

UPTON NEWS

May 2009

Vol 3 No. 27

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Services for May

3rd May 9.00 a.m. Eucharist, followed by refreshments

10th May 9.00 a.m. Eucharist

17th May 10.00 a.m. All Age Family Service, followed by refreshments

24th May 9.00 a.m. Eucharist

31st May 9.00 a.m. Eucharist

Thank you from The Children's Society

Many thanks to all who supported the Children's Society through collecting envelopes and making donations.

The sum of £228.32 was raised, of this £65 has been gift aided. Well done everyone.

Clare Lightfoot

UPTON METHODIST CHURCH

Services commence at 10:30am

3rd May Elizabeth Wood

10th May Helen Carter

17th May Libby Bolton

24th May Brenda Boyer

31st May Rev. Helen White

(Service at Blewbury Methodist Church)

UPTON LADIES COVEN

Upton Ladies Coven will be meeting at the George & Dragon on Thursday 7 May and Thursday 4 June at 8pm - everyone welcome

PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 6th April, a total of 32 parishioners attended.

Questions were taken on the annual reports provided by the various councils and parish organisations.

An interesting discussion took place on future tasks for the Parish Council. Topics ranged from The Volunteer Work Force, improvements to Frog Alley and the Recreation Ground, Village of the Year, Parish Transport Representative, Energy Saving Initiative and the possibility of setting up a First Responder Group.

All the annual reports and a copy of the meeting minutes are available on the village website.

Village of the Year

In 2007 you will recall that Upton was runner-up in the Vale section of the Calor Oxfordshire Village of the Year Competition. We did not enter in 2008.

Now is our chance to put together an entry for 2009 which has to be in by 31st May. We are looking for 2-3 volunteers who can pull the entry together and then, providing we are shortlisted, give up a Saturday in July to present the entry to the judges. The village is in a better position to do well than it was in 2007 so please think about helping to put an entry together. If you are interested please give myself or Clare Lightfoot a call.

Next Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 27th May at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

Mike Brown 850135

GEORGE AND DRAGON

April turned out to be a highly eventful month for the George and Dragon. On the first week, we featured a local band called Mew and Wooster. They entertained us with their rendition of popular covers from the seventies to current charts. The music and the drinks flowed until the wee hours of the morning...literally! They will definitely be back.

Once again on Easter Day, third year running, we held our annual Easter Egg Hunt. The weather didn't look to promising and there was a point when we thought it wouldn't push through but the weather improved and we had just enough time to hide the different coloured ribbons which the children had to find in exchange for chocolates.

Our big event for April was of course, St. George's Day. We personally believe that more should be done to mark this special day of England's very own patron saint. Poor St. George sits in the corner looking very embarrassed because St. Patrick and St. Andrew get more attention in England than him! Well, we were not having it. St. George is England's and the pub's patron saint and we will give him the accolade he deserves! The Wantage-based **17th Century Vale Islanders** and **The Old Specked Hen Mixed Morris Clog Dancers**, feel the same way and that's why it has now become tradition for them to grace us with their period singing, dancing and costumes in celebration of this special day. We have done our bit for the "Britishness" campaign!

We were also pleased to find that a lot more places were working to make St. George Day more substantial. Our neighbouring village, West Hagbourne held a Dragon Display Competition and had asked our landlord, Bill, to judge the competition! This contest has attracted a lot of media attention and so on the week of St. George's Day, the village, the contest and Bill were in three papers, The Didcot Herald, The Oxford Mail and The Daily Star! That's now his claim to fame.

Two bank holiday Mondays in May and weather permitting, we will have a barbeque for lunch on

both days. Hopefully the May bank holiday weather will be good to us this year because so far, it's always been wet and horrid. Nothing worse than soggy burger buns! So good luck to us and see you at the pub!

HAGBOURNE FUN RUN

East Hagbourne's annual Fun Run and Walk takes place this year on Monday 4th May. Starting in East Hagbourne, the 4.5 mile route goes through West Hagbourne, Upton and Blewbury before returning to East Hagbourne.

There are cups for the first man and woman, first veteran man and woman, first U16 boy and girl and first U12 boy and girl. All children who complete the course also get a certificate.

As well as being a Fun Run, the event also raises money for Cancer Research - Over the years it has raised over £20,000.

The run starts at 11am from the Hagbourne Village Hall. Registration for runners and walkers is from 9:30am on the day. Entry is £2.50 for adults and 50p for Under 16s. Refreshments are available throughout the morning. It is a great event for all the family.

More information and sponsorship forms are available from Andrew Tyler on 07710 0883448 or andrewstyler@yahoo.co.uk.

VILLAGE DROP-IN SESSIONS

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Drop-in. The next two sessions will be held on 14 May and 28 May 10.30 until 12.00 noon in the Village Hall.

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 01235 850989

VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

Not good weather at Easter but at least it's improving, to give us the opportunity to start planting.

For those of you with access to the Web – information has been received from DEFRA regarding another bug!! It's called the Allium Leaf Miner and attacks onions, leaks and garlic. Evidence is feeding punctures on leaves or larvae inside the plant. The adult flies around in March/April and September/October. About 3mm long with a black and yellow belly. Legs are black with yellow knees! DEFRA recommend that planting alliums is delayed until after April. More info available on www.defra.gov.uk/plant/pestnote/allium-info.pdf

I hope you have all collected a programme for the coming year from the Post Office in Blewbury or Maggie Maytham in Upton.

We are trying to arrange a visit to the Organic Garden which is near Coventry – the plan is a Saturday in Mid September. Will keep you posted with the details in due course.

During the Blewbury Festival in June we are having a stand on the Saturday – please visit and catch up with what we are doing and see some of the tools you can borrow for a small donation. We also have notelets with photos of Blewbury and Upton which can be bought either in a pack of 6 or individually.

The next monthly meeting is Wednesday 6th May at the Vale Room (7.30pm) with a visit from Dews Meadow Farm Products. The June meeting is on the 3rd at the Vale Room with wine tasting with the Brightwell Vineyard.

If you have any news for the VPA that you 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

Look forward to seeing you at the next monthly meeting.

Eileen

UPTON 50 CLUB

Winners for Febuary 2009

£10	Mr Bucknell	134
£7	Mr Beckles	143
£5	Mr Heckington	80
£4	Mr Savage	92

Winners for March 2009

£25	Mrs Kent	103
£25	Mrs Lott	114
£10	Mrs Simpson	84
£7	Mrs Stewart	85
£5	Mrs Blandford	152
£4	Mr Sayers	25

UPTON OIL SYNDICATE

We have moved again, from our temporary rented accommodation into a more permanent home, in Upper Basildon.

My contact details are (preferably by e-mail) colin.batchelor@eggconnect.net or by telephone 01491 671253 (after 7.00pm).

Our new address is Char'del, 9 Spring Close, Upper Basildon, Berks, RG8 8JQ.

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 to be placed on Monday 11th May. To be included, I need to have your orders by Saturday 9th May at the latest.

Colin Batchelor

POLICE SURGERIES

The police are starting surgeries in our village. These are drop in sessions and should residents have any issues which they wish to discuss with the police i.e. vandalism, crime etc etc. then please come along for a chat. Please be assured that all conversations are treated in strictest confidence.

The dates for your diary are as follows:

Tuesday 5th May 19.00 - 20.00 pm

Friday 9th June 19.00 - 20.00 pm

Celia Davies

NOYES FLUDDE

Congratulations to Freya Granger for her performance as Sem in Noyes Fludde a Benjamin Britain opera recently staged at Blewbury: She sustained an important role with immaculate and confident singing and acted with true dramatic flair.

Daphne Simpson's team of bell ringers also made an outstanding contribution to the opera - augering well for the coming Oranges and Lemons event in the Village Hall on May 23rd.

Peter Gardiner

COLOUR PRINTER

I have an HP OfficeJet G85 colour printer/fax/scanner/copier, which is going spare. In good working order except for the photocopier automatic feeder. If one of the village 'associations' (Wine Club, Oil Syndicate etc) would like it, I will give it away. If a village individual would like it, I would like a contribution made to the Village Hall Extension Fund. Please call 01235 851111 if you are interested in taking this further.

Esther Sasoon Blandford

DIARY DATES

Saturday 23 May 7.30pm, Village Hall

Oranges and Lemons

A miscellany of handbell ringing and readings accompanied by a ploughman's supper and wine.

Tickets in advance £8, on the door £10

Tel 851192 or 850449

Please support this event raising funds for the Village Hall Extension

Friday 15th – Sunday 17th May

St. Andrew's Music and Arts Festival Weekend.

Please join us for a celebration weekend featuring two special concerts and supported by an Art and Quilting exhibition.

Birinus Family Concert : Friday 15th May 6pm
(Tickets £4/£2 includes refreshments)

St. Andrew's Festival Concert: Saturday 16th May 7.30pm (Tickets £6/£3 includes refreshments) - with Didcot Choral Society, Blewbury Brass Band and St. Andrew's Handbell Ringers

Open church and refreshments throughout the weekend. St. Andrew's Church, East Hagbourne All proceeds in aid of St. Andrew's Organ Restoration Appeal.

Further information/tickets: Alison Laing 01235 813147

If you would like to exhibit please contact Andrea Mitchell: 01235 850719

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

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