

UPTON NEWS

DECEMBER 2002 Vol.2 No.27

It's Puerto Rico for our martial arts champion

Congratulations to 15-year old Carl Davis — of Fieldside — who is in Puerto Rico until 14 December with the All England Tae Kwon Do team, to fight in world championships. Neil, Donna and Scott say he has worked very hard to achieve this goal and they are very proud of him. He trained at Didcot Leisure Centre and is English, Scottish and Welsh Champion for his weight. They want him to enjoy this experience, and another medal would be a bonus!

Tae Kwon Do is the fast, kick-in, Korean sport of self-defence. Its aim is to instil confidence, with an emphasis on respect and discipline. Thousands of British children have taken it up. So Good Luck Carl from all of us!

DRAW FOR THE CHRISTMAS GOODIES RAFFLE

for Village Hall Funds

SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER
4pm in the VILLAGE HALL

1st prize is a Christmas Hamper and there will be 19 others — including a Christmas Cake, whisky and toiletries. Tickets from Jessie West, Sheila Parker, Sheila Dawson, Francis Telling, Sue Bibby and Celia Davies.

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Please note that a copy of Minutes of Parish Council meetings can now be consulted in the Post Office.

A Date for your Diary

Friday 14 February 2003, in the Village Hall
WORDS & MUSIC for St. Valentine's Day
Watch this space...

140 YEARS AGO

December 18, 1862. Planted two of the yew trees in Upton churchyard, viz. in the N.W. corner and that on the left hand of entrance gates; two others planted, viz. that on right of entrance and that on S. side of church on the spot where Mrs Philip Humfrey's tree stood. (Evidently the first tree had not flourished.) Excerpt from the diary of the Reverend Richard Hooper, Upton's first vicar.



The Cat that Walked by Himself. Pen and ink drawing by Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936).

A NEW YEAR'S EVE WEDDING

Our daughter is getting married at St. Mary's at 5pm on 31 December. The wedding will be followed by a New Year's Eve party at the Manor. To minimise nuisance to others we have asked guests to use a One Way route off the A417 via Station Road, Fieldside to Church Road where passengers will be dropped off before cars are parked at the Manor. Drivers will then walk back to the church. We expect most people to walk from the church after the service.

After midnight vehicles will exit up the High Street. For those with pets and livestock please note there will also be a brief firework display shortly after midnight. We apologise for any nuisance this causes and hope this advanced warning helps to limit any inconvenience.

Caroline and Kit Maunsell

News from the Blewbury School Playgroup

The Playgroup committee are delighted to report the recent very successful Ofsted inspection. This reflects the high standards of care and education provided by the staff and the huge amount of commitment they show in providing this. Well done! Many thanks should also go to the parents and friends of Playgroup for their support in fundraising and help with activities. Without this support we would be unable to provide such a very special environment for our pre-school children.

Playgroup has a vacancy for a cleaner for 2 hours per week (ideally at the weekend). We will pay £6.50 per hour. Please contact Tracy Silverthorne (851649) for details. Closing date is 31 December.

Voices needed for St. Mary's Choir

At present we have a small, regular ladies chorus who rehearse on Friday evenings at 6.30pm. If you enjoy singing and praising God we would be pleased to have you join us as we practise well-loved and new carols. For further details contact David Dendy (850760).

Wizardry, drama and masks

There was a full house — with a good sprinkling of children — for last month's Opening Night of Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company's *The Little Prince* in the village hall.

What a brilliant production, enhanced by the eerie masks which almost stole the show. Clever staging and lighting, puppetry and the skill of only three actors, indeed convinced us there were many more people in the cast.

It was the first performance of this co-production by the OTTC and Trading Faces, remarkable mask-makers. The show is now visiting villages round the county and beyond.

Ticket sales and refreshments gave £157 to hall funds.

Jessie West

Table Top Sale

Many thanks to everyone who supported our Trash or Treasure fundraiser. Tiddlywinks Toddler Group made £95 which has really boosted our meagre funds. Thanks also to everyone who contributed all the delicious cakes, and to Ivan who sold the lot for £30. Jessie and Sheila made £87 for hall funds.

Deborah Marinkovic
and Jo Murphy

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

If you are going away for Christmas let neighbours know and get someone to push letters through your letter box.

Timer switches on lights, TV and radio are cheap, effective deterrents.

Ensure sheds and garages are locked and tools chained together, sometimes they are used to gain access to your house.

If you are leaving your car always hide the keys. With increased car security measures thieves are now finding it easier to burgle a house for the keys.

However, crime in southern Oxfordshire is low in comparison to the rest of the UK. A few simple precautions can keep it that way.

Celia Davies

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal raised £215.02 here in Upton. A huge thank you, especially to the collectors and also to all in the village who gave so generously.

Helen Weston

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the house to house collection held in September for the National Children's Home. Unfortunately I was not able to get all the village covered but the sum of £100.42 was raised. Special thanks to the collectors for giving up their time to help, I am sure that the money will be put to good use. If anyone would be willing to help for just a few hours maybe we could cover the whole village next September.

Chris Smith

Upton Millenium Parish Map

The ideal Christmas present! Only £3 per A3 copy. Obtainable from Upton Post Office.

50 Club Winners

November £10 Sue Napper, £7 Carol Hall, £5 Celia Summers, £4 Jessie West.

CHURCH SERVICES IN DECEMBER

ST. MARY'S METHODIST

Sunday 9am

10.30am — Preacher

	1 Family Eucharist	Peter Hemmings
7.30pm	5 Sung Eucharist in aid of the Roof Fund	
	8 Parish Eucharist	At Blewbury
	15 Matins	Brenda Boyer, Christmas Carol Service
	22 Parish Eucharist	Rev. Malcolm Atherton
4.00pm	22 Service of Nine Lessons and Carols	
4.00pm	24 Crib Service	
	25 Christmas Eucharist	
	29 Parish Eucharist	John Dennis

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Editor: CAROL HALL Printed at the Duck House, Blewbury. Delivery organised by JESSIE WEST