

UPTON NEWS

JUNE 2004

Vol.2 No.42

WELCOME TO THE VILLAGE WEBSITE

We have a village website. www.uptonvillage.co.uk is up and running. This is for us all as villagers to use and grow. People can submit stories or pictures and provide feedback on what they think should be added, removed or changed via the feedback link on the site. Or hand them in to **Piran Fletcher** at Sine Nomine, Church Street.

The picture on the right shows the *home page*, with various areas of it labelled. The main part of the page — in the central column — has the current *welcome message*, a *Google* facility for searching UK websites, and most recent local *news stories*. These can be village events, village news or anything you think may be of interest and you can submit items through the website. We also intend to publish the contents of *Upton News*.

The right-hand column has three *Link areas* — to current *BBC News* stories, the latest *Survey* on some or other matter, and most importantly the *Login*. This lets you create an account as a registered user, and when registered log in and do more things on the site.

The left-hand column has *Links* to all parts of the site; preview and access to the *Photo Gallery* — currently displaying photos of the children's party; and *Who is Online*, which will tell you how many people are site users.

The four types of *Links* are: information about the site; registered access to facilities such as *Forum* or *Private Messages*; access to *Submit News* or *Search*; access to *Downloads* for information like Parish Council minutes or *Stories Archive* for old news.

To be living and useful our website needs content and features that Upton residents want. Possible



ideas could be a *What's on This Week* message; a directory of clubs and activities going on in the village or nearby; forums for such clubs, or people with a common interest in say cars or wine; or back copies of *Upton News*.

But it's your thoughts and input that will make this site work, so young and old please have a look, register and send in your ideas and your stories. If you have questions do feel free to contact me either via the site or directly.

Piran Fletcher

Apologies to Matthew Smith for the dire quality of the picture of him with his silver cups in last month's newsletter. We hope soon to remedy the limitations of a photocopier by using a laser printer.

FLANDERS AND SWANN ...recaptured

with James Mitchell
and
Graham O'Connor



The wonderful world of Flanders and Swann and other favourite material by Richard Stilgoe and Peter Skellern, plus Noel Coward — recaptured for you in a relaxing and intimate atmosphere

Come and enjoy a
Summer's Evening entertainment
on
Saturday 10 July, 7.30pm
UPTON VILLAGE HALL

Tickets £6.50 to include a glass of wine and light refreshments from Jessie West 851206



Upton Public Transport

BUSES

The County Council has had to make considerable cuts in its transport subsidies and as a result there is to be a new bus service **No. 94 Upton-Didcot** starting on **4 July 2004**. This will be less frequent than the **134** service and will occasionally take a route through West Hagbourne rather than Blewbury.

A summary of the proposed timetable:— *Departures Upton to Didcot (Mon-Sat): 08.10; 09.00; 10.40, 12.40 all via Blewbury; 14.40 via West Hagbourne; 15.40 to Chilton and Didcot via Harwell; 17.30 (not Sat) via West Hagbourne (Sat to Chilton only)*. Printed timetables will be available before the new service starts.

DIDCOT INTEGRATED TRANSPORT REVIEW

The County Council is carrying out a

review of transport in Didcot and the surrounding villages. For Upton, the main concern is the A417 road which now carries a considerable amount of traffic, much of it exceeding the 30mph speed limit, and is increasingly difficult to cross at various points. As a result of public consultation and discussion, people from Upton put forward suggestions for managing and calming of traffic.

The first short term measures have been agreed and should be in place during this year 2004-5, subject to funding. They are: gateways at both ends of the village, together with vehicle-activated signs (VAS) which light up when a vehicle approaches, and 30mph roundels marked on the road. Other suggestions included: VAS pedestrian crossing signs for the section covering the crossings at Prospect Road to the George & Dragon, Stream Road to the Lynchway and High Street to Aldens Lane; a traffic mirror at the bottom of the Lynchway; a footpath at the corner of Chilton Road; a lit refuge in the middle of the A417 at the bottom of Chilton road for pedestrians and cyclists, and rumble strips, but none of these ideas

was taken forward. The negative side of these suggestions is the proliferation of traffic signs at the entry to the village, already far too many for any motorist to take in and a visual eyesore. The transport study continues, and we hope to benefit from the next stage.

RIGHTS OF WAY

The County Council review of the rights of way in the parish was undertaken by members of the Parish Council and ourselves. There are only footpaths and byways-open-to-all-traffic in Upton, no bridleways. These tracks seemed on the whole to be in pretty good order. There are some broken and missing waymarks, which were reported, and there are worries about the dangerous crossing from the end of Stream Road to the Lynchway.

The **Cycle Track** along the embankment — a Sustrans track and not a right of way — is open and well-used. It forms part of a route from Didcot to the Harwell Chilton Campus and beyond to Wantage.

Juliet and Peter Gardiner

Transport Representatives (850449).

WE HAVE A BIG ENOUGH BLEWBURY SCHOOL BUS!

From **5 July 2004**, I have been informed that we will have a 15-seater minibus for the Blewbury Primary School schoolchildren — ie one with room enough to fit them all in. We've been struggling with an 8-seater for up to 11 children for the past two terms.

Please consider using the bus once it is here; it has been a hard fight by the school and parents to get this larger bus.

Kathryn Fletcher

Community Governor
Blewbury Primary School

JOHN WHITE

Judy, Helen and Peter would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes and support following the death of John. He was born in Blewbury and lived in the village for all of his 66 years. He was District Councillor for Upton and Blewbury for many years and will be sadly missed. There will be a celebration of John's life at the Abbey Hall, Guildhall, Abingdon on Tuesday, 29 June at 2pm; anyone who knew him and would like to attend will be very welcome. If you would prefer to travel to this event by free coach, please book your seat by signing the lists at Upton Post Office or Blewbury Shop.

Judy White

Shepherds Hey, Blewbury

50 Club Winners

May £10 Mr Hubbard, £7 Mrs Dauria
£5 Mrs Hall, £4 Mrs Acton



(sponsored by Tetleys)

YOU ARE INVITED TO BRITAIN'S BIGGEST TEA PARTY

on
Friday 18 June at 3pm
in the garden of **Castell**,
Stream Road, Upton
(if wet in the Village Hall)

Bring and Buy, Raffle

Do come along and enjoy tea
to support
Sobell House Hospice,
Oxford

CHURCH SERVICES IN JUNE

ST. MARY'S

Sunday 9am

- 6 Parish Eucharist
- 13 Parish Eucharist
- 20 Mattins
- 27 Parish Eucharist

METHODIST

10.30am — Preacher

- Rev. Tim Smith (at Didcot)
- n/a
- n/a
- n/a

If you have an e-mail address and would like a copy of the HUB on the days you can't attend church, contact **Dawn Saunders** on revedwin@aol.com and ask her to add your name to those already enjoying this service.

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