

# UPTON NEWS

July 2011

Vol 3 No. 53

## ST MARY'S CHURCH

### St Mary's Services for July

Sun 3 July - 0900 Sung Eucharist, followed by refreshments

Sun 10 July - 0900 Sung Eucharist

Sun 17 July - 1000 Family Service, followed by refreshments

Sun 24 July - 0900 Sung Eucharist

Sun 31 July - 0900 Sung Eucharist

Every Tuesday 0930 Morning Prayer, followed at 1000 by a Eucharist

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## THEATRE GROUP

I have to announce, with apologies from the Committee, that we have found nothing that suited enough members to warrant an outing in June or July. A very select few are going to the New Chamber Opera's production of Salieri's "Falstaff" in New College, but our next major excursion remains the trip to Stratford on 27 October. One ticket still hasn't been taken. It costs £41.50, which includes transport.

If anyone notices something pretty local for late August or early September, there may yet be a chance to arrange something.

Malcolm Wright                      850705

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## UPTON 50'S CLUB

### Winners for July 2011

£10	Mr Smith	16
£7	Mrs Tibbets	171
£5	Mrs Blandford	152
£4	Mrs Bibby	118

## SPRING LINE METHODIST CHURCH

Morning Services for July start at 10.30 a.m.

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Local Arrangements	
10 <sup>th</sup>	Upton	Brenda Boyer
17 <sup>th</sup>	Blewbury	Libby Bolton
24 <sup>th</sup>	Upton	Rev John Sturney
		Holy Communion

### Successful Blewbury Festival Events

**Children's Tombola:** We ran a Children's Tombola stall at the Family Day, and in spite of blustery weather we made £70 for chapel funds.

**Songs of Praise:** More than 90 people attended our Festival Songs of Praise, and the singing was superb. We started with Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer, and the roof was nearly blown off by the volume. It was a really enjoyable evening, and the retiring collection for Water Aid made over £180. Thank you to the Upton Hand Bell Ringers for playing for us, and thank you all for your generosity and support.

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## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Please be aware of bogus callers in this area. A man called on a property in Upper Stream Road on Thursday 9th June at 10.30pm asking to delivery an urgent parcel. The occupier kept the chain on the front door and turned the caller away as he knew that he had not ordered anything to be delivered. Please always use a chain on your front door if you have one and alert the police if you are suspicious.

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## THE UPTON COVEN

The July Upton Coven will be held at the George and Dragon on Thursday 7 July at the earlier time of 7pm and will include a meal this month. Everyone welcome - please contact Lesley Shaw or Sheila Dawson if you would like to come and join us for something to eat. Anyone just wishing to come along for a drink as usual is also most welcome.'

Lesley

## RECTORS REFLECTIONS



### Are you prepared to reconsider?

Recently, I've been thinking quite a lot about the world of science. This is hardly surprising, given the area in which we live – I'm sure we all have met people who work at Rutherford, JET, or Culham. There was a time, of course, when many thousands worked "up at the Atomic". The other day I was having a chat with a group of people in a local village hall, and it turned out that one of them had a Ph.D. in Astrophysics. Well, I thought, that's entirely normal - at least around here!

For some people, there seems to be a tension, even a conflict, between "Science" and "Religion". But for me, and for many Christians, there is no conflict at all. Of course, not every scientist has a religious faith, but many do: you can be a Muslim and a scientist, a Bhuddist and a scientist, and yes, a Christian and a scientist. And while there are some eminent scientists who are atheists, there are equally eminent scientists who are Christian.

But what about Richard Dawkins, you say? For those of you who haven't heard of him, Richard Dawkins is a convinced atheist with a mission to portray the Christian faith as fundamentally irrational and unscientific. He has a gift for publicity, which is probably why you might have heard of him. One of his recent books was entitled The God Delusion. The problem is that Dawkins' approach is itself often irrational and unscientific. For a very powerful critique, see two books by Professor Alister McGrath: Dawkins' God: Genes, Memes and the Meaning of Life (2005) and The Dawkins Delusion? (2007). Professor McGrath has a D.Phil. in molecular biophysics, so he is more than capable of engaging with Dawkins on a purely scientific basis.

There are many eminent scientists who are also Christians. Let me give two examples. In both cases, they have been elected to fellowship of the Royal Society: in other words, they are about as eminent as you can get as a scientist. The first is Sir John Houghton, whose expertise lies in the area of climate science. Sir John was co-chair of the Nobel peace Prize winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's scientific assessment working group. A bit of a mouthful that! Basically it means that when it comes to climate science, Sir John is at the top of the tree. If you happen to be interested about the relationship of science, Christianity, and the

environment, I would recommend finding out about something called The John Ray Initiative.

The other example is Sir John Polkinghorne, who was professor of Mathematical Physics at the University of Cambridge. This other Sir John is a prolific author, with well over 20 books on the relationship between science and religion. He also happens to be an Anglican priest.

In summary, if you have rejected Christianity because you feel it is not compatible with being a scientist or holding a scientific world view, I would invite you to reconsider!

Fr Jason

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## KEEP FIT GENTLY

Keeping Fit Gently - "Zumba Gold" exercises which can be done seated or standing.....

There will be 6 weekly exercise classes, organised by the Go Active team at the Vale, starting on Monday 18 July at 2.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. The weekly fee will be £3.50; £18 for the 6 weeks if paid in advance.

If you are interested and have not already let me know, please contact Clare Lightfoot 850486 and your details will be passed to Ashley Chapman the coordinator.

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## WOMENS INSTITUTE

Blewbury WI meets next at 1930 on Wednesday July 27<sup>th</sup> at The "Clubhouse" – note change of venue.

This is the nice new building on the right hand side of the main road as you enter the village. Just take a right opposite Savages and you'll see the car park on your right. We will be hearing about "The Philosophy of Hairdressing" from Mark Creed who has salons in Oxford, Witney and Abingdon. He will be doing a demonstration on one of us and also answering questions on hair care.

August finds us taking a trip to Windsor including a guided tour round Eton School. Then two theatre visits for the future - "Sister Act" - a divine musical comedy in late October, and also "Cinderella on Ice" with the Russian Ice Stars in mid November.

We are pleased to welcome a new member from Upton, we would welcome more of you with open arms!

If you need a lift ring Judy on 850381 and something will be arranged.

Graeme Gettings

## UPTONOGOOD

A sincere thank you to all those who helped us make "Uptonogood?" - 2011 possible. The feedback we've had has been fantastic and everybody appeared to have a great time. About sixty of you volunteered from the village to play your part, and the event simply could not happen without you. I hope the rain has not dampened your enthusiasm for next year, as marshals are far harder to come by than cyclists! To summarize we had 420 riders on the day, enabling us to raise £5000 in total. This will be split accordingly:

Blewbury School -£950 – This is the money they took on the BBQ.

Didcot Air Cadets - £250 – This is for their help marshalling 6 of the 35 odd marshal points.

Upton's Methodist Hall - £300 – This will help towards refurbishing the Hall / Kitchen facilities that are available for hire by Upton residents.

Upton's Play Space - £3000 – This was and will continue to be the primary cause for the "Uptonogood?" event, until it is built.

Withheld – We will withhold £500 to be invested in signage for "Uptonogood?" - 2012, to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2012. Get it in your diaries now!

Bob Lott and Mike Tibbetts.

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## PARISH COUNCIL

### Upton News

Our long standing editor of the Upton News Mike Brown, is sadly stepping down after 53 wonderful editions. The Upton Parish Council would like to thank Mike and Cathy on behalf of all Upton residents, for their hard work over many years and to wish them all the very best with their new endeavours.

We would like to take this opportunity to seek volunteers willing to help compile and run our community paper and ensure its high standard is maintained.

Please contact Ben Shaw if you would be interested in helping with the publication.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council is in the Village Hall on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 8.00 pm.

Ben Shaw Phone: 07934389171  
Email: [bjhshaw@btinternet.com](mailto:bjhshaw@btinternet.com)

## OBITUARY

### Sidney Hardwick 1924-2011

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Sidney Hardwick, one of the village's most loved and respected characters.

Sidney was born in Lindsay Ontario in December 1924. Whilst still a baby, her parents decided to move to Vancouver and the family travelled by train across Canada with Sidney "in a laundry basket". She went to the University of British Columbia, studying first Domestic Science, before deciding that Bacteriology was a more interesting option. After graduating, she went to work at Canada's Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories in Ontario where she met Bill, her husband to be. They married in 1949 and came back to England in 1951 when Bill took a job at AERE, Harwell. They spent 5 years living in a prefab at Chilton and then built their own house in Upton to where they moved in 1956.

In the mid 1960s Sidney attended a local evening class and 'discovered' pottery, a subject that was to totally captivate her. She attended more classes and gradually acquired the essential equipment and the skills to use it. After a while she was able to share her skills by teaching the subject at St Birinus School in Didcot as well as going on to stage many successful exhibitions right up to her death. Pottery, together with her beloved family, gave her the most enormous pleasure and satisfaction throughout her life. Sidney died peacefully during the night on May 8<sup>th</sup> and her funeral was held at Blewbury Church on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

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## VILLAGE HALL DROP-IN

There will be Drop-in sessions on 7 and 21 July, after which we will be having a Summer break during August. The September sessions have not yet been arranged but will be published in the next Newsletter. In the meantime, I would very much welcome an extra person to come and join the volunteer group. This is not a very onerous commitment – just a couple of hours approximately every 6-7 weeks, so if you feel you could help please give me a ring. I should be very glad to hear from you.

Yvonne Collins

01235 850989

## DIARY DATES

**Pimms Pate and Pudding Event on Sunday 14th August 2011** at 1.00 pm on the patio at village hall (in hall if wet)

Tickets are now on sale but limited to just 70.

£10.00 per adult, £5.00 5 - 15 year old

Under 5s Free

Ticket includes 1st glass of Pimms or a soft drink.

Please contact

Celia Davies 850684, Maggie Maytham 850126

or Clare Lightfoot 850486

**St Mary's Fete on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** at 2.00pm at the Recreation Ground.

Entertainment by Quanton Quackers, Blewbury Band, Fun Dog Show

All the usual stalls, games and sideshows. Delicious home made teas.

If you would like to help with the Fete please contact Jessie on 851206 or Clare 850486

**Peter Pan - Orchard Dene Garden Theatre, Blewbury, 20th -23rd July**

Think **Peter Pan** is just for the kids? – then think again. Garth Bardsley has written a highly entertaining and thought provoking adaptation which will be performed by The Blewbury Players between 20<sup>th</sup> – 23rd July at Orchard Dene Garden Theatre in Blewbury.

The garden theatre is a perfect setting for this. There really is something for all generations to laugh and think about in this new play. Tickets are available from Cornerstone 01235 515144 and at Savages, Blewbury. More info at [www.blewburyplayers.com](http://www.blewburyplayers.com)

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## VPA

We are off to Waterperry Gardens on July 30<sup>th</sup>, for a day of gardens and lunch will be available too, ring Eileen if you want to come! 510095

The summer show is on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August, always a lovely day, please try to enter something, the new Show Schedule and entry forms are in Blewbury Post Office, please come and collect your copy, or download from [www.uptonvillagenews/vpa](http://www.uptonvillagenews/vpa) If you don't have anything to put in, then come along at 2.30pm, to see the great exhibits, (if the weather allows anything to be in flower!) there will be teas and an auction of prize-winning entries!  
Happy Gardening Karen Brooks

## POOLING LOCAL HISTORY

The West Hagbourne History Group is floating the idea that neighbouring villages should pool their resources when they delve into the past. This would make better use of existing parish records and also the enthusiastic researches often being done by people who already live in the locality or move here. They would like to collaborate with the wider community and get to know what we have got. If there is further interest in pursuing this idea those involved from West Hagbourne would be happy to meet interested persons from Upton in Upton village hall.

Please contact secretary [val.walton1@btinternet.com](mailto:val.walton1@btinternet.com)

A well chosen selection of Upton history appears on our website and old documents can be looked at in the recently organised archives in the village hall — we are better off than most. However West Hagbourne has published the wonderful Windsor Hakeborne: the Story of West Hagbourne.

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## FAREWELL

Time flies by, it does not seem possible that it was March 2007 that Cathy and myself put together our first Upton News. Now 53 editions later we both feel that the time is right to pass on the baton to someone else to bring new ideas and improvements to your newssheet.

Sarah Sayers has volunteered to take over as from next month so this will be our last edition.

We would like to thank all the regular contributors who have supplied us with so many interesting items by the dates that we have requested making our job so much easier. We would also like to say a big thank you to Dawn in the Duck House office who has always been so helpful and obliging with the printing.

We wish Sarah every success with the job.

Mike and Cathy

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Items for inclusion in the August issue to be sent to [sarahpsayers@btinternet.com](mailto:sarahpsayers@btinternet.com) or handed in to Sarah (Orchard Lodge, High Street) by Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July.

Printed at the Duck House, Blewbury.

Delivery organised by Jessie West