

UPTON NEWS

JULY/AUGUST 2003

Vol.2 No.33

BLEWBURTON HILL's VERY OWN 'TIME TEAM'

One eye-catching display at the memorable Blewbury Festival was the Environment Group's project for Blewburton Hill — the Iron Age Hill Fort that dominates the Upton landscape too.

Since 1947, four archaeological digs into parts of this conical mound have unearthed a Saxon cemetery — 17 graves, ten containing horses. One late Iron Age burial — a thousand years earlier — contained a dog, whose perfect skeleton (*see below*) graces Reading Museum's foyer. Around 50BC this pie dog was ritually killed and buried with its master, still astride his horse.

A rampart, entrance gates and a cobbled street have been discovered. However, the only clearly visible imprints of man are the 'lynchets' (terraces) on the west side of the hill. These were dug much later, in medieval times when land hunger is thought to have stricken these parts.

The Blewbury Village Society aims to increase awareness of the story of this intriguing landmark — geologically an 'outlier' of the Ridgeway downs — and to find out more of its history. Though an English Heritage Site, Blewburton Hill is less accessible than neighbouring Wittenham Clumps because it belongs to a working farm, and is grazed by cattle. As an old downland pasture it is also a BBOWT County Wildlife Site, containing 'challenged species' such as cowslips, Venus's Looking Glass, the Common Rock Rose and *Helicella Itala*, a rare snail.

Blewbury School are taking part in the research, which becomes exciting classwork. The plan is to produce a booklet and place a useful Information Board up on the hill. **Carol Hall**



St Mary's
Upton

**ANNUAL
VILLAGE FETE**

Saturday, 6th September 2003

2 p.m. Upton Village Hall

fun & games

**All proceeds
to
interior
improvements**

*stalls -
entertainment
and teas*

Blewbury Brass Band

Plus

VINTAGE VEHICLES.

NOW WE CAN ALL GO THROUGH HOOPS...

Blewbury Croquet Club opened their new courts for play last month. They are on a corner of Ticker's Folly Field, next to the Blewbury Recreation Ground, with a beautiful view over the Berkshire Downs. Members gather for a game of Association Croquet every Tuesday and for Golf Croquet (a less demanding version of the game) every Friday. Coaching is available at a nominal charge.

For more information, particularly on how to join with the several Upton residents who are already members, contact the Hon. Sec. Bernardine Shirley-Smith on 850186, the Treasurer Brian Simpson on 851192, or me on 850010.

Jolyon Kay

Neighbourhood Watch

Between 23.30 and 07.00 on 25/26 June a house in Westbrook St, Blewbury was broken into. Entry was made via a ground floor window, which was only ajar. If you have any information relating to this please contact the Neighbourhood Watch control room on 776000 and quote URN 265 of 26/06.

The Crime Reduction Advisors at Didcot Police Station have asked for everyone to please be extra vigilant about ensuring that all doors and windows are secure, not only when your property is unattended but also at night. If you would like advice about home security please contact 516842 and they will be happy to help.

Celia Davies

Blewbury Playgroup

has a vacancy for an **Assistant Playleader**

Two morning sessions per week
8.45—noon

Initially a one term contract
£4.85 per hour

Sick pay and Christmas bonus
closing date 11 July

For further information contact
Tracy Silverthorne 851649

CONGRATULATIONS
to Emma Maytham on
achieving the Duke of
Edinburgh's Gold Award.

A wonderful effort.
Well done Emma.
Enjoy your day, 17 July

Bunnie and Les Sands

A RANDOM HISTORY OF UPTON

No. 4 The Manors of Upton Russells, Upton Moyles and Upton Lattons.

(Examines ownership of land after the Manor of Upton (May Upton News) was divided. In 1096 half became Upton Russells and in 1204 the other half was split between Upton Moyles and Upton Lattons. Each family owned fields scattered around the parish, and remained on title deeds way beyond feudal times. So far there is no trace of a Lordship being handed down. Ed.)

This next instalment, as researched and interpreted by **Juliet and Peter Gardiner**, is on sale at Upton Post Office, price 40p.

Gardeners at the ready for VPA Show



Preparations are well in hand for the Annual Summer Show on Saturday 12 July. With the kind permission of Mrs. M. Mills, it will be held in Blewbury School and will officially open at 2.30pm.

All entry forms should be presented by 10pm on Wednesday 9 July to Karen Brooks, Tadcombe, Bessels Lea Road, Blewbury (850219), Joyce Gilbert, Abneys, Church Road, Blewbury (850388) or Caroline Ball, The Ridges, Church Street, Upton (850053).

Show schedules can be obtained from the above.

We trust this will be our best show yet, so please do come along and take part, or just enjoy the day. **Alf Timbliek**

OPEN GARDEN

Vic and Sheila Dawson would like to thank all the people who made and donated lots of cakes, Savages (basket of fruit) George & Dragon (meal for two), also all the visitors for their support on the day, which made £228.50 for the Village Hall Funds.

CHRISTIAN AID

The total amount raised in the village during the recent house-to-house collection was £259.50. A sincere thank you to all who contributed to achieve this result and also to those who helped with the collection.

Alec Chenery

50 Club Winners

June £10 Mrs Maytham, £7 Mr Morris, £5 Mrs Wright, £4 Mr Simpson.

CHURCH SERVICES IN JULY AND AUGUST

ST. MARY'S

Sunday 9am

July 6 Parish Eucharist
13 Parish Eucharist
20 Matins
27 Parish Eucharist

August 3 Parish Eucharist
10 Parish Eucharist
10am 17 Patronal Festival
held in the churchyard (DV)
24 Parish Eucharist
31 Parish Eucharist

METHODIST

10.30am — Preacher

David Kershaw
Pam Martin
Geoffrey Caudle
at Blewbury

Rev. Timothy Dibble
David Martin
Stephen Atkinson

Peter Hemmings
Barbara Sexton

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

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