



NOVEMBER 2000 Vol.2 No.7

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE

As you have probably all heard by now, there were four shed break-ins and theft of lawnmowers and garden equipment in Upton on the night of Tuesday 3 October.

In the circumstances there was very little that could have been done to avoid these incidents. However, if you own a shed with valuable tools, etc. in it, please ensure that the windows are covered up and that a heavy-duty padlock is secured. You may also wish to purchase a search-light (cost approximately £15 from Do-It-All) to deter intruders. **Celia Davies**

An appeal for help

We have once again been plagued with vandalism at the Village Hall. This time they have outshone themselves by breaking not one window but three. These damaged windows are on the play area side and anyone causing damage could have been seen and heard from Station Road.

Did anyone see or hear anything unusual late on Saturday 16 or early on 17 September? The local police are very anxious to hear from anyone with any information. It is important that anyone who sees damage being caused to the village hall or surrounding area should make that one important call to the police. We cannot go on letting this vandalism continue in our village as it is very costly and inconvenient to other people. Please make that call now! Many thanks.

Chris Hughes

Caretaker, Upton Village Hall

Village hall raffle

Following the success of last year's Village Hall Amenities Trust raffle, which raised over £400, we are once again selling tickets house-to-house in November and December. Committee members on the job are Sheila Parker (850591), Jessie West (851206), Sheila Dawson (851205), Sue Bibby (851135) and Frances Telling (850448). A list of prizes will be published in the December Upton News. Offers of gifts for prizes will be gratefully received.

INTER-VILLAGE QUIZ

Harwell have invited Upton, Blewbury, Cholsey and the Hagbournes to take part in a Millennium Quiz at their British Legion Club at 7.30pm on Saturday 25 November. Two teams of three, from each village, will contest two rounds of general knowledge questions. After the interval (8.30 to 9.15, licensed bar and refreshments) the four most successful teams will compete in a round-robin contest, with buzzers, à la University Challenge. In round 4 the two highest scoring teams will battle it out, answering individual questions with no conferring. Trophy for winners. Our teams are being selected. If you want to participate, or you know anyone who should be competing for Upton, please contact 851206.

IN YK2 MAKE SURE IT'S NOT YOU



KEEP SAFE THIS NOVEMBER 5th!

- follow the instructions on fireworks.
- check they comply with BS7114.
- let Trading Standards know if fireworks are being sold to people under 18
- tell the police if fireworks are being let off in the street - it is a criminal offence.
- ask the Fire Service for bonfire advice.

Whether you are buying a small garden fireworks party or a more organised display Oxfordshire County Council has FREE FIREWORK SAFETY Training Videos and leaflets that may help you.

Plus:

1. In-store on (01235) 812666 of Trading Standards or
telephone the Community Fire Safety Helpline
on (01665) 749900 to book your video.

BUS TIMETABLE



THAMES TRAVEL service 134
to and from Didcot

Monday-Friday

Upton	
Broadway	
07.49	10.17
08.49	
11.17	
11.43	
13.17	
13.43	
14.17	
14.43	16.17
16.33 via Chilton	17.17
17.43	19.17

Saturday

08.49	10.17
10.43	11.17
11.43	13.17
14.43	15.17
15.43	16.17
16.43	17.17

50's CLUB

SEPTEMBER WINNERS

Rowbotham £15; Collins £15;
Ferguson £10; Mrs Steward £5;
Mr Grimshaw £4; Mr Yates £3.
This is the main fund-raiser for
the Village Hall Amenities Trust.
Membership £6 p.a.

SUNDAY SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

St Mary's church	Methodist church
9 am	10.30 am — Preacher
5 Parish Eucharist	Brenda Boyer
12 Parish Eucharist	John Dennis
(Remembrance Day)	
19 Choral Matins	Rev. Timothy Dibble
26 Parish Eucharist	Andrew Lockley

Tough questions for VPA

The AGM of the Upton and Blewbury Village Produce Association will be held on Wednesday 1 November, at 7.30pm, in Blewbury Village Hall.

This meeting is of special interest to all members since the future of the VPA will be discussed. For instance, are village shows a thing of the past, when life went on at a slower pace and there seemed to be more leisure time? Since most adults now work full time, with many options for leisure pursuits open to them, is a village show, and indeed a produce association with its talks and visits, still viable? It's your choice to air

your opinion.

A number of committee members intend to stand down, so new members are required to ensure the viability of the society going forward. The committee meets around 6 times a year and helps with shows and talks.

Any items for the agenda should be notified without delay to the Secretary Malcolm Wright (mcw@breathemail.net or tel. 850705).

There will also be a talk entitled 'Unusual and long-lasting flowers', and cheese and wine will help the meeting go with a swing.

FARM TRACKS

For the last three months, and without warning, the parish has received thousands of tons of excavated spoil which has been used to 're-surface farm tracks'.

Many people, particularly walkers using the footpaths, have been alarmed by the noise, pollution and potential danger of the 16-tonne lorries used for the operation.

Sadly extensive work has been carried out in Mead Lane and Common Lane, the last of the old, unspoilt green lanes in the parish.

News in brief

Free 'drop-in' seminars are being arranged by the Vale DC and Southern Tourist Board to encourage more people in the villages to offer bed and breakfast accommodation. Next sessions on November 2 in the Abbey Room, Abingdon (10am-12.30) and Wantage Civic Hall (2-5pm). Contact tel. 540345.

The 'Messiah for Hospices' sing at St. Michael's Blewbury was attended by over a hundred people including singers, musicians and audience. Salima Simm of Douglas House Respite gave an interval talk, all concerned gave a splendid and uplifting performance of Handel's great oratorio and £1,085.00 was raised for the hospice. Sine Nomine, the organising choir, were but one of over 600 choirs taking part throughout the world.

A green and yellow umbrella was left at the Village Hall during the Historical Treasure Trail. Owner please contact Sheila Parker (850591).

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, by fax (851779) or by e-mail to carol@uptonoxon.demon.co.uk

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