

UPTON NEWS

July 2008

Vol 3 No. 17

ST MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

You are warmly invited to the following services being held during July:

6 July 9.00 a.m. - Sung Eucharist
13 July 9.00 a.m. - Sung Eucharist & baptism
20 July 10.00 a.m. - All Age Family Service & refreshments
27 July 9.00 a.m. - Sung Eucharist

UPTON METHODIST CHURCH

Services commence at 10:30am

6 July Barbara Sexton
13 July Rev. Martin Smithson
20 July Ruth Price
27 July Rev. Helen White
Holy Communion, Blewbury Methodists joining us.

HALL EXTENSION FUND UPDATE

Promises so far £3,400
Local fund raising £1,045
Total at 23rd June £4,445.

We are approaching half way to our local target but we need you to come forward with those fund raising ideas

The Guides have raised £150 at a recent event and will be handing it over formally with the local press photographer present.

POST OFFICE THANK YOU

Just to thank everyone so much for your generosity, good wishes and friendship. The beautiful flowers, the tokens, the vouchers, the party and everything are truly heart-warming; and such a surprise. Without wishing to appear trite – I'm "missing you already". It was not just the XX (not allowed to mention "it" was ever here) it was also the social side of things, the fun and the laughter. I feel quite sad that we have lost yet another amenity.

Again – thank you all so much

Love Margaret Maytham ex Upton X mistress

TONY WEST

It is with much sadness that we report the death of Tony West who died in the J.R. hospital on 23rd June after a short illness.

Tony has been a pillar of the Upton community for so many years. As far back as 1967 he was one of the willing volunteers who spent so much time on building our village hall. He has served as a parish councillor including several years as chairman and has spent hundreds of hours working in support of both the village Hall and the church where he was a churchwarden and the organist.

A more detailed obituary will appear in next month's edition.

Our condolences go to Jessie and their sons Stephen and Nigel and to daughter Georgina. The funeral will take place at Blewbury church on Monday 7th July at 2.00 pm.

PARISH COUNCIL

New Member

The council is pleased to announce that David Mason from Netherbrook in Church Street will be joining the council with effect from the 23rd July.

Post Office

The Parish Council very much regrets that its efforts to save a Post Office in this village have come to nothing. The required costs payable to the Post Office to set up a part-time service at a reasonable location in the village would have been many thousands of pounds and is way beyond anything that this village could remotely contemplate.

We are still prepared to press the Post Office to provide a visiting service to the village perhaps twice a week but we will need to have a strong commitment from you that such a service is very necessary. We will be very embarrassed if we continue to give the Post Office hassle and then it is only used for 20 transactions per week. Please let me know if you would use such a service and how often, if there is sufficient demand we will continue to press the Post Office to provide it.

Planning Applications

UPT/20551– Application to change the use of land at the rear of Scotland’s Ash garage from agricultural to the creation of a wildlife area, orchard, play area and vegetable garden for use by the nursery children. The Parish Council has no objections.

UPT/2065/13 – Upton Lodge, application by Mr Slater - work to an existing (redundant) parking area to provide a tennis court. The Parish Council has no objections.

UPT/3644/1 – Sign of the Crown, High Street, application by Mr & Mrs P Hardy – demolition of existing garage and erection of detached garage/studio with storage over. The Parish Council has no objections.

Next Meeting will be in the Village Hall at 8.00 on Wednesday 23rd July

Mike Brown 850135
kameki39@btinternet.com

GEORGE AND DRAGON

Hello Upton! Sorry for missing last month’s issue but we did promise to be back on track this month and so here we are. The merry month of May was relatively average. Because of the horrible weather on the bank holiday of May 26, the family fun day we organized was only 50% successful. We were very busy from 12 noon up until 6pm after which the pub was eerily empty! Never mind, we know what to do next time.

June was definitely a lot better. A well attended Coven meal kept us busy all night on the 5th. Fathers were extremely lucky to have a beautiful sunny weather to celebrate their special day on the 15th. Finally, on the 27th, the acoustic duo Mew+Wooster will be entertaining our regulars with live music. As I am writing this note a day before they actually perform, I will let you know in the next issue how the night went.

I must admit, we are slacking a bit. We have not planned anything exciting for July! We do apologize. We expect to be very busy though, with the schools soon to finish for the summer holidays, and so we’ll be back to opening all day Saturdays and Sundays. More time for families to enjoy the garden!

See you at the pub!

WOMENS INSTITUTE

The next meeting of the Women’s Institute is on Wednesday 23 July at 7.30 pm in the Vale Room, Blewbury Village Hall. There will be a talk on Brightwell Vineyard

VILLAGE DROP-IN SESSIONS

The next three sessions are scheduled for the following Thursdays:

10 July, 24 July and the 7 Aug
10.30 until 12.00 noon.

We look forward to seeing you.

Yvonne Collins (01235 850989)

VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

Many thanks to Maggie, Austin & Chris for organising our day out recently to RHS Wisley, perfect weather as ordered and lovely gardens too! As I write, we are helping Joyce put the finishing touches to her garden, which opens for the first time with the Yellow Book Gardens Scheme, but we hope we have seen you all on the 22nd June!

The Summer show is on Saturday 19th July, this summer it is at Upton Village hall, entries need to be received by Maggie by the Wednesday before, which is the 16th, you can ring her on 850126, please note that this is her new number from now on! Or you can pop them into her door in Upton, or the Blewbury Post Office, or any committee member. The show is a lovely village occasion, celebrating our flowers, fruit, crafts and cookery etc, please enter if you can, there are lots of prizes on offer, or if you are not keen to enter, please pop in for a cup of tea and homemade cake, from 2.30pm, prize giving at 4pm, the auction of surplus flowers and produce is at approximately 4.15pm.

I am guarding my roses very carefully, there is always hot competition from other members, Monty is on guard duty, and I have set aside a day for getting my cookery entries ready, hope the kids don't come home and eat them all!

Somebody has already tried to sabotage my efforts by suggesting they are going to come and help 'cut down all that overgrown stuff', by show day, I wont have anything left anyway, good try buddy, but no cigar!!

If you still haven't been coerced into joining, you can pick up a membership card and schedule, at Blewbury Post Office, £3 for un-retired, £1 for retired persons, or from Maggie in Upton!

Happy gardening
Karen Brooks

OPEN GARDENS

Upton Open Gardens was held on Sunday 29 June.

Once again we had a very successful event with 9 gardens plus the church open and 260 adult visitors. A big thanks to the organizing committee and all those who opened their gardens and put in such a lot of hard work getting them to "show garden" status! We had a real variety on offer which represented our village. Thank you also to all the many helpers from the village who worked as a team to serve teas, park cars, sell ice-cream, raffle tickets, books and plants, flower arranged or donated cakes or raffle prizes – this was much appreciated. I overheard many compliments from our visitors either about the gardens or the delicious teas. We also provided musical accompaniment at the two teas venues and hand bell ringers at some of the gardens. The good news is we raised almost £1800 which is going towards the Village Hall fund made up as follows:

Entrance:	£1043
Teas:	£ 388
Plants:	£ 202
Raffle:	£ 142
Ice creams:	£ 22
Books:	£ 22

Donations for the Church: £ 42

If we have sufficient interest we hope to do this again in 2 years time.

Sarah Sayers

DIARY DATES

Saturday 6th September

Village Fete - 2.00 p.m. at the Village Hall and Recreation Ground.

Saturday 13th September

Historic Churches Sponsored Ride & Stride

If anyone would like to take part in this sponsored event please contact Clare on 850486.

TENNIS CLUB

Inter Village Tennis Competition – 15th June 08

This was the first time this event has been run and teams were entered from Blewbury, The Astons, The Moretons, Brightwell and a joint team from Upton & Chilton. Our team was represented by Lisa Morgan and myself from Upton and Ruth Ballantyne, Gary Hordos and Richard Lawrence from Chilton. It was a sunny day and whilst there was some fierce competition it was also a sociable event with refreshments being served. Just prior to the last round we were joint equal, but just got pipped at the post by Blewbury, which was a great and slightly unexpected result.

We have quite a few residents in Upton who are members of the Blewbury tennis club and if you would like to join please contact me 01235 851450. All standards and ages welcome. We have club sessions on Sundays at 10.30am (mixed) and Wednesdays 9.20am (ladies) all year round – no need to bring a partner – just turn up.

Sarah Sayers

LATE NEWS

I have just read a note released to the press from the County Council which states that Upton has been given a grant from the County Council of £8750 towards the cost of extending it's village hall. Hopefully we will get official confirmation in the next few days.

AFTERNOON TEA IN THE GARDEN AT TOAD HALL

To all Upton's senior citizens and those who are housebound:

You are warmly invited to

Afternoon Tea at Toad Hall
(by kind invitation of Austin and Margaret Maytham)
on Tuesday 29th July from 2.30 p.m.

If you would like to come please let us know:
Margaret – 850126 or Clare – 850486
We will be pleased to arrange transport

Apologies for the late production of your newsletter this month, all should be back to normal for next month.

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

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