

UPTON NEWS

FEBRUARY 2003 Vol.2 No.28

Sheila Parker

At noon on Wednesday, 8th January 2003 Sheila's unadorned coffin was carried into St Mary's Church between lines of villagers and friends. This spontaneous gesture, along with the fact that 120 people squeezed into the tiny church, was a moving testament to the high esteem in which Sheila was held.

Everyone there represented some aspect of her full and busy life. The Rev'd Edwin Clements lead the service and paid tribute to Sheila. He spoke of how she and Doug had met at a dance, their life together first in Didcot and then in Upton, their two daughters, Sheila and Jill and the love and affection they had for their family and grandchildren. He told of Sheila's work at the village school and later at AERE. How she was Chairman of the Parish Council and treasurer of Upton Village Amenities Trust. Sheila had that great talent for making and retaining friends. She was known in the village for her involvement in so many activities which included fund-raising for improvement for Upton's benefit. How many remember the hours of baby-sitting she and Doug did to raise funds for the village hall? Many of those 'babies' were well represented at the funeral.

The unofficial guard of honour reassembled as Sheila's coffin was borne out of St Mary's

to the crematorium. Doug and his family invited everyone to join them at the village hall. Most accepted the invitation and a throng meet to exchanged memories of this popular, energetic lady. I found it very strange to be at an event in Upton Village Hall and not to see Sheila smiling from behind the teapot.

Ann Dendy

It was with shock and disbelief that the village faced the devastating news of the sudden death of a true and loyal friend.

Sheila and Doug have lived in Upton for over 40 years and have touched many lives. Her family, work colleagues, fellow Parish Councillors, neighbours and many friends will all have their own memories. My own are working with her for many years as members of the Village Hall Amenities Trust and Entertainment Committee. Of the many social and fund-raising events we organised perhaps one of my favourites was our variety concert where we performed a condensed version of *The Mikado*. Sheila was a memorable and entertaining *Little Maid!* It is Sheila we have to thank for much of the equipment in the children's play area. It was bought with funds she raised by baby sitting and organising the annual village dance over many years.

Sheila was fun. We've had fun. We will miss her greatly.

Jessie West



O TELL ME THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

If you want to know the *truth* about love, come to **Upton Village Hall on Friday 14 February at 8pm** where you can find out some of the answers. There will be reading, music and images for St. Valentines Day, and nibbles and a glass of wine thrown in.

Tickets (£5, concessions £3) can be booked from Peter Gardiner (850449) or from Geoffrey Summers (85-801). All proceeds to the Village Hall Fund.

Parish Council

1 The meeting on 14 January began with one minute's silence in remembrance of Sheila Parker, who was the leader of Upton Parish Council for the past four years. Tracey Seelig was then elected chairman in her place, with Graham de Wilde as vice-chairman. At the end of the evening Richard Farrell, our County and District Councillor, expressed all our thoughts when he spoke of Sheila's diligence and tactful diplomacy and described her as 'the kindest and most considerate chairman one could ever hope to meet'.

1 PC Frame attended to discuss security matters. He reported that village hall windows and glass covering the notice board had been broken. CCTV would be too extreme a precaution, but an alarm and toughened glass were suggested. He said that a spate of garage thefts in Blewbury continues and he urges people to lock sheds and garages. He is happy to postcode implements for free and agreed to hold another postcoding session in the village hall in spring.

1 **TENDERS ARE INVITED** in respect of fees for professional services for the Recreation Ground MUGA project. Inquiries to Carol Hall (850811).

1 The Parish Council has a redundant lawn mower for sale. Inquiries to Tracey Seelig (851437)

TENDERS ARE INVITED

for the maintenance of Upton PC Recreation Ground and Play Area for the Summer Season 2003. Requirements are cutting of the grass in the recreation ground/football field and cutting/collecting of grass in the enclosed play area, plus strimming where necessary. Fortnightly cutting from 1 April to 30 September 2003. Quotation are requested on a price per cut basis.

Replies to Lynne Riordan, Clerk to Upton PC, Freshfields, Chieveley, RG20 8TF (01635 247855).

A RANDOM HISTORY OF UPTON

A series of short chapters on the history of Upton, as researched and interpreted by Juliet and Peter Gardiner.

No 2. The Census 1801-1901
Available at Upton Post Office
Price 40p.

Village Hall Amenities Trust

We would like to thank everybody who supported the Christmas Draw including all those who kindly donated prizes, the ticket sellers and everybody who bought tickets or helped in any other way. We are pleased to say that the Draw raised £352.64.

Jessie West

50 Club Winners

December £20 M.Dawson, £20 Mrs Savage, £10 Mrs Whitmell, £7 Mrs Collins, £5 Mrs MacArthur, £4 Mrs Fern.

ST MARY'S ROOF

It's finished and doesn't it look wonderful? Thanks are due to all those who purchased tiles at the church fete in September. Those who paid extra to have their names inscribed on a tile may like to know that those tiles have been placed on the west facing roof of the porch. There is no plan of what order the named tiles were laid. A book will be placed in the archives naming donors. So you can surmise whether your named tile is third from the left on the top row, or seventh down and sixth from the right! Again, many thanks to all who supported this project.

Ann Dendy
(Secretary. St Mary's PCC)

Christmas services in the church were well attended. Especially enjoyable were the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols when Upton Hand Bell Ringers played before the service and helped create a lovely atmosphere. Thanks to Ivan Marinkovic for playing a guitar solo at both the Carol and Crib services.

All are invited to join the Lent Study Group to be held weekly in Upton from Wednesday 12 March 7.30-9pm. The course has been devised by Jenny Loder, one of the Readers of the Benefice. Details of venue to follow.

David Dendy (850760)

Dr Monica Rowbotham

After several month of care at home Dr Monica moved to The Old Vicarage at Moulsoford on Monday, 6th January. We wish her well and hope that she settles in her new abode.

Ann & David Dendy

CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

ST. MARY'S

Sunday 9am

- 2 Family Eucharist
- 9 Parish Eucharist
- 16 Matins
- 23 Parish Eucharist

METHODIST

10.30am — Preacher

- Derek Morton
- Heather Garbutt
- Barbara Sexton
- Pam Martin

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