

UPTON NEWS

AUGUST 2007

Vol 3 No. 6

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Church Services at St Mary's during August

Sunday 5th August, 9.00 a.m. – Sung Eucharist
Sunday 12th August, 9.00 a.m. – Sung Eucharist
Wednesday 15th August, 8.00 p.m. – Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sung Eucharist
Sunday 19th August, 10.30 a.m. – Family Service
Sunday 26th August, 9.00 a.m. – Sung Eucharist

Many thanks to the Eliza Tones Flute Ensemble and Geoff Summers for providing a most enjoyable and entertaining evening at St Mary's church recently. The concert raised £205 for church funds.
Clare Lightfoot

VILLAGE TEA PARTY

Tea Party – especially for elderly village folk – Friday 17 August at 2.30 p.m.
Invitations have been sent out to the tea party, which is being held in the garden at Toad Hall. Please let us know if you haven't received yours. We are hoping for a beautiful summer's day so that the garden can be enjoyed. For more details please contact Margaret on 850364 or Clare on 850486

THE METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday at 10.30

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|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 5 th August | Preacher Brenda Boyer |
| 12 th August (at Blewbury) | Barbara Sexton |
| 19 th August (Communion) | Rev. Helen White |
| 26 th August (at Blewbury) | Brenda Boyer |

Sunday 16th September
50th Anniversary Service at 4.00 p.m. followed by tea. All Welcome.

VILLAGE FETE

Saturday September 1st 2pm at the Village Hall and recreation ground
Come and help make this a memorable afternoon enjoy the social occasion while helping to raise funds for our lovely village church. Donations to any of the stalls **TWO WEEKS** before would be welcome in particular
White Elephant c/o Mimi Eighteen, Rose Cottage, High St
Books c/o Charmian Whitmall, Pippins, Fieldside
Tombola c/o Clare Lightfoot, Thimbles, Newmans Close
Cakes for stall and teas, delivered on the day please
Contact No. Jessie 851206

WELCOME

The village is pleased to welcome the Mason family to Upton.
David and Lucy together with Georgina (aged 9) Sam (aged 6) and Charlie (22 months) have moved into Netherbrook in Church Street from Emmer Green near Reading.
David's interests are Rugby, Golf and Squash, Lucy's interests are Swimming, Pilates and working out in the Gym, both enjoy eating out, good wine and the theatre and cinema.
Georgina adores all forms of dancing and Sam is keen on rugby and football.

BLEWBURY AUTUMN LEAVES CLUB (OVER 60'S)

Bingo etc on 7 and 21 August in the Vale Room Blewbury Village Hall at 2.30pm.
Garden Party at Orchard Dene, Blewbury on 14 August, £4.50, (in the village hall if wet)
Further information from Mrs Belcher 850571

UPTON WINE CLUB

The second very successful year of the Upton Wine Club was wrapped up in June with an enjoyable 'Member's Favourites' event. The new membership year begins in September and so membership forms will be posted through your doors soon.

In case you haven't heard about the club it has been running for two years and the objective is to learn about wine in a relaxed, social environment. For the last two years we have had over 70 members and regularly had over 30 attendees for each meeting. Our first meeting of the year will include the AGM and then we'll look at the white wines of the Alsace region and red wines of Chile. Hope to see lots of you there.

If you haven't had a form by the end of August or have any questions please contact me on fiona.betts@btopenworld.com

OBITUARY

Erica Schumacher 1912-2007

A long life well lived

Erica, how we admired her mental and physical agility while acknowledging her age never thinking of her as old.

To quote a member of her family, Erica was a remarkable and in most ways admirable person. She was above all an adventurer but paradoxically she combined a good measure of rebellion with extreme conformity. She was determinedly independent, yet obsessively aware of social status. In quick order she could leave you gaping incredulously at the vehemence of her opinions; fill you with admiration for her intelligence, honesty and determination or drive you to distraction by her readiness to judge and criticize-frequently unfairly. She had lived life to the full and she had a very strong sense of her own place in this universe. She had little time and patience for what she considered to be trivial or irrelevant to her life.

Like any true adventurer she suffered many setbacks but had the mental resilience and strength to overcome the immediate obstacles, to re-ground herself and to fulfil any obligations accrued along the way.

True to the rest of her life she left us on June 29th in her own place and on her own terms. We have been enriched and stimulated by her presence. She will be a hard act to follow.

Jessie

PARISH COUNCIL

Finance

The Parish Council wishes to thank Brian Simpson for carrying out the internal audit of the council's accounts and for providing the council with a very useful Audit Report. During the year to April 2007 the council had a total income of £8655 and a total expenditure of £8365.

The council has been able to build up a reasonable reserve over the past 5 years that is intended to go towards the cost of improvements to our recreation amenities including the Village Hall. Much of this reserve is the result of the work undertaken for the council by the group of village volunteers.

If any parishioner would like to look over the accounts in the next few weeks please contact Clare on 850456.

Rats

It is estimated that there are 65 million rats in this country and like all rural communities we have them living amongst us in this parish although not as bad as in some other local villages. It is important that we keep them to a minimum.

Try to deprive them of any source of food. Do not feed the birds or your pets in such a way that the rats can get to the food and ensure they cannot get to any edible household waste.

It is the responsibility of the property owner to get rid of rats living on their property. The District Council (Tel No 520202) who until recently, provided a free rat catching service now charge £28 per visit.

If rats are a problem spread over several properties in the village please notify the Parish Council who will investigate the possibilities of organising an area cull.

Planning

UPT/832/4 – Erection of hay/straw barn at Inghams Farm, West Hagbourne. The PC had no objections to this application

UPT/20176 – Demolition of existing roof, erection of a first floor and roof extension to include loft conversion. Extension around and over existing garage to include kitchen area at ground floor level and 2 bedrooms at first floor level. Erection of a single storey side extension at Stream Cottage, Stream Road.

The PC object to this planning application on the grounds that the new building will be too big for the plot and will dominate the adjacent listed buildings.

GEORGE and DRAGON

July was make or break for us at The George and Dragon. Challenges were thrown at us from every direction but with a lot of help from our friends, we managed to overcome them one by one.

First on the list was of course none other than the smoking ban. We did notice a drop in liquid sales but our food sales have increased and so it seems like it has balanced itself. New faces are coming in every day to try out the pub and the "regulars" are growing in numbers.

Second, this very wet summer! Our End of Term Disco was well attended considering it was on the day of "The Rain!" Unrelenting it was, so much so that sometime after lunch, a raging river was coming down from the garden straight into our cellar! We had a mad moment of panic when we started digging out our garden to create a dam but the rain ceased soon after and then all the water disappeared.

Third, thieves! No worries, nothing major. Our disco would have been perfect except, it was on that night when we were visited by them. They took all the umbrellas in our patio while we were a-dancin'! We refuse to let this minor set-back dampen our spirits and so we shall charge that to experience.

We are now looking forward to August! We have just one major event for this month: The George and Dragon Pub Field Trip to the 6th Thai Festival in Milford Surrey on the 27th, Bank Holiday Monday. A private coach will take us there and back for £10 per person. Unfortunately, the pub will be open only for drinks on this day as Bill will not be able to cook. He will be very busy watching the Thai cookery demonstration. There are far too many things on offer to mention here so please drop by the pub for a flyer.

A very wet July has gone and hopefully, here's to a dry August! Cheers

BLEWBURY TENNIS CLUB

Remember what the last day of the holidays feels like?

Children bored, another meal to be cooked?

Instead - come to The Blewbury Tennis Club's 'Whole Hog'!

Pig Roast and Home Made Puds

Bar, Fun and Games, Afternoon Tea

Sunday 2nd September 12 noon - 5 pm

In the marquee down at the farm, off Heather Way

In aid of Blewbury Tennis Club Court Maintenance
£10 a head (under 5's free) from Fiona Betts 851001

UPTON OIL SYNDICATE

If you wish to be included in the order for August, please let me have your requirements by Saturday 11th August.

Colin Batchelor (851362)

THE UPTON 'COVEN'

The next Upton Ladies Coven will be on Thursday August 2nd.

The September Coven will be on Thursday 6th September

LIBRARY

A wealth of online reference information is available, 24/7, to all Oxfordshire Library Members. You can access this service by opening your web browser and going to www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/referenceonline. You will need your library membership number to open these reference sources that include, Britanica Online, Grove Art and Music Online, NewsUK, The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Times Digital Archive and amongst many others Who's Who.

By logging on to www.libcat.oxfordshire.gov.uk you can also check the entire Oxfordshire library stock, reserve and renew items online as well as maintaining an overview of your current loans and requests.

If you are not on the internet at home, all of the above services are available in your local branch library including at some of the larger branches, additional sources such as family history and business information.

Items for inclusion in the September issue to be submitted to kameki39@btinternet.com, or handed in to Cathy or Mike by 25 August.

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Delivery organised by Jessie West

