

UPTON NEWS

MARCH 2006

Vol.2 No.58

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This year the Annual Parish Meeting is on **Tuesday 11th April 2006** in the Village Hall at 8pm. It is a chance to see what's been happening in the village over the past year and receive reports from various bodies — school, church, district and county councillors and the parish council itself. After the meeting we shall be having a review of the actions that have resulted from the **Parish Plan** and what we are hoping to achieve. Although it's early days, whatever progress has been made will be reported on, so do please try and come along. It's an opportunity to see what's happening in and around the village and what we're trying to do over the next year.

GOAL!

The Parish Council are just in the process of purchasing a pair of Five-A-Side football goals for the recreation ground. There are a number of youngsters in the village who have expressed a wish for something a little better than the current posts. We're hoping, with their help, to put a pitch crossways to the existing layout and if this is successful we shall probably remove the old posts altogether, unless anyone has any objections. It's a small first step to try and improve the facilities on the recreation area and we hope it will encourage more people to use the pitch.

Graham de Wilde

PC Chair

MORE VILLAGE DIARY ITEMS

Saturday, 18 March. ANNUAL LITTER PICK. Meet 9-30am Village Hall, tea and biscuits before and after. ODC provides yellow jackets, gloves, picking-claws to clear roadside verge.
Contact: Mike Brown 850135.

Tuesday, 21 March. Under Milk Wood by Dylan Thomas. Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Co. 7.30pm Village Hall. Tickets £6 (or £4) from Jessie West 851206. Still some tickets left.

Saturday, 25 March. Upton, Hagbourne and Blewbury fun fundraising effort to send pigs, bees and trees to Liuli in Tanzania. East Hagbourne School from 12.30 to 3pm. Buzz in for a light lunch. Tombola, games, raffles, bric-a-brac, activities for children. Donations of cakes would be most welcome. Please call Clare Lightfoot on 850486 if you can help make pigs fly.

Sunday, 26 March. St. Mary's will be holding a special Mothering Sunday Service at 10am. There will be distribution of posies and refreshments. This is in addition to the 9am Said Communion on this day.

Wednesday 5th April. Talk for Village Produce Association. The Harmonious

Garden; Related and Complementary Colour by Patricia Elkington. 7.30pm, Blewbury Village Hall,

Saturday, 8 April. SKITTLES AND SUPPER EVENING — GOOD FOOD, GOOD FUN, GOOD COMPANY 6.30 for 7pm start, Village Hall. Tickets £7 from Jessie or Sheila Dawson 851205. For Upton Village Hall Funds. Raffle.

Sunday, 9 April. Village Ramble. Meet 2pm at Upper Cross, near the church at East Hagbourne. This is a monthly walk that varies from 5 to 7 miles. Contact: John Jones 813326.

Good Friday, 14 April. At 10am there will be a short service for all ages at St. Mary's, followed by refreshments.

Sunday, 16 April, Easter Day. 9am Sung Eucharist.

Saturday, 22 April. JUMBO JUMBLE SALE 2pm Village Hall. Please leave donated items for sale with any of the following: Jessie, 5 Orchard Close; Clare, Thimbles, Newman's Close; Margaret, Toad Hall Post Office. Or bring them to the hall between 10am and noon on the morning of 22nd. THANK YOU.

Charles Bernard Aldridge

23.11.1913 — 07.01.2006

As our dad was one of the oldest inhabitants of Upton, Pauline and I thought an epitaph in the *Upton News* would be appropriate. Charlie, as he was known by most people, was one of three brothers born and brought up in Blewbury. He moved to Upton in May 1939 after his marriage to our mother Grace. He was called up for war service in December 1939 and served in the 8th Army until severe back injuries, sustained in a train crash in Italy, brought him home permanently just before the war ended. Pauline was born in May 1946 and I followed ten years later in March 1956. Dad always had a great love of music and played the cornet regularly in Cholsey Silver Band, often taking part in concerts. He would love to entertain everyone at the slightest opportunity with his enthusiastic harmonica playing, whether people wanted to listen or not!! He was also a member of Blewbury Bellringers at St. Michael's for many years. Sadly our mother Grace passed away in February 1982, without having the pleasure of seeing her grandchildren grow and develop into the fine young people they have become.

Dad continued to live alone for the rest of his life, taking care of himself and his home with very little supervision. His garden was his pride and joy, all vegetables were grown in regimented rows with labels indicating their whereabouts. He always seemed

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to grow enough produce to feed the whole village and would send visitors away with huge bags of wonderful goodies!! He was always immaculate in his appearance and was a familiar sight in the village wearing his trilby hat and pulling along his shopping trolley which would be bursting at the seams after his weekly shopping trip to Didcot on the bus.

Unfortunately, after breaking an arm in a very bad fall in March 2005, which required surgery and several weeks in hospital, dad became very reclusive and increasingly frail. Regular care was provided at home, allowing him to retain his independence until he passed away on 7 January.

He was a very dear father to both of us, a kind and affectionate grandfather to Carol, Lynsey, Ben and Felicity, always taking an interest in their lives and delighted by the mischief and antics of his two little great-granddaughters, Eden and Brooke.

Dad's funeral took place on 18th January and we were all extremely touched to see so many in attendance. The service was not so much a funeral but a celebration of his life, conducted by Rev. Louise Butler. We would also like to thank everyone for their kind and generous donations to Little Foxes Wildlife Care. Dad lived in the country all his life and would have been delighted to see money being used to help such a worthy cause.

Unity Amos

Further words from Louise.

It was a great privilege to conduct

Tom Suttar

20.06.1929 — 16.01.2006

Tom and I have lived in Upton for 42 years and during the time have seen many changes. But one thing never changes, the village camaraderie and neighbourliness.

The number of cards and words of sympathy I have received has been quite overwhelming and I thank you all for your tremendous support at this sad time. **Nan**

Charlie's funeral. I have known him since 1983, when I first climbed the bell tower at St. Michael's. Until recently he rang regularly for services, weddings and on practice nights. I believe he started ringing in the 1930s, which is a tremendous length of service.

Living across the road from St. Mary's, Charlie also spent a lot of time looking after the church building and graveyard in his role as Sexton. Many older residents will remember they used to go to his house to collect the church key.

We were quite a crowd in the small chapel at the Oxford Crematorium. It seemed fitting to read the words of St. Paul, reassuring his fellow Christians that the Lord himself "with a cry of command, the archangel's call and the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven" gathering his people to be with him forever. Such triumphant sounds are a worthy fanfare for this Upton gentleman from this world to the next.

JOB VACANCY

Clerk to the Parish Council
Responsible for administrative business and financial accounts.

Earn extra money and get interested in your local community...

For more information please contact

Graham de Wilde (851500)

50 Club Winners

January £10 Mrs Timblich, £7 Mr Hawkins, £5 Mr Hammond, £4 Mrs West.

February £10 Mr Ireson, £7 Mrs Williams (Collingwood), £5 Sarah Tennant-Flowers, £4 Kerry Collins.

CHURCH SERVICES IN MARCH

ST. MARY'S

Sunday 9am

5 Parish Eucharist

12 Parish Eucharist

19 Parish Eucharist

26 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

Rev. John Stanbury

Peter Hemmings

At Blewbury

Barbara Kershaw

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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