UPTON NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2007 **Vol 3 No. 7**

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Services for September

Sunday 2nd September – 9.00 a.m. – Sung Eucharist
Sunday 9th September – 9.00 a.m. – Sung Eucharist
Sunday 16th September – 10.00 a.m. – FAMILY SERVICE/HARVEST FESTIVAL
Sunday 23 September – 9.00 a.m. – Sung Eucharist
Sunday 30th September – 10.30 a.m. United service at Blewbury – Celebration of St Michael and All Angels. **NO SERVICE AT UPTON THIS DAY.**

Village Fete
Saturday 1st September – 2.00 p.m. in the Recreation Ground

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RIDE or STRIDE

Saturday 8 September
Money raised from this annual sponsored event is divided between the Historic Churches Trust and a church or your own choice. Plan your route to take in as many churches as possible, then be sponsored for each church visited. You can cycle, walk or run – its up to you.
St Mary's needs people to act as welcomers, this just means sitting in church for an hour on the day and signing the sheets of those who check in. If you would like to take part or be a welcomer then please get in touch with Clare Lightfoot on 850486.

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VILLAGE TEA PARTY

Weren't we lucky with the weather? Friday 17 August was the only dry day that week. The weather forecaster said it would be fine and it was.

It was an absolute delight to see around 60 people in the Garden of Toad Hall enjoying a chat and tea, in china cups! The coy carp seemed to rise to the occasion, but poor Jeremy, the duck, wondered what on earth was going on and soon disappeared. I'm glad to say that she reappeared when everyone had gone home.

The deputy Chairman of the Vale of the White Horse, Alison Rooke, spent the afternoon with us and the majority of people were able to have a chat with her.

It goes without saying that we are grateful to Austin and Maggie for the use of their interesting garden and for all their hard work in preparing for the tea party. Thanks also to everyone who helped in any way. Thank you also to the Parish Council who donated £20 to offset the cost.

A number of people have written saying how much they enjoyed the afternoon. One card said "we hope the tradition is now well established and there will be equally happy events in the future." This kind of comment makes it very worthwhile. Maggie has pencilled in her diary Friday 15 August 2008 – please put it in your diary too.

Clare Lightfoot

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PARISH COUNCIL

Planning Application UPT/20226
Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of 2 chalet bungalows at "Hitherto", Church Street.

At a meeting on Aug, 16th the Parish Council decided to object to this application.

Village of the Year
The Parish Council would like to thank Graham De Wilde, Belinda Drew and Ben Shaw for making our presentation to the judges and to all those who helped with the preparation of our display. In particular our thanks to Brian Rippon for preparing an excellent array of photographs and for setting up our website to run on a laptop and to Graham for putting the display together.
As part of the display we asked 12 parishioners, chosen to give a wide range of views, if they would write about 80 words about what they liked about living in Upton. We thank them for their responses which we think reflect the spirit of the village and intend to anonymously print one each month. Belinda's report on judging day is included in this issue as is the first of 'I like Upton'.

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PARISHIONER'S NEWS

Congratulations.
The village is proud to have such a talented group of teenagers. Congratulations to Alex Davies, Andrew Hetherington, Rachel McLaughlin, Ross Telling and David Yates on achieving such excellent A Level results.
Alex and David are off to Swansea to read History. Rachel is going to Winchester again to read History. Ross is off to Bristol to read Maths and Andrew is doing a Gap Year part of which he will spend in Australia before going to Portsmouth to read Criminology. After taking her gap year Charlotte De Wilde is going to Bournemouth to study Communications and Media Studies.
In addition to the above, in the past two years, we have also seen Adam Heathrington go to Bournemouth to study Sports Management and Ben Shaw go to Swansea to study Law.
In such a small village it is a tremendous achievement to have so many of our youngsters going on to University, well done to you all and well done to all the proud parents.

BLEWBURY & UPTON VPA NEWS

Our first Summer produce show in Upton in July was truly wonderful, thank you to the villagers who came over from Blewbury and also thanks to Upton villagers who were so welcoming! Our Autumn show is in Blewbury school hall on the 8th September, traditionally the autumn show is smaller and less frenetic, but recently we are seeing an increase in entries, global warming to blame perhaps, however, this year we are holding a tomato festival alongside the usual exhibits. Villagers have been given 10 seeds from about 40 different varieties of tomato, they have grown and nurtured carefully these little gems, there are varying types and cultivars, different colours shapes and sizes. I have stripy tomatoes, also slightly fuzzy tomatoes; some look like bananas, orange, yellow, red and giant ones which promise to be huge, who knows what will turn up? Well Maggie does because she ordered them, but it will be a real eye-opener we hope! The show opens at 2.30pm, with prizes at about 4pm, and the auction of fruit, veg and flowers at 4.30pm. There will be a great raffle, a plant stall and tombola, along with homemade cake to go with your cup of tea! If you would like to enter, bring entries to the post offices by Wednesday 5th September, or take to Maggie or any committee member. Show schedules are in post offices too.
My garden is looking ok; it keeps growing faster than I can prune/trim/hack it back! I have some lovely blackberries that I have allowed to scramble through some large shrubs, enough for a couple of pies, and a few left for the blackbirds who live in the hedge, even though a sparrow hawk has had a couple for lunch, the birds not the berries! My veggie plot has sweet corn which is doing well, although my onions all bit the dust! One day I will get them right, the sweet peas finally flowered 3 weeks after the summer show, but my roses were spot on the button for the summer show, hurrah!

Happy gardening
Karen Brooks

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METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday at 10 am (except 16 September) **Preacher**

2nd September Barbra Sexton
(Harvest Festival, at Blewbury)
9th September Geoff Caudle
16th September 4.00 PM Rev. Phillip Morse
This will be our 50th anniversary service followed by tea.
Photographs and film of the 1957 opening of the Chapel will be on display.
Please come and join us, everybody welcome.
23rd September Stephen Atkinson
30th September Pam Martin

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ACTIVE HARVEST

The Churn Benefice is delighted to invite all pre-school children and their parents to join us for a lunchtime activity session based on Harvest on Tuesday September 25th from 12.30pm at the Centre for Reflection, Aston Tirrold.

We will start with a sandwich lunch and a chance to chat and meet some new people, and then there will be arts and crafts activities for the children, such as potato and leaf printing, making shapes with salt bread and planting a prayer garden to take home.
We will conclude at 2pm after a story, a few songs and a short act of worship.

It would be extremely helpful if you could let us know if you intend to come so that we can make sure that there enough activities and lunch for everyone. Please either email Justine Goodenough on barnendevents@aol.com or call 01235 510864.

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THE UPTON 'COVEN'

The next Upton Ladies Coven meeting will be in the George & Dragon on
Thursday 5th September at 8pm. Everyone welcome - we look forward to seeing you there.

GEORGE and DRAGON

A few more weeks to go and summer (if we could call it that!) will soon be over. In fact, it looks like it's merged itself with autumn as the leaves have begun to turn yellow, wind is getting cooler and soon…winter will be upon us. It will not be long before the fire needs lighting again.
We are happy to report that we've had a very good summer season at the pub. It will definitely tide us over the lean months. Thanks mostly to the locals and other regulars who are vigilant in pointing out the things that we could improve on. We value these feedbacks because if not for them, how else would we know how to make ourselves better?
September means it's back to school for students and that includes two valuable members of our team, Charlotte de Wilde and Linda Santos, who will be starting and ending in university respectively. You will both be missed terribly! Good luck girls.
Also, our Aunt Sally team has done a good job of promoting our pub and as a show of gratitude, we are holding an end-of-season party for them on the 21st of September to which, you are all invited. Music will be provided by a local band "Not Ded Yet". Alan Davies of Deveens Fir on bass! They will be playing Rock and Pop from the 60's to the present. Party will commence promptly at 9pm. We are talking PARTY here folks so we hope to see you all then!

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UPTON WINE CLUB

The new membership year begins in September and so membership forms should already be with you or will be posted through your doors very soon.
Our first meeting of the year is on Wednesday 19th September at 8pm in the Village Hall and 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 have any questions please contact me on fiona.betts@btopenworld.com

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VILLAGE of the YEAR

Meeting the Judges

Graham de Wilde, Belinda Drew and Ben Shaw joined representatives of other Oxfordshire villages on Saturday the 18th August to present Upton Village to the judges of the Calor Oxfordshire Villages of the Year Competition. The invitation to the judging event at Kennington Village Hall to display materials that reflect the character of the village and to talk to the judges was given to Upton after being chosen as one of 18 finalists of the competition. The judges were looking for active, caring and inclusive communities, rewarding community action and community spirit. Ben, Belinda and Graham all had the opportunity to talk to the judges about the widespread involvement in village clubs and activities since the completion of the Parish Plan, to show off the excellent village website and to talk about the plans on the horizon such as village carbon emissions reduction.

The judging went very well, with the great success of Upton's Parish Plan attracting the attention of the judges and the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC), leading to an invitation for a member of the village to speak on the subject at a Parish Plan training event in October.

Whichever community emerges as the Calor Oxfordshire Villages of the Year winner will have the honour of being nominated to go forward to represent the county in the prestigious Calor Village of the Year for England competition 2007/08. This will give them the opportunity to gain national recognition as well as a share of a prize fund totalling more than £36,000.

The evening of the ORCC Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 3 October will include the presentation of Competition awards and a photo session. For more details of the Oxfordshire competition, download the Villages of the Year Report 2006 or contact Aimee Evans at ORCC. aimee.evans@oxonrcc.org.uk

Belinda Drew

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THEATRE CLUB

A spare ticket has become available to go to Stratford to see Twelfth Night on 12th September. Transport by Minibus is available. For more details contact Malcolm Wright on 850705.

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VILLAGE HALL

50 Club winners for July

£10	Mr Caffyn	75
£7	Mrs Maytham	145
£5	Mrs Williams	23
£4	Mrs Parham	89

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I LIKE UPTON

"We came to live in Upton eight years ago. Within two days of arriving we were welcomed by a member of the Parish Council, bringing with her all the information needed about local amenities and the many activities that take place in Upton. My husband died three years ago and the support, care and friendship I received from these lovely people of Upton was boundless. Upton is a small village but has a great big heart of gold. Friendship is the keynote.

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Items for inclusion in the October issue to be sent to kameki39@btinternet.com. or handed in to Cathy or Mike by 24th September.

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