

UPTON NEWS

OCTOBER 2000 Vol.2 No.6

Our district councillor explains new green bag policy on garden rubbish

The Vale's refuse collection contractor Biffa will in future only collect green waste if it is left in special green sacks. These sacks, which cost £6.46 for ten, can be obtained from the Vale (tel. 520202) and from Upton Post Office.

Obviously this will not be a popular measure and I am not thrilled with it myself. Why is it necessary? In 1990 the government of the day set a recycling target for the Vale of the White Horse of 25% of waste collected by the year 2000. The objective was to limit the amount of waste going to increasingly scarce landfill sites. The present government has continued the same policy and the Vale's target for 2010 is a 50% recycling rate. By 2015 it should be recycling two thirds of refuse collected.

Although the Vale has made good progress in the volume recycled in recent years, as a percentage of the total waste collected the improvement has been modest. At present the recycling rate is about 16%. The only way in which the targets could possibly be achieved is by reducing significantly the amount of green waste collected as part of the household waste collection.

MORE COMPOSTING

The Vale's policy is therefore actively to discourage people from putting green waste out with their

household rubbish and to encourage a fundamental change in the way in which most of us deal with it — preferably by composting ourselves. To this end, a low cost composter can be obtained from Blackwalls (tel. 0870 849 4850), the Council's approved supplier, for £15 (plus delivery). I realise that some garden waste will not compost and am looking for a possible communal solution to this problem. I am also aware that the policy may give particular difficulties to those on low incomes and the elderly, and I have already made representations about this.

NO SEPARATE COLLECTION

People have asked me why the Vale does not have a separate collection for green waste. The answer is that it would not be possible within the financial restraints placed on the Vale by current capping limits.

The Council was, for instance, hard pressed to finance the extension of the green box scheme to the rest of the Vale recently. I am afraid that because of government environmental policies — with which, let it be said, I both understand and sympathise — we are stuck with this policy. I will, though, do everything I can to lessen the problems it may cause and would be happy to hear constructive comments.

Richard



BUSES GALORE

Today Upton bus passengers are well provided for. Thames Travel operates nine services daily to and from Didcot, Monday to Saturday.

We understand from the County Council that Tappins Service 86, depart Upton 9.30

and 14.30, return from Broadway 11.20 and 16.20 Wednesdays only, will also continue. If all goes well, this contract will extend for the full four-year period until April 2004. But it does depend on the bus being used, and could be terminated at any time if there was not enough custom. So, to keep it going, please encourage everyone to use the buses.

There is now a National Bus Information service covering the whole country, tel. 0870 608

2608, national call rate. This does not include National Express, which has its own information number 0870 580 8080.

Juliet and Peter Gardiner (850449) Parish Transport Representatives.

SEE OVER FOR
THIS MONTH'S
LIVE MUSIC EVENTS

Live music diary

Saturday 14 October 7.30pm

P Sine Nomine and friends, choir and orchestra will perform Handel's Messiah at St. Michael's Blewbury. Tickets £10 at door, in aid of Douglas House, Oxford.

Saturday 28 October 7.45pm

P Come and hear glorious music from the Russian Liturgy by Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky with uplifting contemporary works sung by candlelight in the beautiful surroundings of Douai Abbey (Woolhampton, Berks). Performed by professional choir **Singscape**, conducted by Upton

resident Sarah Tenant-Flowers. Tickets £10 (£9 concessions) from 01635 522733 (Newbury Corn Exchange Box Office).

Saturday 28 October 7.30pm

P Early music of the British Isles at St. Mary's Upton. A flavour of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales with harp, lute and voice. **Kantando** — **Georgina Craig** and **Trish McLaughlan** are joined by harpist **Anna Georgina Chitty-Dobson**, who grew up in Upton, for an evening to remember. Tickets £5, to include a glass of wine, from 851205 or at door.

UPTON AND BLEWBURY BRING AND BUY SALE

2pm Saturday 14 October is the time and place for the Village Produce Association's Annual Bring and Buy Cake and Plants stall, to be held at Abners, Church Road, Blewbury by kind permission of Joyce and Bob Gilbert. Please bring as many items as you can.

Also in October is another excellent visit — this time to Harcourt Arboretum, Nuneham Courtney (cost £2). This is on Wednesday 18 October, leaving Blewbury/Upton at 1.30pm. As usual we will try to arrange

a car-sharing outing, so please pass back your completed slip with the money to Margaret Maytham at Upton Post Office, by Wednesday 11 October, to allow car-sharing to be arranged.

The AGM of the VPA will be held on Wednesday 1 November at 7.30pm in Blewbury Village Hall. After the short AGM, we will be having a talk entitled 'Unusual and long-lasting flowers' by Derry Watkins. We all like to extend the length of time we have flowers blooming, so do come and pick up useful hints.

General VPA queries to Malcolm Wright (850705).

SUNDAY SERVICES IN OCTOBER

St Mary's church

9 am

1 Parish Eucharist

8 No service at St. Mary's

10.30 United Benefice

Service at St. Andrew's

15 Choral Matins

22 Parish Eucharist

29 Parish Eucharist

Methodist church

10.30 am — Preacher

Rev. Timothy Dibble

Peter Forsaith

John Harding

Ruth Dams

Gordon Skidmore

ST. MARY'S FETE

It rained at 4pm, an hour too late to claim insurance. Nevertheless, proceeds at the millenium church fete exceeded £2000 for the first time. Raffles, teas, tombola and plant stall each raised over £200, and an anonymous donation boosted the total.

A striking novelty was the draw for a trip in Brian Rippon of High Street's hot air balloon. This was not tethered over the garden, but its basket gave out gentle roars. The winner was Brian's close neighbour, Mike Hardy. So, some still day soon they will be floating overhead.

Classes in the new photograph competition were won by Father Edwin (Pets); Sheila Pusey (Landscape and Architecture); Clare Lightfoot (Nature); Professor Gudfreund (Portrait).

Upton history quiz

Many people worked diligently on the quiz during the Historical Treasure Trail weekend. The prizewinners were: Judith Wright £15; Ross and Frances Telling £10; Jane Bray £5; Alice Hughes £5 (Children's prize).

Village Map

This has sold out, but Margaret Maytham is keeping a list in the Post Office for those who still wish to order a copy. Deadline mid-November so that it can be reprinted before Christmas,

50's CLUB

August winners:

Riordan £10; Creed £5;

S.Brown £4; Scotney £3

This is the main fund-raiser for the Village Hall Amenities Trust. Membership £6 p.a.

UPTON NEWS is published monthly, the copy deadline being the 18th 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, disk, fax (851779) or by e-mail to carol@uptonoxon.demon.co.uk

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