

UPTON NEWS

JULY 2005

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UPTON OPEN GARDENS 21 JUNE

The day was perfect.

The effort put into the occasion by so many was truly heartwarming.

The compliments from the many visitors were rewarding.

They thought the organization was excellent, the variety and quality of cakes wonderful,

and the gardens inspirational and a pure joy.

Thank you all for giving us the opportunity of seeing the results of your hard work.

The funding for the village hall was an amazing £1544 and plant sales and donations for the church £340.

Thank you Sarah (Sayers) for instigating and organizing the whole event and to everyone for their enthusiasm and commitment in following it to its happy conclusion.

Jessie West

BYE-ELECTION RESULT

An encouraging 36% of Upton's 337 eligible residents turned out on 7 July to vote for a new parish councillor, or voted by post, with the following result —

Sarah Whatmore	72
Austin Maytham	48
Brian Kent	21
Bill Noble	0

The polling station in the Methodist Hall, run by Jackie Carpenter, Vale Deputy Returning Officer, closed at 9pm. Counting took place, the result was officially announced and a notice was pinned to the door. No candidates attended the count, so clerk and newsletter editor took the news to the winner. Over a glass of wine in Stocks, Sarah admitted surprise at the result — she has lived here for precisely a year — but says she will be very happy to put her skills to use for the village. As Professor of Environment and Public Policy at Oxford University based at Linacre College, these may come in handy!

Estimated bye-election cost £938.60, including £85 for the Methodists. **C.H.**

VILLAGE HISTORY

an occasional series contributed by

Juliet Gardiner

The Old Manor Farm

This stood at the bottom of the garden of what is now known as Corderoys in Pound Lane. It was a fine, timber-framed house, probably built about four hundred years ago, with its farmyard surrounded by ancient barns and outhouses. From here the manor lands would have been farmed over the years by tenant or bailiff farmers for the Lord of the Manor of Upton.

The Phillips family of Culham owned the manor for over a hundred years, but in 1872 John Shawe Phillips had to sell up his landholdings and the estate (over 500 acres) passed to Nathaniel Humfrey, a very successful farmer in Upton who already owned a considerable amount of land in the parish. From this time the farm was known as Humfrey's Middle Farm, and was run by bailiffs for the new landlord. The late Gwen Greenough remembered George Simpson and his wife who lived there when she was young. A later bailiff was Lelius Corderoy, who lived and farmed in Blewbury. The house was therefore uninhabited when it burned down in the disastrous fire which destroyed the two great central farms in the village in 1933.

The present Manor House was not associated with the Manor of Upton but was almost certainly part of another manor in the parish.

Neighbourhood Watch

To whom in may concern

Would the teenagers who keep ringing door bells and running away in the Church Street area kindly stop doing so. It is neither clever nor funny.

Curate's Jottings

I'm writing these today in a friend's house in north London, just before I head down to St Paul's Cathedral for the ordination of this year's new deacons in the London diocese. No doubt it will bring back vivid memories of my own deaconing two years ago, and priesting last year. Ordinations are on the increase, with 564 candidates being recommended in the Church of England last year, one of the highest totals in twenty years.

Being a Christian always means a radically different way of living. Everyone who tries to follow Jesus steps into the unknown, and relinquishes something of their own self-determination. Clergy probably focus a bit too much on vocations to the priesthood (as I've done in my choice of subject this month) but every Christian has a vocation: to be the person God wants them to be. That path is just as challenging for lay Christians as for the ordained.

And it's probably just as well that vocations to the priesthood aren't quite as high as they once were. If the same proportion of people were ordained today as in the fifteenth century, there would be a million clergy in England. Now, that would be a headache for the Church Commissioners!

Russell Dewhurst

UPTON VILLAGE FETE

Saturday 3 September

at 2.00 p.m. in the Recreation Ground. Entertainment will include the Icknield Way Morris Men and Blewbury Brass Band, and a karate demonstration. Stalls: produce, plants, cakes, preserves, books, toys, games, bric a brac, crafts, tombola, raffle, games and competitions. Delicious home made teas. Free Admission.

August Prayer Walk

Following agreement with the Parochial Church Council, a village prayer walk in Upton is being prepared by **Louise Butler**, our assistant curate.

Sheets with a map of the route to follow and suggestions for prayer at various locations will be available at St. Mary's during that month. People are invited to collect the map and walk through the village offering prayers as they do so for local people and village organisations. Louise welcomes your advice for prayer intentions. No names will be printed without consent. If you have a special prayer request, please contact her on 851011 or email HYPERLINK <mailto:louisegbutler@aol.com>.

The church is open during the summer and thanks are due to PCC members who lock up each evening. They hope it may be useful to Upton residents as a space for quiet prayer and reflection.

50 Club Winners

May £10 Mrs McLaughlin, £7 Mr Noble, £5 Mr Savage, £4 Mrs Telling

June £10 Ms Wright, £7 Mr Gardiner, £5 Mrs Lott, £4 Mrs Hubbard,

GEORGE & DRAGON FUN DAY
Sunday 17 July from 12 noon
Live entertainment — R & B Band and guest musicians. BBQ.
Large marquee now available for private functions.

MONICA ROWBOTHAM

1909-2005

Dr Monica arrived in Upton a quarter of a century ago: a retired child psychologist of some note. St Mary's soon discovered that she could play the organ and was a keen Anglican. Many will celebrate her church life. On the PCC she was Deanery Synod representative from 1982-93. From 1984-95 she was a churchwarden, and the church thrived under her quiet guidance. Her reading of lessons was spellbinding and her knowledge of Scripture profound.

At entertainments in the village hall, Monica would be an enthusiastic thespian: her *Albert and the Lion* was wonderful and as Lady Bracknell her "A Handbag!" outshone Edith Evans. Her memory of long poems was enviable and her dramatic rendering of *The Mermaid* had us in fits of laughter.

We discovered her ability as a teacher of recorder and piano, and the bond she had with young people. With recorder, viols and keyboard ability, Monica became involved in groups such as the Friday trio, where she played viola da gamba, and playing Bach and Monteverdi's *Arianna* with Sine Nomine singers.

It has always been rare to find in one person so many talents coupled with a warm heart and a keen mind. She always spared time to discuss the problems of others and the state of the nation. Today, we thank the Good Lord that she was here and celebrate the life of a great lady. **David Dendy**
(An abridged eulogy given on 7 July at her funeral)

CHURCH SERVICES IN JULY

ST. MARY'S

Sunday 9am

10 Parish Eucharist

17 Parish Eucharist

24 Parish Eucharist

31 Parish Eucharist

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

METHODIST

10.30am — Preacher

Michael Howlett

Rev. Ruth Whitehead

Peter Hemmings

Geoffrey Caudle

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