

UPTON NEWS

JULY 2004

Vol.2 No.43

Your Village, Your Pub

After a run of changes of landlords and managers we have the pleasure of welcoming Cielo (Shello) and Bill Collings and their family to the George and Dragon. Since they have been here the pub has been improved, not by big alterations but by the important little things; a friendly welcome, a pleasant family atmosphere, a change of menu to suit the needs of the village and importantly the cleanliness and general upkeep has improved no end. This has led to the business picking up and some rather pleasing comments floating around the village about the renewed atmosphere and great food and a much-improved pint.

The menu has been designed to provide good quality country pub food at sensible prices, including a good choice on the children's menu. A few examples are traditional Ploughman's Lunch or Cold Salad with Roast Chicken, Prawn Mayonnaise, Ham or Cheese, both at £5.50 for these warm summer days. Or Sausage, Egg and Chips at £5.75 for those who like a substantial pub meal and Salmon and Dill Lasagne with Salad at £6.75 for fishlovers. There is a good choice of Sandwiches and Baguettes from £3.20 and the children's meals are all £3.75 and include Mini Pizzas, Chicken Nuggets and Fish Rockets! Perfect for eating out whenever you like. They also cater for parties and will take special orders.

Bill and Cielo have done a great job and are providing a valuable service to our village by keeping the pub alive for us. Come and have a drink and a meal, bring all the family and see the difference for yourself.

Opening hours 12:00 to 3:30 and 6:30 to 11:00 from Monday to Thursday. Open all day Friday and Saturday. 12:00 to 3:30 and 7:00 to 10:30 on Sundays. Lunch is served every day, and dinner from Tuesday to Saturday. The Collings welcome any comments. Drop in for a drink or call 850723.

**From all on the Parish Plan
Steering Committee**

VIC AND SHEILA DAWSON'S OPEN GARDEN

2 Fieldside, Upton
SUNDAY 25 JULY 2-6 pm
Teas, Cakes, Raffle
Lots of fuschia and tubs and baskets
to see. Come along. Bring your
friends and family.
Admission £1
proceeds for the Village Hall



Jessie and Tony West with Tim Norris, the lead sculptor in the Didcot-Upton Railway Path art project.

Photo J.Bewley, Sustrans

UPTON HAS ARTWORKS

The biggest happening in Upton since the last train steamed out of Beeching Close took place on June 21. As part of Architecture Week and mentioned on its website, the Art and the Travelling Landscape Didcot to Upton Railway Path was officially opened. A gathering of cyclists, strollers and a class from Hagbourne school set off from the Didcot end to admire eight handsome seats-cum-sculptures positioned along the way.

Hand-crafted in English green oak at the Rycotewood Centre — part of Oxford and Cherwell College — the final year design students who made these were at the ceremony to explain how the old

/continued overpage

FLANDERS & SWANN

recaptured
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

Summer activities for the children

OUTINGS....

Tiddlywinks and after-school club families will be meeting in the village hall car park at 10.30 am throughout the summer holidays to go out and about as follows:

Wednesday 21 July

Boscombe beach (near Bourne-mouth) 9 a.m. meet

Tuesday 27 July

Hagbourne school pool
10.45 a.m. meet

Tuesday 3 August

Beale Park

Tuesday 10 August

Wittenham Clumps

Tuesday 17 August

Abingdon Splash Pool

continued from p.1

railway line inspired these works.

The 'outdoor resting place' nearest to our Sustrans ramp was made by Andrew Osborne. He has called it *briza media*, or quaking grass, whose distinctive seed heads grow on chalky soil. The oval shape of his bench allows sitters to appreciate the scene from all directions. The gaps between his geometric sections enable cyclists to prop up their bikes by the wheel.

The next seat along is *Sorbus* designed by Nick Smith in curves, to merge into the countryside. He has imagined the natural energy circulating in wind turbines and his spot also has panoramic views of the Oxfordshire landscape.

Contour Bench by Dominic Clutterbuck represents Wittenham Clumps. He says: 'I felt it was important to reflect the hills... I wanted to pay tribute to them because of their ancient properties and strong presence'.

Tuesday 24 August

Farmer Gows

Tuesday 31 August

Wallingford paddling and swimming pools.

All Upton families are welcome to join us. You will need your own transport and a picnic lunch. Please contact **Tracy Seelig** (851437) or **Suzanne Batchelor** (851362).

HOLIDAY CLUB...

Some parents of children at Blewbury School are hoping to hold a summer holiday club on **Wednesdays between 11 am and 2 pm in Upton village hall.**

Activities including craft, painting, outside games, food decorating and

Kester Hoefkins has made *Three Seats* — for individuals and 'family and friendship groups', incorporating high back chairs for 'more weary travellers'.

Peter Scott's *Spring Bench* represents the heavy solid suspension system of spring leaves, as seen at Didcot Railway Centre, while Rob Woods took notice of Didcot Power station with *Spiralling Steam*.

The lion's share of this £50K public art project — integral to the philosophy of Sustrans — came from the Arts Council and South Oxfordshire District Council, with the Vale, Blewbury and Chilton each contributing a little.

At mid-point along the path Jules Thompson, chairman of SODC, a biker wearing a chain of office, declared it open, describing the whole effort as 'a great example of an imaginative use of money'. Sandwiches followed at a presentation to the design team in Hagbourne Village Hall. **Carol Hall**

model-making would be available and each session would include a break for eating a packed lunch.

Anyone interested in the club would be expected to take a turn in organising an activity, setting it up and clearing it away. For more information and to register an interest please contact **Rosie Anderson** (851840) or **Dawn Saunders** (851022).

A FLEDGLING AFTER SCHOOL CLUB...

is meeting on **Friday afternoons from 2 to 5 pm at the village hall.** Tea/coffee, squash and biscuits are provided. Bring along an indoor/ outdoor game to share. Current children range from 6 months to 13 years. 50p a child per session. For all the above activities parents/carers are responsible for their children at all times. **Tracy Seelig** tj.seelig@tesco.net

ALFRED TIMBLICK

We would like to give our heartfelt thanks for all the tremendous support given to us in recent weeks and the many cards, letters and flowers received at this sad time. By village standards we have lived in Upton for a relatively short time, but the kindness shown to us has been overwhelming. Bless you all.

Irene, Anne and Diane

Christian Aid house-to-house collection.

The total amount raised in the recent collection in the village was £230.75. Many thanks to those who did the collecting and to all who contributed. **Alec Chenery**

TEA AT 3. A big thank-you to all who contributed to, helped at and attended the party, making it a successful and happy occasion.

Thanks to the generosity of so many people a donation of £202.30 has been given to Sobell House in the name of the village. **Daphne Simpson**

50 Club Winners

June £10 Mr Joel, £7 Mrs Patterson, £5 Mrs Telling, £4 Mrs Caffyn.

CHURCH SERVICES IN JULY

ST. MARY'S

Sunday 9am

- 4 Parish Eucharist
- 11 Parish Eucharist
- 18 Mattins
- 25 Parish Eucharist

METHODIST

10.30am — Preacher

- David Martin
- John Dennis
- Andrew Lockley
- Rev. Malcolm Atherton

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

Editor: CAROL HALL

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