

UPTON NEWS

November 2008

Vol 3 No. 21

ST MARY'S CHURCH Services

2 November - 9.00 am All Saints Day - Sung Eucharist
2 November - 3.30 pm St Michael's Church Blewbury, All Souls Day – a special service when we remember our departed loved ones
9 November - 9.00 am Remembrance Sunday – Sung Eucharist and the laying of a wreath in church in remembrance of all those who laid down their lives for us
16 November - 10.00 am All Age Family Service, followed by refreshments
23 November - 9.00 am Eucharist and Baptism of George Fenn
30 November - 9.00 am Sung Eucharist

UPTON METHODIST CHURCH Services commence at 10:30am

2 November	Ruth Dams
9 November	Barbara Sexton Remembrance Sunday
16 November	Rev Helen White Holy Communion, Blewbury Methodists will be joining us.
23 November	Geoff Caudle
30 November	Rev John Rowland

FOUND

A small young female kitten very pretty tortoiseshell colour and with a pink collar but no name tag was found on Monday 13th October in Stream Road.

Contact Celia Davies on 850684

VILLAGE DROP-IN SESSIONS

Dates for your diary

The next three sessions will be held on:
13 November, 27 November and the 11 December.

Come Christmas the Drop-in will have been running for a year and I know that in that time several new people have moved into our Village. So, for any of you out there who would like to come along and join us, please do; we'd love to see you. We serve tea/coffee and biscuits from 10.30 until 12.00 noon in the Village Hall on alternate Thursdays.

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

UPTON LADIES COVEN

Upton Ladies Coven is meeting at 8pm on Thursday 6th November in the George & Dragon and we look forward to seeing everyone there for a drink and a chat.

Next month the Upton Ladies Coven will be holding their Xmas Meal in the George & Dragon at 7pm on Thursday 4th December for those who would like to join us.....everyone welcome.....please let Maggie Maytham on Tel 850126 know if you would like to come along and eat with us.

PARISH COUNCIL

Public Meeting

The planning application to erect a house in Beeching Close was discussed at a committee meeting at the District Council last Monday. It is understood that permission will be given to construct the access which drops steeply down off Station Road near to the highest point of the road. Permission for the house will be given if after the access is completed, it is deemed to be safe to carry the construction traffic.

Two members of the Parish council attended that meeting and are so concerned at errors in the information put before the committee and at the way they reached their decision that we are asking that you attend an urgent public meeting in the village hall on Monday 3rd Nov at 7.30. The construction of the access is likely to cause considerable disruption to traffic using Station Road.

There is no appeal against the District Council's decision. Your Parish Council is looking for direction from you as to how it should proceed.

Planning Applications

UPT/20226/1 – Erection of 2 chalet bungalows at Hitherto, Church Street for Mr & Mrs Dyer. The Parish Council decided unanimously to object to the type and colour of the tiles, the use of timber-boarded construction and to the large glass gables that overlook surrounding properties.

Bonfires

I suspect that most of you are aware of the strict regulations controlling bonfires, please be considerate to your neighbours.

If you do have problems with smoke from persistent bonfires you should log the dates and times and call the District Council Environmental Officer on 540466 for his advice and help.

Tesco Bus

The following note has been received from a grateful parishioner.

Did you know that Tesco provide a free shopping bus that leaves the G&D car park every Tuesday at 9.42. I haven't had a car all of this week and this was an excellent service for

me. Do folk know about it?? Driver so helpful with trolleys and helping folk on and off the bus (not me of course). It departs from Tesco at 12.00 prompt and cannot be faulted.

Use it or lose it as only I got on here and the driver rarely picks up anyone from Upton.

Postal Scam

Be Warned

A card may be posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a premium rate number).

DO NOT call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize.

If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 02072396655

NHS Oxfordshire Strategy 2008-2013

A series of public meetings is being held to explain the strategy, answer questions and listen to what we have to say.

The meeting most convenient to Upton is being held on Tuesday 2 December at Wantage Civic Hall, doors open at 6.30 p.m. with a 7.00 p.m. start (finishing around 8.30 p.m.)

To register for a place contact Cathy Dyer. Tel 01865 336790. or Email

public.involvement@oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk or contact the parish clerk on 850486

Mike Brown 850135

OBITUARY

Myra Louisa Dowding has died at the age of 107. Myra was born and brought up in Upton and used to play the organ at St. Mary's. Her father (or was it grandfather?) was Thomas Butler who has a tombstone in the graveyard by the church. Up until recently when she was taken into the JR, she lived on her own, supported by carers, in the parish of St. Peter's Didcot.

The funeral will take place at St Mary's on Monday 3rd November at 11am.

YOUNG ACHIEVERS

In the next few months I intend to include notes on the quiet achievements of some of our young residents. Wherever you look in this village you see young people achieving so much both academically and in their chosen sport.

Brodie Miller aged 11, who lives in Chilton Road started playing Badminton when she was 8 years old, it all started when she was lucky enough to train locally with Graham Wells who is a very keen junior coach. With Graham's help Brodie progressed quickly and was then able to train with the ex-Olympic Badminton team manager Paul Whetnall in Winchester, and has subsequently worked with many great coaches at a variety of locations. Currently she trains at Milton Keynes, Winchester and Hounslow and plays at Compton.

Brodie is the current Essex and Berkshire U12 champion and is now involved in playing all of the Badminton England national gold tournaments. The first of these was held at Milton Keynes in September where Brodie reached the semis in the singles and mixed doubles and along with her partner Joshwey Bong won the girls doubles.

Brodie has just achieved a major milestone having recently represented England as part of an U13 team in Denmark where she lost to the eventual winner in the quarterfinals of the singles and was runner-up in the mixed doubles. As well as her badminton, Brodie is also a keen member of Abingdon Amblers and regularly runs for them in a range of events and has also been selected for the Berkshire U14 Netball County Academy (she attends a Berkshire school).

A short message from Brodie to anyone keen to make similar progress - You will need a lot of enthusiasm, commitment and dedication and you will also need to eat well and give up about 5 hours of your time each week for practice and play. As both the training and the tournaments require so much travelling you will often have to do your homework in the car whilst being driven around by super and equally dedicated parents.

Good Luck Brodie, keep us informed of your future progress.

VILLAGE HALL EXTENSION

As usual, there is bad news and good news.

The Bad News

In May we entered a competition being run by WREN, hoping that our scheme would be selected to win a contribution of £82,000. We succeeded in getting through the first round, when half of the competitors were eliminated, and were then placed in a group of four applicants competing for a prize in this part of the country. Unfortunately, we have since been eliminated at the semi-final stage.

The Better News

We are now submitting applications for the same amount under other schemes run by WREN and TOE. (These organisations administer the distribution of Landfill Tax funds to worthy causes such as ours.) We hope for decisions by the end of March.

The Good News

1. Two weeks ago the District Council awarded us a grant of up to £9,020. This is conditional on WREN and TOE approving our applications in full.

Councillors were impressed by the fact that 45 households in this village have promised to contribute a total of £5,555 when the scheme goes ahead. This demonstrates Upton's commitment to the scheme in a remarkable way. It is very helpful to be able to refer to this when applying for grants.

2. We have recently received two cheques for £100 from former residents. Clearly they have happy memories of the years they spent living among us.

3. As stated elsewhere, "Memorable Meals" raised £477. This is the latest of a series of events this year, including the jumble sale and "Open Gardens", through which a total of £3,427 has been raised.

Brian Simpson.

EVENING OF POETRY AND FOOD

The most enjoyable entertainment for many a day took place on 25 October to raise funds for the Village Hall Extension. Peter Gardiner, and other literary villagers, performed an evening of poetry dedicated to Memorable Meals. As the title implies, this was no coffee-and-biscuits evening: Jessie West insisted that the performance should chime with a slap-up supper, with the readings interspersed between courses.

She produced — in her inimitable way — a delicious three-course menu for 50 people: olives, piquant peppers and breaded mushrooms for *hors d'oeuvre*; Ox tongue, Ham, Salami Sausage, Chicken Elizabeth, Caesar salad, French beans and hot Rosemary potatoes as Main course, and Heavenly pumpkin pie with cream (made by Maggie Maytham) for Dessert. Peter kicked off with an *Invitation to Supper* by Ben Jonson, adapted to include pumpkin pie. Charmian Whitmell read Virginia Woolf's *Sole and Partridge*, then became the Dormouse in Lewis Carroll's *Mad Hatter's Tea Party* with Geoff Summers and Hilary and Simon Powell. Geoff read a puke-making Jerome K. Jerome sketch on the contents of an Irish Stew (Alfresco). Later with alarming gusto he performed a prose item called *Rat*, from Dan Mannix' Memoirs of a Sword Swallower. With tremendous verve Malcolm Wright read Lawrence Durrell's story about an ambassador who swallowed a moth at an Embassy Dinner. Hilary Powell — in ankle-length velvet overcoat and feather boa — read Hilaire Belloc's *Little Bits of String*.

Then Geoff narrated Damon Runyon's short story about a piece of *Pumpkin Pie* and Peter performed a rousing finale with Louis Simpson's *Chocolates* — accompanied by a box of Thornton's mints.

Sarah Tenant-Flowers provided background music, including *The Vegetables* by the Beach Boys, in which they scrunched carrots and Cab Calloway's *Everybody Eats When They Come to My House*. Carol Hall hung a set of school pictures on *The Art of Dining* around the walls. £477 was made through the sale of tickets and a Raffle, run by Celia Summers.

C.H.

BLEWBURY WI

Blewbury WI next meets at 1930 on Wednesday 26th November in the Vale Room of the Blewbury Village Hall. The topic will be "The Thornton Story". We have been assured of an interesting talk with information on the process of making fine chocolates and of course, those all-important samples, Yum! They do say a couple of squares of dark chocolate a day does you good, will it count if we have a month's worth all at once? If you need a lift, please ring Mrs Gettings on 851579, she'd be only too pleased to come and get you.

Blewbury WI has just come back from a residential 3 day stay at Denman College in Marcham, doing a variety of courses including "Photoshop". This was free to the ladies that attended, since a grant was awarded to pay their costs. A great time was had by all. See what you are missing! Future events include Riverdance in Oxford and Russian stars ice-skating in Oxford. Daytime activities include Scrabble and Mah-Jong.

GEORGE AND DRAGON

Sorry, no report this month but will be back with some notes for December and of course the Festive Season

Printed at the Duck House, Blewbury.
Delivery organised by Jessie West.

Items for inclusion in the December issue to be sent to kameki39@btinternet.com, or handed in to Cathy or Mike by Tuesday 25th Nov.