

UPTON NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2001 Vol.2 No.16

CLOSURE OF THE A417

As everyone must know by now, the County Council are about to embark on a major work programme to resurface and improve the drainage of the A417 between and including Upton and Blewbury. Work will start on 17 September and is expected to take about eight weeks. For most of the time, traffic will pass through and be controlled by traffic lights.

However, it will be necessary to close the road completely for a period of three weeks, expected to be from 4 to 24 October. This is necessary because the machinery used is too wide and the road too narrow to allow even single track traffic at certain points without contravening Health and Safety Regulations. While the road is closed, emergency services and buses will be allowed to pass through.

The County officers and contractors have made it clear that access will be possible, as far as is practicable having regard to the progress of works, to land and premises that can only be reached by the closed road. In practice, I understand it is likely that access to a particular point may be problematic for a day or two when work is being carried on outside the property. Assurance has been given that everything

Who's for a games wall?

Plans to provide the recreation ground with better sport facilities for young people (and dads) are moving forward. Having taken advice and decided what to aim for, the parish council now needs to consult with villagers. If we are to raise funds of around £25,000 — from Sport England, other charities and benefactors and the Vale of the White Horse — it is vital to have feedback from people who welcome the idea of a games wall and all-weather hard surface, as suggested on this map. Without this kind of positive support the lottery money from Sport England, who say they would bear half the cost, will not be forthcoming.

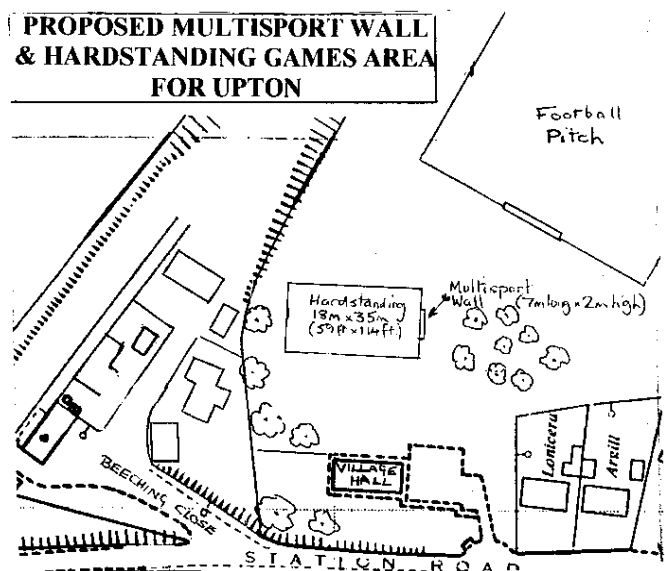
Both the 'slimline' brick wall and hard court would be marked out for many sports: basketball, five-a-side football, tennis, roller blading/hockey. The hard surface could also be used for skateboarding, and soccer goal-scoring and cricket could be practised on the grass on the other side of the wall, which has goalposts and a cricket wicket marked out. (Visit Chilton to see their similar recently finished project.)

We will soon be lobbying all secondary and top primary school children in the village with a questionnaire. So far, when canvassing at the fête, Charlotte de Wilde of Beeching Close, told me that she has a basket ball and also loves tennis: 'there would be so many things to do and I think everybody would use it. It's a really good idea.' If young Uptonians were

will be done to help residents. Babbies, the consultants, will have a representative based on site whose responsibility will be to help iron out difficulties. He is Steve Washington and when on site his mobile number is 07764 221584. At other times he can be contacted on 01865 302500. If anyone has concerns about how they will manage, or if a problem arises, I suggest they contact Mr. Washington. I will arrange for the parish council to post progress information on notice boards in the village and we also hope to have information on the Blewbury web sites: www.blewbury.co.uk.

I am satisfied that the work is essential and because of technical and financial restraints there is no real alternative to it being done in this way. I will be happy to discuss this further with anyone who wants to contact me. Also if you find you have a problem that is not being resolved please call me on 850275. There are still aspects of this — particularly the length of notice given — with which I am not satisfied. I may have more to say on that after further investigation.

Richard Farrell, County Councillor



sufficiently keen they might also decide to go for their own 'shelter' — putting it, say, between the proposed games wall and the football pitch.

Who would like to join the working party? We need parents willing to organise games, teenagers, anyone who likes kicking balls, tennis practise et al. If you are interested please ring me or Margaret Abbott (850718).

Carol Hall (850811)

PC Recreation Ground Development Sub-Committee.

Date for your diary

On Saturday 3 November come to the Village Hall for an evening's entertainment of GHOST STORIES, interspersed with songs, suitable for Hallow'en. Watch this space for further details nearer the time.

PARISH COUNCIL

Parking correctly

The Parish Council has been asked to request all villagers to kindly respect neighbours and other road users when parking their cars.

Please park in driveways, not on the roadside. If this is not possible, please park outside your own and not a neighbouring property, remembering to leave access to/from driveways. The narrow lanes are easily obstructed — please remember to leave sufficient space for large vehicles to get by. Emergency and farm traffic and fuel and refuse lorries should be able to pass along all roads at all times.

Insulation Grants

The District Council has for many years offered grants to improve the insulation of houses in the Vale. This not only makes homes warmer, it reduces fuel bills and energy use. The grant is open to people aged over 70 and/or in receipt of an income-related benefit. Applicants must have lived in their properties for a minimum of three years, although this does not apply to people renting. For more information call the Vale Energy Team on 0800 592 865 or 01235 520202.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT DEBATE IN DIDCOT

Colin Buchanan and Partners are doing a study of transport issues affecting Didcot and nearby villages.

There will be a consultation event in Didcot Civic Hall over three days — to which everyone is invited — on the evenings of Thursday 20 and Friday 21 September and all day on Saturday 22. Proposals and suggestions will be exhibited and the public will be asked to comment and get involved in discussion groups.

Parish Transport Representatives — tel. 850499

A crowded Fête

The sun shone on the recreation ground and we were delighted that so many people attended. Although this is the major fund raising event of the year for the church, the social side is equally important.

A big thank-you to all who worked on the stalls, especially new friends helping for the first time. It is a fact of village life that once you do something it becomes a tradition — so we look forward to seeing you next year!

The vintage transport and motor cycles made a wonderful display gleaming in the sunshine. Thank you to Chris Smith for inviting all his friends round.

We had a good afternoon and we did make money — £1750.00 before deduction of expenses. So thank you too to all who spent. Our next fête will be on Saturday 7 September, 2002. See you there.

Ann

Mrs Marjorie Baker 1909-2001

Hazel Cornish writes: Mum was an extremely well balanced person. Her placid nature helped her to adjust to many changes of abode — she never really had a home until she married as she was fostered. Life in service at the age of 14 was more regulated and luckily she had good employers.

She married in 1934 and became a full-time housewife. In spite of having to be very thrifty she was perfectly happy and my brother and I grew up in a house where there were no cross words. They moved to Upton in 1967 and mum was in her element, quickly becoming absorbed in village life and revelling in it. The sudden death of father 18 years later was a bitter blow.

The broken hip in 1989 was the start of her hospital trips and over the last 10 years we all got used to hearing, 'I can manage', knowing very well she would have been better off accepting a little help.

So far I've obeyed her firm instructions. 'Don't cry when I pop off, I've had a jolly life so there is no need for tears'. However, I know they will fall soon. She has left a gap that cannot be filled, but also a legacy to live up to.

Ann Dendy writes: The village will remember Mrs Baker, Mrs B or Madge for her devotion to St. Mary's church. For many years she was solely responsible for cleaning it. She also acted as sacristan, finding peace and tranquillity in her duties.

As she grew increasingly frail she loved to have visitors. Sometimes she would talk about her early life, graphically describing the various homes she lived in. I shall retain the memory of her walking across the fields with Don to attend Evensong at East Hagbourne. She had a great belief and longed to meet her Maker.

CHURCH SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

St Mary's

Sunday 9am

10.30am — Preacher

2 Parish Eucharist

9 Parish Eucharist

16 Harvest Festival — Matins

23 Parish Eucharist

Methodist

Reverend Timothy Dibble

Pam Martin

at Blewbury

Barbara Sexton

Children's church

The Deanery Training Officer will visit St. Mary's on Sunday, 7 October, when churchgoers with young families, and anyone else interested, are invited to a meeting after the 9am service, followed by a bring-and-share-brunch at The Old School.

UPTON NEWS is published monthly, the copy deadline being the 25th 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, by fax (851779) or by e-mail to carol-uptonoxon@oxfree.com

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