

UPTON NEWS

MAY 2001 Vol.2 No.13



Joan Durbin

Deborah Marinkovic writes:

As everyone in Upton knows, our house Stocks burnt down late in the afternoon on 3rd April — the cause was probably a mouse nibbling through an electric cable in the roof.

We just wanted to say a big thank-you for all the kindness and generosity that so many in Upton have shown to us. It has been terribly frightening and upsetting for the children but they've been greatly comforted by the generous gifts they've been given.

What is particularly moving is that, despite being in Upton for just sixteen months, we have been enveloped by such a caring village. From the first night, when Margaret Maytham put all five of us up, and cooked supper for Aleks at

1am, where Emma Mayhem played games with the three children — not only distracting them from all the furore but giving us time to sort out all the important business that needed to be dealt with. There was the cot Jessie West has lent us, delicious shepherds' pie from Lynne Riordan, nappies from Charmian, coats and shoes from Frances Telling, Celia Davies having Ivan and giving us flowers and soothing herbal tea. Lego and toys from Liz Hardy and her family, wine and chocolate pudding from Jo Murphy, a lovely azalea from the Dendys, also some great puzzles and books from Sheila Parker and Hilary Savage and so the list goes on...

We do want to say an especially big thank-you to Susan Francis who was so very, very generous letting us stay in her house over the Easter break and helping to bring some normality into our lives again.

We hope we have found somewhere to live now — sadly not in Upton. It will probably take over a year to re-build Stocks but, in the meantime, we'll be popping back and forth to see how things are progressing.

Aleks, Deborah, Ivan, Conrad and Nina

Stocks — one of the oldest houses in the village — is noted in the National Monuments Record as 17th century with 20th century brickfill, staircase and casements. As a Grade 2 listed building it has to be carefully restored.

BT ASKS FOR FROG ALLEY

A planning application has been received for 'Erection of a 20 metre lattice tower, three dual polar antennas, two dish antennas and one radio equipment cabin' at Frog Alley Farm on behalf of BT Cellnet. A Parish Council meeting was held and an objection sent to the Vale District Council representing the views of all who attended. The objection was made on grounds of questionable necessity, potential health risks and siting on the edge of an 'area of outstanding natural beauty'. Blewbury PC are also raising objections to the proposed mast.

Anyone wishing to voice an opinion may contact the VOWH Dept of Planning, PO Box 127, Abingdon, OX14 3JN quoting ref. UPT/16838. Protesters are encouraged to do this.

Cheaper Oil Update:

Since the last newsletter, 20 plus people have registered an interest in joining an Upton Oil syndicate. I have already kicked off initial conversations with the oil companies and started to collect information from 'interested oil users' in the village, so the ball is rolling.

Most people have recently filled up (I should have started a month or two earlier!) but those who needed an immediate delivery saved between 1.5 and 2.0 pence per litre on their usual supplier. Once I get our collective demand co-ordinated for the majority of households we should get an even better discounted rate. It's not too late to join in, just give me a ring on 851362.

Colin Batchelor

Artweeks 2001

There will be over 250 venues throughout Oxfordshire, split into three areas, opening daily from 12 to 6pm. Oxford city leads the festival (12-20 May) followed by North (19-27 May) and South (26 May-3 June), when there will be two open studios in Upton — Joan Durbin exhibiting recent landscape paintings and Sidney Hardwick her pots.

For the first time Blewbury artist Alison Jones is exhibiting ceramics and drawings. In East Hagbourne Linda Benton will display watercolours, oils and prints and cards for sale.

Although people might be shy of entering a private home, the artists are pleased to discuss their work and answer questions. Please feel welcome. Guides available.

Joan Durbin

Shelter vandalised

We are grateful to Berkeley Homes for undertaking refurbishment of the bus shelter, which involved replacing roof tiles, eaves boards, entrance posts and seating. We are still hoping for a coat of paint.

However, it is extremely disappointing to see that vandals have already attempted to set fire to the new seats. If anyone knows who the culprits may be, the parish council would like to know.

50 Club — March

Winners: £10 Mrs Rippon; £5 Mr Davies; £4 Mrs Acton; £3 Mr Heale; £25 Mr Bray; £25 Mrs Gordon.

Another successful Skittles & Supper Evening made £186 toward Village Hall improvements.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A message from Thames Valley Police dated 21 April indicates that thefts from sheds and garages are still occurring in our area. They recommend that you ensure your sheds and garages are properly secured and property is security marked with your postcode. It is also important to keep a record of serial numbers.

I have been asked to clarify

Handbells

Daphne Simpson now has some handbells and would to gather together a few people interested in having a go. Experience is not necessary but being able to read music would help. However, if anyone would like to try who can't read music that hurdle can be surmounted. If you are interested, or would like to explore the situation, ring Daphne Simpson on 851192.

New church liturgy

Revision of the language of the Alternative prayer book has led to the new, slightly shorter forms of 'common worship' introduced recently in our benefice. St Mary's has opted for the Order One (Traditional) communion service, while St. Andrews and St. Michael chose Order One (Modern). At Upton the 17th century Book of Common Prayer will continue to be used at matins.

C of E Children's Society

Thanks to the generosity of Upton people, we raised £200 in this year's collection. Thanks also to the loyal helpers who gave valuable time.

the procedure to follow in the event that you hear a neighbour's alarm ringing. Richard Hoover of Thames Valley Neighbourhood Watch advises: if you feel able to, investigate with caution but do not enter the property yourself. If you find evidence that the property has been broken into, ring the police immediately on 01235 776000 (do not call 999). If you know who the keyholder is, please also contact them directly.

Those of you with alarms, please review your own keyholder list and ensure that your immediate neighbours are aware who to contact in the event of a problem.

Celia Davies

VPA dates

The next evening is a Members Interests Night on Wednesday 2 May, 7.30, Vale Room. Three short illustrated talks will be given by enthusiasts from the VPA.

Sweet peas. Caroline Ball will give advice on growing and showing from an expert's point of view.

In Search of a Garden Design by Mike Collins, about the new designs for his garden. The designer is Jean Goldberry, whose Healing Garden features in Gardeners World.

Photographs from Foreign Parts with Karen Brooks. Prize slides and tips on how to do it.

Advance warning of an outing on Wednesday 30 May to Lime Close Drayton. This famous 3-acre mature garden has many rare specimens. It features unusual topiary, an ornamental potager, a herb garden design by Rosemary Verey, plus alpines and a shade border. Transport by car-sharing leaving Blewbury/Upton around 6.30pm. Please give your slip in to Margaret

Apologies to readers who were offended by the use of the term 'dog kkkk' in last month's issue. It was the editor, not the parish council, who decided to call a spade a spade.

CHURCH SERVICES IN MAY

St Mary's

Sunday 9 am

10.30 am — Preacher

6 Parish Eucharist

13 Parish Eucharist

20 Sung Matins

3pm Rogation Service

at St. Michael's if F&M restrictions still apply

24 Thursday 8pm Ascension Day

Methodist

Pearl Maunder

Helen Carter

Reverend Gavin Rogers

UPTON NEWS is published monthly, the copy deadline being the 25th 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

Editor: CAROL HALL

Printed at the Duck House, Blewbury. Delivery organised by JESSIE WEST