

UPTON NEWS

OCTOBER 2002

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MULTI-USE GAMES

This is just to keep everyone in the village posted about the progress on our MUGA.

The position and type of facility have now been agreed on and approved by the Parish Council. The multi-use games area will be situated parallel to the football pitch and between the pitch and the embankment. The wall section will be at approximately the half-way mark of the existing pitch and being end-on should not be any sort of an eyesore. The dimensions are 18m wide by 40m long. We have had to extend the length and width somewhat in order to allow for run-off areas which are necessary. It's also been decided to have surround chain link fencing (rural green naturally!) in order to give the benefits of continuous play by holding the ball in rather than having to chase all over the recreation ground.

The area will accommodate 5-a-side football, basketball/netball (shooting boards at both ends) a practice wall for tennis and football and on the outer grass side of the wall a provision for cricket stumps.

Carol Hall made a presentation to Sport England during August and our request was looked on favourably. They will probably provide 50% of the funding, assuming that we can raise the other 50% from various other funds. There is currently a huge push by Government to revitalise existing facilities and more importantly create new ones. Whilst we're not after a massive development our project is just the kind they're looking to fund.

We're now submitting applications. There are several funds available and we shall ask as many as possible. Once this funding is in place we can go back to Sport England. They will hopefully give the balance and the project can begin. It is obviously going to take a few months but with any luck by next spring we should have at least a major part of the funding in position. At that point we will be asking for a working party to clear the trees back to the embankment to facilitate easy access around the new sports area.

Graham de Wilde Sports Working Party

OXFORD TOURING
THEATRE COMPANY
bring us their first night production of

THE LITTLE PRINCE

an adaptation of Antoine de Saint Exupery's strange and wonderful parable. A pilot who crashes into the Sahara desert meets a little prince, a boy who tells stories of poetic and magical worlds — stories of his home planet and his fantastic journey to earth... Join the Little Prince on his travels amongst the stars, with their comical and exotic inhabitants. This classic fairy tale will move, amuse and mesmerise young and old, using Mask, Music and Song. A journey through the galaxy of our imagination...

**Coming to Upton village hall
Tuesday, 19 November 2002, 7.30pm
Tickets £5, £3 concession, from
Jessie West 851206**

Tiddlywinks Fundraiser TRASH OR TREASURE TABLE TOP SALE

**Saturday 23 November,
Upton village hall, 10-30-12.30pm**

To book a table to sell your own trash or treasure call Jo (850702) or Deborah (851488). Cost £6 per table. Otherwise, just come along and find a bargain. There will also be a cake stall!

Footnote. Tiddlywinks is a Pre-school Lunch Club in the village hall, Tuesday, 11-1pm. To all carers, do join us, with sandwiches and a toy or two.

Jo Murphy

BROADBAND

As internet users may know, Chris Whatmore is campaigning for BT to provide broadband for villages on the '850' and 851' exchange (Blewbury, Upton and the Astons.). So far around 70 people have registered their interest on-line, although 150 signed a petition in July. To add your name and increase our chances with BT, you should go to www.getadsl.co.uk/no_broadband.php and fill-in and submit the form.

Lively show at the Methodist Hall

The autumn VPA show (Upton, 14 September) always has a relaxed atmosphere, but competition was hot. Caroline Ball, Maggie Maytham and Karen Brooks again took home most of the prizes. Irene Timblich fought off Jane Kinneburgh to take the Cookery section. Jim Blackie collected the trophy for Vegetables, June Smith won for her Fruit and Diane Statham for Photography. Conrad Marinkovic and Alex Chapman Brooks cleared all the under 18s trophies between them.

Despite weather atrocities that saw gardeners sow 2-3 packets of seeds until a few finally germinated, torrential rain then hot sunshine for weeks with no rain and abundant slugs and snails, Blewbury and Upton gardeners proved that past standards are being upheld.

The show secretaries would like to thank everyone for their hard work and ask for support in making sure that the shows continue.

Important dates —

Saturday 12 October. Bring & Buy Plant and Cake stalls, Abners, Blewbury 2.30pm.

Wednesday 6 November. AGM and talk by Upton Cider (with samples), Vale Room, Blewbury 7.30pm.

Friday 6 December. Social evening at Toad Hall, Upton, with refreshments. Tickets £2, at AGM.

50 Club Winners

July £10 Mrs Marinkovic, £7 Mrs Fox, £5 Mrs Potter, £4 Mr Hartley.

August £10 Mr Napper, £7 Mrs Telling, £5 Mrs Hetherington, £4 Mrs Williams.

ROOF BOOST

A record £2350-odd was raised at the fete to help re-roof the church.

Many thanks to those who sponsored 191 tiles. This was a good start, but — as we need 15,000 — we are asking for more support. If any Upton taxpayer can make a sizeable gift-aid donation please contact Brian Simpson, Gift Aid Secretary (851192) or Simon Powell, Treasurer (850268). Ideas for further fund-raising stunts gratefully received. Ann Dendy (850760)

DIDCOT'S MASTERPLAN

For four days in September, Bryant Homes and Wimpey, the developers of the proposed 'Great Western Park' in Didcot, mounted an exhibition of their Masterplan for building 3200 homes on the west and south sides of the town. We attended the exhibition, our main concern being how Upton and other villages would be affected by traffic increase. Two quite encouraging points emerged:

1. Building work is to start from the north (ie from the A4130 opposite the power station) and may not reach the southern tip, at Park Road, for eight years.

2. The access to and from Park Road, we were assured, will be blocked by a 'bus gate' and used only by the residents in the southernmost corner of the development. How many houses this will mean is not yet clear, nor whether there will be ways round the gate for the determined rat-runner. But it seems the developers are very much aware of the threat to villages such as the Hagbournes and the A417, which may be overwhelmed by extra traffic.

Juliet and Peter Gardiner

Letters to editor

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the friendship and kindness shown me over the last five years. The changeover was sudden although expected, and was the only way I could achieve a five-day working week. Best wishes.

Mark (postman)

(In return we thank Mark for his unstintingly helpful service, and wish him well. Upton's new postman is Gerry.)

Many thanks to everyone who generously donated books for the bookstall at the church fete. They all went to a good cause: in addition to the £205 raised on the bookstall, we received a further £60 from a deal for about half the remaining books. The rest were shared between two charity shops in Didcot, with some of the magazines going to the doctors' surgery.

Judy and Ian Robertson

Commuting behaviour

A big thank-you to many people in Upton who very kindly completed and returned the questionnaire which will form the basis for my Geography GCSE project. The response has been terrific and I hopefully have enough information to produce a good piece of work. In particular, I would like to thank those of you who wrote encouraging comments and wished me luck with my project. My thanks also to Sheila Parker for supplying maps, books and historical data on Upton.

Matthew Smith

Learn to play Bridge

In November the Wallingford Bridge Club will run a 12-session course for two hours on Tuesdays starting at 10am. It will be the official 'Bridge for All' Unit 1, complete with notes, hands to try at home and revision exercises. Cost £30+EBU membership. Anyone may attend the first two sessions free, to see how they like it. Transport available for 3 people from Upton/Blewbury. For further details contact Mike Brown (850135).

CHURCH SERVICES IN OCTOBER

ST. MARY'S METHODIST

Sunday 9am

10.30am — Preacher

8 Family Eucharist Alan Fudge

10.30 13 United Benefice Service David Martin

St. Andrews, Hagbourne

20 Parish Eucharist Gordon Skidmore

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