

# HEADS-UP!

The newsletter for Headon-cum-Upton

February 2002

## A RIGHT ROYAL SUCCESS



### **Janet presents The Princess Royal with a painting of the Millennium Well Dressing**

(The painting, which is unique, was painted by Penny Veys, who painted the village maps, and was inscribed 'Presented to HRH The Princess Royal by the people of Headon and Upton'.)

What a wonderful day! The hall looked very attractive and welcoming, a large proportion of the villagers were there, the whole event went like clockwork and everyone who came thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. It truly was a day to remember. The funders of the extension project were impressed by what we had achieved, which should stand us in good stead if we need more money! When Her Royal Highness unveiled the plaque, she said that she hoped we wouldn't need to spend much more money until the next millennium! Personally, I wouldn't bet on it.

Everyone was truly impressed by the friendliness and informality shown by the Princess Royal and by her knowledge of village life. She was scheduled to speak to 12 people, as representatives of

particular groups, but in fact she spoke to many others as well, chatting about many subjects. We very much enjoyed meeting her and believe that she, too, enjoyed her visit.

John Mosley, the chairman of the Village Hall, received a letter from the Princess's Lady-in-Waiting, which said:

"The Princess Royal has asked me to write to thank you for welcoming Her Royal Highness to Headon cum Upton Village Hall.

Her Royal Highness was delighted to officially open the Hall and to have the opportunity of meeting many of those who worked so hard in making the project such a success. The Princess was touched by the warm welcome she received.

I am to thank you for the painting of a well dressing; it will be a reminder of a most enjoyable visit."

We certainly achieved our objectives: of welcoming Her Royal Highness to Headon, of bringing the village together, of celebrating our success in a big way and of gaining publicity. Most of you will have seen the YTV Calendar coverage of the event, we gave interviews to Radio Sheffield, Radio Nottingham and Trax FM, and the Retford Times and Worksop Guardian also covered the event. We are grateful to Adrienne of the Retford Times for acting as our photographer, the many excellent photos she took for us are on display in the Village Hall. If you would like to see these, and perhaps order copies, why not come to Social Club on Friday evening after 8.30. Otherwise, contact Janet or any Village Hall committee member who will arrange for you to see them.

Many thanks to all of you for your support. The response to the request for desserts was fantastic! Even more, your presence on the day was so important for its success. Without you, there is no point in having a Village Hall. We have proved that it can work, a large section of our community already responds to the range of activities we provide, so please – continue to support your Village Hall.

## **Parish Council News**

### **Notes from the meeting held on 28 January**

#### **Precept**

In setting the budget for 2002/03, the Council made the following decisions:

- To increase the grants for Churchyard maintenance to £200 per Church;
- To employ a contractor to cut the grass verge. The budget includes a provision for six cuts at a price of £200 per cut;
- To set aside £500 for the repair of the steps to the Grove War Memorial;
- To allocate £200 per village for projects to commemorate the Jubilee.

This shopping list amounts to £2,900. The Council is able to draw on its reserves (largely resulting from not having to pay a Clerk for the last 2½ years) to finance some of this expenditure. However, there is still a need to increase the precept from £1,573 to £2,720. The precept next year will be approximately £20 for the year for a Band D property, with proportionate reductions and increases for other bands.

#### **Car Park**

The District Council has offered to sell the land for £600 plus legal fees. The sale would be subject to certain conditions: not to be used other than as a car park; council tenants to have an unrestricted right to park there; and planning permission. The Council felt that the price was too high, that giving tenants unrestricted rights of parking could lead to complications and that the requirement for planning permission was simply a fund-raising exercise. The Council asked me to try to negotiate improvements to some of these terms and, in particular to remind the District Council that the Council's first request was for the District Council itself to extend the car park.

### **Saturday morning collections of bulky refuse**

The District Council has advised that this roving service will be discontinued with effect from April this year. A six-weekly collection service will still be available but residents will be required to deliver refuse to lorries parked at East Drayton or Rampton (assuming that suitable parking spaces are available in these villages). Alternatively residents can have bulky items collected at a cost of £5 for up to three items.

The Council felt that this change in policy is to be deplored, in particular because it is likely to lead to a increase in unauthorised tipping. The change will not lead to any cost savings to the District Council (although, of course, if the revised service is poorly used it may be withdrawn altogether). It seems that what has led to the withdrawal of this free service is that it is not available in towns and that this change in policy will equalise charges throughout the district. Councillors felt that this would be easier to accept if the same principle applied to other services provided by the District Council free of charge in towns but for which rural residents have to pay a precept. I have informed the District Council of the Council's total opposition to this change in policy.

### **Power Supplies**

The Chairman was pleased to welcome Mr G Taylor of East Midlands Electricity and three village residents. Mr Taylor, who is responsible for the ensuring that trees do not interfere with power supplies, was present at the Council's request following reports to an earlier meeting that East Midlands Electricity had drastically curtailed its programme of inspection of power lines. This turns out not to be true.

However, the company had failed to respond to the Council's request to send an engineer who is directly responsible for the power supply to the villages. The Council was particularly interested in discussing why the power had failed on 21 December, only two days after there had been a scheduled power cut in Upton to allow maintenance to take place, and then, two days later, the power went off again to allow repairs to be completed, without anyone being informed. Members also expressed their frustration at the electricity company's telephone service and in particular, that invariably there is an answerphone. Mr Taylor offered to supply answers to some of these concerns. Apparently, supply companies are not required (legally) to let people know that the power is going off if it is to complete the repair of a fault within five days.

### **Queen's Golden Jubilee**

The Council felt that, having given mugs to the children of the village to commemorate the Millennium, it was too soon to repeat the exercise. It also felt that it was up to each village to decide how best to celebrate the Jubilee and that the Council could help by making money available to an appropriate village organisation.

David Landon, Clerk of the Council  
Tel: 248282

### **Gordon Lusty – a really nice man**

I first met Gordon at the time of the elections in May 1999 and, as a former Parish Councillor in his native Warwickshire, he was naturally very interested in the Parish Council. I got to know him rather better later that year when he was one of the first people to join the Social Club. He came regularly, although not every week, and did not always stay very long. Although he liked a glass or two of whisky or red wine, no-one could call him a drinker. What he did like to do was to chat. He would always make a point of talking to me and, often to everyone else present. He was a quiet man whose style was not to join in a group discussion but to talk to people individually. Because of this,

not everyone knew who he was. On enquiring who he was, the reaction was always ‘Isn’t he a nice man’.

Our thoughts have been with Daphne and Kim and their families during what must have been a harrowing 14 months and are with them now.

David Landon

### **Other Village Hall News Evening Classes**

North Notts College will be running a 5-week accredited course on “First Aid”, starting on 21 February at 7.00pm. (**not** Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, as shown on the Village Hall notice board) Unfortunately, there were not enough people interested in the course on Food Hygiene, so it did not run.

***Please come if you are interested, and support your Village Hall.***

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### **Cyber Café**

The computers, printer and scanner are now available for use by any resident of the parish, on Friday evenings from 7.30, and at other times by arrangement. Contact Martin on 248767 or Janet on 248282. There has been a hitch with the video conferencing/telly talk – the equipment arrived the day before the opening, but was faulty. The engineer managed to borrow one for the opening, so that Sir Andrew Buchanan could launch UKOnline in North Notts. Incidentally, HRH was very interested in the telly talk, and spent some time talking to those in charge.

Our own equipment should arrive within the week. If you need to speak to someone, get help with filling in forms etc., at the Council office, contact us first to see if you can do it from the Village Hall.

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### **Letter**

To the Villagers of Headon cum Upton

In the past two years or so, great changes have been made in your two villages. We all have our own views on what constitutes “great changes”, but can I dwell for a moment on the great change that has taken place at the village hall. It could have affected many, but in fact has only affected a few. So much effort has been put into these changes – of which you have all been informed in some way – yet so few seem to want to take advantage of the benefits they offer.

For years the only focal point has been the Church which catered for only a small number of villagers, there was no place where others could gather to meet each other and socialise.

Now such a place exists and it would appear that apart from a small number of you, the place seems not to exist.

Don’t you want to meet other villagers socially? Don’t you want to meet other villagers socially? They can’t be all that bad surely. You pass by them in the street and wave and say hello, but there may be much more that you have to offer each other. There might be some interesting fun, or lonely people out there.

Would it be too much trouble to pop in and see what goes on from time to time. Attendance at plays etc. are mainly from outside the village, and believe you me, there are some superb productions.

You must by now know where and when people meet there. Go on, you might even enjoy yourselves.

“The Observer”

*Editorial comment: Why the anonymity? We thank the writer of this letter for their support, but wish to point out that, in fact, a large number of villagers now come to the village hall for various reasons – and not just the Grand opening! Even so, we would always welcome more.*

## Forthcoming Events and Other Notices

**New Perspectives presents**

***“Summer Comes and Life Changes”.***

***27<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30***

*in the Village Hall*

Tickets £5, £3 OAPs and students

**Supper included**

*Please note that New Perspectives will provide transport for anyone in the community who would like to come to the show, but has trouble getting to the hall. Please let Janet know (248 282) if this applies to you.*

### **The Jubilee**

Ideas for celebrating the Golden Jubilee are already being discussed, and it is clear that there is quite a lot of interest in doing something special. Any ideas would be welcomed, phone Janet on 248282 if you have a good idea! A party is the current most popular suggestion.

Another thought is to buy a copy of the Nottinghamshire Domesday Book. This is an exact facsimile of the original, commissioned by the Government for the Millennium, and now on offer to the public.

Let us know your views!

### **Headon-cum-Upton, Grove and Stokeham Parish Council**

The next meeting of the Council will be held on  
Monday 4 March  
at 7.30 pm  
at the Village Hall

Members of the public welcome!

**Need to lose weight after Christmas?**

**Try some enjoyable exercise-**

**LINE DANCING**

**More recruits are needed for this class!**

**Phone Julie on 710057 if you are interested**

### **Collection of Bulky Domestic Refuse**

**Next collection – Saturday 9 February**

### **Headon cum Upton web site**

If you run a business and would like to reach a wider clientele, why not put your details on our village web site?

Contact Martin Mosley on 248767 for more information.

### **Headon cum Upton picture gallery**

CDs, for playing on a computer, are now available. These show a pictorial history of the Village Hall, including the Grand Opening, and views of Headon and Upton, from the ground and from the air.

These are available for a cost of £5 each, proceeds to go to the Village Hall.

Contact Martin, as above

### **Baby-sitting**

Responsible 14 year old girl, available for baby sitting.

Contact Sophie McGlen  
01777 248187

### **200 Club January Draw**

1 <sup>st</sup>	£25	Helen Mosley
2 <sup>nd</sup>	£15	Jenny Parker
3 <sup>rd</sup>	£5	Ruth Cauwood

**For further details of any notice, phone 248282**