

UPTON NEWS

JUNE 2002

Vol.2 No.23

<p>PARISH COUNCIL OF UPTON</p> <p>UPTON & BLEWBURY WARD</p> <p>VACANCY FOR A COUNCILLOR</p> <p>1. There is a vacancy on the above Council caused by (3 VACANCIES) RESIGNATION re model Code of Conduct</p> <p>see village notice boards</p>

Under the Local Government Act 2000, as from April parish and town councillors must formally observe a Code of Conduct by signing a Declaration of Acceptance of Office; registering anything that might give rise to a conflict of interest and declaring gifts or hospitality. Some feel this is no more than a nannyish sign of the times, but it has led to three resignations from Upton PC, leaving a quorum of three. Therefore the council hopes to co-opt one or two more people until May 2003, when all parish councillors will come up for re-election.

As those who have served know, the task of Parish Councillor is not arduous and can be rewarding. Bi-monthly meetings are held in the village hall, on the second Tuesday 8-10pm. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Clerk **Lynne Riordan** (850165) or Chairperson **Sheila Parker** (850591).

OUR VILLAGE BEAT OFFICER'S NEWS

PC1825 Richard Frame, Area Beat Officer Blewbury, presented this edited report at the Parish Council's recent AGM. He tells us he visits Upton at least once a day — and likes meeting people.

'This is currently a time of great change in the Thames Valley Police. In February Sir Charles Pollard retired as Chief Constable, to be replaced by Peter Neyroud, who at 42 is the youngest in the country.

He is currently taking stock of things but one of the first problems he is addressing is a lack of manpower. To this end a programme is being implemented to return many office-bound policemen to the streets, thereby civilianising their jobs. We should soon see the benefits of this locally on the South Oxon Police Area.

Police Control Rooms are also being streamlined. By 2003 we will have only two, one to cover the north of the force, one the south. Headquarters will remain at Kidlington to cover the motorway networks and act as emergency back up. All non-emergency calls will be handled by the call centre. It is anticipated

Cycling to Didcot

Sustrans have temporarily completed the ramp access to the old railway line from Chapel Furlong. When more funds permit there will be tarmac on the rough surface and along the whole path. Already, on a fine day it takes no more than ten minutes to pedal to the Cockroft Road shopping mall. **C.H.**

Sportswall Update

The Working Party's first meeting has successfully been held and those using the rec will notice that a position has been marked out half-way along and close to the railway embankment for an 18x35m hardstanding pitch/court and 7m long wall.

The presentation we are preparing — to send to potential financial donors — will include a statement from the working party's youth group, explaining exactly why they want this new facility. So, all games players (come on girls) are welcome to attend the next meeting on **Monday 17 June**, 8pm at the Old School. **C.H.**

Coven's Pub Night

The June meeting has been re-arranged for **Tuesday 11 June** (8pm onwards) to coincide with a Bodyshop demonstration at the George & Dragon.

The Coven normally meets on the first Thursday of the month from 8 o'clock onwards in the G+D. All members of the fairer sex are welcome. **S.P.**

there will be one number the public will use, which will be advised in due course.

On a local level Supt. Kath Govier has taken over as Area Commander for South Oxon Police Area, replacing Supt. Phil Gormley who has gone on the senior command course. We have recently received a number of new recruits at Didcot, but on the down side have also lost three experienced officers who have transferred to other forces.

Locally to Upton, which forms part of the Blewbury Beat and also encompasses the Astons, Hagbournes, Rowstock Harwell and Chilton, the reported crime figures are low and at this point comparable to last year. A worrying trait is the recent outbreak of mindless vandalism that has occurred around the Recreation Ground.

I have now been in post for just over a year and despite having recently returned to work after an illness, from which I am still recovering, I will continue to serve you to the best of my ability!

Richard

UPTON VILLAGE HALL AMENITIES TRUST

Annual General Meeting 7 May 2002

Chairman's report:

The new heating system is we feel very satisfactory. There were however a few teething problems getting the sensor adjusted to provide a constant temperature, so our sincere apologies if your meetings have not been as comfortable as they might have been. There should be no such problems now. The cost of running this system will be defined 12 months after its installation.

Paintwork in the hall has undergone refurbishment, including the small windows on the playground side. It was soon realised however that all the large windows on the field side need replacing. We have accepted a quote from Didcot Glass and thank the parish council for the £50 granted towards the cost. Application to the District and County Councils for grants has also been made. Facia and soffit boards have still to be replaced and estimates for timber are being sought.

Community spirit

The social and fund raising activities continue not only to bring in revenue, but to keep the community spirit alive. This year has seen a very successful and well supported performance from the Oxford Touring Theatre, for which we have to thank the VOWH Council. Without their subsidized scheme for promoting the Arts, our small venue could not afford them.

The children's party, organ-

ized by Colin Batchelor, was much appreciated. The Skittles and Supper evening was another well supported event.

It is hoped that a Spring Clean Sale this month will finance the Golden Jubilee Summer Party on 3 June. Celebrations will continue with a Video and Supper evening on 8 June.

Retirements

Erica Schumacher has been a very long serving member of the Trust, as treasurer and then secretary, but now feels it time to retire. We will miss her competent ability, her forthright discussions and, not least, meeting around the round table in her home. Erica, we thank you.

June Churchman, another long serving member as representative of the Parochial Church Council also retires. Our warmest thanks for her support.

We welcome Claire Lightfoot as the replacement PCC representative. Claire has also agreed to act as Trust secretary. We look forward to working with her. **Jessie West**

•£294 was raised. Many thanks to all of you who very kindly donated

The village collection for The Children's Society raised £196.00. Thank you to all contributors and helpers for your generosity. **J.C.**



Village Produce Association

12 June. Garden visits. Meet 7pm at The Manor, Blewbury. Richard Roslyn will explain how the gravel garden has progressed. Members will also be able to assess our exhibits for Hampton Court. We will then visit Rhon Rogers' garden at Greenbushes, Westbrook Street.

30 June. Rare Plants Fair. Old Rectory, Burghfield, nr Reading, 11-4pm. Entrance £3. If you need a lift or have spare seats in your car please contact Joyce Gilbert (850388)

20th July. Big Summer Show at Blewbury Village Hall. Schedules available from Karen Brooks (850219) or Caroline Ball (850053). Prize money is reinstated this year. Also excellent prizes are being donated by Root One, Notcutts and Savages. **Alfred Timblich**

Thief caught

There was a burglary in Stream Road on Saturday 11 May between 11am-9pm. Various electrical items were stolen including a TV, video, camera and computer. The police were alerted at 9pm and the computer was recovered in the van of a known criminal in Didcot that evening and an arrest was made.

Do you have e-mail? Would you like to receive all **Neighbourhood Watch** messages and updates via e-mail? If so, please contact CeliaDavies@aol.com. That will certainly make my job far easier and more efficient.

Use it or lose it

Remember that the mobile Library calls on alternate Wednesdays at the Village Hall car park from 11.30 to 12 noon. It has a large selection of books for all tastes and if you can't see what you want the Librarian will order it for you. Next visit June 5.

June Churchman

50 Club Winners

April £10 Mrs Churchman, £7 Mrs Williams, £5 Mrs Pattison, £4 Mr Summers.

CHURCH SERVICES IN JUNE

ST. MARY'S

Sunday 9am

10.30am — Preacher

2 Family Eucharist

Wood

Golden Jubilee Evensong

St. Andrews, 6pm

9 Parish Eucharist

Wood

16 Mattins

METHODIST

Georgina

Elizabeth

Peter Hem-

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