

UPTON NEWS

AUGUST 2004

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Our Curate's Jottings

Now I've been here for just over a year, I've seen the full cycle of the seasons across the farms and villages of the Benefice. For someone new to life in the country, it still comes to me as a surprise and a joy to see so much beauty that changes week by week, month by month. Being so close to the countryside makes me feel very proud of it, and very protective.

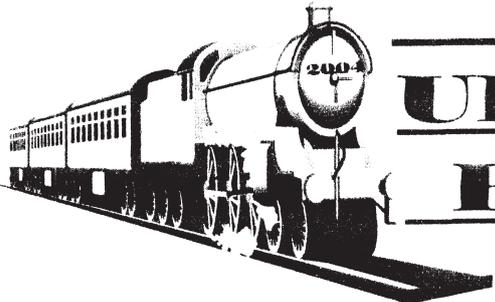
This closeness to nature seems to make more shocking news concerning the environment, like this morning's bulletin on the *Today* programme, telling me that the Greenland ice-sheet is melting ten times faster than expected. And large-scale flooding, climate change, drought and famine are all suddenly much nearer prospects.

So I glance down at my breakfast to see how much I'm contributing to this even now. Scrambled eggs — local, free-range, ok; bread— from a local baker, good; an orange — ah, air-freighted from South America by a petrol-guzzling jet. Even just eating my breakfast, it seems, I'm treating the planet, our countryside, our children's lives, with reckless abandon. I can't even bear to think what damage I'll do in the day ahead.

Living the good life, loving one's neighbour, is so often portrayed in terms of individual relationships. But just as important is the way we treat the world and society.

Our actions as consumers

STEAM ALONG TO



UPTON FETE

Saturday, 4th September
at 2 p.m.
in the Recreation Ground
on the A417



Follow the railway theme around
the line of stalls
Meet the **THIN** Controller
Enjoy tea and cakes
Play games
Try your luck at the raffle
Take a chance on the Tombola
Buy preserves
Find treasure on the White Elephant stall.

Proceeds
in aid of
St Mary's Church

Blewbury
Brass Band
& The
Music Man

are a crucial part of this. They are having drastic consequences already, and getting more serious every year. The desert fathers of the second century used to say 'Our life and death is with our

neighbour.' This has never been more true than it is in the twenty-first century.

Russell Dewhurst

Father Russell has offered to contribute a regular column to Upton News.

PURCHASE OF BURIAL GROUND EXTENSION

The Parish Council is happy to announce that on Tuesday 20 July 2004 it finally completed the purchase of an extension to the Upton Burial Ground. It is now the responsibility of the Parish Council rather than the Church to organise such matters.

The late Sheila Parker set the ball rolling by taking up a generous offer from Guy Napper to sell a section of land adjacent to the existing cemetery. That was more than four years ago, but the bureaucracy we endured

to get various permissions has been at times wearing.

However, it is all completed. When the harvest is in and the field has been ploughed we shall enclose the area — roughly the size of the existing cemetery — with a post and rail fence. Access will be through a small gate off the footpath down the field. Eventually another entrance will be opened between the old and new burial grounds.

To begin with we intend to plant meadow grass and wild

flowers, and possibly trees and/or a hedgerow. It will not be needed immediately, so we can look upon it as pleasure garden.

To cover the purchase, the Parish Council has taken out a long-term loan. We have also been setting aside funds for some years, so there will be only a small increase in the precept. We felt that this extension was a good offer and it was important to secure such an asset for the future of the village.

Graham de Wilde

BOREDOM BUSTERS UPTON VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday, 10 August

Come along with all your friends to our Roadshow. A great chance to have fun and enjoy exciting games — Athletics, Kwik cricket, tennis, Unihoc, tag Rugby, Relay... Call 531197

to confirm your place.

RIDE AND STRIDE

Sponsored walk/bike ride around the churches of Oxfordshire. If anyone would like to take part I have sponsor forms. Half the money goes to the church of your choice, the other half to the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust. This event takes place on Saturday 11 September between 0900 and 1800 hours. Participants can just go round at their own pace. We would like volunteers to sit in St. Mary's that day to act as welcomers. If anybody can spare an hour please contact me.

Clare Lightfoot 850486

Upton Oil Syndicate

For members not on e-mail, just a reminder that I need to know details of your order by

Saturday 14 August

at the latest

Colin Batchelor, 851362

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

1 There are a large number of Irish travellers staying at Haddon Hill, North Moreton. They have been visiting Upton offering to do odd jobs for cash, using a 'Kestrel Paving' van. Please be aware of this and wary of cold callers.

1 There have been some attempts by children, in the small hours, to siphon off petrol from cars parked in Fieldside. Please make sure your petrol cap is locked.

Celia Davies 850684

50 Club Winners

July £10 Mrs Amos, £7 Mrs Davies, £5 Ms Spackman, £4 Mrs Fox

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

1 Flanders and Swann was a great success. The pleasing voice of James Mitchell and keyboard talent of Graham O'Connor, along with their witticisms, gave us a very enjoyable evening and was much appreciated by an enthusiastic audience. They can come again!

1 The **HARVEST SUPPER** is back! It is being held in the Village Hall on **Monday 4 October** at 7pm. All are welcome. Come and make this a great village occasion. Tickets £6 and £4 for children under twelve, from Jessie West, Helen Weston, Clare Lightfoot and Jane Smith. Proceeds for St. Mary's Church and Upton Methodist Church.

1 The Open Garden on Sunday 25 July raised £177 for Village Hall funds and £79 on the raffle towards the annual Children's Party. Thank you Sheila and Vic for another lovely afternoon.

Jessie West

LEARN TO PLAY BRIDGE

Starting **21 September** Wallingford Bridge Club will run courses aimed at getting you started or helping towards reaching standard Unit 3. Ring **Mike Brown** 850135.

CHURCH SERVICES IN AUGUST

ST. MARY'S

Sunday 9am

1 Parish Eucharist

8 Matins

**10am 15 Patronal Festival
Outdoor Service**

22 Parish Eucharist

29 Parish Eucharist

METHODIST

10.30am — Preacher

Mariene Chalkley

Brenda Boyer

At Blewbury

Pearl Maunder

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 or by e-mail to carol-uptonoxon@zen.co.uk

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