

UPTON NEWS

January 2009

Vol 3 No. 23

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

ST MARY'S CHURCH Services for January

Sunday 4 Jan - 9.00 a.m. Eucharist to celebrate
Feast of the Epiphany

The church will be closed for the remainder of
January whilst St Mary's is redecorated. This is
the final phase of our planned
maintenance. During the cold spell we have
been delighted with the new heating and lighting
which Tony West installed during the past year.

Sunday 4th January 3.30 p.m. there will be a
carols by candlelight service at St Andrew's
Church, East Hagbourne. This is a lovely
service to which everyone is most welcome.

Sunday 25th January 10.30 a.m. we are invited
to join with our friends at Upton Methodist
Church for their Covenant Service.

Quiz in aid of Liuli, Tanzania
Upton will be fielding a team in the inter
benefice challenge in aid of Liuli on Friday 16
January at 7.30 p.m. in Hagbourne School. If
anyone else would like to come along please let
me know. Tickets £8 includes supper. Clare
Lightfoot 850486

UPTON LADIES COVEN

The next meeting of the Upton Ladies Coven
will be Thursday 8th January in the George and
Dragon at the usual time of 8.00pm. Everyone
welcome

UPTON METHODIST CHURCH Services commence at 10:30am

4 th January	Brenda Boyer
11 th January	Libby Bolton
(at Blewbury Methodist Church)	
18 th January	Malcolm Newton
25 th January	Rev. Helen White
(Covenant Service, St Mary's Church will be joining us)	
1 st February	Paul Williams

THE GEORGE AND DRAGON

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas.
We've had a relatively busy holiday season
thanks to you who have booked your company
and/or family parties with us. Some are the same
people who used our pub last year whilst the
new ones promised to use us again next year. If
you failed to sample Bill's Christmas Turkey
Dinner, you missed out! Every single person
who's had it said it was absolutely amazing, like
their own mother's cooking even, now that, is a
true compliment! Thank you for your continued
support and for recommending us to your
friends. We seem to have a lot of new people
coming in telling us they've been sent to our pub
because we "do good food". We do try our very
best!

Finally, from all of us at the George and Dragon,
Happy New Year and may it be truly
Prosperous!

VILLAGE HALL EXTENSION

Unfortunately, we have learnt this month that applications for assistance from the Big Lottery Fund and WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental) have been rejected. The good news is that the Board of Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment Ltd have agreed to commit £50,000 to the project. This is a major step forward.

In addition we received two donations which were very much appreciated.

The 2nd Upton and Blewbury Brownies ("The Tuesday Night Brownies) gave £145 which they had raised by holding a sponsored skip.

The 1st Upton and Blewbury Girl Guides gave £150. The girls themselves organised a fund raising evening, inviting Brownies and parents. Amongst other things they served tea and cakes, arranged games, and ran stalls selling toiletries, etc.

We still have some way to go before we will have enough money to complete the scheme, but we are getting there!

Brian Simpson

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Blewbury WI next meet on Wednesday 28th January in the Vale Room of the Blewbury Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The topic will be "Travels with my Auntie - My career with the BBC World Service" featuring Alistair Lack. This talk has had excellent feedback by other WIs so we are all looking forward to it. Don't forget the WI has 'something for every one'. Winter activities include weekly Mah Jong, monthly Scrabble, theatre visits, monthly walks and those ever-important pub lunches. If you need a lift or other information please contact Mrs Gettings on 851579.

TONY WEST MEMORIAL FUND

A total of £425 has been contributed to Tony's memorial fund. This reflects both the respect and affection with which Tony was regarded.

Jessie proposes to use this money to fulfil Tony's ambition to replace the existing sanctuary lamp in St Mary's with something more worthy. The new lamp has been selected but will need approval from the diocese before it is purchased and installed.

THEATRE GROUP

After our trip to Milton Keynes, I had planned an outing about March and the Playhouse brochure arrived first. (There are, I now find, some quite exciting shows at the Watermill, too.) Still, the reservations were made, and there are just a few tickets left for

Alan Ayckbourn's "Life and Beth"
at the Oxford Playhouse on Wednesday 18
March.

The cost is £17.20 for the seat plus £4 for the minibus. Do contact me, cash with order, if you are interested.

Nothing further is fixed, but I am always happy to receive suggestions, especially if they send us to a new venue or a different experience. June or July would probably be the date for the next trip.

One major announcement is that the committee has doubled in size - thanks, Celia, for volunteering!

If you would like to go on our mailing list, preferably but not exclusively by e-mail, please get in touch. Conversely, there are some people who are regularly informed of our plans, but have never joined us. Please say what we are doing wrong, or maybe ask to be removed from the list.

Malcolm Wright
850705
malcolmwright@f2s.com

PARISH COUNCIL

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 28th January at 8.00 in the Village Hall.

Main topic will be agreeing the budget for 2009-2010 and setting the precept for next year.

Documentation

Those of you who visit the village website will have noticed major changes taking place in the presentation of Parish Council documentation on the web. As part of the Freedom of Information Act we now have to work to a government produced model publication scheme that requires us to make a lot more of our documentation available on the web. Fortunately for us we have most of the documentation already available but it is taking many hours putting it all into a format suitable to go on the web. We are greatly indebted to Brian Rippon who has so quickly and expertly set up the web system for us to use.

As soon as we are complete there will be an article in the Upton News explaining all the changes to our website that have been going on over the last few months.

Energy Forum

As mentioned in last month's Upton News the Parish Council is very keen to set up an Energy Forum to seek out advice on how our parishioners can save on energy costs. So many other villages have been very successful with their efforts, it would be great if Upton could join them. We require 2 or 3 volunteers to get things moving, if you are prepared to help us out with this idea please give me a call.

Mike Brown 850135

FRESH FISH DELIVERY

Are folk aware of the Fresh Fish Man who calls in his van every Tuesday afternoon at approx 4.45pm? He always stops in Stream Road outside Castell and also the Old School House beside the church but will call on you if required and his fish is very fresh (not frozen) and delicious!

Highly recommended by Celia

VILLAGE DROP-IN SESSIONS

Happy New Year to you all. January marks the start of the second year of our Drop-in sessions and, providing our numbers stay up, I guess it will become a permanent feature of our Village life. I'm always open to suggestions as to what else we could offer during these sessions, so if there's something you would like to see us doing, or if you have any good ideas, please don't keep them to yourself. We'd love to hear them.

The next three sessions will be at the usual time of 10.30 – 12.00 noon on the following Thursday mornings: 8 January, 22 January, 5 February.

If you need transport to the Village Hall 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 OIL SYNDICATE

As you may have found out by now, we have moved out of the village and now live closer to the boy's schools in Pangbourne.

The oil syndicate has been open to other villages for a number of years and seems to be 'spreading its wings' as I receive requests to join from new locations.

Now with a membership of over 300 people, it makes sense to continue with the oil syndicate – reducing the cost of heating for many local families.

My contact details are (preferably by e-mail) colin.batchelor@eggconnect.net or by telephone 0118 984 1126 (after 7.00pm).

If you haven't got round to making contact but wish to join, just drop me a line and I can send you all the details.

The next order is scheduled for mid January. To be included, I need to have your orders by Saturday 10th January at the latest.

Colin Batchelor

THEATRE GROUP

The Magic Flute Milton Keynes Theatre, 18 November 2008

Malcolm marshalled us outside the Village Hall at 1700 hours on 18 November from whence we made a rapid and comfortable journey to Milton Keynes in the minibus. We arrived here to enjoy a performance of Mozart's "Die Zauberflöte" given by the Glyndebourne Touring Opera Company at the town's impressive theatre.

"The Magic Flute" is difficult to describe and impossible to stage convincingly. Briefly, the principal pair of lovers progress through the action to a blissful conclusion while being alternately assisted or opposed by colourful characters. The tale is presented through scenes of circus, passionate love, comedy and drama with allusions to Mozart's flirtation with Masonic Mysteries. For me, Schikaneder's German text was totally incomprehensible. Fortunately, we were given a modern English translation in subtitles. This provided some aid to understanding the extraordinary events taking place on the stage beneath,

Overall the singing was good, in some places particularly so. It was accompanied throughout by fine orchestral playing. Just a few examples must suffice. The company is blessed with a sonorous male chorus and an outstanding lyric tenor in Lothar Odinius as Tamino. His muse Pamina (Ana James) also gave a splendid performance as singer and actress. The only wholly dramatic items in the piece are taken by the Queen of the Night. These famously challenging arias were handled by Mari Moriya who negotiated them with admirable accuracy and a spectacular coloratura top and a strong mid-range soprano. The second act aria in particular drew from the house enthusiastic acclaim. In conclusion, the company gave us a beautifully staged and costumed addition to their delightful account of Mozart's wonderful score. We returned home warmed within.

Harry Prior

SOUTH & VALE CARERS

Have you Time to Spare to Meet Someone New and Help them?

Our scheme to train and place volunteers is gathering speed, and we already have a terrific team in the field. But here at the South & Vale Carers Centre in Didcot we would like to recruit more: would you be interested in helping out someone caring for a relative in their own home? You would be introduced to a household where the carer and the cared-for person are living, and asked to stay in the home while the carer took some time off: perhaps an hour a month, perhaps an afternoon a week.

This would all start off with an interview for you, and references sought, and then a short training course to equip you for any situation and send you free from anxiety into your future as a volunteer! We will take care in matching volunteers and cared-for people, and you would have constant support by phone when you need it as well as ongoing face-to-face meetings with colleagues and with Chris Elliott, the co-ordinator of the scheme.

Chris is waiting to hear from anyone interested, and has much more information to give. Please email her at the Carers Centre on chris@svcarers.org.uk, or phone her there on 01235 510212. She will be delighted you've called!

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Delivery organised by Jessie West

Items for inclusion in the February issue to be sent to kameki39@btinternet.com, or handed in to Cathy or Mike by Monday 26th January.