

UPTON NEWS

OCTOBER 2007

Vol 3 No. 8

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Services for October

Sunday 7th - 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist
Sunday 14th - 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist
Sunday 21st - 9.00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Sunday 28th - 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

THE NEXT FAMILY SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY 18TH NOVEMBER AT 10.00 A.M.

METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday at 10 am	Preacher
30 th September (at Blewbury)	David Kershaw
7 th October (Harvest Festival and Communion)	
Blewbury Methodists and St Mary's will be joining us.	Rev Helen White
14 th October	Ruth Price
21 st October	Brenda Boyer
28 th October (Communion at Blewbury,)	Rev Helen White

Our 50th Anniversary Service was a huge success – the chapel was full and extra seating was needed in the hall. Our sincere thanks go to Rev. Philip Morse who conducted the service and Campbell Smith who kindly played the organ for us. The donations of food and help in the preparation and service for the tea that followed were highly appreciated. Thank you so much to everybody who contributed in any way to make it such an enjoyable afternoon.

Helen Weston.

VILLAGE HALL

50 Club winners for August

£10	Mr Ireson	120
£7	Mrs Whitmell	124
£5	Mrs Collins	28
£4	Mrs Maunsell	88

New social event planned for Upton

Members of the Village Hall Committee are considering setting up a twice-monthly 'drop-in' session at the Village Hall whereby anyone living in the Village will be able to call in for a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit. If this proves popular, it will offer everyone a meeting place to catch up with old friends, make new ones and get to know other people.

However, although members of the Committee have offered their time to help run this new initiative, we are conscious of the fact that we will need more volunteer helpers if it is to work successfully. So, if you like the idea and would be willing to join the team, please give me a ring, or email me if you prefer. (Tel: 850989 yvonne.p.collins1@btinternet.com). The next Upton News will contain an update on this advance notice and hopefully a starting date as well.

Yvonne Collins, UVHAT

Date for your diary

Wednesday **November 28th** when once again The Oxford touring Theatre Company bring to the village hall

"The Delicious Revenge of Princess Ruby Slippers by Brendon Murray"

PARISH COUNCIL

Village of the Year

The P.C. is delighted to report that in the Oxfordshire Village of the Year Competition, Upton has been selected in second place in the Vale of White Horse District and awarded a certificate and £200 sponsored by the Vale Strategic Partnership.

The judges were particularly impressed with the enthusiasm we have shown for our Parish Plan and for our care of our local residents.

The overall winner of the competition is Steeple Aston.

The winner in the Vale of White Horse District is Stanford in the Vale.

Our thanks to those in the village who helped us with the competition by helping to put together our entry form and supplying material for our display and our particular thanks to Graham De Wilde, Belinda Drew and Ben Shaw for portraying the village in such a good way to the judges.

What to do with the award?

It is what the village is doing and has achieved that has brought us the success in the competition and therefore it is only right that the village has its say in how the £200 award should be used. Please send me your suggestions, emails or notes.

Would you like to see it used to improve the pleasure of living in this village, maybe improving our social/recreational amenities or actually on a social event like Christmas celebrations for our under 16 and over 60s.

Mike Brown kameki39@btinternet.com

Planning

Planning application UPT832/4 (Barn at Highams Farm) has been permitted.

Planning application UPT/20176 (Extension to house in Stream Road) has been withdrawn.

HARVEST SUPPER

A warm welcome awaits you at
The *Harvest Supper* being held on
Monday **October 8th**

Upton Village hall at 7pm
tickets £6, children under 12 £4 from
Jessie 851206 Shelia 851205
Helen 850031 Clare 850486

Proceeds to St Mary's and Upton Methodist Churches.

BABY SITTING CIRCLE

Would you like to go out as a couple again?? Remember what it was like before the children??? But don't want to pay for a babysitter

A few of us have set up a baby-sitting circle in the village. It's based on the payment of so many tiddlywinks which you earn depending on how long you sit for, and if the children are unconscious or not!! Would you like to join us, how often you want to baby-sit is up to you, but the more you do the more you will be able to go out!!!! If you are interested please contact Lizzi Pinckney, Springside Cottage 851120

THE VILLAGE WEB SITE

The number of visitors to the web site continues to grow, and now stands at over 400 different viewers per month, with new material and news being added to the site every few days.

Recent additions include a Young Upton section, which is designed for the younger residents of the village and their parents. See the Young Upton section of this newsletter.

I would like to add a more general 'Local Businesses' page, to list businesses that are based in (or perhaps the proprietor is a resident of) the village. If you run such an operation, or you know of one that you think should be included, please send me the details.

Brian Rippon
webmaster@uptonvillage.co.uk

THE UPTON 'COVEN'

The next Upton Ladies Coven meeting will be in the George & Dragon on Thursday 4th October at 8pm. Everyone welcome - we look forward to seeing you there.

REVIEW OF UPTON BUS SERVICE

During November and December, Oxfordshire County Council will be carrying out a review of the bus service, Abingdon Bus Company No. 94. This will be the time for bus users, or anyone interested in using the bus, to offer suggestions for improvements or extensions to the present bus timetable, which might meet their needs. If anyone has any ideas they would like to put forward, please contact us by mid-December on 850449 and we will pass them on the County Council.

Juliet and Peter Gardner,
Parish Transport Representatives for Upton

BLEWBURY & UPTON VPA NEWS

As I write this, the hazel nuts are crashing onto the shed roof and off onto the vegetable plot, providing hours of joy for Monty the digger dog, who enjoys hunting them down and eating them! There will be few, I fear, left for the dormice that live in the trees! Dizzy (now not so dizzy now she is very old and crumbly) the dog is hiding in her nest under the evergreen honeysuckle and comes out from underneath covered in flowers and leaves! Our tomato festival in the autumn show was made even more exciting by the photographer who came to take our picture for the paper, although there were more victims of the floods than we thought, that is, very few veg made it to the show bench for the show!

Our next venture is the Plant, cake & produce stall at Abners, Church Rd, on Saturday October 13th at 2.30pm until about 4pm. Bring your extra produce that you are overrun with, and buy other goodies that you will enjoy knowing someone else had put in the hard work! Or just come and spend a happy afternoon restocking your garden and cake tin!

Happy gardening
Karen Brooks

GEORGE AND DRAGON

The weather has not been very cooperative the past few weeks. That, plus the fact that summer is officially over with the children back in school, things have calmed down a bit for us. It was very good to see what the summer could bring and the things we've learned will be put to good use next year.

We've had a word with our Area Manager about "continuing" the footpath that leads from Chilton Road to our pub. AM is certainly not adverse to the idea and said he will get his diary sorted and will let me know when we could have a proper meeting together with Mike Brown from the Parish Council.

I am in the process of overhauling our website. There is definitely nothing wrong with it but the webmaster and myself have spoken in the past of giving it a new look and stamping it with our own style. It should be up and running by second week of October just in time for the unveiling of our new autumn-winter menu which will include game! The Christmas menu is now available so if you're planning a sit-down dinner with a few friends or family, it might just be worth your while to let us do the work so you can concentrate on having a good time. Before that though, there is Hollow's Eve to celebrate yet and so the **Triple A Band** will be back in the house to provide live music for our **Halloween Party on the 26th of October**. See you soon!

NEIGHBOUR HOOD WATCH

If anyone in the village would like to be included in my email circulars please could they contact me at the following address as soon as possible.

This may also be of interest to anyone who has recently moved into Upton.

I only have 15 residents on my list and feel sure that at least 50% of people have internet access. If you have recently changed your provider please could you also advise me as I notice that I have lost a couple of late!

CeliaADavies@aol.com

BLEWBURY TENNIS CLUB

Want to do some Christmas shopping in a relaxed way with a drink in your hand? Blewbury Tennis Club has the solution. We are holding a 'Grand Auction of Promises and Opportunities' in order to raise funds following the resurfacing and extension of the courts. The auction is taking place on Saturday 17th November at 8pm at Hall Barn, Westbrook Street, Blewbury. Tickets are £5 and include a kir and canapés. There are many varied lots including a watercolour of your house, a week in the South of France, a dog walker for a fortnight and a babysitter. Full details of all lots will be available in advance of the auction. Can't make it but still want to bid? Then leave your bid with Lindy Farrell in advance or phone in and be part of the action on the night. Tickets and details of lots are available from Lindy Farrell on 01235 850275.

I LIKE UPTON

We arrived in the village in the middle of April, having moved from a very functional suburb of Reading, and were unsure as to what to expect. Well, in the past four months village life in Upton has totally exceeded our expectations. From day one we received a very warm welcome, everyone being extremely friendly and helpful. A number of different people from the village postmistress to the Chairman of the Parish Council have introduced themselves personally to us. We are extremely impressed with the strong sense of local community embedded in the village, and by the wide range of activities offered. The monthly village newsletter and the village website have been invaluable sources of information to us. We are very happy indeed here, and hope to become active members of the Upton village community for many years to come.

CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual village children's party, which is funded by UVAT and organised by some, our young mums has been provisionally set for 15th Dec. More details next month.

You will see in the Young Upton section of this newsletter that the P.C. would like to put together a listing of all the children we have in this parish for the reasons given in that section. Its first use would be to ensure that no children are missed from the youngsters Christmas party list.

POST OFFICE

Posting dates for Christmas mail

Surface Mail

Australia etc	1 October
Far East & Middle East	15 October
USA & SA	29 October
Mediterranean	16 November
Europe	30 November

Air Mail

Far East & Australia	7 December
USA & Eastern Europe	10 December
Europe	13 December

UK

Standard Parcels	14 December
2 nd Class	17 December
1 st Class	20 December
Special Delivery	22 December

Maggie

Items for inclusion in the November issue to be sent to kameki39@btinternet.com. or handed in to Cathy or Mike by 25th October.

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

Young Upton

New Web Page

Our 'Wonderful Webmaster' Brian Rippon has been working with Sarah Stoves to set up a new web page on the village web site called Young Upton. If you are under 18 then this is for you! (even if some of you may need a little help from Mum or Dad!). Go onto the web site and follow the links. Have a look at the page and then please tell us how we can make it better for you by sending an email to Youth@uptonvillage.co.uk At the moment the page has two sections

'Childrens Views'

This is a page where, maybe with a little help from your parents, you can tell us all about any holidays, day trips or activities that you have experienced and what you thought of it. We already have a fun piece from Billy, Stanley and Daisy Tibbets about their holiday in Brittany, France. The most important thing is that it is written by you, the children for the children. Although.....it would be useful if your mums and dads could attach web links to the destinations/events to help other parents in the never ending quest to find that great family day out that really WILL entertain you!!

'Swop Shop'

Set up in a bid to be 'Green' and recycle as much as we can, the 'Swop Shop' will allow you and your parents to recycle any unwanted/grown out of toys/books/equipment/uniform and other child related bits and pieces. It will also enable you to submit a 'wanted' advert (without asking for anything too silly of course!).

Examples of adverts could read:

"Offered – Roller Blades, size 11. Work well just too small!"

"Wanted – Any Thomas the Tank Engine books for Thomas mad 2 year old!"

All offers and wanted ads must be emailed to swopshop@uptonvillage.co.uk which will then be checked to make sure it isn't too silly (like asking for a PSP or something!) then placed on the web site. It must include either a return email or telephone number as responses will come back directly to you and your family. It will be up to you which family you choose to pass on too and to notify them directly to arrange collection/delivery. Also please let us know by email when the offer has been taken.

If you like the changes we have made to the web site and to the newsletter, that is great but, if you think we can do better, please don't just think it.....let us know as we would really like to know what you, the youth of Upton need and want in a web site. Feel free to give us ideas for other pages or tell us what changes you would like to see to the ones that we already have!!

Questionnaire for Mum or Dad

It would be helpful to your Parish Council if it had a record of the children living in the village and their ages. This information will only be used by the council or a parishioner of this village working with the council to improve facilities and activities for the children of Upton. Please Mum or Dad, if you have children under the age of 16 could you complete the brief questionnaire below and hand it to a member of the council or to Clare Lightfoot the Parish Clerk. If you would like to respond by email I will be pleased to send the form to you. Mike Brown Tel No 850135 Email kameki39@btinternet.com

.....
Surname:

House Name:

Children

Name	Sex M/F	Age

Would you be interested in Parish Council organised family events, for example, parties, picnics, games in the park, days out? Yes/No

Have you suggestions of other activities for children that the Parish Council could organise?

.....

Tiddlywinks.

The chickenpox tried to put paid to our trips over the summer but eventually one by one we emerged from our 2 weeks of isolation to enjoy some great trips around the local area.

First trip was Farmer Gowes, it was a small turn out for this trip (due to more spots) but great fun was had by all, feeding the cute baby lambs and pigs, clambering over the hay bales, and riding on the tractor.

The week after the same group went to Beale Park to enjoy the meerkats, flamingos and owls, there was some competitive sandcastle building and lots of splashing in the swimming pool.

Harcourt Arboretum was a much more laid back affair. We had a lovely picnic lunch on one of the few sunny days of the summer. The children played hide and seek, football and hunt the peacock.

The last trip to Abingdon was also blessed with great weather, while the mums and babies lay out (we wish) in the shade of the poplar trees the children ran wild in and out of the water shoots giggling for hours. They certainly worked up an appetite as they wolfed down the picnic and ice cream before running off to play on the swings, rocking horse and slides in the playground.

To Mums and Dads, Grannies and Granddads, if you would like to join us,...please do, we meet in the village hall on Fridays at 9.30, its a great chance to let the children play and to catch up with the gossip.

Lindsay Lott

Brownies

1st Upton & Blewbury Brownies (Wednesday) will be holding a Coffee Evening on the 17th October. Stalls will be run by the Brownies and half of the money raised will go to help the unit funds and the other half will go to charity, to be decided by the Brownies.

2nd Upton & Blewbury Brownies (Tuesday) has arranged a variety of meetings including a beauty salon and at the end of October the whole meeting will be taken up by the Promise Ceremonies of the four Brownies who started this term.

Guides

1st Upton & Blewbury Guides (Friday) – continues with their regular programme of meetings for girls to learn new skills and make their own decisions. This term they are undertaking the '1000 Years of Oxfordshire Challenge' which involves a range of indoor and outdoor activities to celebrate Oxfordshire past and present - from walking on the Ridgeway to baking Banbury cakes. The unit has signed up for Postcard Exchange and will be sending postcards from Upton to Guide units all around the world.

The guide unit is full and has a waiting list which means there are girls who want to join Guides but can't because there aren't enough adult leaders. So if anyone can spare a couple of hours a week we'd love to hear from them! Either visit the village hall on Friday evening from 7.30 to 9.00 or contact Anne Pappenheim on 01235 834 014