

UPTON NEWS

July 2009

Vol 3 No. 29

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Services for July

5 July 09.00 Sung Eucharist
12 July 09.00 Sung Eucharist
19 July 10.00 All Age Family Service - followed
by refreshments
26 July 09.00 Sung Eucharist
2 Aug 09.00 Sung Eucharist

UPTON METHODIST CHURCH

Services commence at 10:30am

5th July David Martin
12th July Rev. John Rowland
(Blewbury Methodists will be joining us)
19th July Rev. Helen White
(Holy Communion at Blewbury Methodist
Chapel)
26th July Brenda Boyer

Please refer to notices on the chapel gate for any alterations to the above arrangements.

VILLAGE DROP-IN SESSIONS

The next two Drop-in sessions will be held at the usual time of 10.30 until 12.00 noon on the following Thursdays:

9 July – 23 July

Advance notice: There will be no Drop-in sessions during August.

Yvonne Collins - 01235 850989

PARISH COUNCIL

Working Party

A very big thank you to the 10 volunteers who turned up on a very warm Saturday morning to tidy up the Recreation Ground. The amount of work that the party got through in about 3 hours was amazing. I trust all those who came along appreciated shedding a few pounds of weight.

Community Responders

I am delighted to report that 12 parishioners have volunteered to be trained as Community Responders (See last month)
Training days are being set up for mid July and we hope to go active at the beginning of August. With so many volunteers coming forward we hope to be able to have someone on call both day and night for at least 80% of the time.

Planning Applications

The following Planning Applications have been received.

UPT/1062/5 – Rowlands, Church St. Erection of dwelling with garage and erection of a replacement garage. Applicants Mr & Mrs E Johnson and Mrs S Carter

UPT/4960/03 – Maslina, Reading Road. Demolition of existing garage. Erection of new garage with studio over, new extension and improvements. Applicants Mr & Mrs B Arnold.

OCC Ref MW/0127/09 – Chilton Waste Services. Proposed extension to MRF and waste transfer station. Applicant Mr J Richardson

UPT/10946/2 – Midway, Prospect Road. Extension to existing bungalow. Applicant Mr J. Dickens

Mike Brown

850135

OBITUARIES

Julia Williams

On Sunday 24th May, Upton suffered another huge loss when Julia Williams passed away at the age of 66 years.

Most people in the village knew Julia for one reason or another, perhaps as the 'Queen' of flapjack and tiffin baking, as a deliverer of 'Meals on Wheels' and the Upton News, or for collecting for the Poppy Appeal. Julia was especially proud of the British Legion Broach that she was awarded for 20 years of collecting, however, I think mostly she will be remembered for her friendly smile and chat or the pip of her car horn and a huge wave as she passed by.

Julia, husband Willy and sons Howard and Simon moved to Upton from Blewbury about 25 years ago and soon settled in making new friends and becoming involved in various village activities. Tragically 10 years ago, Willy suddenly passed away at the age of 57 and Julia had spent the last 10 years living on her own.

Despite having both hips replaced during recent years she was always busy baking or tending her garden. Much time was spent with family especially grandson Sam who thought the world of his Granny.

St Michael's Church in Blewbury was completely full for the service of thanksgiving for Julia's life and the large number of people who attended reflected the deep loss that was felt by everyone. Her generous nature and willing attitude to help people in all types of situations was second to none, she was a true friend and words cannot describe how much she will be missed.

Helen Weston

George Milford-Cottam. 4th May 1918 – 19th May 2009.

Mr Milford-Cottam, who lived at Barn Acre in Stream Road, was brought up in West London and worked in insurance. He belonged to a

yeomanry regiment which was mobilised when war started and sent to the Middle East as part of the horse mounted 1st Cavalry Division. Soon afterwards he volunteered to serve with the newly formed Long Range Desert Group operating hundred of miles behind enemy lines in the Desert. By 1944 his regiment formed part of an armoured brigade which landed in Normandy on D Day. Within a few weeks he was shot through the neck when looking out of the turret of his tank and was invalided back to the UK.

As a debonair bachelor in London after the war he became well known in the world of opera and ballet, and eventually became Chairman of the London Ballet Circle. He also appeared as a sophisticated man about town in advertisements for cigars published in colour supplements.

He married fairly late in life, though he and his wife, Diana, lived to enjoy their silver wedding anniversary. Together they helped to form the Goring and District Fine Arts Society which now numbers 460 members. George served as the first chairman.

On moving to Upton they joined St Mary's Church and served on the Parochial Church Council. He bequeathed his body for medical research and so the usual funeral service was replaced with a service of thanksgiving for his life.

Brian Simpson

UPTON 50 CLUB

Winners for June

£10	Mr G Davis	33
£7	Mrs R Caffyn	40
£5	Mrs K Collins	122
£4	Mrs J Smith	102

Winners for July

£10	Mr H Bucknell	133
£7	Mr J Abbott	168
£5	Mrs E Hardy	96
£4	Mr N Hubbard	147

THEATRE GROUP

BLITHE SPIRIT at The Watermill Theatre, Bagnor, 11 June 2009

On 11th June Upton theatre group went by minibus to The Watermill Theatre at Bagnor, near Newbury, to see Noel Coward's comedy "Blithe Spirit". Fortunately forewarned, the bus driver went via Wantage on the scenic route, to avoid massive hold ups on the A34.

Coward wrote the 3-act play in seven days, whilst on a working holiday in Port Meirion in 1941. The lighthearted treatment of death caused controversy at the height of the London blitz. He described his idea as, "a very gay superficial comedy about a ghost". It ran for 1,997 performances.

The Watermill's revival was excellent, the well-furnished set immediately giving a sense of the 1930s period. The casting was just right, all acting their part with aplomb, but Claire Vousden as Madam Arcati, the medium who unwittingly calls Elvira back from the "other side" after a séance, excelled. Throwing her gloves over her shoulders to the novice maid was a typical flamboyant gesture. Kelly Williams, playing the ethereal first wife Elvira, contrasted well with Charles Condomine's more down to earth second wife Ruth, destined to join Elvira in the spirit world. This revival was much fun and enjoyed by all.

Joan Durbin

We have not yet decided on our next outing, which will probably be in November or thereabouts. We are exploring an idea or two, and would welcome further suggestions.

Malcolm Wright

UPTON LADIES COVEN

Upton Ladies Coven will be meeting at the George & Dragon on Thursday 6th August at 8pm

VPA

1st August - We are holding our annual show at Blewbury School (2.30pm – 4.00pm). Please pick up a Show Schedule and enter any of the sections which include fruit and vegetables, flowers, floral art, handicraft, cookery, photography and wine. We would love to see new competitors – especially in the Children's Section!

19th September – We have planned a coach trip to 'Garden Organic' at Ryton, Coventry. Book your place by contacting either Eileen Bracken (details below) or Austin Maytham on 01235 850126.

MISSING. As you know we have garden equipment available for anyone to borrow. **We have lost an item:** namely one garden roller which works by filling it with water. If you borrowed it and still have it please give me a call so we can arrange to collect it. We have a keen gardener who would like to use it.

Notelets produced from the VPA photographic competition are still available either at the Post Office in Blewbury or from Maggie in Upton.

If you have any news for the VPA that you would like put in the **VPA section** of the newsletter, please contact me on 01235 510095 or Eileen.bracken@talktalk.net

Eileen

CHRISTIAN AID

The total amount collected in the village during the recent collection for Christian Aid was £292 an increase of £55 over last year.

A sincere thank you to all who contributed and to those who helped with the collecting.
Alec Chenery

RECTORS REFLECTIONS



Is it a weed or a flower?

Have you visited any gardens recently? Perhaps you have yourself opened your garden to visitors, in aid of a good cause or simply to share the results of all your hard work! There is something delightful about visiting a garden. There is such a variety of styles, ranging from the very formal to the apparently artless. There are the surprise plantings and the rarities, nestling amid the more common flowers and shrubs, and in many gardens there is the added interest provided by sculptures, pots and various architectural shapes. Thank God for the beauty and interest of gardens!

I was recently being shown around a beautiful cottage garden, when the proud gardener suddenly stopped and looked intently at something that was growing in one of his borders. Amid the luxuriant blossoms, there was a tall, thin plant, which he hadn't noticed before. He bent forward, about to root up what he thought was a weed, and then he paused. The thought occurred to him that what looked like a weed might in fact be something worth preserving. His words to me were, "Let's wait until it flowers. Then we'll know".

It struck me that we can learn a lot from this example of wise patience. Of course, there are times in life when we need to make a quick decision, perhaps because if we wait too long we shall simply perpetuate avoidable evil or suffering. But there are also times when we would benefit from waiting a bit, to see how things develop.

There is much to be found in the Bible on the subject of patience. We learn about God's great patience with us, and about our need to be patient with God, and with one another (not always an easy task!). Indeed, the patience of one Bible character, Job, has become proverbial. The Bible teaches us that patience is an expression of the forbearance and trust which are part of that bundle of values and attitudes we call "Love". In short, patience is love, and our human experience of love is a sharing in something much bigger than us and our world –

it is a sharing in the Love which is the very nature of God Himself.

In the words of St. Paul writing to Christians in the city of Corinth, "love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things".

And so often in life it is only love which can give us true discernment – love expressing itself in patience, the patience which will enable us to tell the flower apart from the weed.

Fr Jason

BLEWBURY WI

Blewbury WI next meet at 1930 on Wednesday 22nd July in the Vale room of the Blewbury Village Hall. The topic will be "Paint a seascape during the evening" so I guess we'll be getting stuck in! If you fancy an evening out please just come along and you'll be made very welcome as a visitor, no pressure to join. Blewbury WI has something for everyone - walks, theatre visits, pub lunches, Scrabble, Mah Jong and most of all good company! Hope to see you there.....

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 18th August at 2.30 p.m.

Annual Garden Tea Party at Toad Hall – more information next month,

Saturday 5th September, 2.00 p.m.

Upton Fete in the Recreation Ground – more information next month

Items for inclusion in the August issue to be sent to kameki39@btinternet.com or handed in to Cathy or Mike by Monday 27th July.

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