

UPTON NEWS

FEBRUARY 2001 Vol.2 No.10

NO RULES FOR ROAD DIGGERS

We may count ourselves lucky to live on the Icknield Way; but unfortunately today's giant telecom companies also find the A417 the best route for laying fibre-optic cables along 'to get up the country'. Last year Torch and City of London Telecoms shared a trench (September Upton News) now Scottish and Southern Energy are laying more ducts along our main road and churning up the verges.

No one can stop them. But as Mark Francis, Highways Inspector at the OCC Highways office at Drayton explained 'We

monitor and and oversee the work'. He is having a busy time: only the other day Scottish Energy and Cable and Wireless were both digging at once at the top of Steventon Hill.

Maybe that is why he hadn't heard that on 26 January the contractors, Murphy's, drilled through a main BT cable crossing into Prospect Road outside the George & Dragon — an accident that deprived 100 Upton households of their telephones for nearly a week.

Apparently BT hadn't provided the 'A55s' that indicate 'where plant is in the ground'. Also, Murphy's say, below the road is getting congested.

The only condition laid down is that the contractors must leave the carriageways and verges as they found them. If asked Mr Francis prefers the verges to be dug, because re-sown grass soon grows.

As for BT, when the Upton lines were restored a man in High Wycombe telephoned each number to apologise. It was a major fault and took time to repair because a weekend intervened. Residential customers will be compensated for being more than two working days offline. Luckily, at the pub Chris and Sue Linney, who 'lost a fortune' in bookings, are insured against disruption to business after only twelve hours. C.H.

THE LITTLE ANGEL
THEATRE COMPANY

presents **IN THE BEGINNING**

Monday, 19 February at 3.30pm

in **UPTON VILLAGE HALL**

'In the Beginning...What if?' is a play about beginnings for the start of the new millenium . A child's eye view of the Story of Creation will captivate and introduce the audience to the strangest, most entertaining Creation story ever told.

Drawing on Creation myths from around the world, this original and imaginative new piece is a vibrant mix of puppetry, performance and music.

Be amazed as the world is created in front of your eyes, as fish and animals emerge all higgledy-piggedly out of the mud into a wondrous garden, where chickens sing and dance and a man and a woman are born out of a magical egg.

Tickets £5 (£3 concessions) from Jessie West 851206

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR TICKETS SOON, AS THIS IS WIDELY ADVERTISED

The theatre is FREE of charge for Upton children as part of the Annual Party.

Tea will follow in the Methodist Hall. Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

VILLAGE CRIME

'I was reading the Upton News with interest. I would like to point out that the crime statistics (January Upton News) must be based on reported crimes and not actual crimes, as I for one have had my tax disc and window screen wipers pinched from my car parked in my drive (also damage to cars belonging to visitors to my home when someone has tried to break into them) not to mention several episodes of minor vandalism mainly when the pub turns out, which seems too small to bother the police with. I might be more effected because I am on main route from Pub to other parts of the village who knows, but I also know the main house gets intruders into their grounds about the same time!! Perhaps this point is worth making.'

E-mail from Carol Clark
Prospect Road

Parish Council matters

Tenders are invited for maintenance of the recreation ground for the summer 2001 season.

Requirements are the cutting of grass in the recreation ground/football field and cutting/collecting of grass in the enclosed play area, plus strimming as necessary. Fortnightly cutting from 1 April to 30 September. Quotations are requested on a per cut basis. Replies to **Lynne Riordan**, Clerk to the Parish Council, The Briary, Stream Road, Upton OX11 9JG by 28 February. Please telephone 850165 with any queries.

There are still a few copies of the village map at the Post Office. Once sold there is unlikely to be sufficient demand for a further print run, so hurry. When they're gone they're gone!

ARABIAN NIGHTS

Sheila Parker reports another successful visit from the Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company. 'Thanks to Jessie West for again organising a very enjoyable event and thank you all for coming. A profit of £134.95 was made for the Village Hall Fund'.

NEW LUCKY NUMBER A£50 prize awaits the person with the millenium programme number 107, which was redrawn on 26 January. Winner please claim this from Jessie West (851206).

50s CLUB WINNERS DECEMBER 2000

Mrs Tumblick £20; Mrs J. Parker £20; Mrs Lightfoot £10; Mrs Black £5; Mrs West £4; Dr Rowbotham £3. This is the main fund-raiser for the Village Hall Amenities Trust. Membership £6 p.a.

KNITTERS OF UPTON

Thank you to all who continue to knit for the babies and toddlers of India. The charity concerned has now decided that the pattern of preference is the T-shaped garment found on the Oxfam leaflet. However, their greater desire is for 6in. woollen squares to make 4x6ft. blankets. Personally I find these a chore and less than creative. However, if anyone is willing to knit them there are ladies in East Hagbourne willing to sew the squares together. I will continue to pass on any items you generously make. **Ann Dendy** (850760)

WE NEED YOU IF YOU LIKE TO SING

St. Mary's has a small but dedicated choir whose main purpose is to lead the worship in the sung parts of the service, particularly at Matins on the third Sunday in the month.

We co-operate with the two other choirs in the benefice and are also a member of the Royal Society of Church Music. This gives opportunities for choral training and participation in choir festivals at Dorchester Abbey and elsewhere.

We would welcome new members of all voices. Because we have a minimal number of rehearsals it would be helpful if you were able to attend regularly. On most Friday (except fourth) at 6.30pm and occasionally after morning services. Practices are held in church or across the road at 'Sine Nomine'. If you are interested please contact **David Dendy** 850760.

NEWBURY SHOPPING

Celia Davies wonders whether people are aware that every Thursday there is a bus to Newbury from Chilton. Leaving from the Post Office at 9.45am it arrives at Marks & Spencer's at 10.10. 'You then have a good three hours for shopping. It departs from Newbury bus station at 1.30pm and returns to Chilton at 1..50. At £2.70 return I think it is excellent value.'

AGE CONCERN Oxfordshire are looking for volunteers to staff their helpline in Oxford and visit people to assist with form filling and benefit checks. People of all ages are welcome and training, plenty of support and expenses are offered. For more details telephone Sandra or Jenny on 01865 247852.

CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

St Mary's church	Methodist
Sunday 9 am	10.30 am — Preacher
4 Parish Eucharist	Helen Carter
11 Parish Eucharist	At Blewbury
18 Choral Matins	Brenda Boyer

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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