

UPTON NEWS

March 2011

Vol 3 No. 49

ST MARY'S CHURCH

St Mary's Services for March

6th March 9.00 a.m. - Sung Eucharist followed by refreshments

13th March 9.00 a.m. - Sung Eucharist

20th March 10.00 a.m. - Morning Prayer - to be confirmed

27th March 9.00 a.m. - Sung Eucharist

3rd April 10.00 a.m. - Mothering Sunday Family Service. There will be a distribution of flowers followed by refreshments. Everyone welcome

UPTON STREET PARTY

To celebrate the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton we thought we could have a street party in Upton. In order to allow avid Royalists the opportunity to watch the event on TV, we will hold it the day after on the Saturday April 30th. This will hopefully combine a social village get together for all ages, a day to remember and give those who want to join in an opportunity to mingle and meet new people.

If anyone is interested in helping with ideas and organising, please contact me.

Sarah Sayers Tel: 851450

Email: sarahpsayers@btinternet.com

THE UPTON COVEN

The Upton Ladies Coven will meet on Thursday 3rd March at the earlier time of 7pm for a meal.

Everyone welcome - please let Lesley Shaw know by Tel 850308 if you would like to eat with us. Those wishing to come for a drink only as usual are most welcome.

Lesley

SPRING LINE METHODIST CHURCH

Services for March start at 10.30 a.m.

6th Local Arrangements

13th Blewbury John Dennis

20th Blewbury Paul Williams

27th Upton Rev. Richard Bittleston
(Communion Service)

Please note that the service on 13 March is not as on the circuit plan - it will now be at Blewbury

Possibilities?

I love experimenting. Before I was a minister, I was a research scientist - research scientists are essentially children, curious and very interested in 'possibility'

It was in that vein that I decided to build myself a solar based power system; it now sits on the roof of my workshop.

When I built it, the winter days were short and it already produced enough energy to power a few lights, my study and a TV. As spring sets the pace, there is more power available each day. This contribution is written on a 'solar powered computer'. We had a power failure the other day and we were the only house in Steventon with a full reserve of alternative energy. The lights stayed on - so did the heating. Anne, my lovely wife, didn't even know that there was a power failure! I am convinced that humanity has 'possibility' built in - this is the God nature in all of us.

Richard Bittleston (Minister for the Spring Line Methodist Church)

SHORT MAT BOWLS

Bowling at the village hall for March will be Wednesday 2nd, 9th and 23rd, all at

7.45pm. Bowling pencilled in for Wednesday 30th is cancelled.

Tony Durbin

RECTORS REFLECTIONS



The Back Road to Newbury

Do you know the back road to Newbury? The road I'm thinking of is the road over the Downs from Streatley, which passes through

Aldworth and Hampstead Norreys. It's not quite so direct as the A34, but I prefer it as a route, if I have the time.

If you are familiar with the road, you will remember that a few miles the other side of Hampstead Norreys, the road passes under the M4, and then goes through the village of Hermitage. As the road goes through the village, there are several side roads, leading to places like Frilsham, Bucklebury, Woolhampton and Oare. For some reason I always manage to take the wrong turning!

The other week I was heading towards Woolhampton, using the route through Hampstead Norreys and Hermitage. As I drove through Hermitage and turned off to the left, I was feeling rather proud of myself, because I thought to myself that for once I had managed to select the correct turning. I was driving along the side road, as it was leaving the village, and thought how familiar it all looked- the houses on the left, the trees on the right. But after about half a mile, I began to realise there was a problem. I was on the wrong road! I had indeed managed to take the wrong turning in Hermitage, as is my wont. I stopped the car, looked at the map, and re-assessed the situation. I realised that I now needed to take a different route to get to my destination.

As I was sitting there in my car, pondering the map, I started to think how much like life this is. How often we take a wrong turn, but think we're actually on the right road. We merrily keep travelling along the road, convinced that it's the right road, until eventually we realise we've made a mistake.

Sometimes we don't have to travel for long before we realise we're going in the wrong direction. But at other times it can take a long time before the penny drops, and it can prove an expensive and complicated business getting back on track again. Last Summer I was travelling back from Wales and by mistake took the wrong exit at a roundabout. Everything seemed to be fine - it was only after about 5 miles or so that I realised I had joined the wrong Dual Carriageway and was travelling in the wrong direction! That particular error in navigation eventually added about 45 minutes to my journey time.

Within a couple of weeks, Lent will be upon us. Lent is a time when we can pause, take stock, and

consider whether we're actually travelling in the right direction. We can pull the car into the side of the road, turn the engine off, and have a look at the map. Are we quite sure that we're heading in the right direction? Quite sure? It's always good to check!

Fr Jason

VPA

I apologise for not providing a report for the January edition, it was due to bugs in my computer! Happily there are only a few bugs in my garden, the birds are seen hopping along the fence and picking out insects stupid enough to have hidden in between the slats! I have been slowly clearing the borders of scrappy died back foliage from the autumn, and am delighted to report the new shoots of my perennials' are popping up! My bulbs are either flowering or coming into bud, my Daphne (Aureomarginata; get me!) is flowering in the places where it is sheltered and I await more spring flowers very soon!

Our talk from Brian Davies was well attended and as usual, very informative, yet fun at the same time! Our next talk is also at Upton Methodist hall on Weds March 2nd, when Dudley Iles will talk on "Seasons in the Vale of the White Horse". Ring if you need a lift (850219)

The new programme is available in Blewbury or Hagbourne Post Office, or from Maggie in Upton. Dates to keep free are 1st June, an evening trip to Drayton to visit an Iris Garden, 19th June; Blewbury yellow book open gardens, 30th July, day trip to Waterperry, August 6th; Summer Show in the village hall.

Happy Gardening Karen Brooks

UHVAT

To make full use of the new extension the village hall trust has recently purchased twenty one new stacking tables and two serving tables. We very much appreciate that the total cost of £797 was met by a "Grassroots Grant" from the Oxfordshire Community Foundation.

Brian Simpson

UPTON WINE APPRECIATION SOCIETY

Welcome everyone to another wine society meeting. This February meeting was hosted by Simon Powel who gave us a very entertaining and interesting talk on the white wines of the Maconnais region of Burgundy and the reds from the Beaujolais region. The white wines from the Macon region are often overlooked by the much more famous Burgundian cousins, such as Chablis. The origins of the white wines from this region are ecclesiastical, these institutions especially the Cistercian order began planting these vines in the 11th and 12 centuries. All the wines of the evening were from the Wine Society.

The first white of the evening was a Macon Villages Domaine et Benjamin Talmard 2009 £9.50. This proved to be very popular with a rich long lasting almost bitter taste. The next favourite was the Bourgogne Les Raverettes Domaine Guillemot Michel 2008 at £13.50 this was liked, but a little expensive. The least favourite was the Wine Societies own blend White Burgundy at £7.50, the cheapest but not preferred on the night.

The reds once again proved very popular and if you are like me, getting on a bit, you may remember the ridiculous rush to drink Beaujolais Nouveau in November. The Beaujolais grape is the Gamay, to be more specific Gamay Noir, which covers 98% of the region.

The first wine to be tasted was the Brouilly Domaine Demaine 2009 £8.50, this was considered to be light with no body, the second wine Morgon Cote du Domaine Jean Marc Burgaund 2007, this was well liked some felt it had a bit of tannin on the tongue but others not so, this was dense and will age well - £10.50. The last wine of the evening was a Gamay Vin du Pay's de l'Ardeche 2009 Duboeuf, at £5.95 this was considered to be very good and excellent value. Thanks again to Simon for a really good evening.

A few people asked for the smoked mackerel pate recipe, so here it is as I have done this for so long I do not have exact amounts, sorry you will need to adjust for personal taste.

Smoked Mackerel fillets, skins removed.

Juice of a lemon, again to taste, start off small you can always add more but not take away.

Horse Radish, from a jar, adjust to taste I like mine spicy

Cream cheese, I prefer extra light.

Double cream again, only a little just to finish off and make it more luxurious. I tend to use a low fat version, but this is just personal taste and cholesterol levels.

Please remember Mackerel is very good for you and a completely sustainable fish.

All I do is add the ingredients to a food processor, and tamper with the amounts until it suits your taste, finish off with black pepper. Enjoy
Chris Traynor

PARISH COUNCIL

Litter Pick

This years Litter Pick is being arranged for Saturday 19th March. If you can spare us an hour or two please come along to the Village Hall at about 9.30 where there will be a cup of tea and biscuits awaiting you before setting out to help clean up our parish.

Grass Cutting.

I am looking for 2 more volunteers to join the grass cutting team. You will be required to use the council's mowers to cut the Recreation Ground and the Children's Play Area three times during the next 8 months. The job takes about 3 hours working in pairs. A schedule will be produced giving you an approximate date for your turn but the actual time and day can be anytime near to that date as agreed with your working partner
Safety training and any other help you may need will be provided. If you can help us out please give me a call.

Planning

UPT-21353 Application to construct a dwelling in the garden of No 3 Fieldside have been withdrawn.

UPT/368/4 Application for a 4 bedroomed detached house with detached garage and new access at Kameki Chilton Road. Council has no objections

Mike Brown 850135

DROP IN

The next three Drop-in Sessions are scheduled for 3rd March, 17th March and the 31st March

For any newcomers to Upton: The Village Drop-in is held in the Village Hall on alternate Thursday mornings from 10.30 until 12.00 noon. It's always good to see a new face so come along and join us for tea/coffee and biscuits.

Yvonne Collins

01235 850989

GEORGE AND DRAGON

I would like to start by saying thank you for your continued support throughout January and February. We have started to see more new faces from the village and surrounding areas. So if you are new to the village, come along and enjoy a great relaxing evening out.

You may have noticed a few changes at the pub. During February we changed our menu, it is now even more packed with a greater choice to choose from. And it is all cooked fresh on the premises. We now have an Aunt Sally team for the pub, so far we have 12 members; however we do still need a few more. We will be meeting on Wednesday evenings at the pub to practice *and have a drink*.

We are currently looking for bar staff on a Full time or part time basis.

Every last Thursday of the month we will be holding a steak meal night from 6.30pm till 9pm our next Steak Night will be on 24th March, booking are available, however please book early to avoid disappointment.

What's on in March and April

6th March Quiz night, 5 rounds of questions, start time 8pm

19th March It's Keith's Birthday and he has arranged for a great band called Subway to perform for all at the George and Dragon from 9pm

25th March Suede Alien will be entertaining us all at our James Bond themed evening from 7.30pm till late.

15th April will see our first year at the pub and we would like you to come along and celebrate it with us. Live music from 7.30 till late.

24th April Easter Sunday we will be holding children's Easter Egg Hunt and disco from 3pm till 7.30pm a party buffet will be provided for the children.

24th April Easter Sunday come and support our Local Band KAOS who will be performing from 8pm.

Every Monday night is curry and a pint night at the George and Dragon. Our curry is homemade and comes with a Free drink, or you might prefer to try our Pinot Grigio £10 per bottle (Mondays nights only)

**Every Monday night 6.30pm to 9.00pm is
Curry and a Pint Night for just £7.99**

Kind Regards Kenny and Jo

UPTON 50S CLUB

Winners for January 2011

£10	Mrs Gutfreund	36
£7	Mr F Napper	34
£5	Mr Curran	161
£4	Mrs Whitmell	124

Winners for February 2011

£10	Mrs Wright	20
£7	Mr Fenn	10
£5	Mr G Collins	138
£4	Mrs Scarborough	24

DIARY DATES

Saturday 26th March 10.30 to 12.00. A Coffee Morning in aid of the Children's Society. Cakes, raffle and bring and buy etc.

Please come along to support this worthy cause, if you are able to donate cakes they would be much appreciated.

If you would like to help or if you require more information call Clare on 850486

Saturday 2 April at 2.00 p.m. A Jumbo Jumble Sale in the Village Hall in aid of hall improvements.

Donations of jumble can be brought to the hall in the morning after 10.30 a.m.

For further information call Jessie 851206

UPTON OIL SYNDICATE

The next order is scheduled to be placed on Monday 14th March. To be included, I need to have your orders by Saturday 12th March at the latest.

I am hoping that prices will have returned to somewhere nearer 'normal levels'.

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

Colin Batchelor

Items for inclusion in the April issue to be sent to kameki39@btinternet.com. Or handed in to Cathy or Mike by Monday 28th March.

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Delivery organised by Jessie West

