

UPTON NEWS

MAY 2007

Vol 3 No. 3

ST MARY'S CHURCH

An Advanced note for your diary:

We are delighted to announce that

The Eliza Tones Flute Ensemble and Geoff Summers

will be presenting a concert on

Tuesday 24 July at 8.00 p.m.

Light refreshments. Tickets £5.

Booking is advisable since space is limited, please call 01235 850486

The Eliza Tones Flute ensemble is based in Adelaide, they will also be playing in Dorchester Abbey during their tour of the UK.

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Church Services at St Mary's during May

Sunday 6th May, 9.00 a.m. – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 13th May, 9.00 a.m. – Sung Eucharist

Also on Sunday 13th May- Join the benefice to celebrate Rogation Sunday at 3.00 p.m. on Churn Knob. Bring the family. Music by Blewbury Brass Band, followed by a picnic tea (donations of food welcome).

Thursday 17th May at 8.00 p.m. Celebration of Ascension Day. Sung Eucharist.

Sunday 20th May, 9.00 a.m. – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 27th May, 9.00 a.m. – Sung Eucharist.

POST OFFICE NEWS

The Post Office will be closed from May 24th through to 31st. I will be reopening on 4th June and I hope this does not inconvenience you too much. Before that if you are going on your holidays and need any currency then I can get it for you within two days (not over weekends, that takes a bit longer). The Post Office also does travel, car and house insurance if you need them.

Best Wishes

Margaret Maytham, Postmistress

VILLAGE HALL

50 Club winners for

April 2007

£10 Mrs Napper no.170

£ 7 Mrs Tibbets no.171

£ 5 Mrs Hardy no. 96

£ 4 Mrs Lownds no. 68

UPTON OIL SYNDICATE

Upton Oil syndicate - for those of you not on e-mail, please let me have your order for the May delivery by Saturday 12th May.

Colin Batchelor 851362

BLEWBURY & UPTON VPA NEWS.

The VPA talk for June will be in the Vale Room at Blewbury village hall on **Wednesday 5 June at 7.30 pm**. The speaker is Bill Bossom, who gave us a talk on Show Exhibiting, a few years ago. This time it's Rose Breeding for Amateurs. As he is staying overnight he will have plenty of time to answer questions.

UPTON VILLAGE THEATRE GROUP

We have booked (so far) 23 seats for "Twelfth Night" in Stratford in September, and we are hoping to book for the open air production of "The Rivals" in Trinity College Gardens on Friday 27 July - when the box office opens. I'd still be interested to know of anyone who wishes to be added to or removed from our mailing list, and for suggestions for outings. Similarly, does anyone have the name of a recommended provider for large minibuses or small coaches?

Malcolm Wright 01235 850705

mcw@ox119je.freereserve.co.uk

THE METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 10.30 Preacher
6 May Rev. Martin Smithson
13 May At Blewbury
20 May Brenda Boyer
27 May Jim Price

UPTON HANDBELL RINGERS

The Ringers are only meeting occasionally during the Summer due to holidays. If anyone who can read music is interested to "have a go" perhaps they would ring Daphne Simpson on 851192.

PARISHIONER NEWS

Mary Bucknell

Sadly, April 5th saw the death of Mary Bucknell who had lived in Upton since 1944 with a short break away in Hermitage when she and her husband Charles retired. She had moved to The Old Vicarage, Moulsoford in February 2006, when Alzheimer's Disease prevented her from living alone. A big party had been planned for her 90th birthday but unfortunately she died 4 days prior to it.

Mary was very proud of her Irish roots, but never forgot that she and "her Charlie" built up Alden Farm from land that, they were told, "was only fit for pewits and rabbits". Alden and Upton were a major part of her life and she took great delight in helping with village activities. She was thrilled when Stevie, her daughter-in-law acquired her chickens, as she had reared thousands of chickens and turkeys over the years.

Mary attended St. Mary's church regularly and commissioned the altar cloth that was used at her funeral.

She found the last year of her life very frustrating and difficult but the wonderful care given to her by all the staff at The Old Vicarage helped her family immensely. She will be sadly missed.

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Congratulations

Congratulations to Julian Sayers on completing the London Marathon in a time of 4:47:57.

GEORGE AND DRAGON

That's another month gone by quickly and our busiest by far. The month of April gave us a chance to experience how busy the pub could be on a sunny day, school break, and bank holiday all in one! We struggled a bit but again, our customers have been very patient with our shortcomings, thank you! We learn from days like these and we encourage feedback so please don't be too shy to let us know how we could better our services.

We have big plans for this month of May mostly because our regulars have been very good in providing the inspiration! And so without further ado, here are the dates for your calendars: Bank Holiday Monday **7th May**, BBQ in the garden. We will be open all day that day as well. **Wednesday 16th**, Thai Cuisine Night and finally, on the **Saturday 26th**, the Triple A Band, local to Upton, will be back to give us more 60's and 70's music. Here's to a good month ahead for all of us. See you at the pub!

UPTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

April 2007

There have been very few incidents to report during the past twelve months. I am pleased to say. To my knowledge there was one garden theft in March 2007 of a cement mixer and a wheelbarrow and two incidents of vandalism to the public telephone box. Otherwise it has been a quiet year in Upton.

I am still trying to add as many names as possible to my email circulation which currently only contains twenty seven. I am sure that at least 50% of Upton residents must have access to email and so there must be many households missing out on updates.

Celia Davies, Upton Organiser NHW

UPTON TIDDLEWINKS

The Upton Tiddlewinks for mothers and toddlers are back in business and are meeting on Friday Mornings at 9.30 am in the Village Hall.

Contact Katie Dickens 851330

PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting

24 parishioners plus our District and County Councillors attended the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10 April.

The Chairman, Graham de Wilde and the Clerk Clare Lightfoot gave reports on the activities and the financial position of the Parish Council. Reports were also given by the District Councillor, County Councillor and by representatives of Blewbury School, UVHAT, St. Mary's Church, Neighbourhood Watch, Parish Transport and Footpaths and United Charities of the Ancient Parish of Blewbury. During the Villagers Forum questions were raised on a wide range of subjects including restrictions to the flow of the village stream, the cycle path to Blewbury, weekly refuse collections, the unfinished road surface in High Street and the Kissing Gate on the footpath to West Hagbourne.

The meeting unanimously backed the idea that the Parish Council should investigate entering the Oxfordshire Villages of the Year Competition.

The meeting concluded with thanks to Graham de Wilde the retiring Parish Council Chairman.

New Parish Council

The parish council should consist of 6 members but with 5 volunteers putting their names forward we have sufficient to form a new council and will meet for the first time on Tuesday 8 May. At that first meeting the Council may choose to co-opt a sixth member. The five who are generously giving of their services are Belinda Drew, Tracy Seelig, John Dickens, Stuart Norman and Mike Brown. Unfortunately we are losing a lot of experience from the council and we should take this opportunity to thank the retiring members Carol Catley-Hall, Sarah Whatmore, Piran Fletcher and in particular Graham de Wilde for their services on the last council.

THE UPTON 'COVEN'

The Upton 'Coven' (or Upton Ladies Monthly Social Evening) is going back to it's traditional

slot on the first Thursday in the month - Our next meeting is on:-

THURSDAY 7 JUNE at 8PM in the GEORGE & DRAGON

The Coven has been in existence for more than 10 years and meets regularly on the first Thursday in the month at our local - The George & Dragon.

It's purpose is quite simply to provide a regular monthly social meeting for ladies in Upton to get together for a chat over a favourite alcoholic beverage, a soft drink or even just a coffee...and of course to support our local !

If you would like to join us and want to come along with somebody for the first time, please do not hesitate to call either Sheila Dawson on 851205, Maggie Maytham on 850364 or Lesley Shaw on 850308

We do hope you will come and join us we look forward to seeing you very much!

Weather:

For March 1907

max temp +12.1 c, min +1.8 c, and 8 days with rain & 21.3 mm total rainfall.

For March 2007

max temp +14.1 c, min +3.3 c, 9 days with "rainfall" 18 mm rainfall, some days rain recorded - but >1mm.

The rainfall for the Midlands is about 50% down for March, and - as observed - sunshine was well above average.

THE HAGBOURNE FUN RUN

The Hagbourne Fun Run is on 7 May at 11 am starting in the East Hagbourne Village Hall.

Items for inclusion in the June issue to be submitted by 30 May.

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

