

# UPTON NEWS

January 2011

Vol 3 No. 47

## A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

### ST MARY'S CHURCH

St Mary's Services for January

Sunday 2 January - 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist, followed by refreshments

Sunday 9 January - 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Sunday 16 January - 10.00 a.m. Family Service - all ages welcome. Refreshments served after the service

Sunday 23 January - 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Sunday 30 January - 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

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### THEATRE GROUP

The tickets for the matinee performance of Alan Ayckbourn's

"Relatively Speaking" at the Watermill Theatre on Saturday 5 March 2011 sold so well that I reserved extra. Of these just one is left.

Transport will be by (somebody else's) car, but the price of £25.25 includes a cream tea afterwards, which nearly everyone has welcomed. I shall be sending the final cheque to the Watermill by the middle of January, so if you are interested, please get in touch at once.

The RSC Theatre, along with the Swan, are both open again and the 2011 programme looks very exciting. The tour of the wonderfully funny "Yes, Minister" could also be something we should look out for. I will consult the committee.

If you want to be added to or removed from our e-mail list, or if you know of a show we shouldn't miss, do let me know.

Malcolm Wright 850705

### SPRING LINE METHODIST CHURCH

Services for January start at 10.30 am

2nd Local Arrangements

9th Upton Brenda Boyer

16th Blewbury Rev. Richard Bittleston  
(Covenant Service)

23rd Upton Alan Fudge

30th Blewbury Barbara Sexton

Special Service

January 16th: Our Annual Covenant Service

Renewal and recommitting ourselves is quite a powerful and enabling process. It's not confined to any single religion or even to religion at all. Every New Year has its resolutions - and surely they're recommitment and renewal. I'm not a Methodist, so I had to learn about the Methodist covenant service when I became the Spring Line Minister. In my URC tradition there are commissioning services - where we acknowledge our call to service in different ways, but the passionate covenant service belongs to the deeply moving preacher that is John Wesley. To read his personal commitment to the covenant he made himself is to be 'warmed', to renew the same within oneself.

When the Spring Line Methodist Church (Blewbury and Upton) meets to experience this covenant service on the 16th January - we will find ourselves caught up in a resolve to deepen our understanding, and our intent to locate God each and every day. The words may have been written some time ago, but the renewal is very much in the present. It's a great service (I may add a little of the Reformed palette to the morning - Luther and Calvin had passion too).

That's what we'll be up to - you are welcome to join us. I finish where I began - this is a powerful and enabling process which is not confined to a single tradition.

*Richard Bittleston, Minister for the Spring Line Church*

## VPA

My gardening has been reduced to chopping bits off the odd rose or shrub on a day when the temperature is above freezing, so not much in the compost bin then! I have purposely left all the old foliage etc in the borders for the little creatures to hide in, the birds have had almost all the berries off the Holly tree, despite me trying to allure them away with lovely seedy things in a bird feeder, so not much left for a Christmas flower arrangement!

We will have had our Christmas social evening, I was sorry to have missed it, although I was meant to be in sunny climes, Gatwick was closed on the day we were supposed to fly, lots of snow!!

Our first meeting in the new year is in Upton Methodist Hall, on Weds 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb, Brian Davies with his slides and a talk on "Perennial Plants for 4 Seasons".

The new programme will be out then too, or will be available to collect from Blewbury Post Office, or Maggie in Upton.

Happy Christmas everyone, and a wonderful new year to you all!

Happy Gardening (or not as the case may be!)  
Karen Brooks

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## 50's CLUB WINNERS

October 2010

£10	Mr R Brown	136
£7	Mr Hill	101
£5	Mr Simpson (Fieldside)	51
£4	Jo (G&D)	153

November 2010

£10	Mr Noble	43
£7	Mr Morris	8
£5	Mr Hartley	21
£4	Mrs C. Brown	154

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## SHORT MAT BOWLS

Following the successful taster sessions we are organising regular bowling sessions. Firstly, evening sessions will be on a Wednesday 7.45pm - 9.45pm, except the third Wednesday of each month (when the wine club use the hall) starting on Wednesday 12th January with the second session on the 26<sup>th</sup>. We intend also to have a weekday daytime session. This will be chosen by canvassing those who bowl on the Wednesday evening and any interested in coming along who are unable to attend the evening session. Anyone interested in daytime bowling should contact Tony/Joan Durbin, telephone 01235 850035 or email [jo\\_ham@btinternet.com](mailto:jo_ham@btinternet.com) The times available are Monday all day, Tuesday afternoon from 2.00pm and Friday all day. The restrictions at present are because of regular use of the hall by other clubs and groups and bowling commitments of the regular short mat bowlers (SMB's) on Monday evenings, Wednesday mornings and Thursday afternoons with their current club.

We currently envisage a group of between 6 and 10 regular SMB's from Upton and surrounding villages being interested in joining a club closer to where they live.

To cover hall hire costs and begin raising funds to repay UVHAT the cost of the equipment it is proposed to charge £2 per two-hour session. For any absolute beginners wishing to try the game and who were unable to attend the taster sessions their first session will be free.

In the future a Monday evening could become the regular evening session and the daytime session could then move to Wednesday (morning or afternoon) or Thursday afternoon. Thus, if you cannot make the current times do not despair, the situation will probably change after May 2011.

Tony and Joan Durbin

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## **ALICE IN WONDERLAND**

Yet another wonderful production,  
"Alice in Wonderland"  
from Oxford Theatre Company, brought to our village hall, at the beginning of December. You will be well aware of the cuts being imposed on the arts at this difficult financial time.  
The cost to the company of bringing the show to us is £1,200. In the past, being heavily subsidised, we paid the company just £314 for a show but for "Alice" we needed to find £600. It meant an increase in ticket prices to enable us to cover the cost, and we did it! Thanks to the amazing support we get from our village, an audience numbering 84. So along with the sale of refreshments (apologies for charging so much for a choc ice!), our income was £651.  
It is quite brilliant how a village hall is transformed into this magical space of theatre. Part of the enjoyment too is sharing the experience with others especially the children.  
Without exception, every show we have had, and remember they are different actors each time, have all said what a marvellous audience we are.  
The company will not know until March/April 2011 about their fate regarding further cuts.

Jessie West

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## **PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January in the Meeting Room of the Village Hall at 8.00pm.

### **Planning**

**UPT/21068/2** Application for Double Storey Rear and Side Extension with Garage and a Porch to the front at No 5 Fieldside has been approved.

**UPT/21353** Application for a single dwelling on land to the rear of 3 Fieldside.

The P.C. has objected.

## **COFFEE MORNING** on 13th November

Many thanks to all friends, family and strangers who baked, donated items, helped on the day and spent their hard earned cash to raise a staggering £529. This was followed 2 weeks later from people who attended the Upton tea party on Friday 26th November giving another £110. We were finally able to give £640 to the MS society.

Thank you to one and all.

Best wishes Carole Hubbard.

## **MARIE CURRIE COLLECTION**

Thank you to all those in Stream Road who donated to Marie Curie in November. We raised £35.

Thank you Carole Hubbard.

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## **UPTON OIL SYNDICATE**

The next order is scheduled to be placed on Monday 10th January (a week earlier than usual). To be included, I need to have your orders by Saturday 8th January at the latest. As you will have seen from the news, companies are quoting long delivery dates and the price has gone through the roof.

My current contact details are (preferably by e-mail) [colin.batchelor@eggconnect.net](mailto:colin.batchelor@eggconnect.net) or by telephone 01491 672444 (after 7.00pm).

Colin Batchelor

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## **BLEWBURY W.I.**

The ladies of Blewbury WI meet again at 7.30pm on Wednesday 26th January in the Vale room of Blewbury Village Hall. We will hear about "The Ladies of Blenheim" which should be very interesting. Lots of other things to do, ladies! In the winter we meet for Mah Jong (an afternoon informal social gathering) and Scrabble plus a monthly walk. Also we have started to meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at the 'Style Acre' cafe at Savages for a coffee morning.

## **BLEWBURY SCHOOL**

At Blewbury School we work hard on our creative curriculum to give the children a 'hands on' education. We find the children are more engaged and motivated by this approach to learning. To this end we decided to focus half a term to a whole school theme based on transport. As well as trips to Beaulieu Motor Museum and the Coventry Transport Museum the whole school made moving vehicles. These were exhibited for parents and showed fantastic progression throughout the school as well as a lot of imagination and creativity. As a grand finale we held a transport festival with a large array of vehicles on the school field/car park for the children to look at closely, draw and even sit in. The older children interviewed the owners while the younger children loved the police car siren! We had everything from a JCB, cement mixer and tractor to motorbikes, camper vans and vintage cars including a Rolls Royce. The whole afternoon was great fun and a huge amount was learnt and experienced. Our thanks go to all the willing lenders of those vehicles.  
Mandy Slater

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## **DROP-IN**

The next Drop-in sessions will be on 6 January, 20 January and 3 February at the usual time of 10.30 in the Village Hall.  
Yvonne Collins 850989

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## **VILLAGE INFORMATION SERVICE**

On behalf of the Parish Council I have just over 60 parishioners' email addresses that I am allowed to use to send out urgent information from the council. If you received the note last week about waste collection you are on our list. The council would like to be able to reach many more of you, if you did not receive last week's note and would like us to send urgent information to you just 3-4 times a year will you please send you address to me so that I may add it to the list.

Mike Brown at [kameki39@btinternet.com](mailto:kameki39@btinternet.com).

## **VILLAGE WEBSITE**

Those of you who are regular visitors to our village website will have noticed that it has been modernised. Over the space of a few days in mid December, Brian Rippon re-designed the site to make it even better than our previous version and has created what must be one the very best village sites anywhere in the country. On behalf of the community I would like to thank Brian for his efforts.

If any of you have news that you think would be of interest to the village please send it to me at the address at the bottom of this newsheet and I will be pleased to post it for you.

### **Business Directory**

Some of you will re-call that 3 years ago we attempted to set up a village business directory listing all the businesses that were operating in the village or were run by a resident from the village. With help from Brian I am about to update that directory.

Several of you will have recently received a form from me asking for updated information, if you haven't and would like to be included in the directory please send me your email address and I will send a form to you.

Mike Brown

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## **UPTON NEWS TO A FRIEND?**

If you have a friend or relative who you think would like to receive a copy of the Upton News please send me their email address. The 'News' is already sent out to 16 addresses beyond the normal range of delivery as far apart as Wales, Norfolk and Sussex, I will be pleased to add more names to the list.

Mike Brown

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Items for inclusion in the February issue to be sent to [kameki39@btinternet.com](mailto:kameki39@btinternet.com). or handed in to Cathy or Mike by January 27th.

Printed at the Duck House, Blewbury.  
Delivery organised by Jessie West

Stop Press – The Blewbury exchange has reached 100% in the Race to Infinity.