

UPTON NEWS

January 2008

Vol 3 No. 11

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

ST MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES:

6 January 9.00 am - Epiphany - Sung Eucharist
13 January 9.00 am - Baptism of Christ - Sung Eucharist
20 January 10.00 am - CHRISTINGLE - family service - all ages welcome
27 January 9.00 am - Sung Eucharist
27 January 10.30 am - We are invited to join Upton Methodists for their Covenant Service
3 February 9.00 am - Presentation of Christ - Sung Eucharist

UPTON METHODIST CHURCH

Services commence at 10:30am.

6th January	Brenda Boyer
13th January	John Dennis
20th January	Peter Hemmings
27th January	Rev. Helen White

Covenant Service, St Mary's will be joining us.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Sheila and Vic Dawson would like to thank all the ladies of the village for the wonderful cakes and everyone who gave raffle prizes and donations. We made £273 on the day. Thank you again Margaret, Chris, Lesley and Mary for their help on the day and everyone who came to the house. We are very grateful. Sheila and Vic

VILLAGE HALL

Coming to Upton Village Hall on March 3rd

The Juniper Tree
A Goat and Monkey Production
in association with
The Southern Comfort Consortium

The Juniper Tree, a new piece of writing based on the Brothers Grimm fairytale has been created for a family audience and will be able to be enjoyed by anyone from seven to a hundred and seven!

Goat and Monkey tell the story with a mix of street theatre, magic, beautiful verse, moments of intimacy and moments of the extraordinary. This project sees **Goat and Monkey** working with their established creative team described by the Guardian as "brilliant" and Jon Boden who will be composing new music in rehearsal. The show is aimed at everyone who enjoys a good story, full of adventure, courage, beauty, friendship and love. The show tackles these issues in an accessible and exciting style, where the primary aim is to tell the story of the characters.

Lookout for more information in next month's news

Funding for the Hall

U.V.H.A.T. will be holding a jumble sale on February 23rd in the village hall. Donated items including clothing, bric-a-brac, books toys etc. will be much appreciated. Please contact Jessie 851206

BLEWBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Ladies – fancy some company and interesting places to go? Then join the Blewbury WI!

Blewbury Women's Institute meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month, generally in the Vale Room of Blewbury Village Hall. Ladies from all the surrounding villages are very welcome. We currently have 45 members of all ages with all sorts of interests. As well as the regular meetings we organise trips to the theatre and also other outings. We have recently been to see the Snow Queen by the English National Ballet in Oxford and visited the Sonning Mill near Reading for the lunch and afternoon theatre. In the summer, we visited the Pendon Museum in Wittenham preceded by a pub lunch, Pam Ayres at the Oxford Playhouse and Stonor House near Henley. We also went to see the 'Aldworth Giants' followed by (you guessed it!) a pub lunch. Every August we have a garden party in a member's garden, usually on a Saturday so everyone can attend.

We have an informal Mah Jong group which meets on Mondays during the colder months and the Scrabble group meets once a month all year. A small walking group takes easy rambles in the nearby countryside. All groups are very informal.

Why not just come as a visitor for a suggested donation of £3 to see if you like it? Full membership costs £27 per year. Members receive a free, 74 page lifestyle magazine "WI Life" 10 times a year which includes articles on current issues, news, people in the media, travel, fashion, cookery, crafts and offers.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday January 23rd at 19.30 in the Vale Room and is "Romanticism to Impression" which should enlighten us all. Future talks include 'Rag Rugs', 'The Thornton story' (includes sampling of chocolates!), 'The Trans-Siberian Railway' and 'Travels with Auntie – on the BBC world service'. If you need a lift, just ring Mrs Gettings on 01235 851579 to see what can be arranged.

PARISH COUNCIL

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Tuesday 8th Jan. at 8.00 in the village hall.

Post Office

In the next two weeks it is expected that the Post Office will be announcing the offices in this area that have been earmarked as part of the 2500 offices to be closed nationally. At its next meeting the Parish Council will agree what action to take if our own Post Office is one of those earmarked. It is proposed that should it be necessary we convene an urgent public meeting to agree on how the village should mount its protest. If you hear that the Post Office is on the closure list please look out for the meeting. To have any hope of getting the decision changed we will need to organise a well co-ordinated protest.

Trim Trail

In last months Upton News we asked if there was sufficient support within the parish to justify our spending several thousand pounds on a Trim Trail in the Recreation Ground. We received just one response and that was strongly against the idea.

The topic will be on the agenda at the Annual Parish Meeting at which the Council will propose that the idea be put aside with no action to be taken in the foreseeable future.

Grass Cutting

The response to our request asking for help with the grass cutting has been far more successful with 8 volunteers coming forward. The proposal that we purchase our own mowers and organise the cutting of the grass will now be debated at the meeting on Jan 8th.

We would still like another 2-3 volunteers to join us. We are asking you to give us about 2 hours of your time probably 4-5 times per year.

Business Directory

For those of you who are regular visitors to our website you will have seen that thanks to Brian Rippon we now have 12 village businesses already listed in our Business Directory.

We have contacted a further 13 businesses who have yet to send in their entry. If you haven't heard from us yet but would like to have the details of your business put on the website please give me a call.

Planning

Three Planning applications have been received during December.

Application UPT/9465/11 For the change of use of a small piece of land behind the houses in Chilton Road from agricultural to residential. The P.C. had no objections.

Application UPT/2065/10 For the erection of a conservatory and a lantern roof light at Upton Lodge. The P.C. had no objection.

Application UPT/2065/11 For minor alterations to the roof including the fitting of some roof lights and a second lantern roof light at Upton Lodge. The P.C. had no objection.

Christmas Lights

On behalf of the village the Parish Council would like to thank Vic and Sheila Dawson for not only brightening up the village during December with their Christmas Lights show but also for the work that they and their helpers put in on Dec 8th to raise £273 that they have donated towards the planned improvements to the children's playground.

Mike Brown 850135

UPTON LADIES COVEN

Upton Ladies Coven will meet exceptionally on the second Thursday in the month on Thursday 10th January at 8pm in the George & Dragon and look forward to seeing you all there for a drink and a chat (We thought Thursday 3rd was a little too soon after Christmas & New Year Celebrations and that you may be ready for a 'night out' by then!!)

Also by popular consent - we will be holding Coven meals more frequently in 2008 and so to let you all know in advance we plan to hold the next one on Thursday 6th March 2008 - so please put that date in your diaries if you would like to join us.

FORTNIGHTLY COFFEE MORNINGS

As I write this just before Christmas I am keeping my fingers crossed that everybody will have received their January copy of the Upton News before the first of our 'Drop-in' coffee morning sessions in the Village Hall.

The first session will be on Thursday, 10th January at 10.00 am. Please come along and join us.

If you miss the first session, then the next dates are: 24 January, 7 February and 21 February.

We look forward to seeing you.

Yvonne Collins

UPTON NEWS BY EMAIL

Do you know of anyone who lives outside our normal delivery area who would like to receive a copy of the Upton News, maybe an ex-resident who has left the village. If they have an Email address I will be pleased to add their details to the ever growing list of those who get their 'news' down the wire.

GEORGE AND DRAGON

Chiolo sends her apologies for not providing one of her interesting updates for this month's news, understandable she has been very busy.

To Bill and Chiolo.

We are delighted that you are so busy and thank you both for bringing our village pub back to life and for providing such a pleasant welcome to all of us. We all wish you both a very successful New Year.

UPTON OIL SYNDICATE

If you would like to be included in the January delivery of oil please let me know by Saturday 12th January.

Colin Batchelor (851362)

I LIKE UPTON

I have lived in Upton since 1993. The village is neither remote nor sleepy; in fact it is a friendly and vibrant community, in which people are welcoming and one does not have to go far to access main transport links. Contrary to this is the easy reach of the peace of the countryside and the beauty of the village centre highlighted by the 10th century Norman church. In fact myself and my family are happy living here. Upton is like a jewel in the county

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

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YOUNG UPTON

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Lots of fun was had at this years party, attended by about 25 children from the village. The hall was wonderfully decorated, the tea eagerly consumed and Father Christmas enthusiastically awaited and received. The disco and party games were much enjoyed, including a dance competition won by Ben and Daisy. In addition to the children's enjoyment, the event was a great time for mums and dads in the village to meet, some for the first time. A big thank you to everyone who helped make it possible including fund raisers, UVAT, cooks, Santa, hall decorators....

Christmas Party Raffle

This year a raffle was added to the party and we would like to thank everyone who donated prizes/ bought tickets with total proceeds of £605.

We would in particular like to thank Infineum UK Limited of Milton Hill who donated £500 to the raffle.

The monies will go towards:

Upton Children events

Tiddlywinks, including a few new pieces of equipment

The Children's playground, contributing towards new safety matting for the swings as well as, we hope, an additional piece of equipment.

Andrea Brown

BROWNIES

2nd Upton & Blewbury Brownies (Tuesday) held their Christmas Entertainment for the parents on the 4th December with Christmas Traditions in Europe followed by our annual Christingle. Over £100 was raised by the Brownies filling Smartie tubes with 20p coins and this will be sent to the Children's Society. We finished off the term with a Christmas party and a visit from Santa.

YOUNG UPTON WEBSITE

Swop Shop

If you are about to have a post Christmas clear out to make room for the new presents why not put your unwanted items in your website Swop Shop.

Send your offers or your requests to

swopshop@uptonvillage.co.uk

Children's Views Page

I am sure some of you have had a really exciting Christmas so how about letting us all know how good it was by spending a few moments to write about it and post it on the Children's Views page.

Youth@uptonvillage.co.uk .