

UPTON NEWS

FEBRUARY 2005

Vol.2 No.49

A PLAGUE OF GRAFFITI

Sadly we are having a severe outbreak of graffiti defacement around the village, with signs being sprayed, the phone box being scribbled on, and a continuing problem in the bus shelter, which the **Parish Council** is trying to sort out.

It is becoming a serious, time-consuming business to clean all this up. More importantly, the materials to protect against further defacement are exceedingly costly. The money comes out of the precept, ie your council tax, and we can find better things to do with it. The Parish Council will seek orders against people caught defacing public areas. Please can everyone keep their eyes open; if you see anything going on, make a note and tell a parish councillor, or the parish clerk.

UPTON PARISH PLAN

**An Open meeting in the
Village Hall
Wednesday 23 February 8pm
Everyone Welcome!**

To share the results from the recent questionnaires, including your views on:

- | Planning, including the Development of Didcot
- | Roads, Footpaths and the Cycle Track
- | Village Clubs and Social Activities
- | The Village Hall
- | The Recreation Ground
- | and more...

Light refreshments will be served. Please come along and use this opportunity for comment and discussion.

VILLAGE DIARY

**Saturday, 5 March, 9.30am
ANNUAL LITTER PICK**

Meet outside Village Hall. Bags and gloves provided. If you can spare an hour or two of your time to walk a small section of the village and its paths to clean up litter it would be incredibly helpful. Last time we gathered 12 bagsfull.

Parish Council

**Saturday, 26 March, 7.30pm
Village Hall**

**Oxford Travelling Theatre
Company present
PEOPLE ARE LIVING THERE
by Athol Fugard**

A feisty woman called Milly is determined to celebrate her 50th birthday, despite the fact that she has been dumped by her lover for a younger woman.

The show is staged in the round, which will draw the audience into the intimacy of Milly's world. Why not join her for a great night out in this funny, touching and passionate play, by South Africa's greatest living playwright.

**Tickets £6 (£4) from
JESSIE WEST, 851206**

**Sunday, 26 June
UPTON OPEN GARDENS**

**Lovely gardens, delicious teas, plants,
music, pottery and art**

| Gardeners — can you grow an extra tray of seeds, or put up some cuttings to sell on the plant stalls?

| Can you spare a couple of hours on the day? We will need stewards and help with teas.

| Proceeds will go towards village hall improvements.

| Watch this space. Volunteers please call **Sarah Sayers** on 851450 or **Clare Lightfoot** 850486.

Curate's Jottings

Like many people, I am a creature of routine. So the variety that comes with each day in parish ministry has taken some getting used to. Just today I have led an Assembly, a Eucharist at Dibley's, and a funeral, I've made a visit and been to a meeting. Tomorrow will bring just as many tasks that are equally as varied.

The unchanging anchors that give shape to my day, though, are Morning and Evening Prayer. When clergy are ordained in the Church of England, we know that every day of our lives thereafter we are to pray the 'Daily Office'. Of course I occasionally miss a day, but as a general rule, whether I'm happy or sad, feeling prayerful or pragmatic, I pray Morning and Evening Prayer. Sometimes I pray alone, usually with others in the Benefice. The daily office is never spectacular, but neither is it ever boring. Rather like Jacob by the Jabbok, who wrestled with God all through the night, I'm taught that prayer requires patience, persistence, and perspiration.

Prayer, of course, is much more than a mere routine, but I know the office is so important partly because of the

way it shapes my day. Rather like brushing my teeth, or switching out the lights before bed, it would feel incomplete to leave them out.

Routine may sound dull, but it gives space for creativity and imagination. In the space created by the familiar and the regular, we can find resources to cope better with all the irregular and unpredictable things that the rest of life throws at us.

Russell Dewhurst

Upton Fund for Tsunami Relief raised £150 and was posted to Oxfam in mid-January.

Sidney Hardwicke

MORE DIARY DATES

Sunday 15 May, 5pm

SONGS OF PRAISE

In the garden of Prospect House, by kind invitation of Simon and Hilary Powell. If you have a favourite hymn, please let us know...

Saturday 3 September, 2pm UPTON FETE

All the usual stalls + lots more... including local craft stalls. We have some new ideas but we need extra pairs of hands on the day, and to borrow a gazebo. Can you help? Please talk to **Jessie West** 851206 or **Clare Lightfoot** 850486.

MORE ABOUT GWEN

Gwen Greenough's grandparents, Elijah and Mary Winter, lived in the cottage that used to stand at the bottom of the Holloway (Alden's Lane). It burned down one night of November 5 and there is no trace of it now. Her father, Daniel, married Charlotte Winter ('all the Winter girls were good looking') and worked on Humfrey's farm, the old Manor Farm.

Nathaniel Humfrey, of Upton Lodge, by the turn of the twentieth century owned nearly the whole village including the three large farms. Manor Farm was his 'middle farm', and the farmhouse stood at the bottom of what is now the garden of Corderoys. The bailiff who lived there when Gwen was young was George Simpson, and Gwen remembered him and his wife with affection. A later bailiff was Lelius Corderoy, who lived and farmed in Blewbury. He was bailiff when the farmhouse was burnt down in the fire of 1933. The farmland included the east side of Stream Road, where Cedarwood and Willows now stand. There was a granary at the present Willows and a great barn in the Cedarwood garden where the Harvest Supper was held, with Nathaniel Humfrey presiding.

Juliet Gardiner

PLANT A TREE FOR 50p

Fun fund raising on **Saturday 12 March** 12 noon — 2pm in Hagbourne School Hall. Light lunches, cakes, tombola, raffle, bric a brac, games, competitions, arts and crafts for children of all ages. **Proceeds to Liuli, Tanzania** for a tree planting programme. This event is being organised by the Hagbourne, Upton, Blewbury Action Group, further information from **Clare Lightfoot** 850486.

50 Club Winners

January £10 Mrs Summers, £7 Mrs Webb, £5 Mrs J. Smith, £4 Mrs Chittcock.

CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

ST. MARY'S

Sunday 9am

6 Parish Eucharist

13 Parish Eucharist

20 Matins

27 Parish Eucharist

METHODIST

10.30am — Preacher

Geoffrey Caudle

at Blewbury

Rev. Tim Dibble

Helen Carter

Mid-week services in St. Mary's

On **Tuesday** the Daily Office is said at 8.15am and 5.30pm.

On **Thursday** at 11am the Eucharist is celebrated.

Lent Meetings begin on **Wednesday, 16 February**, 7.30pm at the home of Mr and Mrs Wright, Karibu, High Street.

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

Editor: CAROL HALL

Printed at the Duck House, Blewbury. Delivery organised by JESSIE WEST