

# UPTON NEWS

MAY 2003

Vol.2 No.31

## LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS

It is an honour and privilege to have been elected to represent the villages of Upton and Blewbury on the Vale of the White Horse District Council for another four years. Thank you to all those who voted for me and helped with my election. For those who voted for one of the other candidates, and those who, for one reason or another, did not make it to the polls, I will be working for you as well. When not at meetings at Oxford and Abingdon, I am available, usually at short notice, to meet anybody with a Council related problem, and can be contacted by calling 850275.

**Richard Farrell**

*Voting figures: Farrell (Lib-Dem) 489, Howard (Conservative) 201, Lakeland (Lab) 75. Five previously co-opted parish councillors were nominated and duly elected, without contest. These are: Mike Brown, Carol Cattley-Hall, Graham de Wilde, Piran Fletcher and Tracy Seelig. However, there is still a vacancy for another parish councillor. Members would welcome a volunteer who would be willing to do their bit too.*

## THE MANOR OF UPTON

*(A resumé of the first section of Juliet Gardiner's A Randon History of Upton, Part 3, available at the Post Office, price 30p.)*

A manor was an estate, held by the Lord of the Manor, originally in the gift of the king. Many Norman lords held several, scattered about the country. There was not necessarily a manor house, but usually there would be a manor farm, as was the case in Upton.

The first landowner that we know of in Upton was Britric, in the reign of Edward the Confessor. He was followed, after the Conquest, by Turstin, the son of Rolf.

In 1086 the manor passed from Turstin to Winebald of Balllun, who, in 1096 granted a moiety, probably about half, to the priory of Bermondsey. The manor remained in the hands of the priory until the Dissolution of the Monasteries, after which it passed to the Crown.

In 1600, Queen Elizabeth granted the manor to Michael and Edward Stanhope, and in the time of James 1 it passed to Robert and Frances Boswell. Then, from 1636-7 it was held by Sir Thomas Vachell of Coley, followed by his cousin Thomas Vachell. Next, in 1693, Tanfield Vachell and his mother sold it to Charles Ambrose, and his son, Charles of Wantage.

It is clear that, up to this point, not one of these landlords actually lived in Upton, and it is quite likely that some of them never even visited it. In 1719 Charles Ambrose sold the estate to James Miles of London, and some time later, by at least 1755, the land was in the hands of Henry Tompkins. The Inclosure Award document for Upton, which was dated 1759, shows Henry Tompkins as a large landowner in the parish...

*(to be continued)*

## SATURDAY 24 MAY

10-am—noon  
at  
the Village Hall

Coffee morning  
and  
bring and buy

**BOOK** browse

for Village Hall funds

## SHEILA PARKER - MEMORIAL

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO TELL YOU THAT WE HAVE NOW COLLECTED OVER £400 FOR A MEMORIAL FOR SHEILA WHICH I THINK EVERYONE WILL AGREE IS A VERY FITTING TRIBUTE TO HER.

SHEILA'S FAMILY HAVE ASKED ME TO CONVEY THEIR THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED AND TO SAY THAT THEY WERE MOST TOUCHED BY THE GENEROSITY OF ALL CONCERNED.

CONTRIBUTIONS CAME FROM AS FAR AFIELD AS GILL KEATES IN AUSTRALIA AS WELL AS A SUBSTANTIAL DONATION FROM SHEILA'S FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES AT RUTHERFORD LABORATORY, KINDLY ORGANISED BY LORNA CLARINGBOLD.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXTEND MY THANKS TO MAGGIE MAY THEM FOR HELPING ME TO COLLECT THE DONATIONS AT THE POST OFFICE.

IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO OFFER SUGGESTIONS FOR A CHOICE OF TREE OR TREES AND IDEAS ABOUT WHERE THEY MIGHT BE PLANTED IN MEMORY OF SHEILA - PLEASE CONTACT LESLEY SHAW ON 850308.

ANY OTHER IDEAS FOR AT LEAST SOME OF THE MONEY COLLECTED ARE WELCOME.

## A VERY GOOD PARTY...

It was a fantastic afternoon. On Wednesday 16 April it was very warm and sunny as 40 children gathered at the Village Hall for the Annual Children's Party. The under 5's enjoyed a variety of games, craft activities, face painting and an Easter egg hunt all lead by Deborah and Tracy.

This year the Sports Development Team from the Vale were invited along to put the older children through their paces. They played team games for the best part of two hours and took part in a treasure hunt organised by Emma. All this running about gave the children an appetite for a big tea put together by Jo and Keren.

The party was organised and run by Tiddlywinks (Upton's pre-school group who meet on a Tuesday lunchtime) with additional help from a few parents. We also received a large donation of fruit from Savages at Blewbury that kept the children going through the hot afternoon. A big thank you to the Village Hall committee who raise funds for the party at various events during the year and to the village for your continued support — the children really get a lot out of it.

Unfortunately, an Easter basket belonging to one of the team was taken — we would be grateful if it could be returned. I also have a blue cap looking for an owner.

Hoping to re-charge the batteries in time for next year.

**Colin Batchelor**

## ... AND FAMILY SERVICE

On another almost summery day, the Good Friday Children's Service at St. Mary's also went with a swing.

Some 15 children, encouraged by parents and friends, re-played the Good Friday story — with drama, music and pictures. An outdoor hymn, *Were you there when they crucified my Lord?* — led by Stephanie and Alex Davies on alto sax and guitar — was followed by a hunt for crosses on gravestones, then 'Jesus entering Jerusalem' became a crowd scene streaming into the church.

In the pews there was storytelling, lively discussion and intent watching of 'the washing of feet'. A reproduction of Mantegna's painting of *The Garden of Gethsemane* helped to explain other things that happened before the Crucifixion.

After the service it was hot-cross buns, squash and a little playing in the churchyard. Special thanks to Sarah Tenant-Flowers, the Dendys, Daphne Simpson *et al.*

## Blewbury Broadbanders get a mention in the Commons

On 1 May Hansard reported that Mr Drew (MP for Stroud), who is collecting evidence for a Select Committee on Rural Affairs, told a Minister: '...we were impressed by the campaign to bring broadband to Blewbury, which has gone for a wireless solution...'

**Chris Whatmore**

## Chris and Jane abseil for a good cause

The Marie Curie Cancer Care Charity states that one in three people are predicted to get cancer and we all know someone who is effected by it. To raise money for this worthy charity, Chris Smith and Jane Bray are to do a sponsored Abseil from the roof of the John Radcliffe in Headington on the afternoon of Sunday 11 May. If anyone feels that they would like to sponsor us we can be contacted at Kent Cottage, Fieldside (850828) or e-mail christopher @csmith70.fsnet.co.uk.

**Chris Smith**

## Oil syndicate

A reminder to members of the oil syndicate to let me know asap if you would like to be included in the May order. The next big order will be in August.

**Colin Batchelor (851362)**

## Father David

In mid-May, on his retirement, Fr David Platt, with Jill, will be leaving for Oxford. The farewell service at East Hagbourne will be followed by lunch. Donations towards a leaving gift may be made to the churchwardens (Tony West or Julian Sayers).

## Travel Tokens

To all pensioners in the village who have registered for travel tokens. These are now waiting to be collected at Upton Post Office.

The recent village collection for **The Children's Society** raised £216.00. Thank you to all contributors for your generosity.

**June Churchman**

## 50 Club Winners

**March** £25 Mrs Schumacher, £25 N. Davis, £10 Mrs Savage, £7 Mrs MacArthur £5 Mrs Hardwick, £4 Mr Summers.

**April** £10 Mrs Whitmell, £7 Mrs Fox, £5 Mr Hammond, £4 Mr Napper.

## CHURCH SERVICES IN MAY

### ST. MARY'S

#### Sunday 9am

4 Parish Eucharist  
10.30am 11 Farewell service for  
Fr. David at St. Andrew's

#### 18 Matins

#### 25 Parish Eucharist

3pm Rogation service at  
Parish boundaries

Thursday 29 8pm Ascension Day Service

### METHODIST

#### 10.30am — Preacher

Rev. Timothy Dibble  
Derek Morton

At Blewbury

Ruth Dams

UPTON NEWS is published monthly, the copy deadline being the 25th of the previous month. Please deliver or send items for publication, including letters on village topics, to The Old School, Church Street, either on paper, by fax (851779) or by e-mail to carol-uptonoxon@oxfree.com

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