

UPTON NEWS

October 2008

Vol 3 No. 20

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Services

5th October - 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist, followed by refreshments. Everyone is invited.
12th October - No service at St Mary's. We are invited to join with the Upton Methodist Church at 10.30 a.m. to share in their Harvest Festival
19th October - 10.00 a.m. All age Family Service, followed by refreshments
26th October - 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

The Annual Benefice All Souls Day service will be held on Sunday 2nd November at 3.30pm at St Michaels, Blewbury.

Special Appeal

Since the death of our dear organist Tony, we have been grateful to various volunteers for accompanying our services. Some weeks however we sing unaccompanied as no organist is available. We would like to hear from anyone who could help us by playing, perhaps once a month, on a rota basis. If there is a keyboard player who would like a bit of help in the transition to our organ that can be arranged. We would be happy to cover expenses. Please get in touch if you know anyone who could help. Clare Lightfoot. 850486 PCC Secretary.

UPTON LADIES COVEN

Upton Ladies Coven will include an ever popular meal at 7pm on October 2nd in the George and Dragon
For those who would like to come along and eat with us - everyone welcome - please let Maggie Maytham know on Tel 850126.

UPTON METHODIST CHURCH

Services commence at 10:30am

5 October Pam Martin
12 October Robert Smith
Harvest Festival - Blewbury Methodists and St Mary's will be joining us.
19 October Rev Helen White
Holy Communion - Joint Service at Blewbury Methodist Church
26 October Brenda Boyer
2 November Ruth Dams

PILGRIMAGE TO TAIZE

Are you a young person aged 15+?
Would you like to:

- Meet young people from around the world?
- Explore the spiritual side of life?
- Experience community living and worship?
- Learn about the reconciliation of communities after World War 2?

Bishop John (of Oxford) is inviting young people to join him in a pilgrimage to Taize next year, from 25 July to 3 August. We shall have more details in November, but, if you think you might be interested, please contact Beryl Hill, tel.813073. There is more information about Taize on their website (www.Taize.fr), and there are reflections from some of those who went on the diocesan pilgrimage to Taize in 2004 on the Oxford diocese website (www.oxford.anglican.org/print/1150/).

HALL EXTENSION FUND UPDATE

Following the appeal circulated in May we have now had 45 promises totalling £5,555. A truly remarkable result.

Two former residents, who moved away from Upton over ten years ago, recently sent a cheque for £100. This reflects their very fond memories of the years they spent here.

If you still intend to make a promise or donation, perhaps you would get in touch.

Brian Simpson. (Tel: 01235 851192)

TONY WEST MEMORIAL FUND

The fund set up to provide a memorial to Tony West will be closed fairly shortly. Contributions may still be sent or handed to Brian Simpson, Clare Lightfoot or Mike Brown. If you would like to donate by cheque, please make it payable to UVHAT.

Brian Simpson

BLEWBURY W I

Blewbury WI next meets at 7.30 pm on Wednesday October 22nd in the Vale Room, Blewbury Village Hall. The topic will be "Talking Pictures" which involves slides, poetry and prose, sounds interesting!

The WI are always busy, with something for everyone. Upcoming theatre visits include the Nutcracker in December, the Russian ice stars "Cirque de Glace", in January and Riverdance in February. During the winter we also have weekly Scrabble and Mah-jong sessions to while away those dark afternoons!

If you would like more information, or possibly a lift, please call Rosemary Tilden on 850528

WINE CLUB

September 2008 meeting

Hello everyone, and welcome back to the Upton Wine Club meetings.

The group met again after a short summer break, a good turn out from members for the first meeting and annual general meeting. Everyone was in good spirits which improved as the wine flowed, and the usual hubbub ensued.

No change to the committee and Mike continues to do the bulk of the work, thank goodness. The wine we tasted this time was from the Languedoc-Roussillon, that lovely area of France that tempts the adventurous historic and romantic, as usual Mike was as knowledgeable, and informative as ever, and as is customary people's personal favourites emerged.

The second white wine of the evening a Domaine de Barroubio Muscat Sec Vin de Pays d Doc was my favourite, I could have drunk the bottle but due to 36 others present I did not get the chance.

The wines from this region of France have not been among its most renowned, providing the bulk of cheap thin wine that lubricated the French Armies during both world wars, which may explain a lot!

The most interesting wine of the evening was the 4th White, a Vine de Payes des Cotes Blanc Matassa Cuvee Marguerite 2006. This was a little like a chemistry experiment, when poured this wine smelt strongly of Sulphur, and we had to leave it to breathe for as long as possible, however when tasted no one was very impressed, and the sulphurous smell was still overpowering, although Jane MacQuitty, the wine correspondent of The Times, lists this as one of her top 20 wines for under £20.

The evening came to an end far too soon and we meet again next month.

Hope to see you there.

Chris Traynor

FOUND

Found in the area of the Village Hall – 2 Keys on a coiled wrist strap.

Contact Jessie West 851206

GEORGE AND DRAGON

October again, how time flies! I wish I could continue with the phrase “when you’re having fun.” but unfortunately with the current trend in the pub industry, we are anything but! The credit crunch is affecting a lot of people and we certainly can’t blame them if they have less money to spend in pubs. Several Publicans in the area are leaving the trade for the simple reason that they have taken their pubs as far as they could and now feel that it’s pointless to carry on with so many things against them. They’re either retiring, migrating or simply fed up! As for the George and Dragon, well...let’s just say that we’re not over the red line yet but if the trend doesn’t improve soon, we might find ourselves staring at the red line!

But enough of the doom and gloom! The Aunt Sally End of Season Party was once again a roaring success, we’ve had a visit from the Upton Wine Club (always a jolly night when they’re in!), we’ve hosted a couple of private parties, weekends are still very busy and this month, we’re expecting The Coven for a meal.

You would all be very happy to know that the girls serving you in the pub have all done really well in their A-Levels and GCSEs. We are very pleased that extremely intelligent people find our humble pub an acceptable working environment for them! Well done, Steph, Hannah, Emily and Ellie! You make us proud!

I have saved the best news for last. On the 13th of September, our baby daughter, Laura Angela was born. Since then, we have received cards, flowers and presents from a lot of our good friends and regulars from the village and everywhere else. Thank you all for your kindness and generosity! Laura will have clothes to wear until she is 3 years old! At the moment, she is still spending all her time sleeping, feeding and growing but it will not be long before she is ready to do her big “debut!”

Take care all and see you at the pub!

PARISH COUNCIL

We are very sorry to report that we are losing Belinda Drew from our Council. Belinda will be moving away from the village in the next few weeks, we thank her for all she has done for us and wish her well in the future.

We also thank Colin Batchelor and Kathryn Fletcher who have resigned from the Playground Committee after many years service. The Parish Council requires 2 volunteers to take their place, if you are interested please ring Tracey on 851437 who will give you details of what the job involves.

Working Party

A working party is being organised for Saturday 11 October to finish off the safety improvement work in the children’s playground and put down a hard surface in front of the ball wall. If you can give us a hand we would be very pleased to see you at the playground at 9.30. If possible please bring a wheelbarrow and a shovel. Our thanks to John Richardson for providing us with the soil and sand required to do the work.

Neighbourhood Help

Many of you will recall that at the time of our Parish Plan we asked you all if you had need of a scheme that could provide you with volunteer help for a range of services like transport to medical appointments, visits for a chat and occasional help with the house or garden. At that time we had lots of volunteers but those who we thought might need help we were delighted to learn were already receiving all the help they needed from their neighbours. We still have the volunteers and the County Council have just made funding available to help set up just that sort of assistance service. If any of you are in need of help please contact me in confidence, if the demand is now there we will take advantage of the County Council’s offer of set-up help. If the demand is still low or even non-existent, we will be delighted to be part of such a neighbourly village.

Mike Brown 850135

UPTON FETE

When it comes to Upton Fete some things are for sure: delicious teas – scrumptious home made cakes – preserves – plants – produce – books – ice cream – white elephant – toys etc etc. But one thing we can never be sure of is the weather and this year was no exception. The day before the fete was a typical summer's day – it poured all day. There were frantic phone calls “shall we have the fete inside?” “No” said Jessie “we’ll put the gazebos close together so that people can get shelter.” On Saturday 6 September miraculously we had a fine but overcast day with lots of visitors who enjoyed loads of bargains, a dog agility demonstration by the Wallingford Dog Club and music by Blewbury Band. One new stall this time was “promises” where lots of services were on offer and this stall alone raised more than £189.

The plan was to round off the fete with the raffle – but as if on cue the heavens opened around 4.00 p.m. and there were very few people left when the raffle was drawn. Weren't we lucky that the fete had taken place in the dry. We are delighted to report that total taking amounted to £1900 which is a fantastic result. A huge thank you to everyone concerned and especially to the working party that put up the gazebos and took them down in the pouring rain – and still remained cheerful!

We are holding a fete debrief on Wednesday 8th October at 8.00 p.m. in the hall. Everyone is welcome. If you are unable to attend but have any ideas on how we might improve things in the future please email me at Lthimbles@aol.com

Clare Lightfoot

VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

The weather this year has had a really bad effect on our Autumn show, the entries were still good, but there were so few of them this year, the rain and wind bashed down most peoples flowers and the damp weather scuppered most of the

vegetable entries, thankfully the floral art, the cookery and the photography were well supported and we had a bit of a display for you all to see! Especially the 9 Victoria sandwich cakes, a record I think! I salvaged the last of my roses, which won a cup, so I am grateful!

Our next event is the Bring and Buy cake and plant sale at Abners, on Saturday 11th October, at 2.30pm. This is a chance to buy cuttings and plants split up from our gardens and particularly Joyce's, much admired when she opened for the Yellow Book gardens in June! I know she has been busy, and we will have a good selection for you all! I have made marrow and chilli chutney, and there will be cakes and apple pies too!

Happy gardening Karen Brooks

BROWNIES AND GUIDES

All units are back after the summer break including the new Tuesday guide unit which had their first meeting on 16th September with 11 girls.

The Friday guides had an event to raise money for the village hall during the summer term and the Tuesday Brownies are having a sponsored 'skip' in a couple of weeks. I know the Wednesday Brownies are planning on something during this term for the Hall fund.

Angela Newlands

VILLAGE DROP-IN SESSIONS

Just a reminder of the dates for the next three Thursday morning sessions:
2 October, 16 October and 30 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 SCHOOL

Starting School

I was anxious sending my daughter (age: 4 years & 0 months) off to school for the first time. I was also surprised to find I was alone in my concern. I was up at 6am, fussing over the uniform, breakfast, final details.... We reached the classroom and Rebecca disappeared into the 'treasure trove' that awaited with barely a backward glance. Before we had even left the room she was creating her first "masterpiece". She has adored her first few weeks at Blewbury School, including rejoining her many friends from Blewbury Pre-School. Within a week she was asking to go to school on the Upton bus with the other children - another challenge it appeared for me alone! She started primarily mornings only and, due to her age and the schools flexibility, will be able to gradually increase her full days over the coming weeks and months. I loved my primary school years and I feel confident now that she too will have the same experience.

Andrea Brown

TABLE TENNIS

"In division 5, Upton B overcame Drayton F 6-4. Bob Lott recorded a maximum before partnering Richard Brown to win the decisive doubles"

Didcot Herald

The Upton B team is off to a flying start this season with the 6-4 win over Drayton F, despite being a player short.

To avoid this 3 game handicap week-on-week we need another player to help us field a full team. Matches are weekly with home fixtures on a Monday evening and away games any night of the week.

Come join us and you might just make it in the papers!

Contact Bob Lott on 851222 or Richard Brown on 850360

THEATRE GROUP

Loves a Luxury at The Mill at Sonning, 31 July 2008

Like Chaucer's Canterbury Pilgrims a happy band of theatre goers left Upton for Sonning by mini-bus on the evening of July 31st. There was much chatter and merriment and exchanging of stories as we sped along the country roads. Dave our driver drove with care and did not panic when we came to an abrupt halt by a closed road almost on the doorstep of our destination. With cheers and guidance from the back of the bus we threaded our way back through the Reading rush hour traffic and in spite of our setback we arrived in time to enjoy an excellent meal most efficiently served. Two more members of the theatre group joined us at dinner and three others for one reason or another were unable to come so we were 17 in all.

What a delight was to follow - "Love`s A Luxury". The plot was highly improbable like all good farces, the dialogue was witty, the acting slick and the stage set attractive. Molly the maid was wonderful and she and her two mothers stole the show. In spite of all the usual misunderstandings there was a happy ending. The New Look dresses and the Waspies were very nostalgic of the early 1950`s and Mr Mole reminded me of a friend. I had not laughed so much for ages. Our journey home was uneventful and when we arrived safely back in Upton, Dave was thanked for his driving and Malcolm for arranging a most enjoyable evening.

Mary Wiley

Our next outing is to Milton Keynes in November, to see the Glyndebourne touring production of "The Magic Flute". Any suggestions for trips in 2009 are welcome, as are any new additions to our mailing list.

Malcolm Wright
850705

DIARY DATES

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 4th October (10am-6pm) & Sun 5th (11am-6pm)

Blewbury Festival of Art: Paintings, prints, sculpture, textiles, ceramics, glass and jewellery by 40 professional artists from Oxfordshire and surrounding areas. There will also be the opportunity to look around the school and see what the children have been up to since returning from their summer break. At Blewbury Primary School, Westbrook Street.

Saturday 25 October at 7pm

An evening's entertainment in the Village Hall, with light-hearted readings on the theme of Memorable Meals. You will be seated at tables, and supper and drinks will be provided. Tickets can be booked from Peter Gardiner (850449) or Geoffrey Summers (850801) £8 in advance, (£10 at the door) All proceeds to go to the Village Hall Fund. Come with your friends and neighbours and support your Village Hall.

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Delivery organised by Jessie West.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Bill and Cielo, as you will see from the G and D report they have been blessed with the safe arrival of a baby daughter.

FAMILY/GROUP PHOTOGRAPHS

Professional photographer Liz May will be coming to the Village Hall, the morning of the 15th November. She recently visited the Tiddlywinks group and we were all so pleased with our photos that we thought it would be a great opportunity for anyone else in the village to have photos taken and to take advantage of no sitting fee, very reasonable prices and a whole slot (provisionally 20 minutes can be longer) dedicated to you and your group.

Families, couples, groups of friends, new babies (maybe pets - would need to check!) can all be catered for and 15% of the proceeds will be donated to the Tiddlywinks club and the village playground. We have put a few of our photographs that were taken onto the village website for you to have a look. Prices start from 6x4 print for £4 - they would make great Christmas presents.

If you are interested please give me a call and I can put your name down for a session.
Lindsay 851222.

Items for inclusion in the November issue to be sent to kameki39@btinternet.com, or handed in to Cathy or Mike by Tuesday 28th October .