

# UPTON NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2000 Vol.2 No.5

## Join the HISTORICAL TREASURE TRAIL

Saturday and Sunday  
23 and 24 September

1 — 6 pm

Cost £2 adults, children free  
Refreshments savoury and sweet

An enjoyable browse  
through Upton's  
past



At the village hall you will find a display of old photographs and documents, etc. If you feel like filling in the quiz sheet, many questions can be answered with help from the display. Others will send you round the village. Prizes.

Organiser: Jessie West 851206

## Happy Methodist celebrations



We raised £280 for our church funds at the Cream Tea and Flower Display on 5 August. Thank you so much to everybody who helped in any way to make it such a successful and happy occasion.

### Biking

9 September is the date for this year's Historic Churches Bicycle Ride. If you would like to take part either on a bike or on foot please contact me for a sponsor form.

### Harvest Supper

On 2 October we will be holding our annual Harvest Supper. Please look out for notices a little nearer the time.

Helen Weston

Local history buffs will know that the first Upton Methodist church was built in 1842, its centenary celebrated during the second world war.

Last month's heart-warming festival of flowers — on the theme 'Out of Darkness into Light' with vases relating to biblical texts — attracted visitors to the modern church, opened in September 1957.

Gwen Greenough recalls that people were asked to contribute furnishings; she herself gave the fine wooden altar. The souvenir booklet then noted that 'the (Upton) churches are well ahead of many localities, because there is a common-sense unity'. Certainly, all and sundry helped with this millenium event.

C.H.

## TOO MANY TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Those whose toleration of traffic lights sprouting along the A417 is wearing thin might like a briefing on the project that is 'Bringing Quality Communications to Europe'.

In the manner approved in the Heiniken TV ad, competing British companies, both engaged in 'phenomenal technology', are sharing a trench and laying cables full of fibre-optics— two grey for Torch Telecom, two green for City of London Telecoms. These will be used to serve businesses investing in 'telephony'.

The A417 road from Pangbourne to Wantage, and on towards Swindon will be part of a national network linking regions. The contractors are reported to be covering 5000m. a week along this route. But on the stretch from Blewbury to Upton, started in June, the foreman says the pace is 60-70m a day, depending on whether he's digging up grass verge or carriageway.

### PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Please consider your neighbours when lighting bonfires. Wait until dark before lighting up so that villagers may enjoy their gardens, hang out washing etc. during the daytime.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 September at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Lynne Riordan (clerk)

Very many thanks to Aleks Marinkovic, of Stocks, for our smart new masthead.

**CHILDREN'S DRAMA  
GROUP**

meets at the village hall every Thursday in term time — from 4.30 to 5.15pm (50p per session to cover the cost of the hall)

**JUST TURN UP AND  
JOIN THE FUN**

For further details ring Malcolm Wright (850705)

**VPA's Autumn Show**

This ever-popular event will be held in the Methodist Hall, Upton on Saturday 16 September. The summer show in mid-July was a great success — many thanks to Blewbury School for letting us use their field. We hope to see more of you entering classes in September. Staging is from 8.30—11.00 and the show opens at 2.30pm.

Entry forms and fees should be returned by 10pm Wednesday 13 September to the show secretary, Karen Brooks, Tadcombe, Bessels Lea Rd, Blewbury, Joyce Gilbert, Abners, Church Road, Blewbury or Caroline Ball in Upton. Or fax or telephone 850219 or e-mail karen.brooks@free4all.co.uk. If you use one of these methods please bring your completed entry form and entry fees when staging. Show queries to Karen, general queries to Malcolm Wright (850705).

**Neighbourhood Watch**

Would all villagers be aware that there has been a theft of an electric pond pump and a garden ornament from an Upton garden one night very recently.

There has also been an incident of vandalism in the lower High Street area, with windows of a workshop being badly smashed, probably on the evening of 15 August.

In West Hagbourne there have been several garden thefts

and acts of vandalism and one burglary via an open back door.

Please continue to be vigilant and keep an eye on one another's property and gardens throughout the summer period.

As mentioned last month, the next Neighbourhood Watch meeting will be on Monday 11 September at Didcot Police Station (7.30pm). Ring me on 850684 if you would like a lift.

C e l i a

**Singers and audience required  
for an 'international' Messiah**

On Saturday 14 October, at 7.30pm, singers and musicians will gather in St. Michael's Blewbury to sing Handel's Messiah as part of an international 'Sing Messiah for Hospices 2000'. The event will be led by Sine Nomine and directed by David Dendy.

This will be a fund-raising occasion for Douglas House, Oxford, the Respite for young adults, with life threatening illnesses, being built adjacent to Helen House. All participants will be asked to make a donation, £10 is suggested. The audience will be encouraged to pay the same, or more if they wish. Please bring your friends

— the more the merrier — so that we can raise the roof and fund enough slates to cover the one at Douglas House. Further information from Ann and David Dendy (850760).

**IN BRIEF**

The house-to-house collection in Upton for Lifeboats raised £137.67. Thank you to everyone who supported the week in any way, especially the collectors.

June Churchman

A reminder that the church fete is on Saturday, 2 September at Prospect House.

**Attention knitters**

The babies and toddlers of India still need woollen vests and tops. Patterns available from Ann Dendy (850760).

**July 50s Club winners**

Mrs Temple £10; Mrs Sommers £5; Mr Lightfoot £4; Mr Savage £3.

**SUNDAY SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER**

<b>St Mary's church</b>	<b>Methodist church</b>
9 am	10.30 am — Preacher
3 Parish Eucharist	Terence Adams
10 Parish Eucharist	Michael Howlett
17 Choral Matins	Paul R. Williams
24 Parish Eucharist	Pearl Maunder

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