. We are currently in the process of putting together a 10 year plan with costings and once that is in place we will need a fundraising team to help apply for grants and fund-raise for the equipment. If you would like to help please contact the [chair](#) so we can form a team to keep our fabulous playground safe, fun and well-maintained for years to come.

Village Survey

Over the next few months volunteers will be launching a village survey to find out what residents would like to see happen in Upton over the next few years. The more responses we receive, the better we can plan for the future. When the time comes to complete the questionnaire, please do take part: your voice really matters.

Upton Community Land

As we go to print, negotiations are still on going. Once we have more information we will update you. Thank you to everyone who is working so hard on this and to everyone in the village who is supporting this.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 29th October at 7:00 pm** in the village hall (small meeting room). Please do join us to share your ideas. Upton has a stronger voice when we all work together as a team. Thank you for your continued support.

As always, the Council would like to invite comments from all villagers on any matter with which they have concern. These should be sent by [email](#) to the Parish Clerk. Please note that the Minutes of previous Parish Council meetings can be found [here](#).



Upton Village Fete
(Peter McLaughlin)

Upton Village Fete

Upton Village Fete was held on 6th September 2025. The sun shone on the fete this year and this was reflected in the sunny smiles of all who attended. It was such a hot day that the ice creams served by our local ice cream van were very welcome.

The usual stalls and attractions were there including the dog show, the children's zone, classic cars, donkeys from the donkey sanctuary, the raffle, plant and produce stall, books and jigsaws, tombolas and a few commercial and charity stalls. We were well fed by the BBQ and teas & cakes stand and for those who wanted a drink, there was delicious Pimms and cider.

We were well entertained by the gymnasts, George the guitarist, Blewbury Brass band and the Dukes ukulele band. Peter played his hand-cranked street organ during gaps in the musical programme, which attracted lots of interest. Many people, especially families, wanted to look through the window at the punched paper "music" that lets the air go to different pipes to play the tune. The not very musical rubber bulb-operated horn also proved popular with the children and comes as quite a surprise when you are not expecting it!

The fete could not have taken place without the large number of volunteers involved in setting up and taking down all the stalls, manning the stalls, the entrance and the car park. A heartfelt thanks goes to everyone, not the least those who attended and spent their money. In total we raised almost £4000 and the following charities and organisations are benefiting from this: St Mary's Church Upton; The Parish council (for the play area); Blewbury school; Blewbury Pre-school; Island Farm donkey sanctuary; the Rangers/ Brownies.

Finally our thanks go to the small committee who organised the fete this year. We would welcome new members so anyone interested should make contact through the Parish clerk. Please save the date for next year: providing there are enough volunteers the fete will take place on **Saturday September 5th 2026**.

Upton Wine Club

This September, we started our new season with the usual AGM, which led quickly into a delightful journey through the vineyards of Portugal. Known for its rich wine-making heritage, Portugal has surged in popularity thanks to its diverse grape varieties, exceptional value, and unique regional styles. From crisp whites to bold reds and even a refreshing port, Portuguese wines offer something for every palate, making them a perfect choice for our tasting this month.

Here is a summary of the wines we tasted!

Cintila Extra Dry NV

A sparkling wine from the Setúbal Peninsula, Cintila is light, dry, and refreshing—ideal as an aperitif. Its citrus notes and fine bubbles pair beautifully with salty snacks like olives or almonds.

Cockburn's Fine White Port

This lesser-known style of port is a revelation! Served chilled, it offers honeyed fruit and nutty aromas. Try it with roasted cashews or as we did, with tonic water and a sprig of mint for a refreshing twist and a great alternative to your G&T!

Casal de Ventozela

From the Vinho Verde region, this white wine is crisp and aromatic, with hints of green apple and lime. It's a perfect match for grilled fish or seafood risotto.

Invincible Número Dois Branco

A blend from the Douro Valley, this white is elegant and layered, with stone fruit and mineral notes. It pairs well with creamy cheeses or chicken in lemon sauce.

Sainsbury's Taste the Difference Portuguese Lisboa

A supermarket gem! This red from the Lisboa region is smooth and fruity, with hints of spice. Great with pasta dishes or a hearty stew.

Herdade do Rocim, Alentejano Mariana Red

From the warm Alentejo region, this red is bold and full-bodied, with dark berry flavours and a touch of oak. Ideal with grilled meats or mushroom dishes.

Prunus Private Selection Dão Tinto

A standout from the Dão region, this red is silky and complex, with cherry and earthy undertones. Try it with roast lamb or a rich tomato-based dish.

Next month we are celebrating women in wine. We will be showcasing some of the amazing wines from some of the best women wine makers from around the globe. We really hope to see you at the village hall on **Wednesday 15th October**. For more details please check out our [website](#) or [email](#) us. It's highly likely that you'll know someone from the village who is a member and even if you don't, we're a friendly bunch so why not tag along and give it a try!

Upton Neighbourhood Watch

As they say: "no news is good news" and, again, nothing was noted in Upton last month. We continue to post articles that we feel might be helpful on the Upton Help Group WhatsApp feed. If you would like to join the group and receive local updates directly, please do join using this [link](#)

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday 9th October** at 7:30pm in St Mary's Church: as ever, all are welcome .

Upton Christmas Readers

It's that time of year again: putting the garden to bed, hoping the boiler works and, of course, preparing for the Upton Christmas play reading. This will take place in the village hall on **Saturday 29th November** and, as usual, the evening will include seasonal refreshments and a raffle.

This year we are performing an adaptation of the Charles Dickens Christmas novella 'The Haunted Man', a tale of regret, hope and redemption through a ghostly encounter. We look forward to seeing you there!

Community Coffee Morning

From all of the Coffee Morning Team, Thank you so much for coming to Macmillan on Friday 28th September and being so generous for the cause. It was great to see so many villagers enjoying the cakes and raffle prizes!

Special thanks to Susan, Ann and Nicola for organising, and to Gloria who ran the very successful raffle.

We raised £395 for Macmillan which is something to be very proud of ♥.

STRICTLY  WINE

Morandé Vitis Unica Chardonnay



"Citrus notes of yuzu and grapefruit mingle with smart oak, toast and wet stone. Balanced acidity and an elegant structure lead to a long and refined finish." **92pts**

South American Premium White
Decanter, September 2025

www.strictlywine.co.uk
sales@strictlywine.co.uk **01235 364536**

Local News

Blewbury Players

Next year is our 50th anniversary. We are encouraging everyone to come along to our Open Evening on **28th November** at Blewbury Village Hall (time tbc) to share your ideas about the kinds of productions and activities you would like to see and experience. Let us know what we should be doing to help as many people as possible get involved—not just on stage, but also in off-stage roles. Together, we can ensure the Blewbury Players continue to thrive for another 50 years!

It's all about joining in... Our success and longevity are because we are a community. The most important element is enthusiasm. By participating in various activities, large or small, people share or learn new skills, make new friends, and gain a wonderful sense of purpose, achievement and pride in the results. (In fact – a little secret – lots of people who contribute are not typically interested in theatre or performing but enjoy the camaraderie or task focused aspects of being involved). Reading an early draft of Steve White's book chronicling Blewbury Players' history it's incredible to think how many people have taken part in or enjoyed our activities over the years.

There are opportunities for people of different ages and experiences to make friends and work together. We love to see new faces! We will also be sharing all our plans for 2026 and encouraging everyone to come along and find out about how you can get involved with that... We have lots of exciting plans to celebrate with some special events including a book launch!

Our summer production at Orchard Dene will be *Wind in the Willows* directed by Ed White who, as many of you will know, grew up in the village performing in Blewbury productions. He is now a professional actor and director with West End credits. More recently (as well as hanging out at Drury Lane Theatre!) he directed and designed *Much Ado About Nothing* for us in 2022 to great acclaim!! It seems most fitting that he directs our 50th summer production. Ed is a great example of how several generations of the same families have been involved together since Blewbury Players began.

We usually hold Jeff and Peter's Music Quiz during the second week in November. This year, due to clashes with other important village events, we have moved the quiz to **Saturday January 24th, 2026**. Please rest reassured that it will be back to normal next year!

Blewbury School Report



The class of 2025

The new Reception pupils have made a fantastic start to the school year, settling in with confidence, curiosity, and big smiles. From exploring their new classroom to making new friends and getting stuck into creative and playful learning, they've shown great enthusiasm and resilience. Staff have been incredibly impressed by how quickly the children have adapted to new routines and embraced every new experience with excitement. As Ariana shared, "I like the creative area," while Nina said, "I enjoyed Forest School," and Bertie added, "I like the Play-Doh". It's been a joyful beginning, full of laughter, learning, and a strong sense of community — a wonderful foundation for the year ahead!

If you have a child starting school in September 2026 then please do contact the office to book a tour of the school.

Blewbury WI

Blewbury WI's next main meeting is at 7:30 pm on **Wednesday 22th October** in the Vale Room of the Village Hall. This meeting is a change of topic from the printed programme. We are delighted to present "*Talking Watches - An overview of secret watches from the 17th century to the present*". Penny Andrews will present an introduction to the common and less common themes that have inspired watchmakers over the centuries. If you have an old watch you'd like valued please bring it along for a complementary valuation.

If you'd like to find out more, please ring our Secretary, Joy, on 850543 or contact us by [email](#).

Blewbury Post Office

We would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during the recent period of reduced Post Office opening hours. We are pleased to let you know that we have returned to our normal opening hours of 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and Wednesday 9:00am - 12:00pm.

Please note that from 6th October 2025 Royal Mail is increasing the cost of some postage. All parcel postage prices will increase, alongside International postage. The price of standard international postage for letters will increase from £3.20 to £3.40. The cost of 1st and 2nd class postage stamps are unaffected.

The sale of our fresh, free-range eggs is going very well, and with a regular weekly delivery you can be sure that eggs will always be available. Alongside this, don't forget we continue to stock our much-loved local honey, as well as a variety of sweet treats, ice lollies, chocolate, and cool drinks.

We also have a lovely selection of birthday cards, postal supplies, and local gifts, making it easy to pick up those little extras while visiting. Thank you, as always, for your support. We look forward to welcoming you soon!

United Charities

If you, or someone you know, is struggling financially, we are a local charity which supports people of all ages living in Upton, Aston Upthorpe, and Blewbury. We have funds to give a helping hand with living costs, from the weekly food shop, clothing and equipment for the new school year, to energy bills, or a one-off payment if you find yourself running low on funds for essential items.



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. Please don't be reluctant to ask for help, all applications are dealt with confidentially.

Astons Online

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

The next in-person one-to-one session will be held in Astons Village Hall (OX119EQ) on **Tuesday 21th October** from 10:00 am to 12 noon. We're also available for one-to-one sessions on Tuesday mornings between 10:00 am and 12:00 am using Zoom, Facetime, WhatsApp or telephone. Please book an appointment by [email](#) or by phone 07780958249.

Furthermore, we are hosting a free & friendly Zoom webinar with Thames Valley Police at 10:00 am on **Thursday 23th October** when we will be discussing online fraud and scams. Have your say and ask your questions by joining the meeting: visit our [website](#), follow this [link](#) or email us (email link above).

Vale News

VoWHDC News

Hello from Hayleigh and Debra



Over the summer, things tend to be quieter: there are fewer council meetings, both Parish and District, and our residents are busy with other things! As we head into Autumn, with the seasonal changes that brings to the weather, the leaves on the trees and the children returning to school, our workload is increasing again. We look forward to the challenges that brings, representing our residents, raising their concerns at council and helping people with their council-related issues.

Hayleigh visited the Upton Village Fete at the start of September which, fortunately, had beautiful weather despite the rainy weekends both before and afterwards. It was great to chat with villagers who are working to make their community a lovely place to live. This is typical of the experience that we both have at events across the area we represent. Please do invite us to such events, as we love to go to them!

The Climate continues to be at the top of the Vale Council's agenda and, later this month, groups that made applications to our Climate Action Fund will hear if they were successful. The scheme was well subscribed which just goes to show how much people care about the environment, and want to do their bit. Watch this space to find out if one of local organisations was successful. Awards have been

given to Sustainable Blewbury and Little Pippins pre-school in the past, to name a few.

Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire district councils are in the top ten performing district councils in the country for taking action on climate and nature recovery, according to research by an environmental organisation. Both councils, which have just published their new joint nature and climate action plan, were rated in the top ten of the Climate Emergency UK's (CEUK) 2025 climate action [scorecard](#).

VoWHDC takes a strong line on fly-tipping, and has a good record of taking offenders to court and successfully prosecuting. There was a recent example of fly tipping in an A34 layby and magistrates imposed a £300 fine. If you spot a fly-tip or suspect that someone is involved in fly-tipping, please report it by visiting our [website](#).

As a reminder, council meetings are held in public and if you wish to address council or committee, you can contact Democratic Services. If you need more guidance on this, or other matters, please do email us (email addresses [here](#) and [here](#)). We also post regular updates on our Facebook pages [here](#) and [here](#).



Jennie's Children's Trust Fundraising Dinner 2026

Come with your friends and enjoy a wonderful evening with fine food and wine, on Saturday, 7th February 2026 at the Astons Village Hall. Put the date in your diary now, and gather a group of 8-10 guests before booking your table.

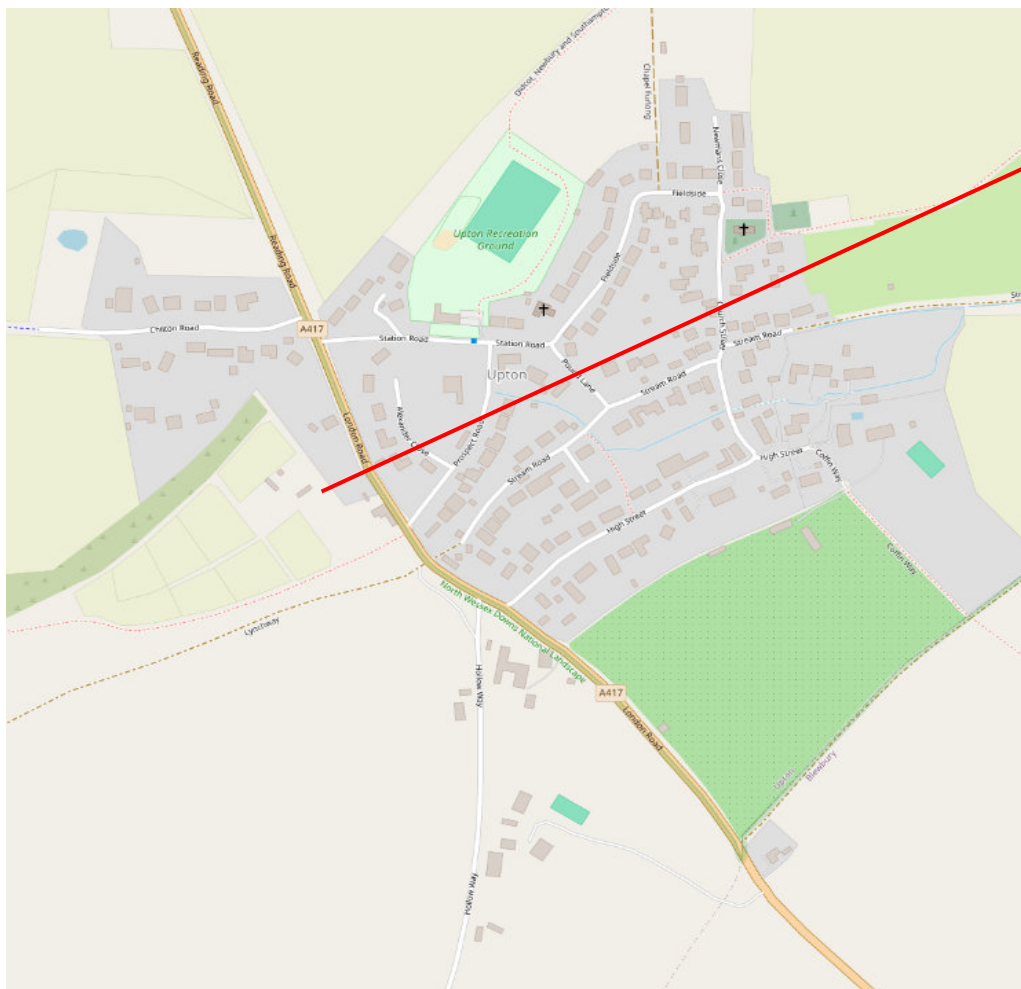
We will be serving a three course set menu along with a selection of amuse-bouches on arrival, dietary requirements will be catered for, please specify when booking. The suggested donation is £50 per person or £400-£500 per table. To reserve your table, please email gracelancaster@gmail.com.

Payment will be due by the 7th January 2026 with all funds raised in support of Jennie's Children's Trust.

Jennie's Children's Trust works to create happy memories for children and their families, who have suffered trauma. To find out more about the work they do, please visit www.jennieschildrenstrust.org

Current planning applications

The map below shows the location of all planning applications within the parish of Upton that are *Current* and were registered between 1st January 2021 and 29th September 2025. Details of each application can be obtained by following the hyperlinks on the right-hand side of the map.



[P24/V2170/FUL](#)

Olly Glover (MP)



After a short holiday at the end of summer, Parliament started sitting on 1st September with a very busy first few weeks for me and my team.

At Prime Minister's Questions, I challenged Keir Starmer on the government's decisions to scrap the UK Space Agency - based at Harwell - as an executive body and make it part of a government department. With so many local businesses relying on the Space Sector, I will be keeping an eye on how this change impacts funding and governance.

In other debates at Westminster, I raised local concerns about vehicles parking on pavements and spoke about car sharing schemes in rural areas. I also had the pleasure of hosting local teenager, Mikayla, whose charity supports children being treated in hospitals across the UK. My first appearance on ITV's *The Last Word* gave me the opportunity to talk about the government's cabinet reshuffle and how that affects our constituency: for example, I had arranged for the Minister for Future of Roads to join a Bikeability session at a school in Wantage, but that minister is no longer in post.

At a Palestine Solidarity Campaign lobby event, I met with constituents opposing the selling of arms to Israel. Engaging with my constituents on Palestine is vital, and I remain committed to ensuring that their voices are heard in Parliament. Alongside my Liberal Democrat colleagues, I will continue to urge the Government to take action to bring an end to this devastating situation.

Back in the constituency as well as holding regular surgeries for constituents, I visited the RWE Combined-cycle gas and steam turbine power

plant at Milton Park, met with County Council officers to discuss poor broadband coverage in our villages, attended the Wilding and Andrew Service in Wallingford to remember the Canadian servicemen who gave their lives to save the town in 1944, and I met with Post Office staff in Didcot to discuss their challenges and changes to the services they provide.

As always, if there is anything you feel I can help you with please do not hesitate to contact me and my team either by [email](#), or by leaving a voice message at 0207 219 7657.

Didcot u3a

"Calling all recently retired or semi retired individuals in and around Didcot. Are you looking for new interests and/or making new friends?"

With over 30 Interest Groups, including learning a new language, delving into your family history, enjoy walking with friends, learning to play an instrument, and many more (full details can be found on our [website](#)) then look no further and consider joining the Didcot & District U3A to 'Learn, Laugh, Live'!

New members are always warmly welcomed to join (first visit is 'free to see') and chat over tea and biscuits at the monthly meetings held on the third Tuesday of every month for this nationwide self-help teaching and learning organisation in the Didcot Civic Hall, meetings start 2:30 pm.

Meetings for the Autumn months will include;

- 16 Sep Coleshill: the Nerve Centre for British Resistance
Speaker: Gillian Cane
- 21 Oct All about Swans
Speaker: author Dan Keel
- 18 Nov 'Good Hare Days!
Speaker photographer David Bailey

For more detailed information about this locally nationwide organisation for retired or semi-retired individuals still wishing to 'Learn, Laugh, Live' then please contact us [here](#). We look forward to seeing you soon!

News from Afar

Oxfordshire County Councillor's report



Summer is usually quite quiet for council work as many officers and councillors are taking leave during school holidays. This has regrettably led to delays in progressing my enquiries over the last month. I was, however, able to support the Parish Council in Chilton at a meeting with our trees officer to discuss maintenance and safety issues. If I'm available, I'm always happy to support councils and residents at officer meetings, if you think Councillor advocacy would help.

We are back in full swing now and I'm able to push a little bit harder to get remaining enquiries picked up. Top of my agenda for this month is traffic calming, for both Blewbury and Harwell, and I'm looking forward to getting officers out onsite to see the issues we're facing. Full Council is on 9th September and I have had two questions accepted relating to SEND issues – I will be able to provide updates on these at parish council meetings this month.

On October 11th (subject to the weather), I'm planning on doing a walk across the division with stops at local drinkeries. We'll be starting at The Station Garden, then stopping at The White Hart, The Harwellian, The Crown at Chilton, The George at Upton, The Red Lion in Blewbury and finishing at The Blueberry. If you would like to join me, either for a chat in your local, or for a walk in between them, please follow my [Facebook](#) page for updates nearer the time.

In other news, The council is investing money into a new data capture project designed to pinpoint areas of poor/no mobile coverage and provide informed solutions. The aim is better mobile signal throughout Oxfordshire. You can read more [here](#).

All County Councillors have access to a pot of funding to support local community projects. Applications are open from now until November 2026. All parish councils and community groups or charities are welcome to submit applications – the minimum grant is £500, and there are rules regarding eligibility of applicants and projects. You can read more [here](#).

Transport update

There are a lot of roadworks planned in the coming months. I will note only those where some delay is possible or likely, but for information there are also water and gasworks planned in Harwell, Chilton and Blewbury that should have no impact on transport.

Bessels Way, Blewbury

30th September – 7th October, there will be priority working for gas utility works. Delays are likely.

Bohams Road, Blewbury

1st-2nd October, the road will be CLOSED for highway improvement works.

A34

Overnight only, on Sunday 28th and Monday 29th September (9pm-6am), the A34 will be closed Southbound Milton-Chilton.

Recent queries I've raised on behalf of residents and Parish Councils are given on opposite:

Description	Status	Outcome
Blewbury road safety	In progress	Requested briefing on proposed crossing at Savages and other traffic calming measures. Chased for a walkabout. The funding for the wig-wags (flashing lights) has expired so I am pushing for reinstatement.
Harwell roadworks	In progress	Substantial back and forth on the contractors undertaking works on Grove Road. They are not our preferred suppliers and considerable problems have arisen - several meetings with officers and contractors to discuss. An investigation into the incident is underway
Road safety issues on A417	In progress	Requested briefing on previous requests for crossing on Reading Road. A walkabout is being organised
Coffin Way cycle-path	Awaiting response	Requested briefing on previous work re: footpath/potential cycle route between Blewbury and Upton - relevant officer on leave.
Library subscriptions	Awaiting response	Query on when and why subscriptions via local libraries were removed

Thames Valley Police Commissioner

Sadly we know that one of the most common crimes that we can all be vulnerable to is fraud. It can take many forms but impersonation of your bank, a government agency or even the police is a tactic that many criminals will use.

If you receive a suspicious call, independently contact your bank or the relevant agency using an official telephone number – do not use numbers given to you by the cold caller. But who has the time to dig out and verify a number for your bank?

That's why the 159 service was created. If you get a call from someone claiming to be your bank you can simply call 159 and you'll be put through to an automated service which can put you through directly. The system is supported by most of the major banks. The idea is to give one trusted number that the public know they can call safely in order to be put through directly to their bank.

In some cases however, fraudsters will try to keep the line open, so that when you call back, you're actually talking to the fraudsters again. The best way to avoid that is to wait for 15 minutes, to ensure the line is clear, or call from another phone if you have one available. Then simply call 159 to be put through directly to your bank.

NEVER disclose any personal or sensitive information, such as account numbers or PIN numbers, over the telephone. Whilst fraud is one of the biggest risks to us all from criminals it is also one of the most easily prevented crimes. A dose of healthy scepticism goes a long way, and always be cautious with unsolicited calls, emails and texts. If in doubt, take a moment, do not be pressured into sharing information or handing over money. Check with someone else if you're suspicious.



Wild Oxfordshire

It's that time of year when the trees will be changing colour, the air is getting colder and fresher, and we can't help thinking of warm drinks, cosy clothes and playing in the crunchy leaves. As we enter Autumn, it can be tempting to cut back all the dead and dying vegetation in our gardens and green spaces. It's worth considering that many of these woody stems will become perfect winter homes for insects as they enter hibernation and can create areas of architectural beauty in our homes and communities.

In Oxfordshire, the hedgerow species we generally recommend planting (for their capacity to provide for both people and wildlife year-round) and you're most likely to see in your local area include Blackthorn, Spindle, Common Buckthorn, Guelder Rose, Wild Privet, Cherry Plum, Dog Rose and Hazel. Fruiting season for many of these species starts from late summer to early autumn. As such, by this time of year, most of the species listed above will be fruiting. Hawthorn berries have traditional use in heart-strengthening natural medicines but also act as a vital source of food for caterpillars, moths, and migratory birds. Keep your eyes peeled for spindle, which has vibrant autumnal colours with vibrant pinks, and the leaves turning from a deep green to a beautiful red.



Spindle fruits

Riverside trees

The native white, crack, pussy, osier and goat willows are a familiar sight along the Thames and its tributaries. Willows provide shelter for birds and mammals, including bats, otters and water voles. Their leaves are the larval foodplant of the Purple Emperor, Large Tortoiseshell and Comma butterflies and their catkins the earliest sources of food for bees. Both the male and female flowers (catkins) carry sugary nectar, and the male flowers also carry protein rich pollen, which is so important for developing bee larvae. Willow nectar is also a major energy source for Blue Tits during early spring.

Traditionally managed by 'coppicing and 'pollarding', mature trees can be cut to form a thick stump or 'coppice stool' that considerably extends the life of the tree and lets in light to the shrub layer. Some Crack Willow pollards are known to have lived for 1000 years. Willow is also a useful hedge plant in damp conditions.

Trees for Bees

Trees are an important, stable long-term source of food for bees and other pollinators, providing thousands of flower heads all in one place. Plant a variety of tree species selected to benefit bees and other pollinators, with species that flower at different times of the year to provide nectar, pollen and nesting sites. Trees also offer a haven for other wildlife, cleaning the air and water and store carbon. Check out the guidance on our [website](#) for more information:

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Hedgehogs

Hedgehog Friendly things to do this autumn and winter

- Put out a shallow dish of water or make sure your ponds are easy to get out of for hedgehogs (shallow edges or a platform/ramp), so they have water to drink
- Leave a wild patch each year with piled up logs or leaves that you don't disturb
- Always move your burn piles before you light them as hedgehogs and frogs often use them to sleep in (this is, after-all, how hedgehogs were once upon a time cooked to be eaten!). Thankfully it is now illegal to eat this endangered species
- Avoid using pesticides or herbicides as this will make hedgehogs very ill. Find out more [here](#)
- If you want to put out food, cat or dog food is best
- If you find a sick or injured hedgehog, or one up and about during the middle of the day, call Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital on 01844 292292

To find out more about hedgehogs, please check out the following links:

1. Hedgehogs - head over to the People's Trust of Endangered Species (PTES) [website](#).
2. Wildlife and hedgehog friendly gardening - head over to the Wild Oxfordshire [website](#) and have a look in our guidance section.
3. Kirtlington's Hedgehog Street – see their [website](#)

Jackie's Care

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- Administrative Work: Support with paperwork and managing daily tasks.
- Overnight Care: Comprehensive support through the night .

Please contact me by phone (07712455093) or email (jackiefideria@yahoo.com)

Local directory

What's On

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

Useful links

Organisation	Website
Upton Village website	https://www.uptonvillage.co.uk/
Upton Village Hall	https://www.uptonvillagehall.co.uk/
Upton Wine Club	https://uptonwineclub.com/
Upton Village Social	https://www.facebook.com/groups/231071594674815

Various WhatsApp groups also exist - please ask a neighbour for details!

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.

Useful contacts

Contact	Telephone	email
Upton News Upton News Editor	n/a	uptonox1news@gmail.com
Churn Benefice Father Jason St. John Nicolle	01235 850267	office@churnchurches.co.uk
Revd Louise Butler	07837 009730	revlouiseb@aol.com
Revd John Clarke	01235 510073	jphclarke@gmail.com
Revd Dr Mark Rhodes-Smith	01235 850267	mark.rhodes-smith@churnchurches.co.uk
Elaine de Ridder	01235 850267	office@churnchurches.co.uk
Parish Council Chair	n/a	francoisey@councillors.uptonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Clerk	n/a	parish.clerk@uptonparishcouncil.gov.uk
VoWH District Councillors Hayleigh Gascoigne	n/a	hayleigh.gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk
Debra Dewhurst	n/a	debra.dewhurst@whitehorsedc.gov.uk
Oxfordshire County Councillor Rebekah Fletcher	n/a	rebekah.fletcher@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Member of Parliament Olly Glover	0207 219 765	olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk
Astons Online Bruno Brunskill	07780 958249	theastonsonline@gmail.com
United Charities Main contact	n/a	unitedcharities@outlook.com

And finally ...

Due to budgetary constraints, Upton News is published in electronic format only. A copy is placed on the Upton Village [website](#) each month, which you can download. We also manage a distribution list whose subscribers receive a copy directly in their email Inbox at the start of each month.

If you would like to be added to this list, then please email [me](#) and I will add your email address to our database. Thank you for your interest!