

UPTON NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2005

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Parish Plan starts to ginger us up

A draft of Upton's Parish Plan has been sent to the Parish Council for their approval, and we then hope to print and distribute the final plan to every house in the next month or so. In the meantime, we are already beginning to see the benefits of the process. For example, the Parish Council now has a group of volunteers to call on to help with projects around the village, and village societies such as the Wine Appreciation Club (see below) are forming and attracting considerable interest.

William Betts
Chair, Parish Plan Steering Group

I Wednesday, 21 September

Upton Wine Appreciation Club's first event, 8 pm in the Village Hall.

Fete raises a record £2,200

Once again our village fete was enjoyed by a large number of people on a gloriously sunny afternoon. As ever the delicious home made teas were very much appreciated, accompanied by Blewbury Band. During the afternoon there were demonstrations of Karati, Morris Dancing by the Icknield Way men, a wood turning demonstration and crafts for the children to try. People seemed to be in no hurry to go home.

The result was amazing. Takings amounted to £2,200. This is £300 up on last year. We have to say thank you to so many people who helped us achieve this result. You all know who you are — thank you to each one who donated to the stalls, humped and bumped tables, chair and gazebos. Proceeds will go towards the new rewiring, heating and lighting scheme in St Mary's.

Clare Lightfoot
for Fete Working Party

HARVEST SUPPER

Not to be missed...

Join us for this happy social event
in the Village Hall
Monday, 3 October
7 pm

Tickets £6 (£4 for children under 12)
from Jessie West 851206 and
Helen Weston 850031

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

You cannot fail to have noticed that Upton is experiencing a lot of mindless vandalism. Apart from being most unpleasant, this is a total waste of Parish Council time and taxpayers money — yours and mine. Please be vigilant and ring me if you see anyone behaving in this anti-social way (850989). In the meantime, we will henceforth be reporting every such act to the police.

As Parish Clerk I receive lots of items of mail that I feel should reach a wider audience than at present. I put them on the noticeboard and/or in the Post Office but I'm not sure how many people actually see them. Recent items include:

1. Oxford County Council would like everyone to know that batteries, light-bulbs, paint, wood, metal, fridges, freezers, garden tools, glass, batteries, computers, TVs, plastic and garden waste can be recycled at all eight of the county's recycling centres. Please don't put these items in your dustbins.
2. Is your electric blanket safe? Free safety check at Abingdon on Friday, 14 October. To book your appointment tel. 01865 815607.
3. The VoWH's Half-Fare Bus Pass Scheme. If you are aged 60 or over and/or have certain disabilities, you could be entitled to a half-fare bus pass. Entitles holder to half-fare bus travel within the VoWH area and Oxford City, including the Park+Ride service. For further information please contact the Benefit Support Office on 01235 520202 ext 463.
4. The VoWH are backing Solarsavers — a discounted Solar Water Heating Scheme which gives free impartial advice and free no obligation quotes for installed systems (see notice on board on the green). Or give Solarsavers a call on 0800 107 0044, visit www.solarsavers.co.uk or email them on info@solarsavers.co.uk.

NEW PUB HOURS

You will doubtless be aware that all licensed premises are having to re-apply for their licenses. The VoWH has been updating me on applications received and has requested that Parish Councils inform residents of changes in their areas. The **George & Dragon** are seeking a variation to their license as follows:

Opening hours: Mon-Sun 10.30–01.30

Live music Mon-Sun 19.00–00.00

Playing of recorded music Mon-Sun 10.30–01.00

Any objection to this application must be made in writing without delay to: The Licensing Officer, VoWH District Council, Licensing Unit, Abbey House, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3JE.

Finally, the next **Parish Council meeting** will be held on **Tuesday 13 September** in the Village Hall at 8.0 pm — everyone welcome. If you have never attended a meeting before come along and see what goes on. **Yvonne Collins, Parish Clerk**

Curate's Swansong

The highlight of my recent trip to Italy was Florence, and specifically, the Fra Angelico frescoes at the San Marco museum. The museum is the old Priory where Fra Angelico and his Dominican brothers lived, and in every one of the thirty or so cells, there is an exquisitely beautiful fresco depicting some event from the gospels: the annunciation, the stables at Bethlehem, the crucifixion, and so on. As a tourist, I looked at them all, in, I suppose thirty minutes total. And most people go round much more quickly. Yet Fra Angelico meant them to be food for meditation for each Friar lasting for months— or even years. He expected a brother to live with the fresco, to see it every day, and still see new things after a year. Yet, despite having travelled to see them, I spent scarcely a minute with each, then rushed on to the next thing on my itinerary.

I feel something similar about my time in Upton and the HUB benefice. I feel like I've scarcely arrived, and only just begun to get to know the people and the area. And there are many people I would have liked to get to know better could I stay longer. But I am called to move

on, to be Priest-in-Charge of St Frideswide in Oxford, and Web Pastor of the diocese's i-church. I have learned a lot, I have shared a lot of experiences with people, but I still feel like I am rushing away. The formative years as a curate as so important for a priest, and though mine have been a little shorter than some, they have been a very full twenty-seven months. I feel a little trepidation, but well-prepared to take up these new responsibilities. Please keep me in your prayers over the next few months. With my love and blessings,
Fr Russell

Our message from Ed Vaizey

Whilst the summer is a quiet time for many this is not the case for a new MP. I have been busy trying to get around the constituency as much as possible. I was lucky enough to re-employ Robert Jackson's secretary Anne Langley and also have a new researcher, Dan Abernethy. If you need to contact me please do so at: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, e-mail: HYPERLINK mail to vaizeye@parliament.uk, telephone 020 7129 6350. Forthcoming surgery dates near Upton are:

Saturday 15 October, 9.30 am, Wantage Civic Hall.
Friday 28 October, 5.30 pm, King Alfred Drive Community Centre, Didcot.

YOUTH CORNER

This summer **David Yates** of Fieldside did very well in his competition at Connecticut College, New London, USA. It was the Cerebral Palsy World Games, attended by disabled athletes from 36 countries. He was in the England and Wales swimming squad and won 3 gold medals (100 metre breaststroke, 400 metre freestyle and the 4 X 100 metre freestyle relay) and 2 bronze (50 metre and 100 metre freestyle). The England and Wales squad dominated the event, a tribute to the respective CP Sport organisers. The kind sponsors who together met the entire cost of David's expenses in attending the games were the Didcot Rotary Club, Abingdon Round Table and Oxfordshire Active Sport.

The Editor would be glad to receive news of other interesting activities young people who live in the village are getting up to, whether sporting or otherwise, individually or in groups. **C.H.**

THE UPTON BUS

One or two minor alterations and additions have been made to the official timetable for the Abingdon Bus Company service no 94.

The services from Upton which stop at the Orchard Centre, |Didcot leave Upton at 10.40, 12.40 and 14.50. The services from the Orchard Centre to Upton leave the Orchard Centre at 10.24, 12.24, 14.34 and 15.34. There is also an 18.20 bus from Upton which returns to Didcot.

**Juliet and Peter Gardiner
Parish Transport Reps.**

Christian Aid

The total amount raised in the village during the recent house-to-house collection was £283.75, an increase of £50 over last year. A sincere thank-you to all who contributed to achieve this result and also to those who helped with the collection. **Alec Chenery**

50 Club Winners

July £10 Mrs Chittock, £7 Mrs Shaylor, £5 Mrs Scarborough, £4 Mr Aldridge

CHURCH SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

ST. MARY'S

Sunday 9am

4 Parish Eucharist
11 Parish Eucharist
18 Parish Eucharist
25 No service —
(Louise Butler's ordination in Reading)

METHODIST

10.30am — Preacher

At Blewbury
Stephen Atkinson
Rev. Stephen Godfrey
Mariene Chalkley

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
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