

UPTON NEWS

MARCH 2001 Vol.2 No.11

IT'S TIME FOR THE NEXT VILLAGE LOT-

April is the start of a new year for the Upton 50 Club — so called because the price of a lottery number is 50p a month (£6 a year) — which provides a valuable source of income for the Village Hall and offers a chance to win up to £25 on a draw, at better odds than the national lottery.

Every year the Village Hall Amenities Trust applies for a lottery licence. Numbers must be drawn in a public place, in our case the George & Dragon. Each number is eligible to win £3, £4,

Gardeners are emerging from hibernation

Wednesday 7 March finds the Blewbury and Upton Village Produce Association in the Vale Room, Blewbury at 7.30pm with a talk on 'Cooking for the Show'. Joyce Milward, a very experienced cookery judge, will be sharing her hints and tips with us. Have you ever wondered what exactly the judges are looking for? Now's your chance to find out. Margaret Maytham (850364) will be speaking to Joyce in advance and has been asked to pass on any specific queries you may have.

Advance notice of the VPA Grand bring and buy Plant Auction on 21 April. This is to be held at Hall Barn, Westbrook Street, Blewbury. We will need established potted plants to sell, so we want you to take cuttings, split perennials etc. now, so the plants have time to settle down before the auction. After the winter people are bound to have lost some plants and this will be a good opportunity to replace these, as well as to raise money for the VPA and future shows. Proceeds will be shared between the vendor and the VPA. More news on this in the April Upton News.

Your committee have been working hard on preparing the annual programme of talks and visits, plus the Show schedules. We are aiming to have these available for the April 4 meeting.

Any general matters on the VPA please refer to the Secretary, Malcolm Wright (mcw@breath-mail.net or 850705).

£5 or £10 a month. Also there are two £15 prizes in September, two £20 in December and two £25 in March. Of course people can buy more numbers if they wish to increase their support.

This year 141 numbers went into the draw, raising £846, of which £384 was prize money and £462 went to the Village Hall general maintenance fund.

A significant increase in numbers could enable the VHAT to increase the value of prizes, although by law more than half the income cannot be given back.

Jessie West will soon be sending her team of knockers-on-doors to renew members' subscriptions and seek out new punters. Meanwhile, she thanks everyone for their support.

January winners were Mr. Collins £10, Mrs Stewart £5, Mr Williams £4, Mr. Nobel £3. The £50 winner of the Lucky Millenium Programme number was Mrs. Elizabeth Hardy.

FEATHERED FRIENDS

David Dendy writes:

In the 25 years we have been in Upton we have had over fifty species of bird visit us; blackbird, house martin, robin, song thrush and wren regularly nest in the garden shrubs and hedge. Some birds considered rare are common: wagtails, bullfinch, goldfinch — a very pretty bird — greenfinch and siskin, hedge sparrow, house sparrow — less common now. The magpie is, at last, less common and so the other birds can keep their eggs. It is the grey squirrel and the magpie that have led to such great reductions in the number of once common smaller birds. Don't feed them!

At the height of summer we shall have the martins, swallow and swifts performing their aerobatics displays and nesting in our roofs. We may even have visits from gold-crests and blackcaps.

Have you noticed the mallard duck? These are almost certainly immigrants from Blewbury, where there are too many.

Finally, herons do not always over fly but, usually early in the morning, drop in for a fish snack at the goldfish pond. They particularly enjoy Koi carp.

Which Uptoner will hear the first cuckoo in Spring? Good bird-watching.

Sustrans' route for Upton cyclists

On Tuesday 6 March at 6.45 for 7pm there will be a public meeting at East Hagbourne Primary School to talk about the proposed cycle route from Upton to Didcot (Upton News June 2000). Simon Pratt, area manager for Sustrans (01296 713126) will make a short presentation on the National Cycle Network Project and plans for the old railway line, which will be followed by questions and discussion.



The Vale DC's letter to those eligible for concessionary bus fares did not make clear that the tokens and new half-price bus passes can be collected at Upton Post Office.

Parish meeting

The next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday 13 March, 8pm in the Village Hall. All are welcome.

Free skip

There will be a rubbish skip in the village hall car park over the Easter weekend. This is a free service.

DEVASTATED EARTH QWAKE, GUJARATHI STATE, INDIA

It was January 26, 2001 Republic Day of India morning 8.30 minutes..... a bright sunny day..... the town of Gujarat. Ahmedabad, Bhuj, Kutch are happily celebrating the republic day..... children from all schools participating in rally. 8.30 minutes..... morning trickled..... 8.46am, the whole Bhuj town, Kutch and some 300 villages were trampled down with a **great quake**. The earth under the feet of thousands cracked with in minutes. Thousands..... buried under the debris of building..... lakhs of houses trampled down..... thousands of people knowing what happened buried under..... debris. Destruction..... devastation..... distress..... and death..... In the towns of Gujarat. Wailing of thousands, agonies of the lakhs and a great psychological trauma had spread over there once a happy crowds.

This is the time the fellow human beings should give a **hope** and relief to the thousands of victims.

Even a small donation will bring hope to the survival..... our Samskar volunteers are in the Gujarat to give a helping hand to..... survivors. Please help for relief and reconstruction. Your donations to this address:

Hemalata Lavanam
Samskar
Andhra Bank
AC 7530
Patamata, Vijaywada - 10
Andhra Pradesh
India.
hemalatalavanam@yahoo.com

I have received the above from friends who run a well-known Atheist Centre in India, which Dick and I visited. If you would care to help them please let me know. Carol Hall (850811)

CHURCH SERVICES MARCH and APRIL

Sunday	St Mary's 9 am	Methodist 10.30 am	Lent study group
	March	Preacher	
4 Lent 1	Parish Eucharist	D. Morton	Once again there will be a series of meetings beginning on Wednesday 8th March at 8pm at Corderoys, Pound Lane. This year we will be studying York Courses 'Faith in the Fire'. All are welcome. Further details from David Dendy (850760).
11 Lent 2	Parish Eucharist	M. Chalkley	
18 Lent 3	Choral Matins	A. Lockley	
25 Mothering Sunday	Parish Eucharist	M. Atherton	
	April		
1 Passion Sunday	Parish Eucharist	Wendy Holt	
8 Palm Sunday	Parish Eucharist	Pam Martin	
	Holy Week		
12 Thursday 8pm	Maundy Service, St. Andrews, Hagbourne		
13 Friday 2pm	One Hour Devotion		
14 Saturday 8pm	Easter Vigil, St. Michael's, Blewbury		
15 Easter Day	Festive Eucharist	G. Wood	
22	Parish Eucharist	At Blewbury	
29	Parish Eucharist	Rev. T. Dibble	
			Women's World
			Day of Prayer
			Friday, 2 March 2.30pm at the Methodist church. All welcome, whatever gender. The service has been devised by the Christian women of Samoa.

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