

# Boy finds skull high up tree

A Dudley youngster sparked a police probe after spotting a human skull lodged in a tree during a game of hide-and-seek.

The startled nine-year-old made the grisly discovery while playing with friends on a Netherton estate.

The female skull, believed to be at least 50 years old, had been wedged in the branches of a conifer tree in Swallow Close.

Detectives, who later recovered it from a nearby garden, were today baffled by the find.

"It has been examined by a Home Office pathologist and we're satisfied there are no suspicious circumstances," said Inspector Bill Cannell of Brierley Hill police.

"But we have no idea

how it came to be in the tree, it's a complete mystery."

Housewife Mrs Sylvia Siviter, of Sandmartin Close, said her nine-year-old son Craig had been playing close to the tree when the skull was found.

"One of them had been climbing the tree to hide and accidentally knocked the skull down," she said.

"I don't think they realised at first that it was real, they thought it was only plastic."

"Craig brought it home under his jumper and asked if he could put a candle in it for Hallowe'en. But when we saw it we told him to take it back and leave it alone."

The police were alerted on Saturday when the unidentified skull was spotted in a nearby garden by a passer by. It has now been handed to the coroner's officer for disposal.

ANT. SMITH.

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