

UPTON NEWS

February 2008

Vol 3 No. 12

ST MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

3rd February 9.00 am Sung Eucharist
Presentation of Christ
10th February 9.00 am Sung Eucharist
1st Sunday of Lent
17th February 9.00 am Morning Prayer
24th February 9.00 am Sung Eucharist

UPTON METHODIST CHURCH

Services commence at 10:30am.

3rd February David Martin
10th February Derek Morton
17th February Ruth Price
24th February Rev. John Rowland
(At Blewbury Methodist Church 10:30 am)

We were all very sad to hear the news that Stan Lynch had passed away on the 7th of January. He had been an active member of our Methodist Church for a number of years and we were joined by his many friends for his funeral service on the 15th of January. He will be greatly missed by us all.

Helen Weston

U.V.H.A.T.

50s Club winners for December 2007

£20	Mr Davies	148
£20	Mr Napper	34
£10	Mrs McLaughlin	119
£7	Ms Drew	172
£5	Mrs Timblich	151
£4	Mrs Hardwick	38

VILLAGE HALL

JUMBLE SALE
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 23rd
Upton Village Hall at 2pm

Please bring items for sale at 10am on the morning of the sale, alternatively give Jessie a ring on 851206

The Juniper Tree
March 3rd
Upton Village Hall at 7.30pm

This is a unique opportunity to see this innovative company the

"Goat and Monkey"

The story will begin in the "front of house" area amongst the audience, this will have the effect of inviting the audience into the performance and into a new space.

The audience will see a rosy cheeked gardener pushing a wheelbarrow making his way to a garden shed situated at the entrance.

He beckons the audience to follow him as he opens the shed door and wanders through.

As the audience walk through the shed they can smell flowers, hear carefree whistling, birdsong and wind in the trees.

As they leave the shed by a door at the opposite end, they are greeted by a vision of green inside the space. Wholly transformed from the hall they thought they knew.

With seating arranged down each side of the length of the hall (48 in total) and mats placed at each corner (seating 24 adults and children in total) the action takes place in whatever space becomes available

ticket prices for seats are £7 and £5 concession ticket price for mats £4

PARISH COUNCIL

Litter Pick

The date for this year's Litter Pick is Saturday 15 March. Meet at the Village Hall for a hot drink at 9.30 before setting off to clear the litter at 10.00. Gloves, fluorescent vests and claws will be provided.

Finance

The finances of the Parish Council are exactly where we would want them to be with several more commitments to meet in the near future. It has been decided to keep the small portion of your Council Tax that is returned to your Parish Council at the same level as it has been for the last three years.

Grass Cutting

The Parish Council is very grateful to the nine volunteers who have offered to help out with cutting the grass in the Recreation Ground. It is now very likely that the Council will purchase its own mowers and organise the grass cutting 'in house'. The estimated saving to the parish is £600 per year over the next five years.

Two or three more volunteers would be much appreciated, you can see the difference you can make.

If we achieve a saving of £3000 over the next five years it will go towards further improvements to our amenities.

Children's Playground

It has been agreed that the council will spend up to £1300 on further improvements to the children's playground in the next year. We are very grateful to Infineum for donating £400 and to Vic and Sheila Dawson for raising £300 towards the cost of the work. Much of the funding will be spent on improving the safety surfaces but it is intended that we purchase one new piece of play equipment.

UPTON LADIES COVEN

The next meeting of the Upton Ladies Coven will be at the George and Dragon on Thursday 7th February.

VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

Happy New Year,

Our first talk of the year is on Wednesday Feb 6th at 7.30pm in the Vale room Blewbury, called "Digging Right", or "how to keep your back in" by Dr Brett Rolands, who is a chiropractor. He will also be talking about how to look after our bodies whilst in the garden; personally I think a large gin & tonic whilst lying in a deck chair works really well too!

Memberships are now due, available at Blewbury or Upton Post Offices. £3 for un-retired, £1 for retired.

Happy gardening
Karen Brooks

VILLAGE HALL DROP-IN SESSIONS

Quite a number of you attended our first two Drop-in sessions and the feed-back we have received has all been positive so, hopefully, this will now become a regular feature of life in the Village.

It has now become clear that 10.00 am is a bit too early to start and that 10.30 would be better. Therefore, as from the 7 February all Drop-in sessions will run from 10.30 until 12.00 noon. We hope you will all find this more convenient. During our last drop-in someone suggested bringing in unwanted magazines for others to take away and read. This sounds a good idea so please feel free to bring them in – though not too many as we have no storage facilities.

The next three sessions are scheduled for: 7 February, 21 February and 6 March. Please come and join us for tea, coffee and biscuits. If anybody has a mobility problem please give me a ring as we might be able to help.

Yvonne Collins
01235 850989

STANLEY LYNCH 1921-2008

Stan Lynch died on 7th January 2008 after a short spell in hospital.

He was born in Salford in 1921. He struggled with school and as soon as he was able to, he left and took an apprenticeship with an electrical firm. When the Second World War started, rather than waiting to be called up Stan decided to enlist in the Royal Navy.

Stan had quite a distinguished career in the Navy during the war, serving a lot in North Africa, and he was awarded the British Empire Medal.

Towards the end of his time in the Navy he was promoted to Petty Officer and became an instructor at the Chatham Torpedo School, where he taught the intricacies of minesweeping. After the war Stan left the Royal Navy and joined the Merchant Navy sailing around the world on some of the luxury liners, mostly with the Cunard Line as an Electrical Engineer Officer.

After his time at sea and having moved around the country quite a lot with various jobs Stan took on a most challenging project, to create what is now known as The Upton Fruit Farm. In 1968 Stan bought the 16-acre meadow in Upton, he planted the cider apple trees in the early seventies, and in 1973 he got permission to build himself a thatched house in the young orchard. The cider apples were at first sold to the Taunton Cider Company and used to make Blackthorn Cider. In 1983, Stan decided to make his own cider in his orchard and formed the Upton Cider Company. In 1999, aged then 78, he decided to slow down a little and sold the business but he continued to live in the orchard and to help with the annual cider making. His advice and knowledge led to Upton Sweet Cider being judged by CAMRA to be the best English Cider in both 2004 and 2005.

Having helped with the harvest for the past several years I understand completely the pleasure and peace that living and working in the orchard provides. The annual harvest will never quite be the same again. Stan will be sorely missed.

Graham De Wilde

GEORGE AND DRAGON

From all of us at the George and Dragon, Happy New Year! Better late than never, as the popular saying goes. We do apologize for not contributing to last month's edition. Our only excuse is that we've been very busy planning, promoting, organizing, executing Christmas parties, dinner, buffets that we were left with very little time to do much else. What made it difficult was the fact that it was our first Christmas season and therefore everything we did was unprecedented by anything we've done before but somehow, we managed to overcome the challenges. A whole year is now behind us! If our garden's looking a bit tatty it's because Bill has been busy working on the footpath. The weather, as well as his pub duties, are slowing him down but he is working steadily. We are not short of signed volunteers, thank you very much. At the moment, Bill is still doing the easy bits. He will definitely arrange a work day for his volunteers when it gets too much for him. By the time you read this, we will have celebrated Burn's Night, the outcome of which, you will find out in the next issue. This month, we are planning a special valentine's dinner. Menu will be available by the 4th of February. Please book your tables early to avoid disappointment. We were fully booked last year! Our winter hours will end on the 15th of Feb. After that, we will be open all day Saturday and Sunday.

Again, thank you for one whole year of your good company and because we like it when you visit, may we see more of you this year!

BLEWBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Next meeting is Wednesday 27th February in the School Hall, Blewbury (note change of venue from usual place). The talk will be "Rag Rugs – a talk and hands-on session of 'hooking and prodding' whatever that might be! 1930, visitors made very welcome. If you need a lift just ring Rosemary Tilden on 01235 850528 to see what can be arranged

UPTON VILLAGE THEATRE GROUP

Those who finally got to the Nutcracker ballet last month enjoyed an evening of absolute delights, but not before I had begun to think the whole outing was jinxed. We started with a minibusful of 16 tickets and actually bought another 17, but the number of changes to the arrangements became nightmarish, and necessitated more phone calls and more notes and more personal visits than ever before. So the last committee meeting - thanks as always to Irene and Elisabeth for their support - decided that we will in future

- (a) not buy extra tickets but keep a reserve list, and
- (b) expect cash with the order for tickets.

I don't like to sound unaccommodating, but I was close to thinking that I didn't want to organise another trip!

But I will. We're now looking at the possibility of "Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat" which at least three eagle-eyed Uptonians noticed is on at the New Theatre in June, or another trip to the Mill at Sonning where there is another thriller or a hilarious comedy about the same time.

Do let me know if you have suggestions or opinions, and do say if you want to go on (or come off) the mailing list.

Malcolm Wright
(850705)

UPTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Please be aware that on 21st January 2008 a house in Beeching Close was broken into and a number of possessions were stolen. In Blewbury there has been a number of four-wheel drive vehicles stolen recently.

Please be vigilant and if you are away in the evenings put your lights on a timer. These are easily obtainable from Focus and are not costly. Security lights at the front and rear of houses are

also a deterrent. Alternatively ask a neighbour to twitch your curtains if you are away for a few days.

Celia Davies NHW Organiser for Upton
01235 850684

THE WAITING GAME

Tim is waiting for a new home. Tim, age 11, has been with short-term foster carers for over a year.

Emma has been living with foster carers for 3 months. She originally went to live with them on an emergency basis. After just a few days of going to live with her emergency foster carers, it became apparent that the problems at home would take a while to fix and that Emma would need to remain in foster care for some months. Local independent fostering agency, familyplacement.com, is working to help Tim and Emma and other children like them. The agency seeks to do this by recruiting foster carers for children in or near to their home area and by encouraging people to consider fostering as an alternative to work outside of the home. Foster carers are paid a professional fee in addition to a child maintenance allowance. This allows some people to give up work to start a new career in fostering. Proper rewards do not stop foster carers from loving the kids. All of the agency's foster carers are also provided with high level support and ongoing training to help them to develop their parenting skills to a higher level.

If you think you might be able to help. Please call 01993 201514 or email: info@familyplacement.com

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

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