
How being neighbourly is a once a year event

JUST a generation ago, annual street parties gave residents a chance to chat over a cream cake and a cup of tea.

But these days a third of neighbours speak to each other once a year or even less, according to a survey.

Four out of ten admit that their relationship is a bit like that of former neighbours Tony Blair and Gordon Brown.

Over a decade of living in close proximity there were times when Mr Blair and the current Prime Minister probably wished the other would move out of Downing Street.

It appears that many others are also outwardly polite, yet hoping those next door would move somewhere else.

The survey also revealed that 21 per cent of those questioned by iammoving.com had never spoken to their neighbours.

For 6 per cent a timid hello once a year was enough contact and 7 per cent said they stopped to talk once – when they moved in.

By **Arthur Martin**

Only 5 per cent said that they chat with their neighbours every day.

When asked to describe the relationship they had with their neighbours, almost a third likened them to the Abominable Snowman or the Loch Ness Monster – there was a rumour that they existed but they had only ever been glimpsed.

A tenth said their relationship was similar to the gossips Norris and Blanche from Coronation Street, while 5 per cent said they feuded like Susan and Edie from the series *Desperate Housewives*.

Fourteen per cent said they were best friends with their neighbours but 4 per cent said they were a bit scared of theirs.

Simon Preston, the chairman of iammoving.com, said: 'We would all love to get on with our neighbours but the reality is that it is easier to keep yourself to yourself.'