

Upton News



Vol 4 No.31 August 2014

The sudden death of Austin Maytham in July shocked and saddened so many of us. It is a measure of the man that the funeral at St Mary's not only filled the church but was also attended by over 70 mourners standing outside.

A tribute to Austin is reproduced in this issue.

Submissions for *Upton News* should be sent to news@uptonvillage.co.uk.

Deadline for the September edition is **Friday 29th August**.

RWE npower said 'sentiment cannot get in the way of safety' and 'this is not a social event; it's a demolition'. You could have fooled me.

Heavy traffic on the A417 from 2.30am suggested the scale of the social event. Some of us enjoyed bacon butties on the old railway line with our eyes peeled - blink and you'd have missed it (one or two did!). Of course the notice to general aviation was accurate and with the help of the media, spectators were well prepared and rewarded with an eerie and memorable sight.

Brian Rippon



Captain Austin Paul Maytham (1947-2014)

Austin was born in Colchester on 31st October 1947. He grew up in Earls Colne and Chappel, where his father had a smallholding.

As a young man, Austin felt called to go to sea. He spent some time on a Royal Navy training ship, HMS Worcester, but decided that the Royal Navy was not for him. Instead, he went in to the Merchant Navy. He worked for several shipping lines, including UBC, Shell and Bankline, and rose to the rank of Captain.

On one occasion, Austin was flying out to South Africa to join his ship in Durban. Seated next to him on the plane was a delightful young lady, named Margaret. Austin started a conversation; cashew nuts were shared; and romance blossomed. Austin and Margaret were married at St Mary's church, East Hendred, in 1977.

In those days, a Captain's wife was permitted to go to sea with her husband, and this is what Margaret did. They were happy days, together on the high seas.

After some years at sea, Austin was offered redundancy, and he decided to take the opportunity this provided to pursue a shore-based career. He worked for the Met Office at Bracknell, where he was the expert on Sea Ice. He later decided to start to put this expertise down on paper; he was still working on his magnum opus on sea ice at the time of his death. After Bracknell, Austin got a job in Cardiff as the port

meteorological officer. Any one who had a conversation with Austin soon realised that here was an expert on weather patterns - it came as no surprise to learn that he was a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society.

Such was Austin's versatility that he could turn his hand to many different jobs. In his time, he also worked as a Health Manager, School Teacher, and professional Hypnotherapist!

In 1985, Austin and Margaret came to live in Upton, and the village has been their home ever since. Austin, Margaret, and daughter Emma, have been very much part of village life. The village was very important to Austin. He got stuck into everything, above all the VPA and church life at St Mary's.

Austin had a very deep faith, which seemed to discover even greater depths over the last few years. He enjoyed discussing the bible readings and the sermon - and he had no hesitation about do so during the service itself. This could be somewhat disconcerting to the preacher, if you weren't expecting it! Prayer became increasingly important to him- deep prayer, the prayer of faith, of trust, of love. For Austin, to pray was to love, and to love was to pray. He could talk of his prayer conversations with Jesus Christ with an easy but respectful familiarity. "Well, I've had a chat with JC.....!"

This village and St Mary's Church were clearly very important to Austin, but there were other interests as well. There was his computer; his Bonsai trees; and various collections. There were the animals- Austin loved his animals. There was Jeremy the Duck and, above all, his beloved, faithful Tara. Tara would often come into St Mary's with her master, sitting quietly during morning or evening prayer.

If you were asked to describe Austin's character, well, you would not say that he was a shrinking violet. Austin was someone who told you how it is. He had his opinions, and he felt able to share them, and it didn't bother him if someone disagreed with him. In some ways, he was larger than life.

But he was also a good man, loyal and full of kindness. His was a generous heart, and his desire was to help others.

Austin died on 7th July, following a short illness. He was 66 years old. By

modern standards, a short life. But during these 66 years, Austin had managed to experience more of life than many whose span of years is much longer. But it was not just that Austin had managed to experience more of life in his 66 years than perhaps you or I will ever do. It was that Austin had managed to share more of life than many of us will ever do - sharing life with his family, with the church, with the whole village community.

And so it is right to finish on a positive note. We recognise our sadness and our shock at Austin's unexpected death. Our hearts go out to Margaret and Emma- and to Tara, too. But let our hearts be filled with gratitude. Gratitude to God for giving us Austin; gratitude for a life lived with such determination and with such confidence; gratitude for life shared with such generosity and such love.

Thanks be to God.

Father Jason

Margaret, Emma and Jonathan would like to thank everyone for the kind thoughts, prayers and help they have given them after the sudden loss of Austin. We feel very much loved by everyone.

Margaret Maytham

Upton Village Theatre Group

I have just reserved tickets in the rear stalls for the very successful National Theatre production of “*One Man, Two Guv'nors*” at the New Theatre on the evening of 23 February 2015. The cost, which includes minibus transport, is £30 per person. First come with the money, first served!

All tickets for the outing to the Mill at Sonning on 18 September are now taken, but I'm still looking for someone to write a review for the archives. Travel arrangements will be confirmed by the end of the month.

If anybody wants to join (or be removed from) the mailing list, please let me know on malcolmwright@f2s.com. I'm also open to suggestions for future trips.

Malcolm Wright
850705

Stream Road Flooding Meeting

After the flooding events of last winter, Upton Parish Council would like to invite residents bordering the stream to attend the next PC meeting on the 16th September at 8:00pm in the Village Hall. During the meeting we would like to discuss what options we have to prevent a re-occurrence of the near flooding of three properties.

The PC has now formally began the process of formulating an updated Parish Plan. If you would like to be part of the group working on this, please contact Rob Traynor via parish.council@uptonvillage.co.uk

The King's Men In Concert



The King's Men, choral scholars from King College, Cambridge will be giving a wonderful concert on Saturday 6th September in St Michael's Church, Blewbury at 7.30pm. The King's Men is the close harmony group formed from the Choir of King's College, Cambridge - yes the choir we hear on the radio each Christmas! This summer they have performed in all the major cities of Australia including a concert at the Sydney Opera House. The seven singers and an organ scholar will bring favourite choral classics and their sparkling new repertoire to Blewbury- from madrigal to modern. A concert to remember. See www.kingsmencambridge.co.uk.

Tickets £15 include a glass of wine. On sale at Blewbury Post Office or ring Pat Mattimore to reserve 01235 851088 or email bernardmat@btinternet.com. Booking advised.



Thank You

Many thanks to Graham and Mike for their efforts, in the midst of a heat wave, in doing an excellent hedge cutting job alongside Station Road.

I think I must be speaking on behalf of many hall and recreation ground users when I say it's a relief to drive out of the car park without taking your life in your hands! Thank you both very much indeed.

Clare Lightfoot

Swishing Tea Birds

Tea Birds WI report that the swishing was really good. About 25 ladies came and everyone took lots of lovely things away. What didn't get taken is being used for a jumble at the fete and after that will go to Helen and Douglas House.

Howden Jones at Little Wittenham

Some of you may remember Kate and Paul otherwise known as Howden Jones playing in Upton Village Hall earlier this year. It was a really lovely evening and two of our guests that night (David and Fiona) booked them on the spot to play on Sunday 7th September at Little Wittenham Church followed by supper in the Manor House to raise funds for the Church.

I am now helping to sell tickets and attach a flyer with all the details if you are interested in coming along.

I am very happy to be the local contact and organise tickets for Upton residents if that would be easier. My mobile is 07817 096786.

Jane Strange

Upton Jam Sessions

The musical jam session at the George & Dragon (last Thursday of every month) was very well attended in July. The next session is on Thursday 28th August, 8.30pm.

Do come along to join in or just listen.

Village Clubs & Organisations

Blewbury WI

Karen Brooks 850219
karencbrooks@gmail.com

Drop In Sessions

Yvonne Collins 850989

Short Mat Bowls Club

Tony Durbin 850035

Table Tennis Club

Bob Lott 851222

Tea Birds WI

Jo Christie tea-birdswi@hotmail.co.uk

Theatre Club

Malcolm Wright 850705

Upton Oil Syndicate

Colin Batchelor 01491 672444

Village Produce Association

Eileen Bracken 510095

Wine Appreciation Society

Kevin Jacklin 851404

Do you run a village club or organisation? Please let us have your details and we will add them to the list.

Rector's Reflections

Three Down, Three to Go!

Well, were you one of the thousands who got up early to watch the demolition of the cooling towers? Whether you were watching or not, the demolition of the towers was clearly a significant event in local history. And how quickly they came down- a few seconds, and that was that!

There's seems to be something in human nature which connects with acts of destruction. Sometimes we can feel happy destroying something, or watching somebody else destroy it.

Fortunately, in most of us there is also a desire to create something new, so this balances out whatever destructive feelings we might have.

This desire to create something new needs to be constantly nurtured and protected. Destruction often seems so much quicker, easier and more straightforward. Creation takes time and thought and commitment.

In our relationships with other people, we can often be tempted to be destructive rather than constructive. Whether it's through our own sense of insecurity or our anger or our hurt, we can easily set out to destroy other people, through our words and our behaviour. It is often that much harder to build others up, through support and encouragement, love and kindness.

There's a lot in the Bible about how we should live our lives. In one of the books of the Bible, called the Letter to the Ephesians, there's a particular idea which I think is always relevant, whatever our individual situation and circumstances. The idea is that we should "build " one another up in love. What a wonderful picture this presents - families and communities in which we are all building one another up in love.

How might we build one another up in love? Or if this requirement seems too general to be meaningful, Is there one individual who we might build up in love?

Perhaps we could take this on as a personal challenge, to commemorate the destruction of the towers. The towers came down; let us build people up!

With all my blessings

Father Jason

St Mary's Fete and Fun Dog Show

Sat 6 Sept - 2.00 p.m. Upton Recreation Ground

Birds of Prey, Blewbury Band, Gymnastics Display

Cakes, Plants, Preserves, Produce, Books, White Elephant, Toys, Teas, Ices, Raffle, Tombola, Skittles, Face Painting, Handicrafts etc.

Fun Dog Show - entries from 2.00pm

Display of Vintage Vehicles

Donations for the stalls would be very welcome

Drop off points:

Books - Derek & Charmian, Pippins, Fieldside, 850163

Tombola prizes - Clare, Thimbles, Newman's Close, 850486

Bottles for bottle tombola - Clare

Lucky Dip prizes - Karen, Fernwood, High St, 851072

Cakes, scones, small cakes, tray bakes please bring on fete day

Plants, white elephant (NO JUMBLE) and other donations can be brought to the hall on Friday 5th September from 4.00pm - 6.00pm or on Fete day from 10.00am.

Offers of help would be gratefully received, contact Jessie 851206 or Clare 850486. Dog Show enquiries to Gloria 850683.



Cakes for the Fete

Tea and cake is always popular at Upton church fete, mainly because our village bakers are renowned for baking irresistible cakes! Your generosity is always appreciated, so once again we would be delighted to receive contributions of biscuits, tray bakes, cakes or anything you like baking to be honest - it all goes! All donations are gratefully received for either the Cake Stall or the Teas, so please bring your donations to the village hall during the morning or if preferred to Jessie West before the day, where freezer space is available.

Many thanks

Rosemary de Wilde 850345

Carer required 3 days a week

Nick has MS and as a full time wheelchair user needs someone to be with him while I am at work 3 days a week starting in September (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday).

As my work is flexible it will not usually be full days. The care involves making drinks and helping him to eat and drink, using a hoist to help him onto the bed or chair for a rest, reading to him, doing crosswords together etc.

Ann Parham

anneparham@hotmail.com

Help Offered

I am looking for people who need a baby sitter, pet sitter, house sitter, dog walker or a bit of gardening.

I have experience in all of the above.

Please contact me for more information.

Emily Fenn

07508 202644

Dog sitter wanted

Would anyone love to look after my adorable friendly 8 year old Dachshund on occasions when we go away for a few days or on holiday?

Sadly she has just recently lost her mother and sister so I would love to find her a loving 'home from home' while we are away.

Caroline Maunsell (850601)

carolinemaunsell@aol.com

Dates for your diary

Sat 16 Aug	3pm-4pm, Have Your Say meeting, VH
Tue 19 Aug	2pm, DDU3A meeting
Tue 26 Aug	Tea Birds WI Fete
Thu 28 Aug	8.30pm, Upton Jam Session, G&D
Thu 4 Sep	Drop In, Village Hall
Sat 6 Sep	St Mary's Fete
Sat 6 Sep	The King's Men, Blewbury
Sun 7 Sep	Howden Jones, Little Wittenham
Tue 16 Sep	UPC Meeting, Stream Road Flooding

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S - LATEST NEWS!

By the time you receive this edition of *Upton News*, every house in the village should have received a Friends of St Mary's leaflet which tells you about the Friends scheme and includes a short form to be filled in if you'd like to become a Friend and be part of the scheme. There's also a new page on the village website where you can find more information and a short history of the church building.

As I write we are already beginning to get the first forms back. Many thanks to those who have joined so far - every contribution will be acknowledged in due course, and you will receive invitations to the Friends events organised during the year.

One of the founder members of the Friends organising committee was Austin Maytham. Over the past months as we have met to get the scheme going, Austin was a vigorous and enthusiastic contributor - no surprise to everyone who knew him! Tributes to Austin will no doubt appear elsewhere, but his passing will be a great loss to us, as it has been to his family and the village as a whole. Maggie kindly suggested that the retiring collection at his funeral on 17th July should be in aid of the Friends scheme for the church, of which he was a pillar for many years. We were staggered, humbled and delighted in equal measure that over £1,700 was collected which, when gift aid tax relief is recovered, will amount to over £2,000 - a real tribute to a wonderful Uptonian.

We now look forward to building on this great start as the scheme gets under way. If you would like to become a Friend and make a regular contribution, please complete the form on the leaflet you will have received and drop it through the door of 2 Church Street Cottages or give it to any of the committee members listed below. And all villagers are welcome to the official launch party for the scheme which will take place from midday of Saturday, 27 September in the village hall. There will be music, entertainment for children, lunch and drinks (with our compliments) and we may even take the opportunity to explain a bit more about the scheme and how it will develop!

Raising money for an excellent cause is not just a good thing to do, it should also be fun! We will be announcing details of the activities planned for Friends over the next few months but the first date for your diary is 4th October, when we are planning to get things off to a flying start with a pizza supper and quiz in the village hall.

Before that, we look forward to seeing as many as possible at the launch on 27th September. In the meantime, if you have any questions, any of the organising committee listed below would be very pleased to help.

Paul Batho (851251); John Dickens (851330); Jess Haworth (07834 455602); Lisa Morgan (851555); Emma Rockall (07796 771773); Gloria Smith (850683); Jessie West (851206).

RECREATION GROUND GATES

The Parish Council would like to trial the closing of the recreation ground gates of an evening, in an attempt to curb vehicles driving on to the field late at night and excess noise disturbing local residents.

A volunteer to both close and open the gates (7.30am) is a tall demand so we would like to propose a trial period using a combination lock.

The intention is that the gates can be opened by any Upton resident in the morning, including the school bus and parents dropping off children. The gates will be closed in the evening by users of the village hall or a small group of volunteers.

The brass combination lock code is

3572

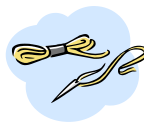
The trial will begin after this publication of *Upton News* and will run for the summer months then reviewed. We would appreciate your co-operation in this matter - any questions please contact the Parish Council via parish.council@uptonvillage.co.uk

Rob Traynor

TEA BIRDS WI SUMMER FETE

TUESDAY 26 AUGUST 2014

UPTON VILLAGE HALL — 7.30 PM



Come along and have some fun

- Time for Tea Creations
- Funky Giraffe
- Afternoon Teas
- Books
- Jumble
- Raffle
- Guess the Number of Sweets
- Cake stall

Entry: £1 non-members - children Free

PCSO News

Hello Residents of Upton.

As you will be aware, Austin Maytham sadly passed away recently and I'm sure will be missed by many who knew him. As the PCSO for Upton I remember when I first became assigned to the village how Austin quickly got in touch with me and made me always aware of any issues that arose from time to time.

Austin was also kind enough to help me out when I started the 'Chilton day of action' event recently and he really enjoyed getting involved. Austin was a fine man with a gift for getting on with people and he showed a lot of commitment to the community of Upton and is the case of Chilton, sometimes further afield. I like so many others, will miss this wonderful character.

During the warm weather we have had a number of tool thefts from vehicles in the area and would advise any contractors or builders living or working in the village not to leave tools in your vehicles overnight or for long periods out of sight. Make sure your property is marked or coded and list your items carefully.

I have also received a report of a suspicious vehicle seen driving around the village. If you should see anyone or a vehicle acting suspiciously, please make a note of the description of the person or persons seen, and if it's a vehicle then make a note of the registration, make and model if you can. Then let the Police know by calling 101 which is the non emergency number for Thames Valley Police.

My Next HYS meeting in the village will be on the 16th of August at 15.00 till 16.00 hrs at the village hall meeting room.

Stay safe.

PCSO Mike Clayden C9732

Thames Valley Police

Michael.clayden@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Didcot & District University of the Third Age

The August meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th August 2014 at 2pm at Didcot Civil Hall and the guest speaker will be Keith Jansz, a mouth artist, who will talk about and display some of his work.

From the Photo Archives



Judith Kauntze emails:

The photo titled The Fete [on the website] is of Florence Jefferies who was headmistress of the Upton primary school and on the right of the picture her husband Stanley. I do know who the gent is on the left, will remember hopefully shortly.

Round The World in Twenty Days

OK I like balloons. But as a technologist I take my hat off to Leo Bodnar who constructed a tiny helium balloon (“B-64”) with a solar powered radio transmitter weighing just 11 grams. Leo launched the balloon at Silverstone on July 12, and just over 19 days later it completed a record breaking journey round the world, making UK landfall near Bognor Regis. En route it had passed over 17 countries including Ukraine and North Korea.

It was still flying on 2nd August, with a last known position over Finland, heading towards the Barents Sea.

See B-64’s route at

<http://spacenear.us/tracker/?filter=B-64>

Brian Rippon

Protect Rural Oxfordshire (PRO)

Did you know that current plans for the county include 80,000 new jobs, 90,000 more residents and 100,000 more houses - all within the next 17 years? This proposed growth in housing is the equivalent of every town and village increasing in size by 40%.

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England is concerned about how the speed and scale of this development could cause irretrievable damage to our landscape and local communities, and the impact it will have on already over-stretched services and infrastructure particularly in rural areas.

It has launched a campaign - Protect Rural Oxfordshire (PRO) - to fight for a more sustainable vision for the future of the county.

To find out more see our website (www.cpreoxon.org.uk) or follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/CPREOxfordshire) or Twitter (@CPREOxfordshire) and sign up to our monthly e-news bulletin (E: administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk / T: 01865 874780).