

UPTON NEWS

May 2010

Vol 3 No. 39

ST MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 2 May - 0900 - Sung Eucharist, followed by refreshments.

Sunday 9 May - 0900 - Eucharist and christening of Ryan Dawson.

Thursday 13th May - 8.00 p.m. - ASCENSION DAY - celebration of the Eucharist

Sunday 16 May - 1000 - Family Service, followed by refreshments

Sunday 23 May - 0900 - Sung Eucharist

Sunday 30 May - 0900 - Sung Eucharist

Upton Church is usually open during the day between 9 am and 3 pm, for those who wish to reflect or have a peaceful moment. There is a prayer station - currently for Poland - that changes as the various places that need prayer and help come into focus. There is a prayer board, if you would like to Church to pray for family or loved ones.

There is Morning and Evening prayer on Tuesday, Morning at 8:00 am and Evening at 5:30 pm, short service of about 30 minutes, readings and prayers.

UPTON LADIES COVEN

The next Upton Ladies Coven will be held in the George & Dragon on Thursday 6 May at 8pm. Why not come along to join us for a drink and a chat. Everyone welcome - if you would like to know more or come along with someone for the first time, please contact either Maggie Maytham, Toad Hall Stream Road, Sheila Dawson in Fieldside or myself, Lesley Shaw in Beeching Close, Tel: 850308

SPRING LINE METHODIST CHURCH

Services for May commence at 10.30 am

2 nd	Didcot	Rev Helen White (Holy Communion)
9 th	Blewbury	Brenda Boyer
16 th	Upton	Geoff Caudle (Christian Aid Sunday)
23 rd	Blewbury	Derek Morton
30 th	Upton	Rev Helen White (Holy Communion)

Spring Cream Teas. Join us for the Spring Line Church Annual Cream Tea Afternoon at 4 Westbook Green, Blewbury from 2.30 to 4.30pm on Thursday 27 May. Cream Teas, Plain Teas and Coffee through the afternoon, out in the garden if it is warm enough and also indoors. Please bring something for the Bring and Buy Stall. There will also be a Raffle.

VILLAGE HALL DROP IN

Can you spare approximately two hours a month to join the rota of helpers for the Drop-in? An extra person would be very welcome. If you think you might be able to help give me a ring on the number below or come and join us for tea, coffee and biscuits on one of the following Thursday morning Drop-in sessions.

13 May – 27 May – 10 June
10.30 until 12.00 noon.

Yvonne Collins 01235 850989

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Transport Representative

We are looking for somebody to represent Upton at the Parish Transport Representative's meetings. This is an important task especially when the time comes for bus services and subsidies to be reviewed. The next meeting is being held in Oxford on Wednesday 12th May at 1.30 p.m. If you would like to know more about this please contact the Clerk, Clare Lightfoot on 01235 850486

Annual Parish Meeting

After the excellent attendance at the last two Annual Parish Meetings it was disappointing that only 4 parishioners attended this years meeting held on 12th April. Dare we assume that the Council is carrying out its tasks to your total satisfaction. Minutes of the meeting and a copy of the reports presented can be found in the Parish Council section of on village website www.uptonvillage.co.uk

Planning Application: UPT/4042/1 for the erection of a 2 storey side extension to create a ground floor carport with a bedroom above, roof alterations with new dormers to front and rear, at Mouse House, Station Road has been received.

Footpaths

After last years disappointment where our two most popular footpaths became overgrown and un-useable the Parish Council has accepted a contract from the County Council to maintain all the parish footpaths. The County Council will still be responsible for cutting back brambles and brushwood with the P.C. cutting the grass. If you are unhappy with the state of any of our footpaths this year please give me a call.

Mike Brown 850135

HOUSE TO HOUSE

Volunteers will be calling around the village with envelopes collecting for **Christian Aid** between 9 and 15 May.

GEORGE AND DRAGON

So, we have had to say farewell to Ceilo and Bill for the second time, and it will be sad to see them leave, together with their children Gavin and Laura.

Their hard work turned the George around and made it once again a most pleasant place to visit, knowing you would always be made most welcome. They, together with their bar staff and those in the kitchen have made the pub such a happy place to spend time in, and they all will be most sadly missed.

We shall also miss Bill's culinary skills, especially his Thai curries and specials; he leaves a standard which will be hard to follow. We therefore wish them all a most successful future in whatever they turn their hands to and hope they will return to visit Upton from time to time.

However, we must now welcome the new tenants and hope they have an enjoyable and well supported residence at the George & Dragon.

Brian Arnold

UPTONOGOOD?

“Preparations for the Uptonogood Mountain Bike Challenge are now well advanced. On behalf of the organisers I would like to take the opportunity to thank Brian Rippon for his time and advice. He has done a great job on the website which can be found at www.uptonvillage.co.uk/uptonogood. Everything is now in place except one vital element; **Marshals**. We need as many volunteers from the village as possible to help marshal the event on the day (20th June). As a reminder the event is to raise money for the continued refurbishment of the village hall. If you would like to contribute to this village cause, please make yourself known to Bob Lott (851222) or Mike Tibbetts (851474), or email info@uptonogood.org.uk”

Bob

RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS



Mr. Beam and Ms. Mote

Well, it's election time, and as usual the candidates are happily making comments about what the other parties have done, or have failed to do. Judging others seems to be very much flavour of the month. And not just for politicians – how easy it is for us all to make harsh judgments about the failings of other people, while being pretty tolerant and understanding when it comes to assessing our own behaviour!

Judging others is sometimes necessary, and there are times when it is appropriate to express disapproval of what others have said or done, assuming of course that we can be sure of the facts and are not simply repeating unsubstantiated rumour. But when we judge others we need to be careful that we are not being hypocrites, expecting one standard of behaviour from others and a different, much lower, standard of behaviour from ourselves.

There's a proverb that comes to mind, about motes and beams. The proverb comes from the old translation of the bible, and is part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The passage in the bible reads as follows:

“why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?”

A “mote” is an old fashioned word for a particle of dust - the sort of tiny speck which can be seen floating in a shaft of sunlight. “Beam” in this context means a log or plank.

In a modern translation, the passage reads:

“Why do you see the speck in your neighbour's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye?”

Jesus continues:

“You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbour's eye”.

This is good advice for us all. Jesus is not saying that we should never judge others. But he is saying that we should look quite carefully into our lives before we start criticising others. If we are honest with ourselves, we might find that the failings we are about to criticise in others fall into insignificance when compared with our own failings. It would be like comparing a speck with a great big log. A slight exaggeration, perhaps, but it serves to make the point.

And a useful thing to remember when next we catch ourselves - and our politicians - playing the roles of Mr. Beam and Ms. Mote.

Fr Jason

THEATRE GROUP

Our trip to Stratford in June is fully booked - has, indeed, 3 on the reserve list!

But next, encouraged by the Committee, I dared to purchase a minibsworth of tickets for the musical "Hairspray" at the New Theatre, Oxford, on Tuesday 12 October at 7.30 pm.

This is the actual West End production, as far as I can judge, so for £40.25 you get a circle seat, and transport, to see a show which could have cost £60 for the ticket alone, not to count the fare to London.

Those who have seen the show recommend it and it has had very encouraging reviews. Do rush to get the remaining seats!

Malcolm Wright 850705

UPTON OIL SYNDICATE

The next order is scheduled to be placed on Monday 17th May. To be included, I need to have your orders by Saturday 15th May at the latest.

My current contact details are (preferably by e-mail) colin.batchelor@eggconnect.net or by telephone 01235 851362 (after 7.00pm)

Colin Batchelor

VPA

Why, oh why, after such a cold winter, when some of my plants have not made it through the snow, why have the blasted dandelions tripled in size and quantity, and taken over the whole village, (it seems), I know they are beneficial to bees and other insects, but do they really have to be so prolific? On a happy note, the veg patch has been a doddle to dig over, and I have planted my peas, and sown tomatoes and courgettes etc, (in the greenhouse)! Dizzy the dog is still pottering, and is often found in the honey suckle, under which she has dug a hole to sleep in!

Brian Davis gave us a lovely talk on Bulbs throughout the Year, nice photos, and good advice on feeding them in spring and autumn. He also discovered a huge patch of rare wild flowers in the gardens of the Methodist church in Upton; we were all thrilled to see them! (Pockets were checked on the way out!!)

Our next talk is by Norma Bird, on Conservation in the Garden, Weds May 5th, Vale room, Blewbury, at 7.30pm. Please ring if you need a lift, 850219. I am not sure that I have anything worth conserving in my garden at all,

We still have places for the forthcoming trip to Pam Lewis' garden, near Devizes, this is a lovely garden, with morning coffee, lunch, a flower arranging demo, with tea and cake before we leave, for those not interested in floral art, she is also a blacksmith, so a look round the workshop, or a snooze in the garden may be the answer!! The date is Saturday 12th June; cost is £25, with a small contribution to fuel costs (approx £6) if you need a lift with someone! To book, ring me on above no, or email karencbrooks@googlemail.com, or put a note into the post office in Blewbury, or to Maggie in Upton.

Happy Gardening Karen Brooks

UPTON WINE CLUB APRIL MEETING

We had excellent turnout for the April wine meeting, with almost 50 villagers and guest attending. We were expecting our Gaelic

neighbours to attend but due to an unforeseen eruption in Iceland, we got Kevin who gamely stepped into the breach, to host the evening. The wines for the evening came from the vineyard of Joost de Villebois, *very French!* Joost has only been making wine since 1996 after finishing his training at the University of Bordeaux. The winery, Villbois is based in the Loire Valley with its wonderful calciferous soil, which gives rise to the crisp brilliant flavours of the wines produced in this region.

We began with a sparkling wine Villebois Cremant, quite sweet but would be nice on a summers evening as an aperitif, £12.49 or £8.30 with cash back. Then we tried a further 4 white wines, a Petit Villebois which quite a few people liked a Sauvignon Blanc, most people found this pleasant and good value at £5.99 with cash back. We then went onto the Villebois Brut which is made from 100% chenin grape, slightly more expensive at £8.33 cash back, then followed a Sancerre which every one thought was good value at £9.30 cash back.

Then a Rose which I thought was very weak, and lacked body. Then a Chinon which was not good, very light no punch at all, then a Malbec which was indeed very pleasant and at £7.66 cash back good value. All of the wines can be bought exclusively at Naked Wines, and the cash back is a good system of value for money wines, if anyone would like more information please ask Kevin or Frankie or even Chris. Next month it is Ian, the Wine man I think wines of Italy, hope to see you

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Many thanks to the collectors and all of you who generously made donations to the Children's Society. At the time of going to press we have collected more than £225 - with a little bit more to come. Added to this £110 has been gift aided. This is a fantastic amount and very much needed by the Children's Society for their work amongst thousands of vulnerable children. Did you know that this year 100,000 children will run away from home?

Thank you.

Clare Lightfoot

ARTWEEKS 2010

Oxford City launches the festival this year with free visits to open studios and exhibitions from Sat. 8th May to Sun. 16th May. South area opens Sat. 15th until Sun. 23rd and North Oxfordshire opens Sat. 22nd until 31st May. Opening times are generally 12 to 6pm, with some sites opening late on Thursdays until 8pm. Check individual opening times with the free Artweeks guide, obtainable from tourist information, libraries, Savages and Blewbury post office. The guide can also be viewed and downloaded at www.artweeks.org. Upton has 2 sites, with Joan Durbin opening her studio, where she is exhibiting about 40 paintings in acrylic, watercolour and pastel, as well as artist's cards for sale. Please note her studio is closed on the Tues. Wed. and Thurs. this year. Examples of Joan's work can be viewed at www.artweeks-gallery.org. Sidney Hardwick has pottery, including her wash hand basins. She isn't open until Monday 17th May and then opens until Sun. 23rd. Didcot has Melita Kyle exhibiting her silver & gold organic unisex jewellery. All artists are pleased to welcome visitors, many offering refreshments and look for the symbol 'f' against the entry in the guide, which signifies family friendly. All 3 sites mentioned here have this symbol!

Joan Durbin.

INSULATE AND SAVE

If you have little or no insulation in your home, up to 40p in every £1 of heat you pay for could be escaping before you feel warm. Loft and cavity wall insulation is a cost-effective way of reducing heating bills. The cost of loft and cavity wall insulation is subsidised by the energy utility companies and in addition to this the Vale of White Horse District Council offers a grant of up to £100 to further reduce the cost. Those who are over the age of 70 or who are in receipt of certain benefits may be entitled to free loft insulation (restrictions apply).

To save you time finding the best deal, the Vale of White Horse District Council has teamed up with Cocoon. This comparison service offers local residents estimates from at least two approved insulation installers. Plus the estimates include both

the discount from the energy utility companies and £50 off the cost of loft insulation and £50 off the cost of cavity wall insulation from the Vale of White Horse District Council. For more information, visit www.cocoonyourhome.co.uk or call 0800 80 48 777

CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to David Mason from Church Street who completed the London Marathon in 4hrs 48 mins. David has collected over £2200 for his chosen charity, RedR which is a leading training and recruitment charity working in international disaster relief.

DIARY DATES

Saturday 3rd July a Picnic and Barn Dance.

Gather your friends, prepare a sumptuous picnic and come and share it with your friends in a marquee in the beautiful garden of Prospect House, Upton, followed by dancing to Tumbledown Dick.

Please bring your own food, drink, cutlery and crockery. Decorated tables & chairs provided. Supper at 7.30pm followed by dancing (garden open for access from 6.30pm). Ideally tables of 8 or 14 (but we can be flexible).

Tickets £15 adult £7.50 child available from:
Chrissie Traynor Tel: 850032
E: ronyart5@hotmail.com
Lizi Pinckney Tel: 851120
E: pinckneydavid@hotmail.com

Sunday 15th August a Pimms, Pate and Pudding Event.

At 12.30 on the Village Hall Patio.
Further details available next month but please note this date in your diaries. Celia Davies

Items for inclusion in the June issue to be sent to kameki39@btinternet.com or handed in to Cathy or Mike by Tuesday 25th May.

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