

UPTON NEWS

April 2008

Vol 3 No. 14

ST MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 6 April - 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist
Sunday 13 April - 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist
Sunday 20 April - 9.00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Sunday 27 April - 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist
Friday 2 May - 7.30 p.m. - Induction of Fr Jason
by the Bishop of Oxford, St Andrew's Church, East
Hagbourne
Sunday 4 May - 9.00 a.m. - Sung Eucharist

UPTON METHODIST CHURCH

Services commence at 10:30am

6th April Jim Price
13th April Rev Stephen Hines
 (at Blewbury Methodist Church)
20th April Rev Helen White
 (Communion, Blewbury Methodists
 will be joining us)
27th April Andrew Lockley

VILLAGE DROP-IN SESSIONS

The next three sessions are scheduled for the
following Thursdays:
3 April, 17 April and 1 May – 10.30 until 12.00
noon.

If anybody has a mobility problem please give me a
ring as we might be able to help.
We look forward to seeing you on 3 April.

Yvonne Collins 01235 850989

UVHAT 50 CLUB

50's Club winners for February '08

£10.00	Mrs McLaughlin	119
£7.00	Mrs Jones	174
£5.00	Mr Bunston	2
£4.00	Mrs Joel	71

The 50's Club is a monthly prize winning draw and
raises valuable income for the village hall.
'50' alludes to the 50p per number per month (or £6
for the year) paid in by subscribers and not the
number of people at any one time or the age of!
A new year starts in April. Thank you for your
valued support. Hope you will feel able to continue.
The usual collectors will be calling on you during
the month.

I am often asked why it is still only 50p,
anyone can give further support by having more
than one number.

Jessie 851206

UPTON VILLAGE THEATRE GROUP

There's now a reserve list for the outing to "Joseph"
on 3 June but I'm keen to sell the very last two
tickets for "Love's a Luxury" at The Mill at Sonning
on 31 July, so that I can confirm the minibus. The
total cost for Sonning - show, meal and transport - is
£42.95 per person.

I now notice all kinds of other exciting productions
in June and July, but the Committee are currently
concentrating on getting news of Glyndebourne on
tour in Milton Keynes in the late autumn. If anyone
knows anything about this, you are asked to declare
it - please.

Malcolm Wright (850705)

PARISH COUNCIL

Litter Pick

A big thank you to all those who came along to help out with this years litter pick. We had 30 pickers turn up aged from 4 to 74 and also received apologies from 14 others unable to make that morning. Such a response from our small village is fantastic and would be the envy of every other parish in the Vale. We managed to find the normal 40 sacks of rubbish with a small increase in the number of Vodka bottles from 83 to 100.

Parish Meeting

The annual village meeting will be held on Tuesday 8th April in the Village Hall. Drinks and nibbles will be available at 7.45 with the meeting starting at 8.00pm.

Please come along and take the opportunity to question your County and District Councillors and put forward your ideas of what you would like your parish council to be doing in the coming 12 months. Proposed plans for the extension to the village hall will be displayed and explained and the fund raising initiative to raise over £100,000 to pay for the extension will be discussed.

Please note that this year it is intended to make the meeting almost entirely interactive with reports on what has already happened being kept to a minimum, most of the formal reports that are required will be on display for you to read before the meeting starts.

Recreation Ground

Please be aware that the fence at the far end of the Recreation Ground will be repaired in the next two weeks thus preventing people from walking across the small field that goes down to the bridge. This field is private property and entry to the field has to be stopped off.

Mr de Wilde who owns the adjacent part of the disused railway line has kindly agreed that walkers may exit the far side of the Recreation Ground and use a path through his land to join up with the cycle-path. A stile will be erected in the corner of the Rec. to prevent motorcyclists using the path.

Please show consideration to these changes which your Parish Council have to make and please note that the path to the cycle-way will be closed for one day each year to prevent it from becoming an established Right of Way.

ARTWEEKS

Artweeks May 3 – May 25. In Upton Joan Durbin will have her studio open May 3-11, (closed on the Tues. Wed. Thurs.) exhibiting paintings in acrylic, watercolour and pastels, as well as having artist's cards for sale. Many of her paintings are of local areas, especially the old railway embankment. Sidney Hardwick will also have her studio open displaying her pottery.

As South is launching the 3 weeks of the Artweeks festival, Joan has organised a 'Taster' exhibition at the Vale and Downland Museum in Wantage, with the aim of bringing together diverse examples of the work being shown across the wide area covered by the South Region of Artweeks 2008. The exhibition will run from Tuesday 29th April to Friday 9th May, 10am to 4pm daily except Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Free Artweeks guides are obtainable mid April from museums, libraries, tourist information centres, Upton Post Office, Blewbury PO and Savages, or can be downloaded from www.artweeks.org

Joan Durbin.

VILLAGE HALL

April 12th is the 'Skittles and Supper Evening' please join us if you can. Tickets £7 can be obtained from Jessie 851206, Sheila 851205 or Maggie 850364

Where else would you get Good Fun Good Food Good Company?

BLEWBURY WOMENS INSTITUTE

Blewbury WI meets in the Vale Room of the Blewbury Village Hall, generally on the fourth Wednesday of every month. The next meeting will be 7.30pm on Wednesday 23rd April when we will be hearing about "Silk from Cocoon to Scarf". New members are very welcome at any time, the ladies are extremely friendly! As well as meetings we have a variety of outings. Coming soon will be a theatre trip including lunch at the Mill at Sonning. In July we have a coach trip to visit a 2-acre florist's garden followed by a flower arranging demonstration with coffee, lunch and afternoon tea + coach all included for £20. Lets hope for good weather! Do come along, if you'd like more information contact Rosemary Tilden on 850528.

GEORGE AND DRAGON

The big question is, "Is Spring here yet?" It sure doesn't feel like it, I'm sure most of us will agree. It is taking mighty long for this weather to improve but it will get here and if the weather forecasts are to be trusted, summer will be very good this year!

March would have been a very quiet month if not for the few special days that helped pull our sales above the red line. Mothering Sunday was very busy as predicted. All tables were reserved and after the early arrivals finished, it allowed us to serve walk-ins, which was an added bonus!

6th of March was the night of The Coven's meal which produced an impressive turn-out. We sweated a bit and worried that something will go wrong but after everybody had been served, we realized that it wasn't too bad after all. Bill must be getting good at his job or maybe the ladies were just very nice! It's during these lean times when we are most grateful for the locals who brave the weather to come to the pub. Every little helps and it's not just true for Tesco's!

Then it was Easter! It's not as busy as last year but considering the hostile weather we are having of late, I would say, we did alright. We had two and a half hours of good weather on Black Saturday which gave us enough time to hide the eggs and for the children to hunt for them. Easter Sunday was truly holy and miraculous what with all four seasons of the year alternating every three hours!

Mark your calendars for St. George Day, 23rd April, 8pm, all you good people! We will be having a grand celebration for England's (and the pub's) patron saint. An elaborate exhibition of folk music and dancing by the groups, Old Speckled Hen North West Mixed Morris and The 17th Century Vale Islanders will be coming to provide the entertainment. We have been fortunate enough to host them at a pub we used to look after and we enjoyed the night immensely! They perform in period costumes and even drink their beer from their very own leather tankards. You will not want to miss this!

See you at the pub!

BLEWBURY SCHOOL

Snippets from Your School

The spring terms have been busy ones at Blewbury School, with exciting curriculum, sports, cultural and healthy living activities. The art, history, sports and theatre of the Ancient Greeks have been the theme for the Key Stage 2 classes (7-11 year olds). This has inspired some very creative writing based on Greek myths, notably from some of our more reluctant writers. The Food theme for Key Stage 1 led to some wonderful Design and Technology work on pizza packaging from the younger children. Our youngest pupils in Class 1 helped raise money for equipment for their classroom with a Sponsored bike ride.

We've also had plenty of sporting success this term. Our Girls Football Team were runners-up in the county finals in January, in February the school team won first place in the inaugural Didcot primary schools cross country competition held at South Moreton, and in March we won at netball and football.

In March we hosted visitors from around the world. First, children and teachers from our partner Comenius schools around Europe came for a four day visit, staying with host families in Blewbury and Upton. Comenius is a EU and British Council funded project that enable staff and pupils at a school to work together with partner schools on cross-curricular projects. Next there came teachers from our link school in Butagaya, Uganda. Pupils, staff and parents have been involved in fund raising for basic facilities for this very large rural school.

Kathryn Fletcher
Chair of Governors

BROWNIES

The two Brownie packs are going on a pack holiday together on 18th to 20th April at Thirtover Place near Thatcham.

Twenty two Brownies will be there plus four leaders and three young leaders. Our theme will be 'Bears' and crafts and activities will be based on this.

Angela Newlands

UPTON LADIES COVEN

The next two meetings of the Upton Ladies Coven will be Thursday 3rd April and Thursday 1st May in the George and Dragon at the usual time of 8.00pm. Everyone welcome.

JIGSAWS

Thank you to everyone who has offered and donated jigsaws. Regrettably we do not hold junior/children's jigsaw's as the chances of them being complete is small. (See Tiddlywinks) Our store is now full. The main interests have been in the shaped jigsaws and the wasjig's; either the crystal ball ones or the "behind you" ones.

As mentioned before, if you are interested - contact Austin Maytham 850364

VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

On Wed 2nd April there will be a talk by Thames Water on "Water Conservation for Gardeners" in the Vale Room Blewbury at 7.30.

On Wed 7th May there will be a talk by David Day on "Small Gardens – The Pendon Museum" in the Methodist Church Hall Upton at 7.30

Happy gardening
Karen Brooks

DIARY DATES

The Old Vicarage Care Home in Moulsoford is having its annual May Fair on **Saturday 17 May**, 10.30 – 12.00.

There will be stalls, tombola, refreshments and much more. Entrance £1 to include coffee and shortbread. Please come and support us.

Help a Scout Group

If you would like to add adventure to your life by giving a little time to help a local Scouting group then why not go along to the Youlbury Experience on **27th April**.

Many young people from Upton, and the nearby villages are members of a local Scout group. There are currently 7 groups in the Didcot District that meet at Hagbourne, Chilton, Harwell and Didcot. Any help, no matter how little time you are able to

spare, will be a huge step towards helping more young people join the adventure of Scouting. There are loads of different jobs available from leaders, to chair people, treasurers and secretaries. You choose how many hours you are able to help from one hour every couple of months as a committee member, to one hour every month helping in a group or you may decide you can spare 1-2 hours a week as a leader, the choice is yours.

To give you a taste of the activities that would be available book your free place at the Youlbury Experience now by calling 0845 094 2810 or emailing xperience@scoutsindidcot.org.uk, or even complete an online booking form at www.events.scoutsindidcot.org.uk.

Old House Restoration

Marianne Suhr (of BBC Restoration Programme Fame) has put together an excellent course on how to look after an old house. This course is to be held in Blewbury in a historic barn on Saturday **May 10th** (9.30- 5.15). The course will cover the following topics:

- Understanding your house construction and dating techniques
- Dealing with damp
- Timber frame repairs
- Lime plasters and renders
- Thatching, wattle and daub and lime-washing demonstration
- Case Study : the repair of Cottrills

The cost will be £45 including lunch, tea and coffee, lectures and demonstrations. All speakers are giving their time for free, and proceeds will go to the Blewbury Cob Wall fund.

Any questions phone Paul Whitehead on 01235 850836

Badminton Coaching

Downlands Badminton Club are holding adult coaching sessions for beginners 7.30 – 8.30 and improvers 8.30 – 9.45 starting **Monday 12 May** for six weeks at the Downlands Sports Centre, Compton, cost £30.00. For further information contact Keith Parsons on 01635 202925

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

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