

# UPTON NEWS

April 2009

Vol 3 No. 26

## ST MARY'S CHURCH

### Services for April

5th April 09.00 Palm Sunday - Sung Eucharist  
10th April 10.00 Good Friday - All Age  
Family Service followed by refreshments  
12th April 9.00 Easter Day - Sung Eucharist  
19th April 9.00 Sung Eucharist  
26th April 9.00 Sung Eucharist  
3rd May 9.00 Sung Eucharist

The Annual Church Meeting will be held  
on Thursday 2nd April at 7.00 p.m. in church.  
Everyone is welcome to attend.

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## UPTON METHODIST CHURCH

### Services commence at 10:30am

5th April David Kershaw.  
12th April John Dennis  
(Blewbury Methodists Joining us)  
19th April Preacher from the Oxford Circuit  
26th April Rev. Helen White (Holy  
Communion, Blewbury Methodists joining us)

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## VILLAGE HALL EXTENSION

Proceeds from the jumble sale on 14th March  
towards the cost of the Village Hall extension  
amounted to £245.

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## GEORGE AND DRAGON

I'm sure we could all agree that March had been  
a very good month, weather-wise, at least and  
we all know that good weather draws people in  
at the George and Dragon. At the beginning of  
the month, it looked like it would be just another  
slow time for us but after the first week, the  
weather turned for the better and then, we were  
literally, rushed off our feet! Hopefully, we are  
seeing what would be the beginning of a busy  
year for us. We're keeping our fingers crossed.

You may have received a homemade flyer hand-  
delivered by our sons, George and Gavin. It's  
only a reminder of what we do at lunchtimes and  
the new take-away service that we are now  
offering (Tuesday-Saturday only). Also in last  
month's newsletter, we mentioned that we  
would be open all day Saturday and Sunday.  
Unfortunately, we've decided to revert to the old  
hours of 12-2.30pm and 5.30-11pm for Saturday  
because not enough people come in on a  
Saturday after 2pm to make it viable. Sunday  
hours will remain the same.

Once again, we will have an Easter Egg Hunt in  
the pub garden for the kids this year. It will be  
on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April, 2.30-4pm. Lots of free  
chocolates are always fun for the kids so make  
sure they don't miss out! As for St. George's  
day, I am yet to receive confirmation from  
people regarding our activities for that day but  
keep an eye out for our boards outside the pub to  
find out what will be happening.

We have high hopes for Spring and Summer so  
wish us luck and we wish you the same!

See you at the pub!

## VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

No - Karen has not disappeared! We have had a change of jobs on the Committee and I volunteered to keep everyone up to date with news about the Association.

What luck - a week of magnificent weather, giving us the opportunity to clear the rubbish left by winter and plan for the coming months. Let's hope there's more sunshine to come!

In case you haven't heard, at our AGM it was agreed that the annual membership fee would be dropped which means that everyone in Blewbury and Upton is automatically a member of the Association! We would love as many youngsters as possible to become involved with the VPA and take part in our Annual Show in August - which includes competitions in gardening, cooking, photography and lots more (full details will be available when the Schedule has been completed next month).

The 2009 Programme is now available - you can pick up a copy at the Post Office in Blewbury and from Maggie Maytham in Upton. We have some fantastic monthly talks this year. Because the VPA is not just a 'gardening club' there is a wide variety of subjects - including a visit in June from an Oxfordshire vineyard owner with wine tasting!! We would love to see new people coming to the monthly meetings and taking part in the special events. There is a £2 entry for the monthly talks (to help pay for the hire of the hall) and a raffle which helps towards the cost of the speakers.

Don't forget, there are also gardening tools you can borrow from the Association for a small donation. Details are on the back of the 2009 Programme.

If anyone has any snippets they would like put in the **VPA section** of the newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01235 510095 or [Eileen.bracken@talktalk.net](mailto:Eileen.bracken@talktalk.net)

Look forward to seeing you at the next monthly meeting on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 7.30 in Upton Methodist Hall when Jenny Gordon will be talking about The Power of Flowers - Aromatherapy. This VPA meeting is the last for the season in Upton.

Eileen

## PARISH COUNCIL

### New Councillor

We are very pleased to have been able to co-opt Geoff Summers on to the Council with immediate effect as a replacement for Belinda Drew who has left the village.

### Annual Parish Meeting

The annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 7.45 for 8.00 in the Village Hall.

All the reports for this meeting are either already on, or will be on, the web site well before the meeting and are also available as paper copies from myself or from Clare (850486). To access these reports on the web go on to the Village website, click on Parish Council at the top of the page and then under the vast list of documentation that will come up click on Council Reports.

At the meeting we do not intend to read out those reports but will welcome questions and requests for more detail or clarification. We intend to spend most of the time talking about subjects for the future as listed in the prelude to the Parish Council reports.

Please come along to give us the guidance that we require from you telling us what you would like us to be doing to improve life in our parish and to give us your support or criticism.

### Rats

Several households in the village have reported problems with rats, some in loft spaces, some in gardens. In order to assess the extent of the problem the Parish Council asks that you notify either Clare on 850486 or Geoff Summers on 850801 if you have rats at your residential property.

Unfortunately the pest control service provided by the District Council has been discontinued. If the problem is widespread around the village the Parish Council will look at ways that it might provide assistance with the possibility of hiring the services of a professional company to deal with all reported problems.

Mike Brown

850135

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## **THEATRE GROUP**

Earlier this month the Upton Playgoers went to the Oxford Playhouse to see 'Life with Beth' by Alan Ayckbourn. All of it was by A Aykebourne. Script, direction, casting. We know, because the cast told us so. (It was Meet the Cast evening.) The acting was first class, and the setting was good old-fashioned proscenium arch and a set easily recognisable as a retired couples lounge/dining room.

The theme of the play, centred on Beth, who was mourning her recently deceased husband. Or was she? Her close family – and the Vicar – were determined that she was to be Consoled. But she did not need consolation. Beth conveyed in the subtlety of her stillness, that she had felt a weight falling from her shoulders. But her secret relief was not to be ...

Not rib achingly funny, there were plenty of laughs in the first act. Ayckbourn has a way of peppering his stories with laughter to leaven a more serious undercurrent. The emanation of Beth's dear departed through closed doors, put a dampener on her future prospects!

We all enjoyed an evening with the best of contemporary writing and acting. Thank you Malcolm for once again choosing the production, and organising us to get there and back. J. J.

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## **VILLAGE DROP-IN SESSIONS**

The next three sessions will be held on:

2 April, 16 April and 30 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 will probably be able to help – especially if you could let me know the day before.

Yvonne Collins 850989

## **BLEWBURY SCHOOL**

### **Blewbury School visits Butagaya Primary School, Jinja, Uganda**

During the February break we were really fortunate to have funding to enable seven teachers to visit our link school in Uganda. The main purpose of this visit was to continue with and promote our shared curriculum which concentrates on sustainability.

We were very pleased to see that trees we had helped to plant three years ago are now about nine metres tall and will soon be ready to start harvesting for timber. This year our main fund raising efforts managed to provide maize seed, 100 chicks, pawpaw seedlings and two pigs. The children learnt a great deal on the return of the teachers and class 1 were able to share what they had learnt in a class assembly.

Marion Mills Headmistress

### **70's disco**

A 70's disco in aid of the Blewbury preschool and primary school will be held in Blewbury village hall at 8.00pm on Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>. A debut band "DisFunkional" will be playing. Tickets are available from Blewbury post office, the preschool or Lindsay Lott will be able to get some for you. Fancy dress is optional. This should be a sell out so if you are interested please don't leave it too late.

### **Business Advertising**

Do you run a business?? The PTA circulate a newsletter to every child that attends the school, if you would like to advertise in it for a small cost of £2.50 per article please contact me.

All proceeds from the above go directly to the children of Blewbury school via the PTA funds.

For information on any of the above please ring Lindsay Lott on 851222.

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## POST OFFICE

The vouchers so generously given to Maggie for running the Post Office for the 15 odd years, have been redeemed for a Victorian arch and scented rose; and are on display in the garden. Still available from the Post Office (Toad Hall) is the dry cleaning service – the cleaning goes on Wednesday for return on Friday – and a supply of free range Alden Farm eggs.

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## DIARY DATES

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 in the Village Hall**

**Oxford Touring Theatre Company**

Present

***RIVER'S UP***

a romantic comedy

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

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July at Blewbury School**

This year the theme running through the fair will be American independence day, more details to follow but includes cheerleaders, lots of stalls, food, games, face painting etc.

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## THEATRE GROUP

The trip to "Life and Beth" at the Oxford Playhouse went ahead as planned, and is recorded elsewhere.

Our next outing is to the Watermill to see Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit" on 11 June. It was evidently a popular choice; there was an immediate flurry of cash and cheques after the announcement and only one ticket remains at the time of writing!

We'll soon think of something for late September or thereabouts. If an idea occurs to you do let me know.

Malcolm Wright 850705

## BLEWBURY WI

Blewbury WI meets next at 7.30pm on Wednesday April 22nd in the Vale Room. The subject will be "Travelling in the Sinai on a Camel". I always say to my husband that I won't go anywhere I can't plug in a hair drier, so the Speaker Betty Collins must be a braver woman than I !!!! We'd love to see some ladies from Upton there, just come as a visitor to see what its all about. Up and coming activities include "42<sup>nd</sup> Street" at the New Theatre, Oxford, a visit to the Oxford Botanic Garden, the private opening of Hatfield House for Oxfordshire WI ladies in mid-June and a pub lunch. If you need a lift please ring Rosemary Tilden on 850528 to see what can be arranged.

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## UPTON LADIES COVEN

The next Coven will be held at 8pm on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at the George & Dragon.

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Items for inclusion in the May issue to be sent to [kameki39@btinternet.com](mailto:kameki39@btinternet.com). or handed in to Cathy or Mike by 25 April.

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