

UPTON NEWS

September 2008

Vol 3 No. 19

ST MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

7th September 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist
14th September 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist
21st September 10.00 a.m. Family Service
28th September 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist
5th October 9.00 a.m. Harvest Festival –
everyone is especially invited to attend

UPTON METHODIST CHURCH

Services commence at 10:30am

7th September Geoff Caudle
(Harvest Festival Service, at Blewbury)
14th September Rev Helen White
(Communion, Blewbury Methodists will be
joining us.)
21st September John Dennis
28th September Marlene Chalkley

UVHAT 50 CLUB

Winning Numbers in July

£10	Mrs Dickens	149
£7	Mr Davies	148
£5	Mr Betts	159
£4	Mr Napper (Lattons)	34

Winning Numbers in August

£10	Mrs Wright	20
£7	Mr Bucknell	55
£5	Mrs Keeble	18
£4	Mr Joel	127

HALL EXTENSION FUND UPDATE

More good news!

Fundraising to date this year totals £2919 and several people are making preparations for further fund-raising events in the coming months.

40 people/couples (25% of the households in Upton) have now responded to the appeal circulated to villagers in May. They have promised to contribute £4,855 towards the cost of the extension and this should enable us to claim a further £1300 from the Government under the Gift Aid scheme.

If you are one of those who still intend to respond to the appeal, perhaps you would ring me on 851192.

Brian Simpson

VILLAGE FETE

**Saturday 6 September at 2.00 p.m. on the
Recreation Ground**

Dog Agility Demonstration, Blewbury Band
Promises Stall
Cakes, preserves, produce, plants, books, toys,
white elephant, face painting, raffle, tombola,
games and competitions. Delicious Teas.

Free Admission

Further info: Clare Lightfoot 850486

GEORGE AND DRAGON

The children's return to school on the 3rd of September is officially the end of the summer season for us at the George and Dragon. We had a lot of things going on against us this year. The not-so-brilliant weather playing the worst part, as always, and then there's the much talked about credit crunch. We are very lucky though, to have a steady stream of regulars to keep us going and enough busy days to keep the summer from being a complete washout. At the rate of 1-10 with 10 being the highest, I would rate the pub's summer this year as 7. It was good but it could've been better.

Still, it's not all doom and gloom. Our Aunt Sally team has done really well this year and again, to celebrate the end of the season, we are holding a party in their honour and you're all invited! Mark your calendars for the 6th of September, Saturday, 9pm. Dino, our most popular live performer will be providing the entertainment.

There seem to be a baby boom in Upton and so I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the new mums and dads in the village. I shall be looking forward to joining the club fairly soon because if you haven't heard yet, we are expecting the new member of our family to arrive anytime within the next couple of weeks! It is also for this reason that we are in need of someone who is at least 18 years old to help us during lunchtimes and/or some evenings doing bar work and food serving. If there's anyone interested, please feel free to drop by the pub anytime for a chat.

Until the next issue, take care all and see you at the pub!

UPTON LADIES COVEN

The next meeting of the Upton Ladies Coven will be Thursday 4 September in the George and Dragon at the usual time of 8.00pm. Everyone welcome

PARISH COUNCIL

Website

Those of you who have recently logged into the village website will have noticed that it is but a skeleton of its former self.

In the opinion of our webmaster, Brian Rippon, the system being used for the site was in need of an urgent update to address some software security concerns, but the upgrade process would have been difficult so he has gone for a complete change of system which he believes will be easier to manage and better for users. At the moment he is in the process of porting all the existing information to the new system, a job he hopes to complete by the end of September. Our thanks to Brian for undertaking such a daunting task, we look forward to browsing through an even better site in a few weeks time.

Octabus

Are you aware that our District Council in conjunction with other Councils provides door-to-door transport for disabled and mobility-impaired residents? If you require more information about the service ask the District Council to send you a leaflet or ask Clare or myself to download a leaflet for you. If you have been using the service please could you let us know your opinion on its usefulness and efficiency so that we may comment in support of continuing the service.

Working Party

Our thanks to all those who turned up in not the best of weather to help with work on improving the safety surfaces in the children's play area. Unfortunately the work did not go to plan due to the unexpected nature of the existing surface. Having rethought our ideas we would like your assistance again in few weeks time to continue the work of improving safety in the play area and improving the usefulness of the ball wall.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Karen and Richard Fenn on the birth of their baby son George William who arrived on 11 August, weighing 9lbs 3ozs.

CONGRATULATIONS cont

Congratulations to all the Upton teenagers who have recently passed their exams with flying colours!

Special congratulations to Tim Traynor who is taking a Gap Year to travel and then is off to St. Marys, Twickenham to study Psychology and to Anna Hardy who is off to Bournemouth University to study Art.

Also congratulations to Kate Hardy, Georgina Traynor, Steph Davies and Zac Walker who have all done extremely well in their G.C.S.E.s this summer.

There have been some amazing results in the village!!!!

Well done to you all and good luck for the future.

VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

Congratulations to all the competitors in the summer show in July at Upton, there were a magnificent turnout of entries, albeit some very late ones which made our organising go a bit awry, but it all worked out ok in the end! My roses had turned up their toes for the weekend but rallied for the following week, typical, never mind, I will look after them for the autumn show on Saturday 13th September. Please try and have your entries into Maggie by Weds 10th, as she needs to get all the paperwork prepared.

If you can not find your schedule, then, as usual, Blewbury post office will have them, or you can now find it at <http://www.uptonvillage.co.uk/vpa> by kind permission of the Upton Web pages. It's all too clever for me; I knew where I was with a little card and a piece of paper!

You all know the drill, send entries to Maggie, or bring to the post office, or Joyce, then turn up at Blewbury School, from 9am onwards to put out your entries, come again at 2.30pm to view everyone's hard work and drink tea and eat cake, collect prizes at 4 ish, auction at 4.15ish. Good luck everyone!

Happy gardening
Karen Brooks

BROWNIES AND GUIDES

Brownies and Guides start again at the beginning of September. A new Guide company is starting on Tuesday evenings, 7.30 to 9.00 pm in the village hall. Starting age is 10 years. If any girl is interested in joining the first meeting is 16th September. Emma Austin will be the guider in charge and Gill Birch her assistant.

Angela Newlands

VILLAGE DROP-IN SESSIONS

The next three sessions are scheduled for the following Thursdays:
4th, 18th September and 2nd October - 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

BLEWBURY W I

Blewbury WI has an extremely interesting talk this month. On Wednesday September 24th at 19.30 in Blewbury Village Hall we hear about "Bess of Hardwick Hall". As usual visitors are extremely welcome to come along and see if the WI might be of interest to them.

We have had a varied programme of activities, this month we went to the Sonning Mill for a lunch plus an excellent afternoon theatre production. We also had a Summer outing to Devizes where we visited an NGS garden, had lunch and watched flower arranging by an excellent demonstrator. We visited a pub in East Hanney and also had a "Garden Meeting" late in August which was enjoyed by all. Come along, ladies of Upton, meet new friends, something for everyone. If you would like a lift or more details, call Rosemary Tilden on 850528.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (NHW)

As many of you will know by now, unfortunately we have had 2 break-ins in Upton during the month of August. On both occasions entry was made via the rear of the property and electrical items and cash stolen. We are currently receiving extra police surveillance at various times of the day and night and I believe the police are in the process of sending out information packs to all Upton residents.

I would also urge anyone with internet access to forward me their email address for further updates. This would make my job a lot easier and speedier. Celiaadavies@aol.com

In the mean time my own advice to Upton villagers would be, please keep your doors and windows locked whenever you are going out. Also never leave a front door open if you are working or sitting in the back garden. Another tip is not to leave valuables on show (laptops etcetera) near windows or in the car. Never leave car keys or house keys on a table near to a letterbox as a thief may attempt to hook them.

If you're going away on holiday or for a short break then do let a neighbour or the NHW officer (Celia) know. Cancel papers and Milk deliveries.

Even if going out to the shops lock up, set your alarm system (if you have one) and leave a light or the radio on. Anything that might give the impression someone is home.

Report anything or anyone seen acting suspiciously to the police (note registration and make of vehicle) via the 0845 8 505 505 number or obviously if actually witnessing a burglary in progress then call the 999 number.

Celia Davies 01235 850684

THEATRE GROUP

My apologies, the report on your trip to Sonning Mill to see Love's a Luxury will appear next month.

MB

DIARY DATES

Saturday 13th September - Historic Churches Ride & Stride

Cycle or walk around as many churches as you can and be sponsored. The money that is raised is divided between a church of your choice and the Historic Churches Trust. Sponsor forms from Clare Lightfoot 850486. If you would like to be a "welcomer" and sit in our village church for an hour (or two!) on this day please let me know.

Saturday 4 October

The 2008 Christian Aid Sponsored Walk (5 or 10 miles) will be held on 4 October starting and finishing at Chilton Church. Sponsorship forms and further details are available from Alec Chenery 850477, for anyone wishing to take part.

Saturday 25 October - in the Village Hall

An evening's entertainment in words and music on the theme of **MEMORABLE MEALS**. Everything from the hilarious to the horrific. All proceeds will go to the Village Hall Fund. More details in the next Newsletter.

KEEP FIT

For the past 2 years there has been a keep fit class in the village hall, catering in the main for more mature ladies (although not exclusively). We are desperately seeking a new instructor as sadly Sheila Awcock is no longer able to continue running the class.

If anyone knows of an instructor who would be willing to take the class on Monday evenings, during term time, from say 7.00 p.m. – 8.30 p.m. please contact Clare Lightfoot on 850486 – I would be delighted to hear from you.

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

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