

UPT NEWS

MARCH 2003

Vol.2 No.29

MUGA news

The Parish Council has approved sending out tenders for the construction of the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) on the recreation ground. This does not mean that we have the money in place, but it's the continuing process of providing necessary documentation to parties who might be prepared to put funds into the project.

The specification for tender, kindly done by Mark Yates, has estimated the cost to be about £45,000, which may seem a huge amount but spread over several funding groups this hopefully will be achievable. The work should take about eight weeks and we're planning for a start date of August 2003 to catch the dry weather, with a possible completion by the end of September or early October.

Whether this will actually occur is open to debate, but most funding organisations want a time framework so we have to put something reasonably realistic down. The tenders should be in by 12 April and Tony Durbin has kindly agreed to be project manager.

We have had a few financial contributions and if anyone does wish to make a donation this would be very welcome. Please deliver it either to myself, Tony Durbin or Carol Hall.

Another thing that would be very helpful — if anyone spots whilst reading newspapers or company magazines, or on the radio or television, items about groups that are offering funding to community projects such as ours, could they take down the details and pass it on to one of us to follow up.

That's it for now. We'll keep you posted on progress, oh and if anyone happens to win the lottery or inherits a fortune from a long-lost uncle could they please remember our little project! We believe it will do wonders for Upton.

Graham de Wilde

Thames Travel have started a **new bus service**, number 107 from Didcot to Oxford, which calls at the JR, Nuffield and Churchill hospitals. Six days a week it leaves Broadway at 26 minutes past most hours from 7am -6pm and leaves St. Aldates roughly on the hour. It takes a roundabout route, but useful for routine hospital visits.

Juliet Gardiner

SKITTLES & SUPPER EVENING

not to be missed

at

Upton Village Hall

Saturday 29 March

6.30 for 7pm

**good FUN good FOOD
good PRIZES**

Tickets **£6** available from
Jessie West, Sheila Dawson,
Frances Telling, Celia Davies

We will also be running a raffle during the evening. Prizes will include a Cake for Easter, Easter Egg, Wine, etc.

Proceeds from the supper for the village hall and from the raffle for this year's childrens' party

For those unlucky enough not to get a ticket for the skittles & supper evening raffle tickets may be obtained prior to the event!



*St Mary's
Upton*

**Sunday
30th March
2003
9am**

*Mothering Sunday
Service*

*Children bring your parents
for a special treat.*

Village Produce Association

We are now well into 2003 and looking forward to an interesting, enjoyable and informative programme for the coming months ahead.

On **Wednesday, 5 March** in the Vale Room, Blewbury at 7.30pm Richard Roslyn will give a talk entitled *A Gardener's Tale* about the Blewbury Manor gardens. Richard is Head Gardener at the Manor and has orchestrated a number of changes during his time there. Do come and hear about his experiences. Non-members are very welcome.

On **Wednesday, 2 April**, at the same venue, May Parker will talk about Monet's house and garden in France, and The Carmargue.

When travelling through Upton and Blewbury you may notice bulbs springing up along the roadside. It is very likely that a number of these have been planted by Ken Pottle, a long established committee member. This is an ongoing programme for which he has our most grateful thanks.

Alfred Timblick

BLEWBURY PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP EASTER FAYRE

Saturday 29 March

Noon - 2pm at the Village Hall
Our stalls include tombolas, raffles, crafts, Easter produce, children's games and play area. We will also be selling hot lunches.

This is our main annual fundraising event which we rely on

CHURCH SERVICES IN MARCH

ST. MARY'S

Sunday 9am

- 2 Family Eucharist
- 9 Parish Eucharist
- 16 Matins
- 23 Parish Eucharist
- 30 Parish Eucharist —
Mothering Sunday

METHODIST

10.30am — Preacher

- Peter Hemmings
- Alan Fudge
- Pearl Maunder
- John Harding
- Rev. Timothy Dibble

UPTON OIL SYNDICATE

Our oil syndicate has been running for almost two years and has gone from its initial idea to a membership of almost 90 strong. There are about 60 from Upton but we have now been joined by another 20 from Chilton and a few from Blewbury and the Hagbournes. Not only have we increased in size but the oil companies are really starting to take note and are competing aggressively for our business — which means a cheaper price for us.

With the situation in the Gulf and the oil market in general, prices are more volatile at present.

However, I still plan to organise our next big delivery for mid-March. I will probably organise another delivery for May subject to demand, then our usual big fill in July/August. **Please can you let me know if you would like to be included in the March delivery (minimum 500 litres) by Sunday 9 March.**

If you have been thinking about joining or have recently moved into the village and want to find out more you can contact me on 851362 or e-mail to colin.batchelor@eggconnect.net.

Colin Batchelor

The Valentine celebrations

Many thanks to all those who came to, and took part in, the St. Valentine Day's frolic. We were able to pass on £90 to the Village Hall. **Peter Gardiner**

Upton's pool of actors and musicians deserve a rave review for this performance of romantic poems, stories and songs, with paintings to go with them. Space only to mention Sarah and Jessie's scintillating Cat

Duet (Rossini), Simon's timid Jack Worthing (Wilde), Malcolm's masterly Peggotty and Barkis (Dickens) and Peter's wry Licorice Fields at Pontefract (Betjeman).

Geoffrey ended Part 1 on a high note from Under Milk Wood and the final Jeeves number brought the house down: Hilary, finely attired as stentorian Aunt Agatha; Charmian, as the terrifying young Honoria Glossop, had a laugh like an express train going through a tunnel. Soundman Paul's simultaneous splash — when Bertie pushed her brother into the lake — had taken an afternoon to set up in the bath. Derek managed the visual effects. **C.H**

for the purchase of toys, books, puzzles, games and craft equipment, as well as maintenance and heating (e.g. the re-pointing of the Old School chimney last year). This year we need to refurbish the kitchen area and toilets. Please come and support our Playgroup, which is an invaluable part of Blewbury and Upton life for so many children.

Trish Brooks

STUDY GROUP All are invited to join the Lent Study Group to be held weekly from Wednesday 12 March 7-30-9pm at Karibu, High Street. The course we will follow has been devised by Jenny Loder. Further information from David Denny (850760).

50 Club Winners

January — £10 Miss Wright, £7 Mr Lightfoot, £5 Mr Batchelor, £4 Mrs Fox.
February — £10 Mr Morris, £7 Mrs Riordan, £5 Mr Beckles, £4 Mr M. Parker.

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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Printed at the Duck House, Blewbury. Delivery organised by JESSIE WEST