

UPTON NEWS

August 2008

Vol 3 No. 18

ST MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

3 August - 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist
10 August - 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist
Friday 15 August - 8.00 p.m. Eucharist to
celebrate Feast of Blessed Virgin Mary
17 August - 9.00 a.m. Morning Praise
24 August - 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist
31 August - 10.30 a.m. South Moreton,
combined benefice service. No Service at Upton
on this day.

UPTON METHODIST CHURCH

Services commence at 10:30am

3 rd August	Geoff Caudle
10 th August	Andrew Lockley
17 th August	Rev. Richard Bittleston
(Communion, at Blewbury Methodist Church)	
24 th August	Brenda Boyer
31 st August	Malcolm Newton
(Blewbury Methodists will be joining us)	

VILLAGE DROP-IN SESSIONS

The next three sessions are scheduled for the
following Thursdays:

7 August – 21 August and 4 September - 10.30
until 12.00 noon.

If anyone has a mobility problem please give me
a ring. We may be able to help – especially if
you could let me know the day before.

We look forward to seeing you.

Yvonne Collins 01235 850989

HALL EXTENSION FUND UPDATE

Three items of good news:

a) 35 people/couples (20% of the households in
Upton) have now responded to the appeal
circulated to villagers in May. They have
promised to contribute £4,300 towards
the cost of the extension.

b) £1810 was collected during the Open
Gardens event on June 29th and this brought the
amount of money raised locally this year to
£2,855.

c) The County Council has promised to
contribute £8750 provided the work is
completed within 2 years.

In May we applied to WREN Recycling Group
Community Challenge for a grant of £82,000.
This is essential if building is to start by June
2009. We have just been told that we must
compete against three other applicants for the
one grant to be awarded in this part of the
country. Judging will take place during the
coming months.

The promises of substantial contributions by so
many villagers demonstrate their commitment to
the scheme to extend the hall – and this must
weigh in our favour when our application is
evaluated by WREN. If you are one of those
who still intend to respond to this appeal please
send your form to me at Castell, Stream Road as
soon as you can. If you do not have a form, give
me a ring on 851192. The greater the
commitment we can demonstrate, the greater our
chances of success.

Brian Simpson

GEORGE AND DRAGON

It was a slow start to the summer at the George and Dragon but it soon improved when the school broke up for the holidays. Rushed off our feet, we were! Let's hope we get more of this lovely sunshine. We do need it now.

We do apologize if our garden is looking a bit scruffy. We are trying to replace one of the main posts on the infant's swing as well as finishing off a flood diversion path. The main challenge is finding the time to finish what we've started now that things are getting a bit hectic in the pub. We would appreciate it if you keep an eye on the little ones as even though we have blocked the job site with safety warning tape, it doesn't seem to stop the little ones jumping in and out of them.

We will be open all day Saturdays and Sundays all through out the school holidays. We haven't got anything special lined up for the month of August but we hope to do another end of season Aunt Sally party in September. I will have more details for you on the next issue. In the meantime, here's wishing everyone a lovely summer. See you at the pub!

UVHAT 50 CLUB

Winning Numbers in May

£10	Mrs Buxton	9
£7	Mr D Warren	91
£5	Mrs N Davis	26
£4	Mrs Williams	45

Winning Numbers in June

£10	Mrs Bibby	118
£7	Mrs Gutfreund	36
£5	Mrs Lowndes	68
£4	Mrs Parker	116

UPTON LADIES COVEN

The next meeting of the Upton Ladies Coven will be Thursday 7 August in the George and Dragon at the usual time of 8.00pm. Everyone welcome

PARISH COUNCIL

Planning Applications

UPT/20551– Application to change the use of land at the rear of Scotland's Ash. Permission granted.

UPT/2065/13 – Upton Lodge, work to provide a tennis court. Permission granted

UPT/3644/1 – Sign of the Crown, High Street, demolition of existing garage and erection of detached garage/studio with storage over. Permission granted.

Application to reduce the crowns of trees at Corderoys by 20%. Permission granted.

UPT/18307/2 – Application for 2 storey dwelling in Beeching Close. Permission refused.

UPT/1062/4 – Application for 2 storey dwelling at Rowlands, Church Lane. The P.C. has no objections but seeks clarification of the status of the land to be used.

Working Party

The council will be organising a working party to lay new safety mats under both sets of swings. If you are able to help us out please meet in the play area at 9.30 on Saturday August 9th.

We regret that the playground will be closed to children on that morning.

VILLAGE FETE

The Upton Village Fete in aid of church funds will be held on Saturday **6th September**,

2.00 p.m. in the Recreation Ground,

Dog agility & craft demonstrations

Music by Blewbury Brass Band

Stalls including: books, plants, produce,

preserves, cakes, white elephant

Games, competitions, sideshows.

Home made teas a speciality

Admission Free

If you would like to help with the fete please contact Clare Lightfoot 850486

TONY WEST

Tony West, who died on June 23, was a much-loved husband, father and grandfather, a very good friend to so many and a pillar of our village community.

He was born in Penarth; and it was here that he developed his two big interests in life, everything to do with nature and a love of music. At the age of 13 he started playing the organ in his parish church and so started a lifelong love of organs and organ music. After leaving school Tony went on to study Electrical Engineering at Cardiff Technical College. In 1962 he moved to this area to work for UKAEA, first at Harwell and later at Culham where he stayed until he retired in 1993.

Also in 1962 Tony married Jessie and they moved into their present bungalow as soon as it was completed. Soon after moving to Upton, Tony started playing the organ at Hagbourne church, 10 years later he became full time organist at both Upton and Blewbury and played there and at other churches in the local benefice from then onwards. He was a churchwarden at St Mary's for the last 20 years and spent countless hours helping to maintain the church and the churchyard. He was particularly involved during the interregnum, and the new lighting, which he designed and installed, will be a long-lasting memorial.

Nor did it take long for Tony to begin his massive contribution to the wider village community. As far back as 1967 he was one of the team who decided that Upton needed a new village hall to replace the existing wooden shed. There was a good deal of self-help involved and Tony was in charge of anything electrical. He was never far away when anything had to be done in the village. Time and again he and Jessie organised functions in the village hall and he became the expert mover of chairs and tables, he helped at the annual fete or simply with something that needed doing to tidy up the village. Only a month ago he was busy in the recreation ground doing his bit on the grass-cutting rota. For several years Tony served on

the parish council, including a stint as its chairman.

Tony was also always prepared to help someone in need. He was an original member of the Local Ministry Team for the benefice and on his retirement from UKAEA he undertook voluntary work installing and maintaining personal alarms for the elderly. So many in the village will recollect occasions when his expertise with electrics or computers rescued them in an emergency.

For all these reasons, as well as for his placid good humour, his perpetual goodwill and tolerance, and his selfless service Tony will be sadly missed, by his family, by his countless friends and by our whole community. We thank him for all he did for us.

A Memorial

It has been suggested and agreed that we should set up a fund to provide a memorial to Tony in recognition of all the work that he did for our village. If you would like to make a contribution, Brian Simpson at 'Castell' Stream Road, Clare Lightfoot at 'Thimbles' Newlands Close and Mike Brown 'Kameki' Chilton Road have agreed to act as collectors. If you would like to donate using a cheque please make your cheque payable to UVHAT.

A Note from Jessie

Throughout Tony's sudden illness and untimely death, I have felt and continue to feel so supported by the kindness and concern of so many in the village and in the wider benefice. Tony's funeral was deeply moving due to the presence of so many of you. Thank you for singing.

With love and prayers Jessie

UPTON OIL SYNDICATE

If you would like to be included in the August delivery please let me know by Sat 9th August. Colin Batchelor (851362)

VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

Blewbury & Upton Summer Show

Another good show, and although the season started slowly, I feel we have caught up: **there were** ripe tomatoes. The standard of our produce was commended by the judges, always a good sign. Despite thinking "I bet they say that to all the clubs" it is still nice to hear. The work which goes into showing is a commitment. Every year we hear the same old story, mine are bigger/better/riper than the winners. The fact that they are not judged to be better is the criteria. The junior section did particularly well this year, with genuine competition for the cups and certificates. The entries were about the same as last year. After a sticky start, when our show secretary thought for a moment that there would be no show; the entries rolled in. That actually happens each show, and is almost a ritual. If you don't have that "No entries" fear - it may be a bad show; and it is compatible with the actors and breaking a leg scenario. It is definitely a show secretary thing, and not to be tried at home alone or without parental consent.

As always – the weather was exemplary – I don't know how we do it; and the venue (Upton Village Hall) a favourite with the club; such good facilities. The visitors and exhibitors filled the hall to a very comforting level. Although we did not have an auction this year, the generosity of those wishing to acquire the produce was similar to a good auction.

It only remains for me to say "thank you" to all who came, and wish everyone a good growing season for the Autumn Show - on Saturday 13 September at Blewbury School.

Austin Maytham

DIARY DATE

Saturday 13th September

Historic Churches Sponsored Ride & Stride
If anyone would like to take part in this sponsored event please contact Clare on 850486.

BLEWBURY SCHOOL

We would like to tell you more about Blewbury School, our achievements and celebrations and what we are looking forward to. The children broke up for the summer holidays having enjoyed their sports day in which all children take part. Key Stage 1 children (aged 5 to 7) enjoyed a trip to the Oceanarium and beach which covered aspects of their learning about the seaside, some of the children even performed a seaside themed song in German for their class assembly. The Key Stage 2 children (aged 8-11) gave 2 evening performances of the Wizard of Oz that (we feel) Lloyd Webber would have been proud of! We are looking forward to next term where the children will be learning about the Environment and Earth and Beyond, more next issue.

Please come along and support our Blewbury Art Festival from 3rd to 5th October 2008 where there will be displays of professional artists and exhibits of our childrens work.

For more information about the school or any content of the above information please contact Ms Marion Mills at head.3248@blewbury.xon.sch.uk or myself on jmigov@btinternet.com.

Jill Ingoldby, Blewbury School Governor

GARDEN PARTY

43 of our more mature residents attended the annual village garden party in the garden of Toad Hall on Tuesday 29th July. Our thanks to Austin and Maggie for making their garden available and our thanks to those who supplied the never-ending stream of delicious cakes.

Items for inclusion in the September issue to be sent to kameki39@btinternet.com or handed in to Cathy or Mike by August 26th

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