

# UPTON NEWS

Vol.2 No.4

August 2000

Logo still needed

## Cash and travel services at our Post Office

The latest news which concerns you and Upton post office is that another bank has been added to the list that allow cash to be taken out through the Post Office. Those who bank with Barclays, Cahoot, Co-Operative Bank, Lloyds TSB and Smile can make cash deposits, enveloped cheque deposits, and take cash out with a cheque card. This should save a lot of time parking in Didcot.

The other piece of news concerns all of you off on holiday to Italy, France, Portugal, Spain or Greece, as you can get currency or travellers cheques (American Express foreign not sterling) with 0% commission. This could save a few pounds. It only takes five days to arrive and when you return with some unspent money it can be sold back to the Post Office with 0% commission again.

There is 3% commission for sterling travellers cheques and on all other currencies 1%. This promotion runs to 2 September.

Finally I have some lovely £5 coins, presentation packs of stamps and other collectors' items to celebrate the Queen Mother's Birthday — on sale from August 4.

Have a lovely summer and don't forget to support your post office. (Open Monday—Thursday 1—3pm and 4—5pm except Wednesday when closed after 3pm.)

Margaret Maytham

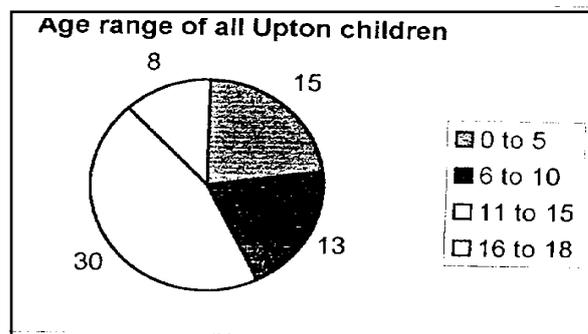
## A SPRING LINE SETTLEMENT

The millenium map (see July Upton News) is selling briskly at the Post Office and Paul Batho, our resident geographer, has provided more fascinating facts about village topography. He says:

Upton is a boomerang-shaped parish — about 3.5 miles from tip to tip and only just over 1 mile wide. If you walked all around the edge you would have travelled exactly 8.7 miles.

The highest point is about 425 (130m) above sea level, dropping from south to north down to around 200ft (60m).

Its geography is closely tied up in the geology. The village itself lies at the point where the chalk of the downs dips under the clays and sands of the Thames Valley, and that's where



This pie-chart (reading clockwise) indicates the current age range of the young children and teenagers in the village.

## AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR THE RECREATION GROUND

Last year, with the encouragement of the Vale district council, the parish council did a feasibility study with a view to improving sport and leisure facilities in Upton. The initial task was to look at the age range of the 70 or so children and young people living in the village. As the pie-chart shows, the largest number are in the 11 to 15 age group and most of the rest in the lower age ranges, who will in due course need youth facilities.

The recommendation of the report is that several activities should be catered for, such as a kick-about area for football, a basket ball net and a tennis court. Hefty capital funding will be needed, but this may be within the bounds of possibility, provided the project is positively backed by the local community. Playground specialists have been asked to produce graphics for display at a public open forum in the village hall at which everyone will be able to air their views.

---

springs occur, providing a reliable water supply (reliable at least in the days before Thames water started mechanically pumping it all out) for its earliest inhabitants.

Man follows nature, and that's why there is a string of ancient towns and villages all along the northern edge of the Downs — places like Aston Tirrold, Blewbury, Upton and Harwell and all the way west through the little villages along the B4507 between Wantage and Swindon (marking the line of the old Icknield Way?).

All benefit from their own supply of fresh water and are known, to the geography anoraks, as spring line settlements.

## West Hagbourne or Windsor Hakeborne

After several years' research West Hagbourne's Village History Group is publishing the first history of the village, to coincide with their **Open Day on Sunday 10th September (2-5.30)**. The book will be on sale and also launched the following day at Didcot Library.

Locals may be in for surprises, as some handed-down stories are disproved — the best known being that East and West Hagbourne were once joined.

Originally the village was named Windsor Hakeborne, after Walter de Windsor, first constable of Windsor Castle, who held the manor at the time of the Domesday Book. Today, it has five farms, just over 100 houses and almost 300 inhabitants.

Windsor Hakeborne — The Story of West Hagbourne traces village life, from the Bronze Age to the end of the 20th century, through archival documents, archaeological finds on Hagbourne Hill, photographs, maps, drawings and reminiscences. A picture of one of the old cottages, by the Victorian painter Helen Allingham, appears on the cover. More details on the village website:  
[www.westhagbourne.org.uk](http://www.westhagbourne.org.uk)

## Neighbourhood Watch

To all villagers. Please be aware of an increasing number of bogus callers in the Thames Valley area. Most recently a young couple have been calling, claim-

### OPEN GARDEN

Thanks to Vic and Sheila Dawson for opening their garden to the public which raised £150.72 for the next children's party.

After many 'bad weather' days the sun shone to enable us to enjoy to the full their lovely garden, which is obviously tended with love and devotion. Thank you both very much.

The lucky number winners were: S. Parker (Fuchsia) donated by Vic and S. Dawson (Begonia) donated by Savages.

Sheila Parker

### In Brief

The **Fun Day** raised £193.73 for the PC's playground extension fund. The sun didn't shine but 30 of us had a go at the Fun Run and the barbecue turned into a delicious indoor supper for 50, which was much enjoyed.

#### June 50s Club winners

Chris, George & Dragon £10, K Dawson £5, Mr Thwaites £4, Mrs Whitmell £3.

ing that you have won a prize in the local school raffle. They then gain entry to your home and steal whatever is at hand. Please ensure that back doors are kept locked when answering the front door.

I am still trying to recruit coordinators for Alexander Close and Frog Alley. This does not require a great deal of time, but simply for you to be prepared to give your telephone number to Thames Valley Police to receive Ringmaster messages.

The next Neighbourhood Watch meeting will be on Monday 11th September at Didcot Police Station (7.30 pm). This will be a meeting for all local villages to get together and share their problems and concerns. It would be nice if we could send a handful of people to represent Upton. I shall be driving so if you would like a lift please ring me on 850684

Celia Davies

### METHODIST CHURCH NOTES

During the next few weeks we say farewell to our minister Tom Smith and his wife Sonia, as they leave us to move to Leicester. In early September the Reverend Tim Dibble and his wife will be moving to Didcot to take over as our new minister.

Don't forget **Saturday 5th August 2.30-5pm**, the Cream Tea and Flower Display in the Methodist church. There will be a Cake and a Bring and Buy stall.

Helen Weston

### SUNDAY SERVICES IN AUGUST

<b>St Mary's church</b>	<b>Methodist church</b>
<b>9 am</b>	<b>10.30 am — Preacher</b>
6 Parish Eucharist	Peter Hemmings
13 10am Patronal Festival (Joint Benefice Service outdoors if fine)	Georgina Wood
20 Sung Matins	At Blewbury
27 Parish Eucharist	Barbara Sexton

UPTON NEWS is published monthly, the copy deadline being the 18th of the previous month. Please deliver or send items for publication, including letters on village topics, to The Old School, Church Street, either on paper, disk, fax (851779) or by e-mail to [carol@uptonoxon.demon.co.uk](mailto:carol@uptonoxon.demon.co.uk)

Editor: CAROL HALL Printed at the Duck House, Blewbury. Delivery organised by JESSIE WEST