

UPT N NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2003

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DIARY DATES

Saturday 20 September

Remember the **village walks** we enjoyed as part of the millenium celebrations? Well we thought to do it again — followed by a buffet lunch at the Village Hall. Walk no.1 **5.5 miles**, no.2 **3.5 miles** no.3 **1.25 miles**. Details about start times and routes from **Jessie West 851206**. Lunch £5, or £3 for children up to 10 years. And, of course, if you want only to join in the lunch, at approx. 1.30pm, you are very welcome. Proceeds after catering costs for Village Hall funds. Please book lunch tickets at least two days before. **J.W.**

Saturday 27 September 10am—noon
Coffee Morning and Book Browse in the Village Hall. Bring a book, buy a book, optional.

STAFFING THE VILLAGE HALL

Upton Village Hall Amenities Trust is looking for a person or persons to undertake the roles of booking clerk and/or cleaner, to take effect from January 2004. Contact **Jessie West** or **Clare Lightfoot 850486**.

Chris Hughes has been booking clerk and cleaner for the village hall for the past eight years, but now wishes to retire at the end of September. The Trust would like to thank Chris and her family for her care and commitment. **J.W.**

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS
From the end of September until further notice please contact **Jessie West 851206**.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

1 People will have noticed that the public telephone box disappeared when the old post office was being renovated into a very fine house. While most of us have mobiles these days, the Parish Council felt there should still be a phone box in the village. It is part of BT's remit to provide one, so they have installed the necessary cabling next to the bus shelter and a new box, similar to the old one, will appear shortly.

COMING TO THE VILLAGE HALL Oxford Touring Theatre Company Thursday 30 October BLEAK HOUSE

An adaption of the novel by Charles Dickens

This is a story about the mist and fog that surrounds the 19th century world of chancery and justice. A satire on the abuses of the court system; the delays and costs that brought misery and ruin upon most of its suitors and, of course, significant profits to lawyers and judges! Coincidence, murder and mystery, lost and found orphans, lords and ladies, Bleak House is a masterpiece of intrigue and social comment.

Teaming up with the **Oxford School of Drama**, O.T.T.C brings you this vibrant and colourful dramatisation — with a cast of sixteen.

Adults only, but suitable for over-14s.
Tickets £6.00 full, £4.00 concessions
from **Jessie West 851206**.

COMING IN THE NEW YEAR!
O.T.T.C Family Theatre
The Nutcracker and the Mouse King
Upton Village Hall, January 2004
Details nearer the time.

1 At the PC meeting in July, Mrs Ros Caffyn, who lives in High Street, offered to be co-opted on to the Parish Council. Her nomination was proposed by Mrs Tracy Seelig, with immediate effect, and she was warmly welcomed by everyone.

1 The paving stones outside the Village Hall were in dire need of renewal. This work has now been completed and we are left with half pavers and bits. If anyone needs these for crazy paving they are welcome to take them! **Graham de Wilde**

CHRISTIANS IN THE WORLD

For the third year running the group in the Benefice who nurture education have arranged a series of autumn lectures, from **8 to 9.30pm at Blewbury School**. This time they have invited the following people — in various walks of life — to come and talk about how they live out their vocation at work. The five subjects are:

Wednesday 1 October

Church Schools in a Pluralist Society by Mrs. Elisabeth Gilpin, former Head of St. Augustine of Canterbury Upper School, Oxford.

Wednesday 8 October

Christians in Sport — opportunities for all! by the Rev. Bruce Gillingham, Vicar of St Clement's, Oxford and Chaplain to the European Golf Tour.

Wednesday 15 October

Cloning! Is it all sinister? by the Rev. Maureen Palmer, Canon of Guildford Cathedral, ex-Warden of the Society of Ordained Scientists.

Thursday 23 October

Should Christians be involved in Politics? by Steve Webb, Lib-Dem MP for Northavon, Shadow Social Security Secretary, ex-Professor of Social Policy at Bath University.

Wednesday 29 October

Christians in a Media-saturated Society by the Rev. Canon David Winter, former Head of Religious Broadcasting at the BBC.

Refreshments will be served from 7.30pm. Cost £3 per session or £12 for the series, at the door or in advance. For further information contact **Jenny Loder, 510199 or jlloder@loydroad.freeserve.co.uk**.



Upton Public Transport

Upton is well served by public transport. In particular the **Thames Travel bus 134** provides an hourly service to and from Didcot Broadway and railway station, on weekdays and Saturdays. The timetable can be obtained from the bus itself, the Tourist Information Centre in Lower Broadway, or Thames Travel on **01491 937988**.

In addition, the Vale DC runs a minibus service, **Ring-a-Ride**, for people unable to use ordinary buses, for instance those with permanent or temporary disabilities. The bus

can be used to take you to work, further education, shopping or visiting friends. It will pick you up from your home and return you later in the day. Travel tokens are accepted. To book, telephone **01865 744478** between 9.30 and 12.30 Monday—Friday. Note that it *cannot* take you to hospital appointments or day care; this is carried out by the Ambulance Service and Social Services.

The Oxfordshire Rural Community Council is anxious to discover *if there are any further needs for public transport in the village*. If anyone in Upton feels such an unmet need (or indeed has any question about local public transport), please contact us on **850449**. **Juliet and Peter Gardiner**, Upton Transport Representatives.

New facilities at the Post Office — so please make use of them

During the last few months there have been some major changes in the Post Office banking service. Customers who use Alliance & Leicester, Girobank, Barclays and Lloyds TSB can now get balances, deposit cheques and cash, and withdraw money with their card and pin number. This saves going to town to the bank. Some other simple bank accounts will allow you to withdraw cash with a card.

Another forward movement is that stamps can be bought with a debit card, also currency and travellers cheques (excluding sterling) can be bought with no commission.

With the government's new policy of stopping pension and allowance books, post office trade is

going down. It is therefore very important that business continues in other ways, as I can see Upton Post Office being closed in the future if we don't look busy.

The opening hours have not changed, but in case you don't know them they are: Monday 1-3 and 4-5pm, Tuesday 1-3 and 4-5pm, Wednesday 1-3pm, Thursday 1-3 and 4-5pm.

Our extra emergency supplies are cards, eggs, sweets and stationery. Finally, my holiday is coming up and the Post Office will be closed on 8, 9, 10, 11 September.

Thank you for your support. Best wishes. **Margaret Maytham**

NB I can vouch for the brisk efficiency of Margaret's foreign currency service. She posted a batch of euros through my letter box less than 48 hours after I'd ordered them. Ed.

50 Club Winners

July £10 Mrs Brown, £7 Mrs Hetherington, £5 Mr Jacklin, £4 Mrs Savage.

CHURCH SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

ST. MARY'S

Sunday 9am

7 Parish Eucharist

14 Matins

21 Harvest Festival

28 Parish Eucharist

METHODIST

10.30am — Preacher

Rev. Timothy Dibble

At Blewbury

Geoffrey Caudle. Joint Harvest

Service at Upton with Blewbury

Rev. F. John Stanbury

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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