

UPTON NEWS

MAY 2002

Vol.2 No.22

VILLAGE CELEBRATIONS

FOR THE

golden jubilee

**A PARTY FOR ALL ON THE
CORONATION FIELD
(RECREATION GROUND)**

at 4 pm on

MONDAY 3 JUNE

**IF YOU CAN HELP WITH FOOD
PREPARATION, SET OUT TABLES AND
CHAIRS, INFLATE BALLOONS PLEASE
GIVE JESSIE A CALL ON
851206**

**To continue with the
Jubilee Celebrations there will be a
VIDEO* AND SUPPER EVENING**

at 7 pm on

SATURDAY 8 JUNE

in the VILLAGE HALL

Tickets £6 available from Jessie West, Sheila Parker,
Sheila Dawson, Frances Telling

*An interesting look at post-war rural Oxfordshire' and
other local footage.

Multi-Sports Wall

Following the December village meeting about this proposed development on the Recreation Ground some Parish Councillors felt that the results of the questionnaire had not been numerically representative of village opinion, therefore a further referendum has been held.

Response to this is as follows: 82 in favour, 27 against, 2 undecided (some 150 were delivered). With this overwhelming majority the PC will now explore all avenues for the funding of this amenity.

Several people raised concerns about graffiti and vandalism and these have been noted.

Sheila Parker, PC chairman

OUR FOOTBALL CLUB

Many Uptonians may not know that the village football team is having a hectic season — recently playing eight matches in one week. Des Healy reports.

The George and Dragon (G+D) play football in the Upper Thames Valley Sunday League. In 1980 the club was one of its founder members. After many years in lower leagues it was promoted to Division 2 in 1993/4 and to top flight in 1995/6. The present side play in Division 2.

Current status

Last year the G+D won division 3b by winning 20 out of 22 matches and scoring 115 goals, the highest goalscorers in all four divisions. This season, after being promoted to Division 2, we narrowly lost the Ridge-way Cup Final to Oxford Exiles 2-1. On the way to the Final the G+D knocked out newly crowned Division 2 champions Buckland 4-2 and Didcot Labour Club 6-1 in the semi final. Although we are currently struggling in Division 2 we are on course to avoid relegation and go for promotion next season.

At present the Club is managed by Des Healy and Scott Prior who took control when Upton stalwart Barry Dawson left at the end of last season. The club chairman is John Packer, whose house backs on to the pitch. John is also responsible for maintaining the pitch ensuring that a decent playing surface is always enjoyed.

The club is currently sponsored by Lakehaven Removals of Milton Park, who supplied brand new kit for the Cup Final. It also receives generous support from the landlord of the George & Dragon, Chris Linney, who provides food for opposing teams after home matches and whose hospitality is legendary.

Some of the Players

Paul Dawson. Goalkeeper — the club's longest serving player.

John Pierce. Club captain and at present leading goalscorer.

Andy 'Chippy' Smith. Presented with an award by the league last season for scoring 48 goals.

Scott Prior has been at the club since he was 16 and is a model of consistency at the back.

Neil Tonner. Skillful mid-fielder who had trials with professional teams when he was younger.

The club has the youngest side in the league with 8 players under the age of 21. Des Healy and Scott Prior are also the youngest managers, aged 26.

Children's Party

This took place in March on a beautiful sunny afternoon. We trawled the village and managed to find 37 boys and girls between the ages of 1 and 11 to come along — its amazing how many children there are in the village (there were another 12 who couldn't make it).

For the under 5s there was an egg hunt, biscuit decorating, a junior obstacle course and party games in the hall, under the watchful eye of Katie and her helpers. The older children divided into teams for activities spread across the playing field, including an obstacle course, a penalty shoot-out, an observation quiz, tin can alley, a cycling challenge and other tests of skills and agility — earning themselves thousands of points and vital clues to the location of the hidden treasure. Congratulations to Guillaume, Archie, Ella, Zoe, Robert and Tam in the winning team. Just think of the possibilities if the children had use of a sports wall!

Following two hours of non-stop action all had a huge colourful tea pulled together by Deborah and Tracy. Colourful because Agnes had been expertly painting faces.

Upton children's party has been running for over 25 years. Thanks to the Village Hall Committee who provided the funds, Tiddlywinks (Toddler group) parents for organising the activities and food, parents and grandparents who helped on the day, and Savages at Blewbury who generously donated fruit. The children also thank the people attending the money raising events that make it all possible.

Colin Batchelor

SPRING CLEAN SALE

Saturday 11 May, 2pm in the Village Hall.

Household items, Bric-a-Brac, Toys and Games. Proceeds towards the cost of the Golden Jubilee Party.

ARTWEEKS 2002

250 venues will take part throughout Oxfordshire this month. The South area launches the festival from 11- 19 May. In Upton Joan Durbin and Sydney Hardwick's studios will be open daily from 12-6pm. Free guides listing open studios in Blewbury, East Hagbourne and other local villages are available from Warwick Lodge, Prospect Rd and the Post Office. **Joan Durbin**

Neighbourhood Watch

Are the tools and mowers locked and secure in the shed? Consider chaining them all together. Don't forget that unsecured garden tools can be used to force a way into your house and ladders to gain access to unlocked upstairs windows. Alarms for sheds are available from DIY stores or via the NHW office.

CeliaDavies@aol.com

DRUG ALERT

The Parish Council believe that the village bus shelter is being used for smoking cannabis. The police are aware of this but the PC feel that all parents should be informed, so that they may act accordingly. For information/advice call the drugs hot-line on 0800 555 111

Upton & Blewbury VPA

Saturday 25 May. Grand Plant Auction at Hall Barn, Westbrook Street, Blewbury. Proceeds split 50-50 between vendors and VPA. This event was a great success last year. Please label plants with name of vendor, plant name and brief description, ie its eventual size, and deliver to Hall Barn between 10-11am. The auction will commence at 2pm.

One aim of the VPA is roadside planting. Now that the main road has been resurfaced and the banks restored a start has been made near Savages. Bulbs planted by Mr K. Pottle should now be showing their lovely heads.

Hampton Court Show 2-7 July

As we are entering a Hanging Basket and Window Box this year VPA members are entitled to tickets at RHS member rates. Anybody interested please contact **Margaret Maytham** (850364). Requests must be received by 31 May.

Alf Timblich

Once again we had a very successful Skittles Evening thanks to Jessie West and her helpers. Good fun, good company, excellent food and a profit of £188 for village hall funds. If you didn't come, do give it a try next time, but get your tickets early as it's a very popular evening and numbers are limited.

Sheila

We would like to thank all our friends and neighbours who supported us during our re-location to a smaller home. The number of cards, flowers and other gifts we received gladdened our hearts. We shall continue to operate the 'open-door' policy we had at Sine Nomine, unfortunately we will have to ask you all to 'go the extra mile'!

Ann & David Dendy
9 Dibleys, Blewbury 850760

50 Club Winners

March £25 Mrs Curran, £25 Mr Beckles, £10 Mr Betts, £7 Mr Shayler, £5 Mrs Hardy, £4 Mrs Davis.

CHURCH SERVICES IN MAY

ST. MARY'S

METHODIST

Sunday 9am

10.30am — Preacher

5 Family Eucharist
3pm Rogation Service
on parish boundaries
meet 2.30 at church gate,
no evensong at St Andrews

Marlene Chalkley

Thurs 9 8pm Benefice Ascension
Day Service at St. Mary's

12 Mattins
19 Parish Eucharist —
Pentecost

John Harding
Brenda Boyer

26 Parish Eucharist

Reverend Timothy Dibble

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

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