

# UPTON NEWS

MAY 2004

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## NEW ROUND OF FUND-RAISING FOR MUGA

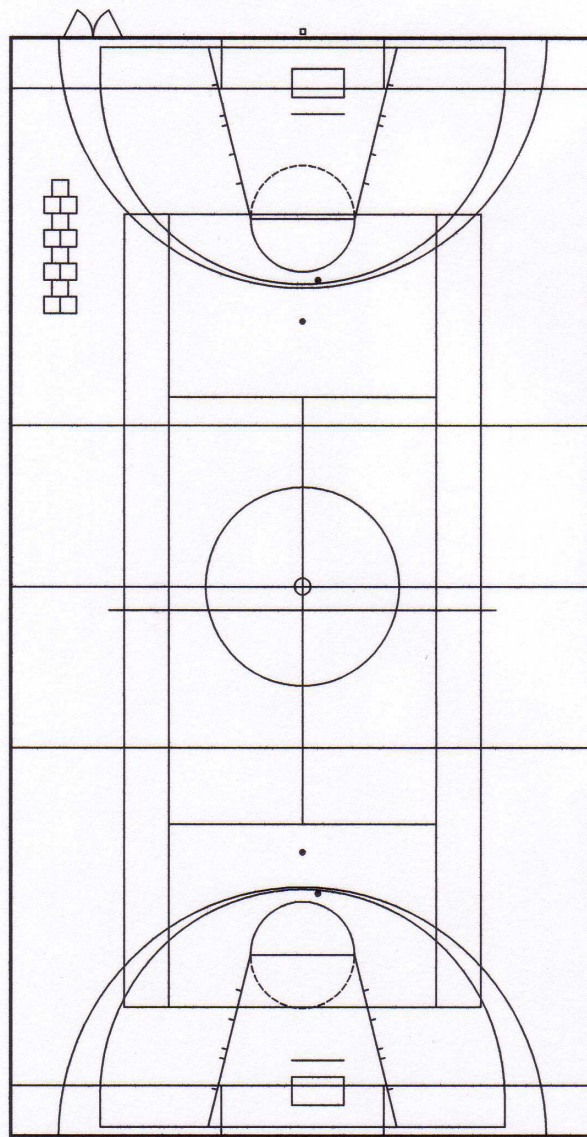
This month the Parish Council is re-applying to WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental) for a contribution towards the cost of constructing the Multi Use Games Area. WREN distributes landfill tax credits to local projects in the counties where these taxes are generated. Other sources of funding will also be approached to meet the total cost, now estimated to be in the region of £57,000.

We have been obliged to reduce the original project in order to obtain funding. The design has been changed by removal of the sportswall and reduction of the size of the hard surface by 20% to 18m x 33m. The markings on the adjacent plan show there is still plenty of room for playing football, tennis, netball, basketball and children's games (eg hopscotch, other suggestions welcome). As before, the MUGA will be surrounded by a 2.8m chain-link fence.

The sportswall could be added once the MUGA is completed, subject to further funding being obtained.

This project represents extremely good value for money. For a relatively small outlay, Upton will get a fantastic amenity that would provide villagers with social, health and environmental benefits and be a welcome sporting focus.

**Mark Yates**



### From Upton Skittles to Bowling for England

Young villager Matthew Smith — currently Captain of England's Under 18 Short Mat Bowling team — has just won a National Short Mat Bowls competition representing Oxfordshire. He beat 31 contestants from other English counties; so no wonder he's been winning Upton Skittles matches since he was ten.

His personalised set of bowls are QPR blue with logo

because he's 'a very keen football fan'. Now a sixth-former at Magdalene College School, which doesn't play football, he's managing a school team that plays away matches against local schools where he has friends.

He agrees that he could make good use of a MUGA. And when the Sustrans track appeared he bought a mountain bike which he rides to Didcot to visit his nan. **Carol Hall**

## OPEN HOUSE FOR OXFORDSHIRE ARTSWEEKS 04...

From **Saturday 22 to Sunday 30 May** there will be two Open Studios in Upton to visit daily (12-6pm). **Joan Durbin** will be exhibiting her latest landscapes in oil, acrylic and pastels, including paintings depicting the old railway track *before* Sustrans. **Sidney Hardwick**, who is a member of the Oxfordshire Craft Guild, will display her

stoneware pottery including washbasins, lamp bases, serving dishes and bird baths. In Blewbury artist **Alison Jones** is exhibiting her ceramics exploring the human form. **Ann Edwards** is opening her studio showing quirky monotypes of cats and dogs.

Although some people might be shy of entering a private home to view an exhibition, the artists are pleased to discuss their work and answer questions about it.

**Joan Durbin**

## ...AND A CROQUET OPEN DAY

☐☐ **Monday 31 May** Blewbury Croquet Club will celebrate the first anniversary of the opening of the new courts on Blewbury Recreation Ground with an Open Day. Members of the public will be very welcome. Club meetings are held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2.30pm and anyone interested can try their hand. Coaching courses start on **2 June** — enquiries to **Jolyon Kay** (850010).

## D-Day celebrations on our doorstep

Last month Upton Parish Councillors were invited on a minibus tour to learn about how the decommissioning of UKAEA's nuclear facilities at Harwell was progressing. We climbed iron ladders inside ex-fuel reactor cum museum DIDO twin of PLUTO, watched radio-active rubbish being sorted by robotic arms manned through 4ft thick glass, and came away with a picture of a venerable nuclear campus, heyday 1950s — now safely mothballed, though that seems a mind-bogglingly endless task — transmogrified into a grassy and impressive new science and business park.

On **Saturday 5 June from 2-7pm** — to celebrate the 27-acre site's older, airfield

history, there will be a free public event commemorating a 60th anniversary: in 1944, on the evening before D-Day, British troops flew from RAF Harwell across to France.

The annual open-air service at the Harwell Stone will be a bigger affair than usual. It will commence at 5.30 with a low-level flypast by four Gazelle helicopters of No. 7 Squadron AAC(V) Netheravon, and lasts about 30 minutes, during which the colours of Royal British Legion Units in Oxfordshire will be dipped in salute and wreaths laid. *The Last Post* and a *Lament* will be played by soloists.

Senior managers from UKAEA, Rutherford Lab and Diamond Light Ltd. will lay wreaths

on behalf of their staff and it is hoped that Chilton schoolchildren will take part.

During the afternoon the public can look at exhibition displays and take tea in a large marquee set up on the South Rugby Field adjacent to the Stone. Arrangements are being made for a local band to play, and the bells in nearby Chilton church will be rung in honour of those who died for the liberation of Europe.

Ten years ago at the 50th anniversary over 800 people attended the service, and large numbers are expected to do so again. Local TV, radio and press will be there, and interviews with veterans are already being done. It will be the first of a series of special services taking place throughout Europe that weekend.

For further information contact **Nick Hance** MBE at [nick.hance@ukaea.org.uk](mailto:nick.hance@ukaea.org.uk), or tel. 436909. **Carol Hall**

**DIARY DATE** — **4 September, 2pm Upton Fete**, on Recreation Ground.

### 50 Club Winners

**April** £10 Mrs Brown, £7 Mrs Temple  
£5 Mrs Ireson, £4 Mrs Bucknell

### CHURCH SERVICES IN MAY

#### ST. MARY'S

##### Sunday 9am

2 Parish Eucharist

9 Parish Eucharist

16 Mattins

3pm Rogation Service where  
parish boundaries meet

23 Parish Eucharist

30 Parish Eucharist

#### METHODIST

##### 10.30am — Preacher

David Kershaw

At Blewbury

Geoffrey Caudle

Brenda Boyer

Pearl Maunder

At Blewbury

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