

UPTON NEWS

APRIL 2004

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THE VILLAGE A CENTURY AGO
Stream Road viewed from the bottom of Pound Lane, looking towards the Crossing, where a plaque still commemorates a tree planted for the coronation of King Edward VII in 1902.

Parish Plan — results of the questionnaire

We would like to thank all of you who took the time to fill in the questionnaire. We received 117 replies, a response of 68% which clearly shows that there is much interest in the village and its future. We also had over 60 offers of help, from people with various skills. We need you and will make contact in the near future.

You were asked to identify three items you liked or disliked, and suggest improvements. It was not intended to be a referendum, but replies indicate that a few items are important to many of you. You strongly endorse that the village should retain its present character, yet there are a number of issues you feel very concerned about.

Likes: 86 descriptions can be summarised as 'a small quiet village in a rural community' (74% of replies). 68 mentioned 'peaceful', 48 'friendly neighbours', 26 'no street lighting', 16 'good access to road and rail links'.

Items of concern: 35 people said 'safety on main road', 35 'potholes', 26 'obstruction by parked vehicles on internal roads'. Other dislikes were: 15 'speeding on inner village roads', 8 'motorbikes on footpaths', 9 'damaged verges', 5 'dog fouling'.

A great many suggestions have been made. The lack of a village shop featured most prominently (36), and 10 people wanted a gas main. Many felt we should try to develop the sense of a

village community by increasing the social activities and encouraging more residents to support these. The absence of facilities for under 18s and over 60s was highlighted. There was support for building some affordable housing, improving the appearance of the village by planting more trees and re-furbishing verges. It was also felt that the way news and other information is distributed to the village could be improved.

In summary, there are a number of good ideas which need to be carefully explored. We have set up Working Groups for Environment and Planning, Transport and Roads, Social and Welfare, Facilities and Youth. We are looking for volunteers to sort through all the ideas, and work out what might be done and the costs. We will ask residents to approve, or offer views on the proposals at open meetings or by detailed questionnaire. We can then write an Action Plan that will guide the development of future policy. **Derek Whitmell**

CHILDREN'S PARTY

run by present and ex-Tiddlywinks parents
Friday 16 April 2-5pm Village Hall

Sports for 5-12 year olds, games/craft activities for under 5's. All Upton families with children aged 12 and younger should receive a personal invitation. If we've missed you out please tell us. Offers of help would be most welcome!

Tracy Seelig (851437) and Keren Thomas (851071)



EVENTS FOR ALL GARDENERS IN UPTON AND BLEWBURY

Wednesday 7 April, 7.30pm
Vale Room, Blewbury. *Tales from a Small Garden*: talk by Timothy Walker, Horti Praefectus at the Oxford Botanic Garden.

Sunday 25 April, 11 am
Why not join the VPA on a visit to Busy Baskets, the award winning nursery in Wallingford? Proprietor Susie Bond will answer questions and give advice, and you will be able to browse her home grown stocks of unusual container plants. Free, although donations to Nuffield Orthopaedic Hospital appreciated. Car sharing can be arranged. Contact **Rosemary de Wilde** (850345) to book a space.

Saturday 1 May. New membership cards and show schedules. Today is the launch of the new seasons's membership. A committee member will be hotfooting it to your door so that you can enter the summer and autumn shows. Family membership for £3, Senior Citizens £1. With talks, outings, shows, discounts in garden centres and shops, tools and gazebos to hire, how can you refuse? If you miss the recruiter, the Post Office has spare forms. Thanks Post Office!

Saturday 29 May. Plant Auction, Hall Barn, Westbrook Street, Blewbury. Bring plants 9.30-1, viewing and registration 1.30. Enquiries to Karen (850219).

Saturday 19 June. Visit to the Gardeners' World Exhibition at the NEC Birmingham. The VPA are planning to hire a coach for this outing, which will be free to members. The only cost will be for the entrance ticket, which can be bought on the day but is cheaper in advance. To book a place and/or order a ticket please contact Rosemary de Wilde, quickly!

Saturday 10 July. Summer Show, Blewbury School. How are your fruit, vegetables and flowers coming along? I have had to put the humane mouse trap down with bread and peanut butter to coax the winter squatters out of my greenhouse. This is no excuse not to enter, as I had had to try a bit harder and push things a bit. However, my roses are looking good, and I have things in pots and trays all over the greenhouse. But Alex's sweet peas are better than mine. I think she's got the cat guarding hers!
Karen Brooks

Cordial invitation to Annual Parish Meeting

Upton's Annual Parish Meeting will take place on **Tuesday 13 April, 8pm in the Village Hall.** This is NOT a Parish Council Meeting. It is the annual meeting of Upton parishioners, where everyone is entitled to voice an opinion and raise anything they would like which is relevant to the village. There will be a few short reports to start the evening, including updates on the Parish Plan and the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). Afterwards Sustrans will talk about proposed artworks on the Upton to Didcot cycle track. Anything else is up to you!
Tracy Seelig Chair, Upton PC

Travel Tokens

From 19 April travel tokens for anyone aged 60 and over can be collected from the Post Office. Please bring the recent letter from the Vale, or tel 520202 ext 463/537 if you are eligible and have not yet heard from the council. **Margaret Maytham**

50 Club Winners

March £25 Mrs Bucknell, £25 Mrs Murphy, £10 Mrs Collins, £7 Mr Patterson, £5 Mr Buxton, £4 Mrs Murphy

CHURCH SERVICES IN APRIL

ST. MARY'S

Sunday 9am

4	Parish Eucharist	At St. Mary's
11	Easter Festive Eucharist	Rev. Tim Dibble
18	Mattins	Brenda Boyer
25	Parish Eucharist	Helen Carter

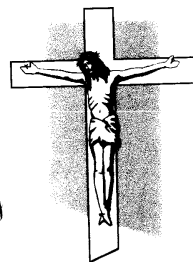
METHODIST

10.30am — Preacher

HOLYWEEK	5	8pm Holy Week Homily	St. Mary's
	6	8pm Holy Week Homily	St. Andrews
	7	8pm Holy Week Homily	St Michael's
	8	8pm Maunday Thursday vigil,	St. Andrew's
	9	10.30am Good Friday Family Service	St Mary's
		2pm One Hour Devotion at the Cross	St. Mary's

St Mary's
Upton.

Good
Friday



All are welcome to a
Family Service on
Friday, 9th April 2004
at 10.30 a.m.

Drama, song, prayer and stories
will describe the events leading
up to Easter.

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 or by e-mail to carol-uptonoxon@zen.co.uk

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