

UPTON NEWS

MARCH 2007

Vol 3 No. 1

Changes to your Upton News

After nearly 7 years and 62 editions Carol Hall is taking a well earned break from editing your parish newsheet. On behalf of you all I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation for the excellent job she has done for the parish.

Carol was very professional in her approach to the job and brought with her a wealth of journalistic experience. Cathy and myself have agreed to take on the role of producing the newsheet but with no previous experience please don't expect the same polished presentation, we will do our best.

Our role will not be as editors of the newsheet but as compilers. With the help of Jessie we have put together a list of contributors who we hope will send us items of interest most months. We are very much in their hands as to whether we can make it into an interesting read for you or not.

The organisations we have asked, or will be asking, to contribute are. Parish Council, Village Hall, Post Office, George and Dragon, St Mary's Church, The Methodist Church, Blewbury School, Village Website, Neighbourhood Watch, Wine Club, Village Oil Syndicate, Tennis Club, Village Produce Association, Autumn Leaves Club, Table Tennis Club, Handbell Ringers, Theatre Group, and the Brownies.

If you have any further suggestions to add to the list please give us a call.

If there is a younger member of our community who would be prepared to put together a Youth Section for the newsheet please get in touch we would love to hear from you.

In addition to these regular contributors we would very much like to hear from you as a parishioner if you have any news of interest about births, marriages, obituaries, ex residents or outstanding achievements particularly those of our younger residents please send me a note or preferable an Email.

If you want to air a gripe about bonfires, speeding motorist or any other problems or if you want to express your appreciation of something that has happened in the village send let us know, as long as it is not political, libellous or too contentious we will do our best to fit it in.

Our contact details are Tel 850135, email kameki39@btinternet.com
Mike and Cathy Brown

Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 13th March at 8-00 in the Village Hall. Topics of interest will be Upton Roads (see below) and the ongoing improvements to our recreational amenities.

Planning Applications

UPT/1972/3 – Extensions and alterations to Village Hall – permitted

UPT/7108/2 – Erection of 4 bedroom chalet bungalow with double garage, Ravello – permitted with conditions.

UPT/ 12510/1- Re-siting of domestic oil tank at Icknield House, Chilton Road. – ongoing, the P.C. has no objections.

Upton Roads

After months of trying the P.C. has managed to drag out of the Highways Dept their intentions for re-surfacing our village roads this spring/summer. In March, Station Road and Pound Lane will be treated with a slurry surface, we have inspected similar treatments on roads in Harwell and have no objections to this work. During the summer months it is intended that High Street, Church Street and Stream Road will be treated with a summer dressing which is the process where the road is covered in tar and then stones are spread over the tar. You will all have seen the results of this treatment where initially many of the stones remain loose and given time and a few hot days some of the remaining stones particularly on slopes and corners are removed by the traffic leaving patches of tar. Your P.C. has written to the Highways Dept stating that this treatment is not acceptable in this village where our roads are also our pavements. We are awaiting a reply.

Litter Pick

Our annual litter pick will be on Sat. 24th March meeting at the village hall at 9-30.

Gloves and grabs will be provided as will yellow vests for those working on the verges of the busier roads. Please come along and help out if you can, we will reward you with a cup of tea and a biscuit but much greater reward is seeing our parish and particularly our roadside verges free of litter.

Final Meeting

The meeting this month will be the last for our present council. At the moment we have 6 members 5 of whom have come to the end of their term of office. If you would like to become a member of the council for the next 3 years

please contact our Parish Clerk for further details. If more than 5 nominations are submitted an election will be held on May 3rd.

Carbon Saving

Vale of White Horse are sponsoring - Carbon Savers Action Day - Saturday 10 March 10.00 - 4.00 p.m. at Abingdon Guildhall

"Do the world a favour, be a carbon saver".

For more information call the Carbon Savers Line free on 0800 028 2855 or visit www.carbon-savers.co.uk

Village Hall

50s Club winners

December 2006

£20 Mrs Hubbard, £20 Mr Fitchet,
£10 Mrs de Wilde, £7 Mr Stewart
£5 Mrs Abbott, £4 Mrs Schumacker

January 2007

£10 Mrs S Napper, £7 Mrs Hardy,
£5 Mrs J Gardiner, £4 Mrs Shaylor

Date for your diary

THE SKITTLES & SUPPER EVENING

Saturday April 28th
Village hall - 7pm

tickets £7 from Jessie 851206 and Sheila 851205

Upton Handbell Ringers

On 3rd February the Upton Handbell Ringers gave a short concert in the Village Hall. It proved to be a very happy evening. The Ringers would like to thank all those who helped make the event a success. £74.20 was raised and this has been given to the Parish Council towards the cost of a piece of equipment for the playground.

Upton Wine Club

The club is currently enjoying its second successful year – it once again has over 70 members and regularly has around 40 members at each of the monthly meetings, not bad for a village of only 400 adults! Meetings this year have included learning about wines from New Zealand, Spain and the Loire as well as a taste off between champagnes and New World sparkling wines and a wine version of 'Call my Bluff'. With most members walking home, no spittoons are requested and the level of noise generated leads the committee to suspect that members do very much enjoy the meetings!

Next month's meeting is being taken by the village's very own Derek Whitmell and he will be taking us on a tour of the Rhône. The meeting is on Wednesday 14th March at 8pm in the village hall. If you are interested in joining the club it's not too late, membership costs £2 per membership year and the cost of a meeting is typically £5, please contact fiona.betts@btopenworld.com.

St Mary's Church

Family Services

The following services have been arranged with families in mind:

Sunday 18 March - 10.00 a.m. -

Mothering Sunday - posies will be distributed - refreshments follow the service.

Friday - 6th April - 10.00 a.m. - Good

Friday - short service specially for children - followed by refreshments

Easter Day - 8th April - 9.00 a.m. -

Sung Communion

Everyone is most welcome at these services.

Please note there will be no 9.00 a.m. service on Mothering Sunday.

Diary Dates:

ST MARY'S ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

will be held on Monday 26 March at 7.30 p.m. in the Church.

Children's Society House to House Collection - 14th - 28th April.

We must say a big thank you to June Churchman who has organised this house to house collection for more than 40 years. June has now said she'd like to stand down. We'd be pleased to hear from anyone who could collect in Fieldside. If you can spare an hour or so (no qualification required) please let Clare Lightfoot know on 850486

Tennis Club

This year so far, we have enjoyed a blustery but enthusiastic new years' tournament when a number of adults and junior members braved the elements to work off the excesses of the season. Also our annual Valentines disco took place a couple of weeks ago and was hugely successful with over 100 people bopping the night away in the Blewbury village hall.

A date for the diary is Monday 28th May when the annual Spring Bank Holiday tournament will be run. No need to prearrange a partner just turn up on the day and play, more details to follow later. Also remember there is a club session every Sunday morning starting at 10.30am, again just turn up, all standards welcome. If you are interested in joining the tennis club please contact fiona.betts@btopenworld.com.

Village Oil Syndicate

If you wish to be included in the March order for the Upton Oil Syndicate please let me know by Saturday 10th March.

Colin Batchelor (851362)

The George & Dragon

We are the Collings family: Bill, Cielo, Vicky, Sadie, George and Gavin (whew!) Six weeks and a bit ago, we took over the pub and have enjoyed every minute since. We've received overwhelming support and appreciation for our efforts from a lot of people and we are truly grateful. Our Special Valentine's Dinner and Grand Opening Party were a huge success! The pub was abuzz with happy people occupying every bit of space, enjoying themselves in the company of family, friends and neighbours.

Please come and visit us, we would be very pleased to meet you. Monday to Wednesday is Pensioner's Lunch. 20% off all main course meals! Every Wednesday, we strive to put something new on the Special's Board. Sunday Lunch is busier every week. We have received a lot of compliments for Bill's home-cooked meals and his specialties are the Barbeque Pork Rack of Ribs, Thai Red and Green Curries and his ever so famous Apple Crumble. They have not failed us yet! Please log on to our website www.georgeanddragon.info or alternatively, call us at 01235-850723 for more information and news about the George and Dragon, that is, YOUR pub. We hope to see you soon. Cheers!

Village Produce Association

Next Talk – In the Vale Room, Blewbury on 4 April at The talk will be on Bulbs, Corms, Rhizomes and Tubers by Richard Roslyn Richard gave us an incredible journey through the various soils of the UK a couple of years ago (Marsh, sand, clay, chalk, mountains and seashore.)

The Methodist Church

Sunday 10.30 Preacher

11 March Helen Carter

18 March *Mothering Sunday*

Andrew Lockley

25 March Rev Helen White

1 April *Palm Sunday* Malcolm Newton

January's Weather

During January the average maximum temperature in Upton was 10.9 deg C with an average min temperature of 3.4 deg C. Rainfall was 133mm. a very wet month compared to the 30 year average January rainfall of 57.5 mm As an indication of the dreaded global warming the average max. and min. temperatures in Oxford in 1907 were 6.3 deg C and 0.3 deg C with rainfall of just 15mm.

Facts from Austin the Upton weather man.

Items for inclusion in the April issue to be submitted by 31 March.

Printed at the Duck House, Blewbury.
Delivery organised by Jessie West