

UPTON NEWS

June 2010

Vol 3 No. 40

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Services

6th June 09.00 - Sung Eucharist, followed by refreshments
13th June 09.00 - Sung Eucharist, followed by refreshments
20th June 10.00 - Morning Prayer (to be confirmed)
27th June 09.00 - Sung Eucharist
4th July 09.00 - Sung Eucharist, followed by refreshment

Church Fete

St Mary's Church fete will be held on Saturday 4th September at 2.00.
A meeting to discuss the fete will be held on Monday 14th June at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.
Please come along and bring your ideas and suggestions. If you are unable to come to this meeting please give Jessie 851206 or Clare 850486 a ring, we would like to hear from you.

Prayer Station

The Church is open between about 9:00 am and 3:00 pm, and there is a prayer station there, currently for Thailand. Recently it has been for Poland and in the near future it will be for our Forces Overseas.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The PCC is made up of a small group of parishioners who work together with the incumbent on matters of general concern and importance in the parish. The PCC is responsible for the maintenance of the church buildings, churchyard and surround: and with the incumbent, for deciding how the church's money is spent. The PCC has the right to be consulted about major changes to the forms of worship used in our church, and about the appointment of a new incumbent.
Being a small village Upton PCC has just one sub-committee, which deals with the organisation of the Village Fete, which is the main fund raiser for our church.

If you are prepared to do a little more in serving the community, the PCC is always looking for help or you could become a member of the PCC. You can contact any of the present committee; who can advise you on what is required.

For a more detailed article about the PCC and it's history written by Austin Maytham please go to your village website www.uptonvillage.co.uk

SPRING LINE METHODIST CHURCH

Services for June commence at 10.30 am

5 th	Upton	Brenda Boyer
12 th	Blewbury	John Dennis
19 th	Upton	Marlene Chalkley
26 th	Blewbury	Rev Helen White (Holy Communion)

Fund raising for the Spring Line Church

We will have had our Cream Tea Afternoon by the time you read this, but as I am writing it before the event, I can't tell you how much we have raised for the church.

Our next event will be a stall at the Blewbury Brass Band's 100th birthday celebration on Blewbury Playclose on 11th July. We will be running a Children's Tombola and Bran Tub and we need toys for both. If your children (or grandchildren) have any toys, games or books they were given but for some reason didn't use, we would love to have them for our stall. There are boxes in both centres (Blewbury and Upton) for the toys or if you ring Jo Lakeland on 850490 or Fran Esplin on 850732 we can collect them from you.

UPTON LADIES COVEN

The next Upton Ladies Coven will be held at the George & Dragon at 8pm on Thursday 3 June - everyone welcome.

Lesley 850308

RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS



Buildings for the Community

The other day, I had a delightful surprise. I was coming out of church, and I saw a couple of people standing around in the churchyard, in very elegant clothes. There was a photographer in attendance, with a serious looking camera, and local business person, who explained to me that permission had been obtained to use the churchyard, and a neighbouring property, for a fashion shoot. I said how pleased I was to hear this, as the church and the churchyard were there for use by the community. I then went on my way, giving thanks to God.

This got me thinking. I wondered how many people there were in our local communities who never thought of our churches and churchyards as community resources, there to be used by the community. In villages up and down the land, churches are increasingly being used for a wide range of activities. Some churches house a little sub post-office. In some churches, you can buy locally made products, such as jams and cakes, or look at pictures and craftwork produced by local artists. Some churches have a little cafe, with comfortable chairs and a selection of books to read, borrow, or buy. Some churches have boxes with locally grown vegetables and fruit.

Some churches are used as an information point for the village, a place where you can find leaflets about all sorts of useful things, and find out about events that are going on in the neighbourhood.

Many churches are also used as venues for concerts and plays. Perhaps you have been to a concert held in a church, or a planning on going to one.

And of course there is the traditional use of the church and churchyard as a quiet spot, somewhere to sit and relax. Somewhere you can go to just sit and think, or simply to sit and be. Perhaps you may want to offer up a prayer to God, or perhaps it's simply trying to find space to think about something on your mind, away from the hustle and distractions of home and workplace.

The churches in our villages are there for you to use. You don't have to be a churchgoer, or a Christian, or use them. Most of the church buildings are normally open during daylight hours. Just open the door and walk in. (And don't worry, there's no admission charge!) If you would like to use the church building or the churchyard for something more specific, just get in touch with either me or one of the Churchwardens. There are of course various rules

and regulations relating to the use of Church buildings, but these are largely a matter of common sense.

Our churches and churchyards are there for us all, whether we go to church or not. They are a reminder of God's agenda for us all – He loves each one of us, and desperately wants to see us become better human beings. He wishes to release us from our sins, and to give us the power to lead better lives, through the gift of His Holy Spirit.

So do make use of our churches and our churchyards- they are there for everyone.

Fr Jason

VPA

Last year I resorted to a weed killer spray to kill those dandelions in the lawn, the result was lots of big patches of dead grass! Did it work? No! This year I have painstakingly dug out each one, result, lots of little brown holes with no grass! The birds have had fun finding worms in them and I think I have done a good job at aerating it all, my excuse and I'm sticking to it! I have some champion sized nettles under the Laburnum, but I am leaving them for the butterflies! (another good excuse)!!

We are looking forward to the trip to Pam Lewis' garden on the 12th June, and we have a change to the June talk, (Weds 2nd June; Upton Methodist Hall, 7.30pm) we now have Dave Endicott coming to talk to us about Bats, and their conservation etc. I have heard Dave talk many times, when he comes to talk to the Brownies and Guides, he is very entertaining and interesting and hopefully he will bring some of his little friends with him, the ones that are unable to return to the wild. They are fascinating creatures and much maligned by horror movies etc!!!

On Sunday June 20th, Joyce's garden will be open under the "Yellow Book Garden Scheme", along with other village gardens; we hope to see you there! We will have our usual plant stall.

Happy Gardening

Karen Brooks

VILLAGE HALL DROP-IN

Come along and join us for tea, coffee and biscuits. The next two sessions will be held on: June 10th and June 24th 10.30 until 12.00 noon

Yvonne Collins 01235 850989

ARE YOU UPTONOGOOD YET?

The 20th of June sees a great new community event in your village. The Uptonogood? is a fun cycling event with the simple aim of raising money for the village hall, from outside the village. We hope to attract several hundred cyclists on the day paying good money to cycle our surrounding byways. The event will be run from the Village hall with lots happening to make it a great day out for all. There will be a BBQ on the recreation ground from mid-day with teas, coffees, cakes and ice cream available all-day from the hall. St John's Ambulance will be providing first aid, the Police will be offering a security coding service, and the Scouts are providing a bike wash service as well as helping out with the car parking. Our sponsors Mountain Mania Cycles of Didcot will also be present and we'd like to thank them here for their support. Finally our new Landlord will be holding a beer festival at the George and Dragon all weekend, to help oil the wheels! In short it will be a great weekend to get involved. Whether you cycle yourself, invite family and friends to take part, or volunteer to marshal the route, your involvement will ensure the day is a success. We are still in real need of additional marshals, so please, if you are available on the day and would like to contribute to the event, please contact me on 851222.

For more information please go to www.uptonogood.org.uk

Bob Lott

A VISIT TO BLEWBURY SCHOOL

I visited the school recently in my role as a community governor. Marion Mills, the head teacher, took me first to the Foundation class where the children, about 25 of them, were in two groups. One with the teacher, another with a teaching assistant (who was taking written notes of the activity) and the remainder working/ playing on their own. A couple of children were playing outside. I was struck by the relatively low noise level; the atmosphere was calm and pleasant and the teacher was having no problem addressing her group and winning their attention. We joined the next class where the setting was a little more formal but, again, with the children working in groups with a scattering of adults. I was introduced to the teacher who explained that her group was learning how to explain a task to others. This activity, I was told, was important for laying the foundations for reading and writing because,

“children are less articulate these days”, the theory being that children are now on the receiving end of so much entertainment that they don't feel the need or have the opportunity to develop their verbal abilities.

In the next class the children were listening to and acting out a story being read to them in German. The teacher was holding up a German language picture book as a prompt and switching fluently between English and German as necessary. The children were clearly picking up the gist of the story and were readily interpreting the story in their actions. It was pleasing to see children being introduced to a foreign language in such a natural and matter-of-fact manner. We visited the ICT suite, which contains about twenty computers, all looking relatively modern. Next we stopped off in the new kitchen. It being a Wednesday, roast beef was on the menu, and the cook was preparing lunch for a hundred plus children, a task I would find daunting, but which she clearly took in her stride.

We moved on to the next classroom, where there were several laptops on a table and a child was busy at the keyboard of one machine with two other children pointing at the screen and making suggestions. The children were being taught how to use an apostrophe. In the next class it was clear from the work on the board that the children were working on the spelling of longer words like “exaggerate”. At this age (nine plus years old) I can quite believe that reading (and writing/spelling) skills have reached a crucial point. Finally we visited the top class where the atmosphere was calm and studious.

So, what was my impression? That the children are being taught in a safe, warm, appropriate environment by a committed group of adults who take their jobs seriously and work diligently. Blewbury and Upton should be pleased to have such a resource and proud of the children that pass through the school.

Andrew Hewson

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

The collection in the village for Christian Aid raised £316.16, of which some £93 was Gift-aided. Many thanks indeed to all who gave and extra thanks to those who collected.

Elisabeth and Malcolm Wright

PARISH COUNCIL

Change of Councillors

After 11 years of serving on the Council, Tracy Seelig has resigned to spend more time concentrating on her teaching career. Tracy joined the council in 1999 and has served in many capacities including Chairman from 2003 – 2005.

We thank Tracy for her efforts over a long period and wish her every success with her teaching work. Having recently lost Geoff Summers as well as Tracy we are very pleased to announce that we have been joined by Lesley Shaw and by Bob Lott, both have been co-opted onto the council until May of next year when it will be time for you all to elect a new council.

Councillor's Duties

Each year we ask each councillor to take a lead role in areas of council work in order to share the load. If you have any problems that you would like the council to take up on your behalf we ask that you contact the councillor responsible for the area of your concern as they are more likely to be able to answer your queries.

For the coming 12 months the lead roles have been agreed as follows.

John Dickens – Chairman and Local Planning.

Mike Brown – Vice Chairman, Planning and Communication (Website and Newsletter)

Stuart Norman – Roads and Footpaths

David Mason – Children's Play Area and Youth Activities

Bob Lott – Recreation Ground and other Amenities

Lesley Shaw – Village Hall

Children's Play Area

The Council has decided that it is time to explore the possibility of a complete re-vamp of the existing Play Area. It is felt that much of our present equipment has given excellent service for over 20 years but it is time to explore the possibility of obtaining a large grant and laying out a completely new play area using the modern equipment similar to items recently installed in other local play areas (Chilton for example).

We are looking for volunteers to join David Mason in investigating sources of funding and carrying the project through to completion over the next 2-3 years. If you are able to help us out with this exciting new project please give David a ring on 851306.

Caravan Meet

The Caravan Club that spent the Easter weekend with us earlier this year have asked if they can come back again next Easter. The date next year will be 3

weeks later and surely the weather cannot be as bad as it was this year.

The Council intends to invite the Club back again as it appreciates the revenue that it brought to UVHAT and to other parts of the village, plus the behaviour of our visitors was exemplary and it did give us the opportunity to meet and make new friends.

Before formally inviting them back we would like to know of any concerns from our parishioners particularly from those living around the Recreation Ground so that we can make small alterations to this year's plans if necessary. If you are concerned about a repeat visit please give me a call or better still send me an email so I that I have a permanent record.

Mike Brown 850135

UPTON WINE CLUB APRIL MEETING

This was another entertaining and interesting evening from Ian Hewson, of The WINEMAN on the wines from Italy. We have visited this country's vines several times before but as they appear to have an incredible number of grape varieties it is no hardship to visit again, and he always brings good food. Ian was concentrating on modern Italian wines.

We started with a lovely light Prosecco, Durello Prosecco Colli Vicentini Vento. This was from a very small co-operative that has tried to improve the quality of the wine by paying the small land owners to tend for their hectares, rather than the quantity of grapes, thus producing less grapes but a far greater quality grape, hence better wine. This wine went down well, light and would be lovely on a summer evening.

The next wine was a Fiano/ Grecco 2009 by A Mano from Puglia, that little bit of Italy on the heel; I believe exceptionally pleasant to visit. This was a very nice wine at a very agreeable price £7.99, well recommended. The next wine was even better, from the lake Garda region a Lugana 2009 Ca dei Frati Vento, £13.99. I thought this was an exceptional wine from a very well established vineyard that apparently has hordes of Europeans queuing at the gates to purchase the wines. The next wine, a Merlot, was disappointing light not very appetising. We then went on to a Montepuciano d' Abruzzo DOCG Tremane 2008 Gran Sasso, and then its older brother a Montepuciano d' Abruzzo DOCG 2005. The first was good the second even better, due to the being left in oak barrels for longer. The next meeting is the Call My Bluff evening, see you all there.

Chris Traynor

GEORGE AND DRAGON

We would like to say a big hello to everyone in Upton Village and to say how welcome we have been made to feel in settling in at the pub. Since taking over the pub we have had the pleasure of meeting new friends as well as catching up with old friends as well.

Although we have made some changes to the pub we hope that they are to the liking of the village residents. One of our major changes has been to our opening hours and menu. We are now open every day of the week from noon till 11pm serving food until 9pm. Our menu consists of traditional home cooked pub food, which is freshly prepared by our resident chef.

We are now making plans to organise a pub football team to play on Sunday's our team will be called "The Gorge and Dragon", we are hoping to grow the team over the coming months in order for the start of the 2010/11 season. We already have commitment from Ian Concannon who you might already know from Upton. Ian was a former player for Oxford United and Didcot Town. We are also hoping to have Bobby Wilson joining us. Bobby played for Didcot Town and was the Manager for Milton United team.

Bobby has now moved to Hungerford as their new 1st team manager and we would like to send him our best wishes for the next season.

Beer Festival June 18th/19th/20th

We will be holding a beer festival on June the 18th/ 19th and 20th. Local group Triple A will be performing live on the 19th. We will also be having a BBQ on Saturday and Sunday.

Come and enjoy the fun.

We look forward to seeing you

The George and Dragon Team

THEATRE GROUP

Moments after I sent the copy for last month's News, the situation changed, and three seats for the Stratford trip to see "Antony and Cleopatra" became available. Two have been taken up by reserves, but we are still looking for one person to join us on Monday 21 June.. The cost of £37.50 includes transport. I'll let all participants know the time of departure - shall we take a picnic again? - later in the month.

We haven't filled the minibus for "Hairspray" yet. That's at the New Theatre, Oxford on Tuesday 12

October and the all-in cost is £40.25. I'm beginning to worry that we shouldn't book for musicals - our last near-disaster was a Sonning musical show.

Another thought. How many Uptonians would fancy a trip to the Blewbury open-air theatre in July? This year's show is Goldoni's farce, " A Servant of Two Masters". Geoff, of course, won't be in it this year (nor am I) but I'm sure it will be very entertaining.

Malcolm Wright 850705

WOMENS'S INSTITUTE

June finds the Blewbury WI hearing about the "Diary of an acting look-alike" Should be fun! We meet next at 7.30pm on Wednesday June 23rd in the Vale Room of the Blewbury Village Hall. Why not come along and give it a try? As a visitor you will be made very welcome. Coming up as part of our very varied programme: A visit to the Oxford Botanic Garden, Theatre at the Watermill, Calendar Girls in Oxford, a Croquet taster day, a day trip to the Chatham dockyard and much much more. If you need a lift or more information, please contact Judy on 850381

UPTON 50'S CLUB APRIL 2010

£10	Mrs Weston	121
£7	Mr Hubbard	5
£5	Mr Curran	161
£4	Mr Eighteen	97

PAINTINGS

Joan Durbin is very kindly donating some of her framed paintings for sale with all, or half of the proceeds going towards the work still to be done on improving the Village Hall. 10 paintings will be available where all the proceeds are for the hall and a further 10 where half the proceeds will go to the hall. The paintings will be available for viewing at Joan's house on Sat. 26th June & Sun. 27th. 2pm to 6pm. Anyone wishing to view/buy beforehand can view from Friday 19th June until 30th June by telephone appointment Tel. 01235 850035. Our thanks to Joan for this very generous gesture.

OXFORD THEATRE COMPANY

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, the travelling theatre that has brought so many lively performances to our village hall, has lost a considerable subsidy from the Vale. It costs the company £1,200 to take their show to each of the venues they visit. The cost to us has been £314. As you can imagine, they are looking at other ways to "keep the show on the road" UVHAT have agreed to accept the next family show "Alice in Wonderland" for November. The cost to us will be £600. We hope ticket sales £8 for adults £6 for children plus sale of refreshments will generate sufficient to cover the cost. We certainly have the potential to do so with the extended hall, and still enjoy the more comfort in seating that the extra space has given us. However for this one show UVHAT is prepared to subsidize it if necessary.

So we look forward to your continued support, and welcome anyone coming for the first time, for a thoroughly enjoyable inexpensive evening out.

Meanwhile you are invited to a meeting at the village hall, Monday June 14th at 7.30pm to share ideas on how to proceed for hosting future shows.

Jessie West

FAREWELL TO GEOFF AND CELIA

Contracts have been exchanged for the sale of Winterset and on our purchase in West Wales and on the 25 May we moved to Pentregwine Fawr, Llandygydd, Cardigan, Ceredigion, SA43 2QY. There is no doubt Upton is a very special place to live with a wonderful community & we have enjoyed our 20 years here. We will certainly miss so many friends and activities in Upton and neighbouring villages but feel if we don't go for this move now we never will We look forward to having some land & stables to have our horses on site and to a new challenge!

Wishing everyone in Upton all the very best

Geoff & Celia Summers

HAGBOURNE FUN RUN

Congratulations to Paul Thomas who finished 3rd and Paul Powell 12th overall and to Baylie Powell who was second in the Under 12 Girl class. A full report on the Fun Run is on our village website.

www.uptonvillage.co.uk

SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIP IN UPTON

Endurance GB (equivalent to a marathon but on horse back) are having their Southern Championship at Alden Farm on June 5th & 6th.

Between 250 & 300 horses are expected with quite a lot of these staying overnight. Some of the classes will be riding their horses over 80 Km!!! They will be riding over a very well planned route on the Downs starting and finishing at Alden, around Aldworth, Compton, East & West Ilsley with marshals, vets etc on route.

For more information go to:-

<http://www.endurancegb.co.uk/> or

<http://www.berkshiredowns.endurancegb.co.uk/>

A MESSAGE FROM LIZ (GREENFIELD)

I often think of my days spent in Upton and would like to say hello to all that knew me and my husband John at that time. Unfortunately John died in 2002. I have now remarried and happily live in the village of Fairlight near Hastings. My hobbies include writing and I have recently published a book of poems, many of which are written about or around Upton.

All best wishes. Elizabeth Manwaring was then known as Mrs Greenfield or Mrs G

Editor's Note

If any of you would like to get in touch with Liz please give me a call and I will let you have her email address.

I have suggested to Liz that it would be an idea to publish some of her poems in the newsletter whenever I have space available and she has kindly sent me the first one. As you can see this month is probably the biggest edition for many years and I do apologise for not including the first poem and for having to reduce the font size and for having to cut some of the items you have sent in just to keep within six pages. It is great having so much material and if it goes on increasing we will need to take a look at the way we produce our present newsletter to see if we should be going for something bigger including local advertisements to cover the cost that would be incurred by the increase in size.

Mike Brown 850135

Items for inclusion in the July issue to be sent to kameki39@btinternet.com or handed in to Cathy or Mike by Thursday June 24th.

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