



HEADS-UP!

The newsletter for Headon-cum-Upton
(website: headon-cum-upton.org.uk/Index/Village/Newsletter)

February 2004

How good it is to know that Spring is just around the corner! The Hellebores and snowdrops have been in flower for some weeks now, already a few daffodils are out, and the plum blossom is on the brink of bursting into bloom. It certainly raises the spirits to see these signs of re-awakening!

I set up a bird feeding station in my garden last autumn, which I can watch from my study window, and I have really enjoyed watching the antics of the birds and spotting some more unusual ones. One bird which really puzzled me was a blue tit – but it wasn't blue. It had a milk chocolate coloured head and very pale under parts, so I sought advice from the RSPB and they told me it was an albinistic blue tit. There has been an albinistic blackbird, too, with a deep white collar around its neck. I have counted 21 different kinds of birds feeding over the winter. Did you take part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch? I did this on the 25th January, and counted 15 species on that day, but, strangely, I also saw a hedgehog wandering around. It must have thought Spring was here – I hope it went safely back to sleep.

Village Hall News

At their last meeting the Village Hall committee decided to seek quotes for redecorating, mainly because the removal of the fan heaters had left ugly bare patches on the walls. As a result, M. Dobell & Sons have now started the work. We expect that the hall will soon be looking as good as it did when it first reopened!

More people would be welcomed at the monthly art classes. Each class has a different theme, so it doesn't matter if you've not been to a class before, nor would it matter if you have no previous experience of painting. Everyone works at their own level, using either acrylics or watercolours. The next class is about painting textures, such as stone or tree bark. Classes cost £10 a day, payable on the day, so you need not commit yourself to any more classes than you want to attend. If you are interested, come along to the Village Hall on February 23rd at 10 am and see what's happening!

As you probably read in the Retford Times, the Broadband project's entry in their Prize Draw was not successful in winning any money, but did win a sound system. Ian is giving some thought on how to convert this into cash!

Theatre Club

PERFORMANCE	VENUE	DATE	TIME	PRICE
Phoenix Dance Theatre	Lyceum, Sheffield	Tues 23 March	7.45 pm	Members £24.00 Non Members £26.00
Blood Brothers	Theatre Royal, Nottingham	Tues 23 March	7.30 pm	Members £31.50 Non Members £33.50
Tom's Midnight Garden	Theatre Royal, Nottingham	Tues 27 April	7:00 pm	Members £19.50 Non Members £21.50
Lord of the Dance	Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham	Tues 3 June		Members £31.50 Non Members £33.50
Open Air Shakespeare/Concert Poss. Dinner or Picnic or both		July/August		

Margaret is delighted to report a very good response to forthcoming theatre visits. 49 people are going to see Cats, and two coaches are running on the 23rd March – one to see Phoenix Dance Theatre and one to see Blood Brothers. Anyone who would like more information about our events or would like to become a member should contact Margaret on 248053 or Paul on 248385

Parish Council News – Notes from the meeting held on 2 February

(These notes are based on my recollection of what was agreed at the meeting and not on the approved minutes)

Emergency plans

Jim Moran and Rob Fisher who are responsible for emergency planning for Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council respectively came to the meeting. The District Council essentially has a co-ordinating role with the emergency services, Health Authorities, Voluntary Groups etc. There are three designated emergency centres, the Leisure Centres at Bircotes, Retford and Worksop. The District Council can provide advice on health issues, dangerous structures etc. Unlike the District Council, whose Emergency Planning Officer has other duties, the County Council has a dedicated Government funded, full-time, multi-disciplinary team. They have produced a Strategic Emergency Plan and protocols for e.g. flooding and evacuation rest centres. Rob Fisher passed to the Chairman a template for a community plan.

Police Officer's report

PC Martin Hudson reported that there had been no reported crimes in the villages this year. He can be contacted on 01909 500999 ext 7370.

Road safety

I was asked to write to Nottinghamshire County Council about the lack of grit piles on Church Street, Headon, and the failure adequately to grit Stokeham Road. The Council agreed to send a reminder to the County Council about speed limits.

Bassetlaw District Council – Spring Clean

The District Council is organising a 'Spring Clean' between 19 April and 1 May. Schools, community groups and individuals can take part and the District Council will supply gloves and bags.

Affordable Housing

The Chairman referred to the results of the Village Appraisal, which indicated a desire for a limited amount of affordable housing. The Council decided to write to Bassetlaw District Council asking whether it has a policy on affordable housing and expressing the Council's wishes for affordable housing to be made available in rural areas in general and in Headon-cum-Upton and Stokeham in particular.

Internal Auditor

The Clerk reminded the Council that it is required to appoint an internal auditor, independent of the Council. Members will give some thought as to who may be prepared to do this job.

Highways

The following will be reported to Nottinghamshire County Council:

- Blocked drains in Thorpe Street, Headon
- Badly damaged Askham Lane sign
- Warning signs for Rampton School missing

Web Site

The Council agreed the entry for the web site, previously circulated in draft, with one amendment, for finalisation at the next meeting.

Grove war memorial

The Council discussed a letter from Grove Millennium Committee, previously circulated and representatives of the committee referred to a recent report in the Grove newsletter that the Parish Council was intending to apply for a grant. The letter asked that the grant application include all work required to the Memorial. The minutes for the last year show no reference to any discussion during Council meetings of making a grant application. In any event Parish Councils are generally not eligible to apply for grants and most funding bodies will only accept applications from community groups. Following discussion on the responsibilities of both the Council and the residents of Grove, the Council asked the Grove Millennium Committee to obtain estimates for all the work needed to the Memorial and to research possible sources of grants. The Council confirmed that it would provide some financial support for any grant application made.

Annual Parish Meeting

Members were asked to give some thought to this before the next meeting.

Next meeting

Tuesday 2 March at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

David Landon
Clerk of the Council

Well Dressing Society

Signcast of Edwinstowe are making the new village sign for Upton. It is to be cast next week and we expect it to be finished around the end of March.

Ode to the North Cape

David wrote this for the Microlight Presentation Evening last August, but this is the first time we have had room to print it. It is a reasonably factual account of Martin's adventure!

A microlight pilot called Martin
Decided that he'd take the chance
Of flying to t'North Cape of Norway
To raise money for th'Air Ambulance

It were a beautiful day when they started
Till clouds came down, low and thick
But they finally made it to Shetland
After stopping for petrol in Wick

Th'islanders turned out in their thousands
Wi' their cameras for pictures to keep
They'll talk o'nowt else for decades to come
Mek a change from talkin 'bout sheep

Then came the bit they were dreading
When they had to fly over the sea
There'd not be many garages open
And nowhere to stop for a pee.

Not long after they'd started t'mist came down
Now tha' might think that don't matter
But tha' wouldn't think that if tha'd bin wi' 'em
Trailing thi' feet in the watter

They knew by t'time they reached Bergen
That this were owt but a jape
But then they remembered why they were there
And headed for the North Cape

Well t'scenery were all reet they reckoned
With glaciers and fjords an' all
But Martin towd me t'view were nowt to compare
Wi' that from t'back of 'Eadon Village Hall

Now our Martin's a creature of habit
Goes to bed when it gets dark
Sleeps the sleep of the just for eight 'ours
And allus gets up with the lark

Well at t'North Cape he had a problem
For no-one had bothered to say
That in th'Arctic in t'middle o'summer
It's leet twenty four 'ours a day

After 72 hours 'bout sleeping
Martin turned and asked his friend Ed
'Ow much longer till t'sun goes down 'ere
I've long since bin ready for bed

It's brass monkeys in th'Arctic, even in summer
And frostbite had got to 'em all
So after Lapland and Finland and Sweden
Estonia were t'next port o'call

Now Edward and John they were champion
And Mark, well he were a sport
Least that's what they thought till they found out
He'd gone and lost 'is passport!

It turned out he'd left it in Finland
Puttin 'em all in a stew
T'British Consul couldn't 'elp them
'It's the weekend' he said 'what can I do?'

So Mark, he flew back to Helsinki
For a meeting with a cop
But e'd tekken some money to bribe 'im
And so Latvia was the next stop

In Riga they tried t'local bev'rage
A strong brew, heady and pale
But Martin tow'd me he'd much rather 'ave 'ad
A pint o' Broadstones's Ladywell Ale

An' then it were time to 'ead 'omewards
To an airport that's likely to grow
They were mecking for 'Eadon International
A rival to 'Eathrow

Th'ole village turned out to welcome 'em back
From the t'Land of t'Midneet Sun
There were salads and bangers and burgers
And bubbly served up by their John

Janet had contacted the media
Retford Times and t'BBC
There were one theer from t'Worksop Guardian
And another from Central TV

Well, t'reporters had all got together
To Martin they wanted to speak
All reet he said but don't hang about
I've not seen our Pat for three week

He'd thought about Pat quite often
Wondering if she were frantic
But he's chosen tonight, and me, to tell 'er
His next flight's across the Atlantic!

Now I've come to the end of mi' story
With the aid of some contrivance
About four intrepid explorers
Raising funds for th'Air Ambulance

And if tha's enjoyed what I've towd thee
And tha' don't think that it's all bin waffle
Then dig thi hands deep in thi pockets
And buy plenty o' tickets for t'raffle

Forthcoming Events and Other Notices

Advance Notice

New Perspectives Theatre Company
The Long Way Home
An uplifting new drama for children (aged 8+) and families
Wednesday March 31st



East Markham Curtains

Quality hand made:

- ❖ **Curtains** - Lined or Interlined, Pencil Pleat, Goblet, etc
- Pelmets, Swags and Tails
- ❖ **Blinds** - Roman and London
- ❖ **Cushions** - Plain, Piped or Border

Free measuring and window dressing service provided
Call Hasan on: 01777 870896 or 07890 674156

Headon-cum-Upton, Grove and Stokeham Parish Council

Next meeting
Tuesday 2nd March
at 7.30 pm
at Headon-cum-Upton Village Hall
Members of the public are welcome

200 Club winners

January draw:

1 st	£25	David Landon
2 nd	£15	Eve Walker
3 rd	£5	Catherine Landon

Baby sitting

Responsible 16-year old girl
available for baby-sitting.

Contact Sophie McGlen on 248187

Saturday morning collections of bulky domestic refuse

Next collection: 28th February

Art Class - "Painting Textures"

Thursday Feb 26 – 10.00am to 3.30pm

St Peter's Church – Services for February - March:

Sunday February 22nd	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday February 29th	10.30 a.m.	Group Eucharist
Thursday March 4th	7.45 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Sunday March 7th	8.00 a.m.	Said Prayer Book Communion
Sunday March 14th	10.30 a.m.	Prayer Book Matins (Bill Taylor)

Future events at the Village Hall

Friday nights from 8.30	Social Club
Wednesday nights at 7.30	Bridge class
Thursdays nights at 7.00	Spanish class
Tuesday nights at 7.30	
(alternate weeks Feb. 24, March 9 etc)	Whist Drive
Friday April 23 rd (provisional)	Race Night to raise funds for RADAR

For further details of any notice please ring 248282