

UPTON NEWS

NOVEMBER 2007

Vol 3 No. 9

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Services for November

4th November - 9.00 a.m. - Sung Communion
11th November - 9.00 a.m. - Remembrance Sunday -
Sung Communion to commemorate those from this
village who have lost their lives in service of their
country
18th November - 10.00 a.m. - Family Service - a
service suitable for all ages - followed by
refreshments
25th November - 9.00 a.m. - Sung Communion

Inter-Parish Quiz - Friday 16th November at 7.30
p.m. in Hagbourne School. Upton will be entering a
team in this friendly quiz. If you would like to take
part please let Clare Lightfoot know (850486), entry
£6 each to include a hot supper. Proceeds will be
going to our link parish, Liuli in Tanzania.

Thanksgiving Concert for Gill Platt - Sunday 18th
November 3.00 p.m. St Andrew's Church, East
Hagbourne. Many of you will know Fr David Platt
who was assistant curate in Upton for some time.
A concert is being held in memory of David's wife
Gill who died recently and is being performed
by professional musicians and members of Gill's
family. Tea and cakes will be served after the
concert. Admission Free - Donations will go to
Alzheimer's Society.

METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday at 10.30 am

4th November
11th November
18th November
25th November
2nd December

Preacher

Paul Williams
Steven Atkinson
Derek Morton
Marlene Chalkley
David Kershaw

VILLAGE HALL

Proposed new twice-monthly coffee mornings in the Village Hall – Update

Following my piece in the Upton News last month,
several people offered to help with this new venture.
This is great but we could really do with one more
volunteer and two would be even better. This would
then give us enough helpers to form a rota so that it
doesn't become a chore for anyone and we could be
up and running by the second week in January. So,
please give it some thought and if you can spare a
couple of hours a month, please ring me or email me
if you prefer. (Tel: 850989
yvonne.p.collins1@btinternet.com). The next Upton
News will hopefully contain our January start-date.
Yvonne Collins

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"

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

On Saturday 8 December from 4.00 to 6.00 Sheila
and Vic Dawson are again holding their Christmas
Lights show in aid of the Children's Playground at
No 2 Fieldside. Tea and cakes will be served;
donations of cakes will be gratefully received.
For added entertainment a Raffle will be held and for
the amusement of the kids and the dads a Train Set
will be running.

PARISH COUNCIL

Planning

Despite objections from the Parish Council and from just about all of the local residents outline planning permission has been granted for the demolition of 'Hitherto' and the erection of two – 2 storey dwellings.

Neighbourhood Watch

This service is so important in making our parishioners aware of crime in the area and particularly aware of the type of crimes where we may be vulnerable, on our doorstep, in our mail and on our computers. The service is free and very well run locally by Celia Davies with messages coming up on your computer about once a month. As a beneficiary of the service I am very surprised that of our 80+ households with computers only 15 are on the system and urge those of you not already signed up to the scheme to send your email address to Celia on CeliaADavies@aol.com

Transport Help

It is now almost 2 years since we published our Parish Plan and over the next few months I will revisit some of the areas the Plan covered to see if circumstances have changed.

When the Questionnaires were completed we found that we had over 30 parishioners prepared to help out in taking people to medical and other appointments but at that time only two residents suggested they might need lifts. As a result we set up a very informal arrangement whereby those in need give either Clare Lightfoot or myself a call a few days in advance and we arrange a driver. To date the demand has been so low that we have done all the driving between us.

If your circumstances have changed or if you have joined us in the last two years and need transport to help you keep an appointment please give one of us a call. Mike 850135 or Clare 850486. If the demand has significantly increased we will look to set up a more formal organisation.

Free Electric Blanket Testing

Now is the time for having your electric blankets tested to ensure that they are still in perfect working order for the cold nights ahead.

Oxfordshire County Council's trading standards and fire and rescue services have teamed up with Npower to provide free electric blanket tests in Wantage and other areas of Oxfordshire.

To book a test, contact Trading Standards on 01865 815607 or 01865 815600.

Footway

You will see in the George and Dragon news that Green King has given permission for the completion of the footway linking Chilton Road with the Pub and the walks beyond. You will also note that Bill has very generously offered to supply the necessary materials. The Parish Council who have been very concerned about safety in this area ever since a small stretch of the original footpath was vetoed are extremely grateful to both Bill and Green King for coming up with a solution and hope very much that you will support Bill in getting the work completed. If you are prepared to spend a few hours at the weekend helping to dig out the path or erect the fence please give myself or Bill a ring and we will work together to co-ordinate your efforts.

Mike Brown 850135

THE UPTON 'COVEN'

Upton Ladies Coven is meeting at 8pm on Thursday 1st November in the George & Dragon and we look forward to seeing everyone there for a drink and a chat.

Next month by popular demand we will meet on Thursday 6th December at the earlier time of 7pm for a meal for all those who would like to forget about cooking for themselves for the evening !! Please could you let MaggieMaytham in the Post Office (Tel: 850364) or Sheila Dawson know by 30th November if you would like to come and eat with us at 7pm so that we can let the George & Dragon know how many we will be for supper. For those who would just like to come along for a drink and a chat as usual then you will still be very welcome to join us.

.....but don't forget it's the 1ST of the month in November for the Coven

UPTON OIL SYNDICATE

If you would like to be included in the November delivery please let me know by Sat 10th November. Colin Batchelor (851362)

GEORGE AND DRAGON

There is no escaping winter what with the weather getting colder each day. We hope you're all well though. It's been very quiet at the pub the past few weeks but it's only because, it's that time of the year when people have spent a lot during the summer and are now saving up for Christmas. It's also during these times when small pubs like the George and Dragon are kept afloat by the regulars and so we are very lucky and thankful to have their support.

Last month we mentioned about a meeting we're going to have with our Area Manager regarding continuing the footpath that leads from Chilton Road to the pub. Apart from one or two non-major things we need to check, we have been given permission by Greene King to carry on with the project and so our next course of action is to actually construct the footpath! The cost of the project will be financed by ourselves and labour will be done mostly by Bill ☺ I'm sure he will appreciate volunteer helpers or even a discounted rate for a digger!

There is a slight change in our opening hours for Friday and Saturday during the winter, starting on the 1st of November. We will close at 2.30pm and open again at 4.30pm. Currently, we are open all day on the two days but we are always empty between those two hours and therefore wasting valuable resources like electricity and **Basia!* All other times for the rest of the week remain the same. You will find this information in our new website, www.georgeanddragon.info

Finally, we have started lighting the fire and the pub is feeling very warm and cosy especially around the area of tables 10 and 12 but the scene is not complete without your good company. If you walk briskly, you won't be too cold. See you soon!

I LIKE UPTON

As we moved into Upton someone came to the door and said "Do you need any help?" The next day a young lady called with a note of the times the Post Office was open. Two weeks later a neighbour laid on a welcoming party. These kind acts set the tone of our eleven years here. We have found people kind, interested and helpful, but never intrusive. If we were to need help we feel it would be freely offered.

BLEWBURY & UPTON VPA NEWS

Many thanks to those who came out to the plant and cake stall at Joyce's, also thanks to those who made cakes and brought plants, we all had a nice afternoon in the sunshine and were home in plenty of time for the rugby match!

I am sure that on the good days this month, we are all out in the garden, as I can hear hedge cutters, mowers and shredders going full pelt, my compost bins are full now and there still seems to be more to chop back. Monty is trying to help by carrying the big branches into his basket, and then chewing up the little twigs, then scampering around the lawn to get rid of any moss that might have dared to take up residence in the grass! Bless! Dizzy is asleep under the shrubs as usual! I have moved all my fuchsias into the greenhouse, even though they are still in full flower, as we have frosts forecast soon!

I know it must be AGM time as I have been asked to get my big box of wineglasses out of the cupboard under the stairs (and wash them all) and then go and buy large quantities of wine, juice, biscuits and cheese. Our speaker this year is guaranteed to turn up as he is Ken Pottle from Dibleys, with his slides from his recent trip to Barbados. Please come and find out what we have been up to this year, what we have planned and to have your say on anything else! We will also have tickets for the Christmas social evening! If you need a lift, ring me on 850219, and I will arrange transport for you! So see you all on Wednesday 7th November at 7.30pm, in the Vale Room, Blewbury.

Happy gardening
Karen Brooks

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

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

Young Upton

Web Page

Swop Shop

Nothing at all has appeared in the Swop Shop. Christmas is only a few weeks away and I bet the Toy Box/Cupboard is already so full that the lid/door won't shut, why not make some room in expectation of those new presents and put some of those outgrown toys and books in the Swop Shop. If you can't think of any items that you would like in return then ask for a £5 note or £2 coin. We are really keen to see the shop contain some goods, an empty shop is no good to anyone. Send your offers or your requests to swopshop@uptonvillage.co.uk

Children's Views Page

We still only have the one story on our Children's Views page, so come on lets make the page more interesting. I am sure some of you went away for Half Term so there should be some good stories there or maybe you just had a good day out, played in a good football match or even just wrote a short story. Please write something up for us and send it to Youth@uptonvillage.co.uk.

List of Upton Children

I am pleased to report that your Mums and Dads have been a lot more responsive than you have and that to date 29 of you aged under 16 have had your names sent in to put on our list of Upton children. Unfortunately that means that we still do not have details of about 25 of you. If you are one of the 25 please ask Mum or Dad to fill in the form below and drop it in to one of your Parish Councillors or perhaps you could do the job for them.. It will be very helpful to your Parish Council to know how many children we currently have in the parish and their ages so that we can plan ahead.

Using the same form some of your Mums and Dads have also been sending us in ideas of things that we might do to make your life in Upton more enjoyable and we thank them for their efforts. One of those ideas from the Fletcher family is printed below and we will look to see how it goes on the afternoon of the 11th November.

Under Elevens Informal Football

Calling all young footballers in Upton - whether you're new to the village or have been here all your life. Do you like playing football? Do you find there's never anyone else up at the rec when you're there with a ball? Want more people around to make a good game? **Try Sunday 11th November 2pm. You turn up, you choose teams, you play, you referee it.** Mum or Dad talk amongst themselves and cheer you on. If it's popular, we could try this every second Sunday of every month at the same time.

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?

.....

From Blewbury School.

It's been a busy, successful fun-filled first term at your local school. The themes for this term's study have been House and Homes (Key Stage 1) and Weather & Climate (Key Stage 2); these have inspired much creative effort, effective learning, and hard work in and out of school. We've also had sporting success with our girls football team through to the Oxfordshire 7 a side finals. Most of our KS2 children are taking up the opportunity of an outdoor pursuits long weekend trip in early November.

Please ask Mum or Dad to buy Blewbury School "300 years" 2008 calendars this month. They feature photographs from our School 300th Year celebration parade last summer and from our successful walking bus - now five years old. They're on sale from Savages, the Hair Studio in Blewbury, and Blewbury & Upton Post Offices. On the 19th November we are also raising funds for the school by collecting good quality second hand clothes that are sent to Eastern European countries for sale (as is done with the contents of many clothing banks). You can ask for bags from the school, or are welcome to drop donations off at Sine Nomine, Church St.

Finally, an event to look forward to for next month is the Christmas Fair which will be 2-4pm Friday 7th December - more details next month!

Kathryn Fletcher

Upton Children's Christmas Party

Saturday 15th December
6.00 – 8.00pm in Upton Village Hall

For children of Upton aged 2 – 11 years
Disco, food and lots more....
Funded by UVAT

To reserve a place please contact:

Karen	851072
Andrea	850460
Lindsay	851222
Sarah	851449



Closing date: 1st December

A special visit from Father Christmas is expected so reserve your place early to avoid disappointment!!

Also, for parents:
Mince pies & Christmas Hamper Raffle (donations appreciated)

