

UPTON NEWS

MAY 2006

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VILLAGE DIARY

Sunday 14 May

Village Walk. Leaving 2pm from Village Hall (6 miles) and 2.45pm (3 miles), hopefully finishing back in the village at about the same time. Let Mike Brown know if you can come along (850135 or kameki@totalise.co.uk) or just turn up on the day.

Wednesday 23 May

Upton Theatre Group to see *Tartuffe* at the Oxford Playhouse, 7.30pm. Tickets £16.40 (3 left) from Malcolm Wright, 850705. Transport available £5.

Mondays during term time

Keep Fit Club. 7-8.30pm, Village Hall. Contact Clare Lightfoot, 850486 or lthimbles@aol.com

Third Thursday in the month

(except July/August) Upton Wine Appreciation Club. 8pm, Village Hall. Contact Fiona Betts 851001 or fiona.betts@btinternet.com

Second Thursday in the month

The Coven. Upton ladies, 8pm, George & Dragon.

Saturday 27 May — Sunday 4 June

Artweeks Oxfordshire exhibition in Village Hall by James Cordery of paintings, landscapes, wildfowl and botanical subjects. Donations of cakes to 18 Fieldside would be appreciated, proceeds from teas to Village Hall. Times 10-8, except Thursday 10-4.

Sidney Hardwick at Cedarwood, Stream Road, is

again showing her pottery from 12-6, Thursday 12-8

Tuesday 30 May for up to two weeks

Roadworks. Hagbourne Hill Road from the A417 up to the junction with Chilton Road will be closed for extensive repair. This will result in an increase in traffic using Chilton Road.

Monday 12 June for up to three weeks

Hagbourne Hill Road closed from Chilton Road junction down to Chilton Village, effectively closing Chilton Road with all traffic diverted via Rowstock.

Sunday 2 July

This year's St Birinus Pilgrimage to commemorate the 7th century saint who preached on Churn Knob to a pagan king of Wessex and baptised him at Dorchester. The family and friends day combines walking, local history, a service in Dorchester Abbey and a barbecue supper in the Cloister Garden. More details Mrs Susan Jupp, 01865 341066 or www.stbirinuspilgrimage.org.uk

Saturday 9 July

The Village Produce Association's annual outing this year will be to Hampton Court Flower Show, on the penultimate day. Tickets £21 each, coach cost around £11. If you would like to go, please pay Margaret Maytham at the Post office. Call Austin 850364 evenings, with any queries.

WINE, NIBBLES, THEN INTERESTING REPORTS

Over thirty people turned out for last month's Annual Parish Meeting, which began with a warm-up of wine and nibbles. Reports were read by representatives of all the bodies who look after aspects of our community life. Go to the website for full texts from PC Chairman and Clerk, County and District Council, Upton Village Hall Amenities Trust, Blewbury School, Public Transport and Footpaths Reps, Neighbourhood Watch, United Charities of Ancient Parish of Blewbury, and more. They make good reading.

Graham de Wilde, PC Chairman, recalled that the year opened with an election for a new councillor, which brought us Sarah Whatmore, a great asset who is chairing the Amenities and Environment Committee. Yvonne Collins' high level of professionalism will be hard to replace when she stands down as clerk in June.

No-one has yet offered to fill her post. He estimated that last year Parish Councillors fielded 700 e-mails, and attended numerous meetings, dealt with planning applications, made submissions and ploughed through many documents from the Vale, OCC and SERA. He thanked Brian Simpson for becoming the internal auditor, and 'Mr and Mrs Churchman, who, come rain or shine, make sure the recreation ground gates are opened and closed each day'.

On behalf of the Parochial Church Council **Julian Sayers** said that the fabric of St. Mary's was in good shape, the church now holds special family services at 10am and is part of a much enlarged Benefice, and Father Edwin Clements is retiring next year. See over for **Mike Brown's** thought-provoking post-Parish Plan progress report.

C.H.

PC Mike Brown's hard work

The Parish Plan questionnaire provided data about your interests in **Social, Learning and Voluntary** activities. So let's see how things are going. Wine Tasting is up and running (see *Diary p.1*). I organised four meetings to try to launch other **Social** activities: Walking/Cycling, Theatre/Sightseeing Trips, Musical Events and Village Society/Discussion Group. Invitations went to all those I could identify as interested.

Walking/Cycling. Out of 44 invitations four people turned up. We arranged a walk for May 14 (see *Diary*).

Theatre/Sightseeing Trips. 40 invitations were sent and 13 people attended, most of whom interested in theatre. Malcolm Wright, Irene Timblick and Mike Collins agreed to sort out a trial venture (see *Diary*).

Musical Events. 25 invitations sent and nine people appeared. Sarah Tennant-Flowers and Simon Powell agreed to make up a short questionnaire to see just what people's interests were.

To the **Village Society/ Discussion Group** meeting 24 were invited and five people attended. After an hour's discussion we reluctantly came

to the conclusion that we could not find sufficient common ground to take either idea forward. I will go on with meetings to cover Skittles, Jigsaws, Drama and Table Tennis.

See *Diary* for the Keep Fit Club. If anyone would take other **Learning** activities off me I would much appreciate help.

In my opinion, for **Voluntary** activities alone the Parish Plan is worth all the effort. We are already making visits for a chat, or offering help by driving to hospital, doctors, dentists, even shopping. We understand there can be sensitivity in asking, but we want all parishioners to know that we would like to be able to help them. Clare Lightfoot, Margaret Maytham and Elisabeth Wright are kindly looking into the demand for these services The ORCC have offered practical assistance.

I am very hopeful that this can make a significant improvement to the quality of life of some people and they will be able to get real pleasure from what we offer.

Once again we can be proud of our Litter Picking Day. The Manual Group have performed fantastically when called upon, particularly five or six stalwarts. Saving to the parish in the last year probably amounts to £700.

JOB VACANCY

Clerk to the Parish Council
For information please contact
Graham de Wilde (851500)

POST OFFICE

The Post Office will be closed on 9, 10 and 11 May. It will re-open on 15 May and have restricted hours until 25 May, being open from 1-3pm. The postman will collect at 5pm, so mail can always be put through the letter box. Eggs and emergency chocolate can be acquired any time, after checking if anyone is in (850364). Hilary and Elizabeth Melling are coming to look after all the animals and house, and they will look forward to seeing familiar faces.

Margaret Maytham

In Brief

I Starting on 16 June the **Mobile Library Service** will visit Upton fortnightly on Fridays (not Wednesdays) at 11.25-45am.

I **Jumbo Jumble Sale.** Jessie has asked me to say a big thank you to all who helped. The takings for the Village Hall amount to £375, with a bit still to come. This is an excellent result. **Clare Lightfoot**

I It is the new year for the **50 Club**, which supports funding for your Village Hall. The draw takes place at the end of each month, with cash prizes of £10, £7, £5 and £4 and special extras of two £15 in September, two £20 in December and two £25 in March. We thank all our supporters, hope they will continue, and welcome any newcomers who wish to join. Contact **Jessie West** (851206).

Winners

March £25 Mr Rippon, £25 Mrs Lightfoot
£10 Mrs Williams, £7 Mr Jacklin, £5 Mrs Lightfoot, £4 Mrs West.

UPTON NEWS is produced on behalf of the Parish Council, Parochial Church Council, Upton Methodist Church and the Upton Village Hall Amenities Trust. Please deliver or send items for publication to Old School, Church Street, or carol-uptonoxon@zen.co.uk. There is more information about village affairs on the website — www.upton-village.co.uk

Editor: CAROL HALL

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CHURCH SERVICES IN MAY

ST. MARY'S Sunday 9am

7 Parish Eucharist
14 Parish Eucharist
21 Parish Eucharist

Thurs 8pm 25 Ascension Day Service

28 Parish Eucharist

METHODIST

10.30am — Preacher

David Kershaw
At Blewbury
Paul Williams

Brenda Boyer

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