

UPTON NEWS

Vol.2 No.2

June 2000

COMPETITION Logo for Upton News
all designs welcome, on paper or floppy disk

NEW USE FOR THE OLD RAILWAY LINE

In a month or two signs will go up on the railway embankment between Upton and Didcot indicating that it has become a link into the 1000-mile Dover to Inverness route of the national cycle network. Sustrans, the engineering charity financed by the Millennium Commission, has entered into 25-year leasing arrangements with the five landlords along this local stretch, and is negotiating with Railtrack over maintenance of the four bridges.

Walkers (joggers, wheelchairs), cyclists and horseriders will be permitted on the path, which will eventually be resurfaced in crushed stone. Happily, unusual plants and butterflies live on the sides of the embankment but not, apparently, along the top.

There will be access ramps at both ends, and maybe in the middle — at Upton on the village side down Chapel Furlong. £100,000 has still to be raised to complete the project, which was started with a £10,000 donation from a company in Didcot.

So, the railway that saw sterling service during both world wars — ferrying troops, arms and provisions between the midlands and the south coast — will again become a convenience for Uptonians. Its main use will be for cyclists in the village who now have to brave cars and twisty roads to get into Didcot.

CHILDREN'S DRAMA GROUP

meets at the village hall every Thursday
in term time — from 4.30 to 5.15pm
(50p per session to cover the cost of the hall)
JUST TURN UP AND JOIN THE FUN

For further details ring Malcolm Wright 850705

Introducing a Tiddlywinks morning...

There are so many young children in Upton now. Lynne and Deborah, two mums in the village, thought it might be fun for the little ones to play together whilst the mums enjoyed a cup of tea. So on Thursday 8th June from 9.30 to 11 that's what will be happening in the village hall.

At this stage we have no toys and nowhere to store any if we had them. (This doesn't sound very promising does it?) But mums (and dads) will be very welcome especially if you could bring just a few toys to share out for the session. There's no fee but any donations will go towards necessary set-up costs.

We really hope you can make it and that we'll see you then.

Deborah Marinkovic and Lynne Riordan

...and the village Coven

The Upton Coven was started a couple of years ago by a small group of women in the village. Our original name was Upton Ladies, but that didn't last long. It was felt that we hardly saw each other, especially in the winter months, so, if a monthly meeting in the pub was organised we could catch up.

The gathering is always on the first Thursday of the month, from 8pm onwards. All you have to do is turn up, on or after this time. It is all very casual and you do not have to drink alcohol, as tea and coffee are available. We do not eat there, but each put a couple of pounds into the kitty tin and have a good chat and gossip.

Every woman in the village belongs to the Upton Coven, so come and meet fellow members and make new friends.

Margaret Maytham

Upton Millennium Mid-Summer Concert

Bring your own picnic
gates open 7.30pm

SATURDAY 24TH JUNE

PROSPECT HOUSE

BY KIND PERMISSION OF
MR AND MRS S POWELL

ABBEY

Abingdon Brass Band and
CHOIR

an evening of family
entertainment featur-
ing popular music and

Tickets £7.50 each

Concessions:

OAPs £5, children under
12 £5

Gazebos to hire £10 each

OUTINGS FOR THE VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

In 'blooming' June the Blewbury and Upton VPA have two great events. On Wednesday 7th there will be an evening of Open Gardens in Upton. We will walk round three members' gardens, then there will be a Plant Sale and coffee at Toad Hall (Upton Post Office) on the corner of Church Street and Stream Road. We will meet there at 7.30pm sharp. This should be very interesting and we have our fingers crossed for a dry evening! If anyone requires transport to Upton, please telephone Graeme Gettings (851579).

Clematis corner

On Wednesday 21st June, leaving Blewbury at 6.30pm sharp, we have an evening visit to Clematis Corner, a private garden in Shillingford. We have visited there before, when later varieties of clematis were in bloom, and were so entranced that this is a repeat to catch the early flowerings. Over 300 varieties are grown in this quarter acre garden.

The cost will be £2 per person. Please return your VPA visit slip (provided with membership cards) to Joyce Gilbert ((850388), Graeme Gettings or Margaret Maytham at Upton Post Office (850364) by 14th June at the latest.

Memberships cards are now ready; so do remember to renew. Subscriptions — £3 a year per family, £1 for senior citizens — can be paid at meetings, at Savages, Blewbury, Upton Post Office or from Joyce Gilbert, Graeme Gettings and Brenda Hopkins (850181). Show schedules will be available shortly. General queries to the secretary Malcolm Wright (850705).

Parish Council news

Parish Council meetings

These are held at 8pm in the village hall on the second Tuesday of every other month. Forthcoming dates are 11th July, 12th September, 14th November 2000, and 11th January 2001, 14th March 2001.

Everyone is welcome to attend. A notice of the meeting and agenda is displayed on the parish notice board in the recreation ground three days beforehand.

Your parish councillors

At the Annual General Meeting of the parish council held on 9th May (see May Upton News) the chairman and vice-chairman were elected for the year 2000/2001. The following is a list of current parish councillors:

Chairwoman

Mrs Sheila Parker
Four Winds, Prospect Rd, 850591

Vice-Chairwoman

Mrs Suzanne Batchelor
Finches, Stream Rd, 851362

Councillors

Mr Stephen Dawson
12 Fieldside, 851370
Mrs Jo Joel
Winterbourne, Stream Rd, 850119

Mrs Tracy Seelig
20 Fieldside, 851437

Mrs Carol Hall
The Old School, Church St, 850811

District Councillor

Mr Richard Farrell
Hall Barn Close, Chapel Lane, Blewbury, 850275

County Councillor

Mr. Colin Lamont
2 The Old School, School Lane, Harwell, 832866

50's CLUB WINNERS — April 2000

Mrs Churchman £10, Mr Lightfoot
£5, Mr Morris £4, Mrs Whitmall £3

Green Box Recycling

Collections started in the village last November. If you have not yet registered for the scheme and would like to take part please contact the Vale of the White Horse District Council at the Abbey House, Abingdon OX14 3JE or telephone 520202.

Potholes

The Highways department are aware of the potholes in the village and have promised to repair them.

Lynne Riordan

Clerk

The Briary, Stream Rd
850165

PAT JUNKISON

On behalf of the village, we would like to extend our deep sympathy to Richard, Alexander and Adrian following the death of Pat. Her merry laugh and cheery 'bye-ee!' will be sadly missed.

The presence of so many young people at her funeral was testament to the years she spent running the youth group, and the contact she maintained with young people.

CHURCH SERVICES

St Mary's

Sunday 9 am

| | |
|--------|------------------|
| June 4 | Parish Eucharist |
| 11 | Parish Eucharist |
| 18 | Sung Matins |
| | 25 |

Parish Eucharist

Methodist Church

Sunday 10.30 am Preacher

| | |
|--------|-------------------|
| June 4 | John Dennis |
| 11 | Barbara Kershaw |
| 18 | David Kershaw |
| 25 | Rev. Thomas Smith |

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