

UPTON NEWS

JUNE 2005

Vol.2 No.52

BYE-ELECTION IN UPTON

on Thursday 7 July in the Methodist Hall

There are four candidates standing for the vacancy on the Parish Council. You will shortly be receiving ballot papers through the post, so let's make it a big turnout. Please come along and vote.

In alphabetical order, this is what the candidates have to say about themselves:—

Brian Kent Although local to the district I am a relative newcomer to Upton, but in my short time here I have seen that there is a lot that could be done for the benefit of village residents. Those who know me, know my determination and that I would be prepared to expend time and effort to help make Upton a village to be proud of.

Austin Maytham – I was brought up to village life and have been in Upton for 20 years. The Village is your backyard. Go out and vote.

Bill Noble – As a print consultant I spent many years travelling the UK and abroad, eventually retired having discovered wonderful Upton. My wife and I have enjoyed living here for some twenty years.

Sarah Whatmore lives at Stocks on Stream Road. She is a happily settled newcomer to the village with family in Blewbury and Wallingford. She works at the University of Oxford as Professor of Environment and Public Policy and has professional qualifications and work experience in planning policy. She is a keen gardener.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Meetings: 8pm in the Village Hall on the second Tuesday of alternate months. Next meeting 12 July. Everyone welcome to attend. A notice of the meeting and agenda is displayed on the noticeboards three days before.

Your Parish Councillors

Chairman Mr Graham de Wilde, Beeching Close (850345)

Vice-Chairman Mr Mike Brown, Chilton Road (850135)

Mrs Tracy Seelig, Fieldside (851437)

Mrs Carol Hall, Church Street (850811)

Mr Piran Fletcher, Church Street (851490)

District Councillor

Mr Richard Farrell – Blewbury (850275)

County Councillor

Mr Colin Lamont - Harwell (832866)

It is hoped that this article will become a regular feature of the Newsletter so that everyone is more aware of what the Parish Council is doing within the Village.

During the last few weeks, Councillors have ploughed through the ever increasing amount of paperwork, attended meetings on transport issues, planning issues, etc. We have cleaned up the bus shelter, installed new seats,

repainted it where necessary and covered the walls with anti-graffiti lacquer. We have also replaced several missing fencing panels in the playground (a never ending task), cut back overhanging shrubs and, rather than wait for OCC to repair the Pound Lane road sign, we have done it ourselves. With some volunteer helpers, Councillors have been very busy preparing the new area of burial ground; tree stumps have been removed, the ground sprayed, ploughed and seeded. It has now been fenced and a gate has been installed. Mr and Mrs Gardiner (our Parish Transport representatives) are continually monitoring the condition of Upton's network of footpaths and they report back to the Parish Council at every meeting.

At the last Parish Council meeting the Multi-Use-Games-Area (MUGA) Committee reported that, as they had been unable to secure sufficient funding, the project was unable to proceed. Whilst it was agreed that the recreation ground was in need of improvement, it was decided that no further action would be taken until the Parish Plan Steering Committee were able to give a clear picture of what the Village would like to see.

Yvonne Collins, Parish Clerk
Manor Lawns, High Street (850989)

From the Rector

I shall be celebrating a significant milestone in my ministry this month, because twenty five years ago, on 29 June 1980, I was ordained priest in Christchurch Cathedral by the Bishop of Oxford. Then followed my first celebration of the Holy Eucharist on 1 July at St. Peter's Didcot, where I was serving my first curacy.

In order to mark this occasion, I shall celebrate at St. Andrew's on **Wednesday 29 June at 7.30pm**. I have asked the Archdeacon of Berkshire to preach for this service because I have known him since I was first ordained. In those days he was Rector of Harwell and Chilton, and therefore a neighbour.

Apart from a five year sojourn in the Exeter diocese, I have spent the whole of my ministry in this area and am looking forward to sharing this anniversary with so many friends. I have organised a buffet after the service at Hagbourne School to which you are warmly invited.

There are many privileges that go with the ordained priesthood, the greatest of which must be to preside at the Holy Eucharist. This I have done many, many times and it has been a great source of strength for all those years. I have also been blessed with a variety of ordained colleagues during my twenty five years, but none as special as the ones who work with me now.

It also goes, almost without saying, that I have never enjoyed such outstanding and valuable lay colleague as those who exercise

their considerable gifts of ministry in the Benefice today. A further privilege in a priest's ministry is to have opportunities to minister at very deep levels to parishioners and I am always conscious that this is a special gift from God.

I realise that 25 years is not a great length of time and many priests are able to celebrate 40, 50 or even 60 years of ministry. But, having entered Holy Orders rather late in life, at the age of 38, this is likely to be the most significant anniversary for me. I therefore hope you will be able to join me on the 29th.

Yours in Christ

Fr. Edwin

BLEWBURY SCHOOL OPEN DAY on 30 JUNE

Are you considering primary schools for your three year old? Autumn 2005 and choices for September 2006 entry are approaching fast. Is your child at the school or starting this autumn? Are you simply interested in what happens in your village school?

You are warmly invited to the Open Afternoon and Evening on **Thursday, 30 June**. The school will be open between 1.30 and 3pm and 6 and 8pm. You will be able to see examples of the work by the children and photos of the wide range of extra-curricular activities undertaken by them, and be able to chat to staff and governors.

Kathryn Clark Fletcher

KEEP FIT COMES TO UPTON

A Ladies' Keep Fit Class (not aerobics) is being held on Monday evenings in the Village Hall, from 7-8.30pm. If you'd like to join please call Clare Lightfoot (850486).

VILLAGE HALL AWARD

At this month's AGM of the Upton Village Hall Amenities Trust (UVHAT) it was announced that plans are being made to provide improved access to the hall for disabled people and to build an extension which will include a new store and a small room for village records. The store is needed because the cupboard currently used by the Guides, Brownies and After School Club is quite inadequate and games equipment has to be stored elsewhere. Furthermore, the chairs and tables have to be kept in the main hall and this makes it very difficult for cleaners and hall users who require the space.

Over £5000 has been raised in the past two years through voluntary work and special efforts; two generous individuals have given a further £1250; and early this month a grant of £5000 was received from Awards for All.

As a result the Trust will shortly be able to let a contract to build the improved access facilities. It has also begun to accumulate the funds needed for the extension.

The work of raising money and seeking further grants from official bodies and private trusts continues. The recent car boot sale yielded nearly £300. **The next fund raising event will be the Open Gardens on Sunday 26 June.**

Brian Simpson

Treasurer

MORE DIARY DATES

Saturday 2 July VPA trip to Kew Gardens, ring Karen on 850219.

Saturday 9 July VPA Summer show at Blewbury School, 2.30pm

UPTON FETE

Saturday 3 September — 2pm
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 we'd like to borrow gazebos. Can you help? Please talk to Jessie West on 851206 or Clare Lightfoot on 850486.

CHURCH SERVICES IN JUNE

ST. MARY'S

Sunday 9am

- 5 Parish Eucharist
- 12 Parish Eucharist
- 19 Parish Eucharist
- 26 Parish Eucharist

METHODIST

10.30am — Preacher

- David Kershaw
- Derek Morton
- Elizabeth Wood
- at Blewbury

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.

Coffee is served after church on the first Sunday in the month

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

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