

UPTON NEWS

March 2009

Vol 3 No. 25

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Services for February

1st March 9.00 a.m. Eucharist followed by Fair Trade Refreshments.

Everybody is welcome to join us at 10.00 to take part in the Fair Trade 'Little Big Brew'.

8th March 9.00 a.m. Eucharist

15th March 9.00 a.m. Eucharist

22nd March 10.00 a.m. Mothering Sunday

All Age Family Service. Posies will be distributed, followed by refreshments. We look forward to seeing you all there.

29th March 9.00 a.m. Eucharist

Organist

We are very grateful to various organists who help us out from time to time. We are still trying to find people who would commit to playing for us on a rota basis. Adverts are being placed in the Door as I type this note - so watch this space. If you'd like to join the organ rota please let me know. Clare Lightfoot 850486

UPTON METHODIST CHURCH

Services commence at 10:30am

1st March No Service in Upton

8th March Barbara Sexton

15th March Service at Blewbury

Methodist Church (Rev Helen White – Holy Communion)

22nd March Derek Morton

29th March Service at Blewbury

Methodist Church Marlene Chalkley

VILLAGE HALL EXTENSION

Promises amounting to £67,770 have now been received from various official bodies and £5,595 from people living in the village. A further £3,900 has been raised at events held in the village during the past twelve months and the Trust itself has built up some financial reserves in recent years.

The Trustees think, therefore, that they may soon be in a position to go ahead with the scheme to extend the hall – providing the building of the patio and the extension to the car park is deferred. Providing also, of course, that an affordable tender is forthcoming from a reputable building firm.

The Government has reduced the VAT payable in 2009 to 15%, and so completion of the work by the end of the year would save about £2,000.

Accordingly, the Trust has appointed a Managing Architect to oversee the invitation of tenders, the letting of the contract and the execution of the work.

It should be stressed that the work will only go ahead in the next few months if an affordable tender is received.

It is important that the fundraising should continue. Any money received that is not needed for the extension itself can be used for the patio and car park.

GEORGE AND DRAGON

Our apologies for last month's lack of update. We were on holiday! Yes, we went to the Philippines for two weeks and left the pub in the care of our trusted team who have, I might add, done a very good job indeed. It took a few days to get our bearings back but we're definitely back on track – groove and all!

The 22nd of March will be that special day for mums. Expect the roast for that day to be truly special. We will of course, have other things on as well. We have been taking bookings as early as the first week of February and spaces are running low so book yours soon!

In anticipation of a promising Spring season, Bill has been busy concocting new things for our menu and so from the beginning of March you will find new dishes on offer like pasta, salads, vegetarian meals and new puddings. Recently, it's been called to our attention that there are some in the village who, for some reason or other, are unable to come to the pub for a meal but would really like to try Bill's very popular Thai Curries (among other things) and because we are always happy to accommodate, a selection of meals are now available to take-away and did I mention that they will have a 10% discount? Bargain!

Opening and Dining Hours from the 1st of March:

Opening times:

Monday to Friday 12-2.30pm and 5.30-11pm
Saturday & Sunday 12-11pm

Dining Hours:

Lunch 12-2 Sunday to Saturday
Dinner 6.30-9 Tuesday to Saturday

Pensioner's Lunch are still on every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday: 20% off all regular main course meals.

Here's wishing us all a beautiful Spring ahead and see you at the pub!

WINE CLUB

The Upton Wine Club meeting February 2009

It was a very welcome return for Sarah Eccles, the first time she has visited us this year. The subject wines of Italy, which as you will be aware, has more grape varieties, than most of us could possibly remember, or need to know. The most important issue being that this was a Credit Crunch tour around Italy, so most of the wines were quite affordable, ranging from £5.99 to £9.99.

The wines came from across Italy from Piemonte in the North to Puglia, Calabria and Sicily in the South. The vineyard in Campania, near Naples takes its production so seriously that they have their own weather station in the grounds, which is solar powered.

The reds were generally preferred to the whites which at times tasted a little thin. The preferred wine on our table was the Marco Porello, Barbera D'Alba DOC Mommiano 2007, from Majestic, £7.99. which all agreed was the most rounded in flavour.

All the wines were from Majestic and Sarah thought that their selection from Italy was good. The best value wine of the evening was Monaci, Copertino, DOC 2004 £5.99, which was very good value.

So hope to see you at the next meeting in March which is earlier than normal on the 11th of March, Simon will be talking about Pinot Noir and Sauvignon Blanc.

Chris Traynor

VILLAGE DROP-IN SESSIONS

The next three sessions will be held on:

5 March, 19 March and 2 April

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the usual time of 10.30 until 12.00 noon in the Village Hall (alternate Thursdays).

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

Yvonne Collins 850989

PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on the Monday 6th April at 8.00 in the Village Hall. Please come along any time after 7.30 and join us before the meeting for a drink and a biscuit. This year we want you to come along not to hear about the things that we have done but to give us your help and guidance on what you would like us to do over the next 12 months. Our plan for next year will be based on your requests. In the past the meeting has been taken up listening to reports, this year we intend to make those reports available on the web 2 weeks in advance of the meeting. Copies of the reports will also be in the hall on the night or can be obtained in advance from Clare or myself. On the evening authors of the reports will be asked to give a very short summary and answer your questions and listen to your advice. Please come along to give us your support and opinions.

Parish Transport Representative

We are still desperately seeking a Parish Transport Representative, see last months edition for details or please give me a call.

Planning Applications

UPT/20176/1 Stream Cottage, Stream Road
Application to demolish roof of existing house, raise the ridge height to create a new first floor and room in the roof and to add a single storey sun room.

The Parish Council has no objection

UPT/1972/4 Modification to Village Hall
Extension plan.

The Parish Council has no objection

Litter

The annual parish litter pick will take place on 28th March meeting at the village hall at 9.30 for a cup of tea and a biscuit before we set off. Grabs, gloves and florescent vests will be provided.

Mike Brown 850135

VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

Once again, venturing out into the garden is brief and disheartening, the snow has bashed down some of my shrubs, and the seed heads I have purposely left for the birds are disintegrating into brown untidy muddles, my wellies have sprung leaks, and even the dog doesn't want to go out, I am hoping for some sunshine soon.

The programme of talks and events has been printed and is now available from the Blewbury Post Office, or from Maggie in Upton. The show schedule is coming along nicely, you will be pleased to know that Dawn and I have solved the printer problem, there are 3 doors in the wretched machine, and the toner cartridge was in the "secret" door! Thanks to George, who helped out!

The next talk will be on Wednesday 4th March, Bill Bossom will be talking on "The Gardens of Capel Manor" at Upton Methodist hall, 7.30pm, let me know if you need a lift, 850219. Future talks include wine tasting by Brightwell Vineyard, and aromatherapy!

Happy gardening Karen Brooks

UPTON 50 CLUB

Winners for December 2008

£20	Mrs Blandford	152
£20	Mrs Smith	35
£10	Mrs Irson	120
£7	Mrs Tibbets	171
£5	Mr Buxton	82
£4	Mrs Eighteen	44

Winners for January 2009

£10	Mrs Scotney	27
£7	Mr Kent	102
£5	Mr Prior	42
£4	Mrs Suttar	76

BLEWBURY SCHOOL

Ofsted Report - For all parents, the importance and value of a good, local school is perhaps immeasurable. Your child will spend many years there and gain the basis for both secondary school and life thereafter. As many in the village will be aware, the teachers and support staff at Blewbury School have been working exceptionally hard to maintain and improve our local school. I am very pleased to report that this dedication has enabled the school to achieve not only a "good" Ofsted rating, but one with significant "outstanding" elements.

The full Ofsted report can be accessed via the school website:

<http://oxfordshire.schooljotter.com/blewbury>

A summary of the report can be seen on our village website under Local News

On behalf of us all, I would like to thank Marion Mills (Head Teacher), all the teachers, support staff, children, parents and wider community for the work they do to help develop and maintain the great school we have.

Andrea Brown, Parent & School Governor

THE OXFORDSHIRE BEFRIENDING NETWORK

We are currently looking for new befriending volunteers to help support people with terminal or life threatening illness, free training, expenses and on-going support are available.

If you can offer 2-3 hours a week to befriend someone living in your area, are warm, compassionate and emotionally mature please contact us on 01865 791781 or email:

enquiries@oxonbefriending.net for a Befriending information pack and application form.

We also run an Advocacy service and will be running training for Volunteer Advocates in April. For Advocacy enquiries, please ask for Jan Penrose or email:

jan.penrose@oxonbefriending.net

DIARY DATES

The **Jumble Sale** in aid of village hall funds is being held in the **Methodist Church Hall on March 14th at 2pm**

Please let Jessie or Clare have any items for sale, or bring to the Methodist hall between 10am and 12noon on the day.

Oxford Touring Theatre Company

Wednesday 8th April at 7.30 in the Village Hall

RIVER'S UP

a romantic comedy from OTTC

Tickets: £8, £6 concession tel.01235 851206

Managing Diabetes

Monday 20th April at 7.00 in the Cornerstone Arts Centre.

Woodlands Medical Centre, Didcot have arranged a talk by Professor David Matthews, Churchill Hospital Oxford on 'Managing Diabetes' it is aimed at helping patients and their carers manage their diabetes condition.

There is no charge but places are limited so please book your place(s) by ringing or leaving a message with your name and telephone number on 01235 750524

UPTON LADIES COVEN

The next Coven will be held at 8pm on Thursday 5th March at the George & Dragon.

UPTON OIL SYNDICATE

If you would like to be included in the March delivery please let me know by Sat 14th March. Colin Batchelor (0118 984 1126)

E-mail – colin.batchelor@eggconnect.net

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

Printed at the Duck House, Blewbury.

Delivery organised by Jessie West

