

UPTON NEWS

FEBRUARY 2004

Vol.2 No.38

PARISH PLAN —

We need your help!

As reported in the last issue, the Parish Plan is a statement of the residents' vision of what they want in the village over the next five to ten years and an outline of the steps needed to achieve this. It is therefore most important that we get the views of all the residents of the village.

We will shortly be sending a brief questionnaire to every house which will take only a few minutes to complete. This invites you to say what you like and dislike about Upton and what you would like the village to do. We are also looking for people to help on the Working Groups. Please fill it in so that your suggestions can be considered by the Groups.

A representative of the Village Plan Steering Group will call personally to collect the questionnaire in a week or so. This will give you an opportunity to discuss your ideas with us in more detail if you wish. We will report the results in the *Upton News* and — when it is ready — put them on the village website (see *PC news*). Thank you for your help.

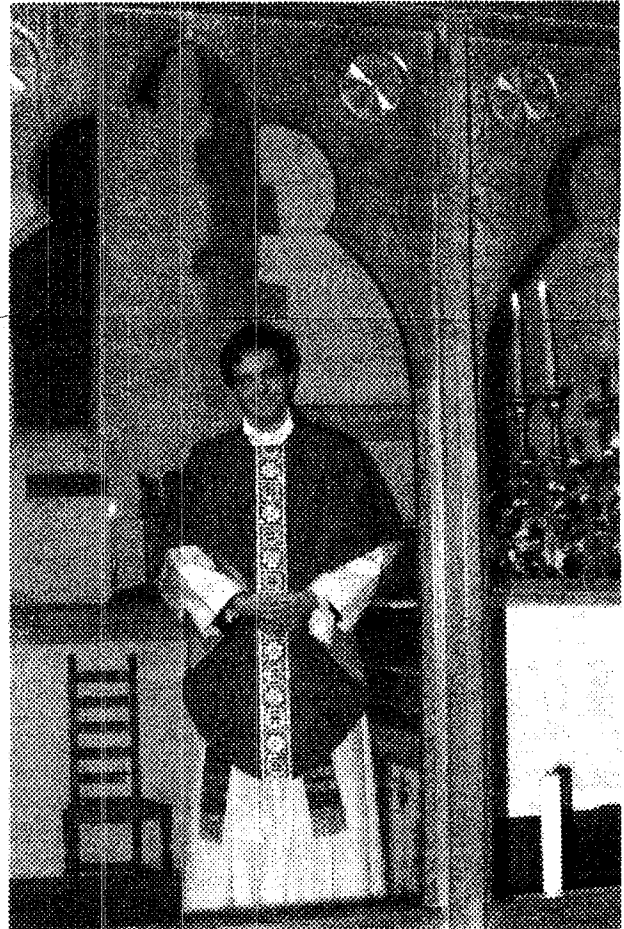
Derek Whitmell

Chairperson, Parish Plan Steering Group

**JUMBO JUMBLE &
BITS & PIECES SALE
in the Village Hall
Saturday, 21 February
2pm**

**Jumble etc. can be left with
Sheila Dawson, Jessie West or
Clare Lightfoot**

**Thank you in anticipation!
(for Hall funds)**



Father Russell conducting his first communion service, in Blewbury, after his ordination last month in a packed Dorchester Abbey.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Our new clerk, Yvonne Collins, was welcomed to the January meeting attended by Tracy Seelig (Chair), Graham de Wilde (Vice-Chair), Piran Fletcher, Ros Caffyn, Mike Brown, Carol Hall, Richard Farrell (District and County Councillor) and two members of the public. The minutes can be seen in the Post Office.

Among items on the agenda were financial estimates for the year 2004-5 and the precept agreed at £7000, tenders for the borehole needed to test the water-level on the proposed land for the burial ground extension, the progress of the recreation ground development plan (see over) and the website at www.uptonvillage.co.uk being designed by Piran.

Carol Hall reported that the village records dating from the 1950s are now on permanent loan in the Oxfordshire Record Office. Some older items have been retained and are stored in the Village Hall. C.H.



SPRING SOWING TIME AGAIN

It seems a little early to be thinking of the summer and autumn shows, but the spring sowing time is upon us. I will be pruning back the roses, taking cuttings from polygoniums and fuchsias and putting them in the propagator. The fuchsias need spraying with clean water to encourage them to sprout. I will also be sowing early crops under glass in the greenhouse, and hoping that the mice will not eat them, but then I have time to redo them. Onion sets can be popped in around the middle of the month. I will be choosing flower and veg seeds for the coming season, and hopefully they will be ready for the summer show.

3 March Audrey Vockins – Bulbs. Vale Room, Blewbury 7.30pm

Audrey is from Foxgrove Plants near Newbury. She is an enthusiastic galanthophile and the early spring garden at Foxgrove superbly demonstrates what can be achieved with naturalised bulb plantings at this time of year. **Karen Brooks**

Christmas Draw

This raised £357.50 for the Village Hall Fund. The first four prize winners were Stimpson (Hamper), Simpson (Christmas Cake), Scotney (Whisky), de Wilde (Meal at George & Dragon). The Mystery Prize went to Barbara Cherry and the full list of 29 prizes is in the Post Office. The Village Hall Committee would like to thank everybody.

Jessie West

More drama in the Village Hall

Over eighty people in the audience made for a 'cosy' evening on 6 January, when the Oxford Touring Theatre Company brought us another splendid production — *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*.

It really was enjoyed by both young and old. The producer commented on the very responsive and friendly atmosphere, and said that such evenings made it 'all worthwhile'. They do apparently go to some very large venues with very small audiences.

They have plans to scale down the size of the sets in future. Do you think we should allow a little more leg room? Or let in those people who have to be turned away!

Jessie West

Thank you — from the Parker family

'As you can imagine, the events of these last twelve months have left a large gap in our lives and hearts. We thank the people of Upton for their support following mum's sudden and unexpected death. We were overwhelmed by the cards, and generous donations to her Tree Fund. We understand that Maggie Maytham collected the money, and Lesley Shaw must be praised for seeing the project through. We were sorry to miss the official ceremony, but have enjoyed seeing video footage and photographs. Thanks to Jessie West and her team for laying on a wonderful spread. After dad's death in October, your cards and messages meant a lot, and our sincere gratitude to Martin and Di Hawktns for enabling him to remain in the bungalow until the very end.' **Sheila Becsley and Jill Igwe**

MUGA UPDATE

The PC Recreation Ground Development Committee met in January to review the Multi-Use-Games Area project, for which the drawings are completed, but applications for major funding have so far been unsuccessful. However, we have been invited to re-apply to Sport England, WREN (landfill tax credit donors) and Innogy (Didcot Power Station).

We are being advised and encouraged by Roger Davis of the Oxford Playing Fields Association, who at our December meeting gave us a timely reminder of what we are trying to achieve. Namely, to provide an all-weather games area for everyone in the village (adults do play sport as well!), to encourage team games, fitness and general community participation. We may have to scale down the original plan, but the concept of a fenced all-weather games area remains.

We also want to regenerate the grass on the recreation field and provide some new facilities that are quickly achievable. We are considering marking out a grass running-track around the perimeter, with 'agility' (exercise) stations placed along it, and possibly portable cricket nets and a *boule* pitch, placed sociably near the village hall. We shall be presenting these ideas at the 9 March PC meeting, in the hope that we can get something ready for the summer.

Graham de Wilde

IN BRIEF

- The Christmas Handbell Ringers contributed £70.95 to Sobell House.
- Blewbury Playgroup is collecting Persil coupons for art and craft equipment — envelope is in the Post Office.
- The Rutherford Appleton Laboratory at Chilton is inviting people to Open Afternoons. The next — **Space Science and Technology** — is on **24 March**. Free but tel. Emma 445553 to reserve a place.

50 Club Winners

December £20 Mr Noble, £20 Mr Hartley, £10 Mrs Brown, £7 Mrs Webb, £5 Mrs Miller, £4 Mr Sayers

CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

ST. MARY'S

Sunday 9am

- 1 Parish Eucharist
- 8 Parish Eucharist
- 15 Matins
- 22 Parish Eucharist

Wednesday 25 8pm Ash Wednesday service at St. Andrew's
29 Parish Eucharist

METHODIST

10.30am — Preacher

- David Martin
- Reverend Timothy Dibble
- Pam Martin
- Reverend Malcolm Atherton

Stephen Atkinson

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