

# UPTON NEWS

JANUARY 2001 Vol.2 No.9

## A good time for Uptonians

On behalf of the village, Upton News says thank you to Jessie West, and her band of helpers, for her hard work in organising so many social activities during the past year. The variety of events and opportunity to mix with fellow villagers was truly remarkable, and enabled the first year of a new century to get off to a flying start.

Of the 20-odd items in the millennium catalogue, a highlight was Peter Gardiner's dramatic evening celebrating Fools (on April Fool's Day) and Mothers (on the eve of Mothering Sunday), which played to a full house. Remember Lady Bracknell (Dr Rowbotham) 'handbagging' her prospective son-in-law Geoff Summers? The youngest performer was 10-year-old David Yates from Fieldside who routed his aunt (Rhona Hogg) in a Saki story. Memorable also were the bank holiday walks, family fun day, open-air concert, treasure trail and much else.

## POST OFFICE NEWS

Happy New Year to you all. The year 2001 holds a lot of new events to come in the Post Office. On 22 January it will be closed, and only open on 23 January between 4 and 5pm. This is because I have to go for training on the Horizon computer, which will be installed hopefully in February. My big worry is passing the test on the 23rd.

After that, even if all goes well, there are bound to be teething problems if I know anything about computers (and that's not much) so please bear with me. I will keep you posted.

Margaret May-

tham

### Who has the Lucky Number?

The lucky number for the Millennium Programme draw is 027. The prize is £50. Please claim it from Jessie West (851206). If unclaimed, the number will be re-drawn on Friday, 26 January.

### The Christmas Draw

Sheila Parker, Hon. Treasurer of the Village Hall Amenities Trust, thanks everyone for their support in the Christmas Draw — those who gave prizes and all who bought tickets. £347.50 was raised for improvements to the Village Hall.

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## 21st Anniversary Year

# Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company

### Winter Tour 2000/2001

## *Tales of the Arabian Nights*

### at UPTON VILLAGE HALL

### on WEDNESDAY 10 JANUARY 2001 at 7.30pm

OTTC makes a welcome return to Upton in its 21st year of touring. Tales of the Arabian Nights is an enchanting collection of mystical tales for the whole family!

Pull back the veils, plump up the cushions, fill your glasses and lose yourselves in a deep bowl of colourful spices filled with jinns and sorcerers, khalifahs and crafty thieves, bawdy ruffians, princesses, Ali-Baba and Sindbad. Join Shahrazad, whose sweet voice will weave magical tales long into the night.

But can her storytelling save her from the cruel and cold hearted King Shahrayer? Come along to find out her fate.

Tales of the Arabian Nights

...will be a great combination of OTTC's fast-moving storytelling with a generous helping of songs, ingenious set and exciting effects and, of course, plenty of chances for the audience to help the story along!

Tickets £5 and £3 concessions available from Jessie West 851206

## AUDREY DAMN-

Audrey Damnjanovic died on 3 December 2000 at the age of 79. Audrey had been born in Upton, the youngest of three daughters of Ernest and Florence Brown, and lived all her life here. Brought up in the simple way of the day Audrey always retained her contentment with what she had. In 1950 she married Miodrag, (fondly known to the whole community as Koma), a Yugoslav living at Upton Lodge, having previously been a prisoner of war in Germany.

Audrey had a life-long love for St. Mary's and was awarded a medal when she completed forty years as organist. She took pride in her family both past and present; one of her delights was the fact that her grandfather, Mr. Tyler, had been one of the last shepherds to lead his flock. His crook was later taken by the bishop of Singapore and is now in use at the cathedral there.

Though small in stature Audrey radiated enormous love, not only to her children, Dani and Peter, and all her grandchildren, but to neighbours and friends alike. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

## 50's CLUB NOVEMBER WINNERS

Mrs Angela Brown £10; Mr Collins £5; Mrs Morris £4; Mrs Shaw £3. This is the main fund-raiser for the Village Hall Amenities Trust.

## CHURCH SERVICES IN JANUARY

St Mary's

Sunday 9 am

10.30 am — Preacher

7 Parish Eucharist

14 Parish Eucharist

21 Sung Matins

28 Parish Eucharist

Methodist church

John Dennis

Andrew Lockley

Reverend Timothy Dibble

Margaret Challey

## 'OUR VILLAGE'

'Surrounded by gentle Oxfordshire countryside, Upton is a charming village offering a peaceful and unhurried way of life. With several fine period properties, two churches and a church hall (sic), a post office and pub, there is a real sense of community rarely found today. Yet, despite the lovely location, everything you need is close at hand. The neighbouring village of Blewbury, which is actually connected by a footpath, is just a mile away, with a collec-

tion of shops that include a small store and green grocers, perfect for everyday shopping... For even greater choice in shopping, the picturesque riverside town of Wallingford is within easy reach... Slightly further afield you have the major centres of Oxford and Reading, with shopping precincts, malls and markets, restaurants, bars and cafés, and all the nightlife you could wish for...'

Quotation from the glossy brochure advertising Charlgrove House, the remaining unsold Berkeley Home in High Street

## Neighbourhood Watch

### Cumulative crime statistics in Vale villages in the Didcot area

From: 1 April 00 To: 31 October 00	No of Houses	Burglary Dwelling	Burglary Other	Theft of MV	Theft From MV	Criminal Damage	Misc Crimes	Violent Crime	Total
Appleford	136	1	1			3	1		6
Blewbury	684	5	9	2	2	4	20	1	43
Chilton	312		5	1		5	7		18
Harwell/Rowstock	960	10	19	6	17	9	26	9	96
Milton/Milton Hill/Milton Heights	414	3	5	4	12	7	20	1	52
			2	2	9	3	16	1	33
Upton	167	1	5			1	2	1	10

#### Note:

These figures are for the eight months April - October 2000 inclusive

Celia Davies feels these crime figures will be of interest to householders.

She would also like to thank Mr Lightfoot and Mr True who have recently approached her and offered to act as Neighbourhood Watch coordinators for Newlands Close and Upper High Street respectively.

## News in brief

Blewbury School has registered for the computer software being offered by the Daily Telegraph. Tokens are available from many sources, including the DT. Each has a value of 50p and by collecting just 50 the school can claim free software. Forthcoming

PTA events in the school hall are Bingo on Thursday, 25 January 7.30-9.30 (phone Jane Strange 850838 for a lift) and a Fashion Show on 28 February, when end-of-line/sale goods from high street stores will be on sale.

Rachel Marffy (850300)

There will be no Blewbury and Upton VPA meetings in January and February, but watch this space for March. Remember that we send orders to the Kings Seed catalogue, which is bigger than ever, and our discount amounts to about 24%. For a loan copy contact Brenda Hopkins (850181 or e-mail bjp.hopkins@ision.co.uk.)

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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