

UPTON NEWS

NOVEMBER 2003

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First wedding in the Methodist Church for 24 years

On 4 October Jane Bray and Chris Smith were married at Upton Methodist Church. This was a very happy occasion and the invited guests were joined by many friends and neighbours. Jane was 'given away' by her brother and led from her home in Fieldside by a Scottish piper. Jane (a Girls Brigade officer) entered the church through a guard of honour formed by members of the brigade and was joined by four bridesmaids and a pageboy. The ceremony was conducted by Rev Malcolm Atherton assisted by Rev Philip Morse. The bridal party were a spectacular sight as they travelled to the reception at Abingdon Guildhall in vintage cars. The happy couple spent their honeymoon in Canada.



● Very sadly, after this joyful event, we are mourning the loss of **Doug Parker** who worshipped at the Methodist Church for many years and for some time served as our treasurer. We are few in membership and so are more like a family than just a congregation. We shall miss Doug so very much and extend our deepest sympathy to Jill, Sheila and their families. **Helen Weston**

SHEILA'S TREE

On 25 October nearly 100 relatives and friends of Sheila Parker gathered in the Recreation Ground for the planting ceremony of the copper beech tree. It was to have been declared 'officially planted' by Doug Parker, who was taken ill on the morning of the ceremony. However, he had seen it and expressed his approval and his family were keen that the event should go ahead. So Sheila's sister Joan Poole cut the yellow ribbon and placed the memorial plaque. Then followed a delicious tea in the village hall, prepared by Jessie West and her team of helpers. **Lesley Shaw**

DOUGLAS PARKER 1920 - 2003

Doug was born in Walsall, the youngest of five children. After school he became an apprentice carpenter before war service took him into the RAF. He served in Italy and Algeria as a navigator and 'bomb aimer'. He spent time in Australia before coming to work as a civil servant at Culham. He met Sheila, they married had two daughters. Doug was never happier than when working with wood and pottering in his shed. His constant tidying and re-arranging was referred to by the family as 'putting and taking!'.
He had a good bass voice and he and Sheila belonged to Didcot Choral Society and joined in the larger Sine Nomine Singers performances. He also enjoyed drawing, always taking a sketch-pad on holiday.

A memorial service was held on 6 November at the Methodist Church. We extend our sympathy to Sheila and Mark, Jill and Angus and grandchildren David, Rachel, Hannah and Anne-Marie. **Ann Dendy**

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DO WE NEED A PARISH PLAN?

There will be a Parish Meeting on Saturday 29 November at 10.30am to discuss a Parish Plan for Upton. David Fisher of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC) will tell us about the benefits of producing such a Plan and what it would entail. If the PC is to go ahead we will need plenty of village involvement. **So, please, if you are interested in influencing the development of our community** here in Upton, come along to the Village Hall and find out more. **Tracy Seelig, PC chairman**

Two more sad farewells...

NORMAN BONNER 1920 - 2003

On 28 October St Mary's packed 128 people in for a Thanksgiving Service for Norman — testimony to the number of activities he was involved in.

Born in Greenwich and educated in Dulwich, Norman was a civil engineer in the Ministry of Works before joining the RAF and serving in the Middle East. After the war and back in the Ministry, he was involved in planning AERE. In 1948 he met Edna got married and lived in Wantage.

But they spent 11 years in Risley before he was transferred to the staff of AERE. Then in the 60s, having bought a piece of land in Upton, they built their own home down Frog Alley. Edna recalls that when they move in, they were Upton residents no. 201 and 202. Their son Adam was born when Upton school was the centre of social life; should a child be absent, someone would be round to make sure all was well.

Together with Brian Arnold and Tony West, Norman helped to design and build the Village Hall.

His interest in lapidary led to designing and making jewellery. He qualified as a gem cutter in Germany and was invited to work there, but declined. During the 70s he and several other village craftspeople formed Upton Crafts, which traded above the shop.

He was cremated in Guernsey where he died, and his ashes were scattered on the Oxford golf course. Our sympathy goes to Edna, Adam and his wife Hannah, and their son, Nathan.

ROY BROWN 1927 - 2003

"Nobby" was born in Compton and worked outdoors all his life. He came to Upton in the early 60s when he married Mabel Greenough, a widow with two sons, Howard and Kelvin. Two more sons, Stephen and Darren were born in the 60s. Nobby played football for Didcot Town, which saluted his memory by a minute's silence before last Saturday's match.

Once, when 10-year old Stephen was asked what his father did he said with great pride: 'my father is a fencer, a craftsman, not one of those cowboys!'. The family writes:—

Nobby Brown passed away suddenly on Wednesday 26 October at his home. He had been diagnosed with chronic lung disease earlier in the year, but he still lived life to the full and was regularly seen out and about in his truck. He had a big heart and always had time for everyone. He liked nothing more than a good sing-song down his local pub, and will be remembered with great affection. It is a tremendous loss to all the family and we would like to thank everyone for all their cards and kind wishes. Nobby you will be greatly missed. God Bless you.'

The village echoes these words. Many will remember the jobs Nobby did — the patios laid and fences erected. Always a good job at a good price. His funeral was held at St Peter's Didcot. Our sympathy goes out to Stephen, Darren, Angie, Julie and Laurence, Stephanie, Katie, Adam, Jamie and Mia.

Ann Dendy

...and a Dawson christening

On 2 November St. Mary's curate baptised his fourth baby — **Karl Victor Dawson** — at a service filled with family and well-wishers, of various ages. Father Russell was assisted by Teresia Derlen, a friend from theological college who is already a priest in the Church of Sweden.

NEXT VILLAGE HALL EVENING

Tuesday, 6 January 2004

Having just enjoyed an excellent production of *Bleak House* we look forward to the Oxfordshire Touring Theatre production of —

THE NUTCRACKER & THE MOUSE KING

A fantastic fairytale for all ages, based on a romantic classic
Tickets £6 full, £4 concessions from Jessie West (851206). Reserve early to avoid disappointment.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE for Village Hall funds

All good prizes: Hamper, Christmas Cake, Whisky and Wines, etc. Your ticket-sellers are Sheila Dawson, Jessie West, Celia Davies and Frances Telling. The Draw will take place on **Saturday 13 December at 4pm in the Village Hall**, where you are invited for tea and mince pies. A chance to win an EXTRA mystery prize, with a ticket bought on the day. **J.W.**

VPA PARTY

Friday, 5 December, 7.30pm
Social Evening with Refreshments — that eagerly awaited event at Toad Hall hosted by the Maythams. Tickets £2 to member, from P.O. **A.T.**

Joint church service

On **Sunday 7 December** the Methodist Church congregation will join the Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's. This was arranged prior to the agreement between the Anglican and Methodist communions signed last month. **A.D.**

50 Club Winners

October £10 Mrs Davies, £7 Mrs Bibby, £5 Mr Timblich, £4 Mr Betts.

CHURCH SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

ST. MARY'S

Sunday 9am

2 Parish Eucharist

9 Remembrance Day, Requiem Mass

16 Matins

23 Parish Eucharist

30 Parish Eucharist

METHODIST

10.30am — Preacher

Michael Howlett

Rev. Timothy Dibble

Peter Forsaith

Rev. Malcolm Atherton

David Martin

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