

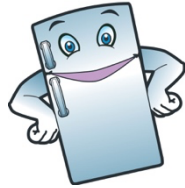
Tithe Farm and Ladygrove Residents Association (TFLRA)



Spring 2020



WELCOME - Following the storms we had in February (and hoping there wasn't too much damage caused), it's nice once again to be looking forward to welcoming warmer sunnier weather, the wildlife back into our gardens and new plant growth - check out the Gardening article for scented plants available for each season! When we bring the next Newsletter round in June it'll be 'that time of year again' when we'll be collecting the annual subs of £1 - so once again raid the piggy bank for when we knock on your door.



COMMUNITY FRIDGE - We reported about this initiative in the winter newsletter, similar to many other schemes across the country. We said that there is a large fridge in the entrance hall to the Abbey Centre in Audlett Drive, where local supermarkets and local people can leave their surplus food. Anyone can use this facility to take the donated produce, the objective being avoidance of food waste. Just to give a update on this initiative, we should mention that the organisers now have a cupboard there for goods that don't need to be kept cool. Many local supermarkets seem happy to donate goods, such as bread, vegetables, salads that have reached their 'sell-by' date but are still perfectly edible. While individuals can donate unwanted food themselves, they shouldn't put in home-cooked food - not unless they have the right food hygiene certificates! The community fridge is available between 10.30am - 3.30pm Monday to Fridays and 10.30am - 12.30pm on Saturdays - worth checking out if you are in the Audlett Driver area.

GONE AT LAST - After a number of reports on FixMyStreet, plus letters direct to Oxfordshire County Council, in December the overgrown ivy was finally removed from the footpath between Drayton Road and Burton Close. Each year, we seem to have reported in the newsletter that we hope that this is the last time we mention this problem ... and each year, the ivy grows again and we go through the process once more. We don't know for sure who removed it this time but assume it was the owner of The Poplars. As we reported in the last newsletter, the County Council had told us that they had written again to the owner. It is possible that OCC warned that they have power, if necessary, to do the work themselves and then recharge the owner with the costs.

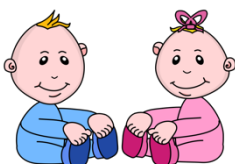
Bye!!!!!!



THE POPLARS DEVELOPMENT - Does anyone know what is happening with the proposed development of The Poplars? Planning permission for demolition of the house and replacement with a three-storey block of flats was given in June last year, but nothing seems to have happened since then apart from some tidying of the garden area. Incidentally, another planning application was made last year to demolish Ladygrove Cottage (property next to the garage) and build another block of flats there. That application was withdrawn in the summer but it is probably worth keeping an eye on this to see if another application to redevelop is made this year.



WORK NEEDED IN TENNYSON / MILL ROAD ALLEYWAY - The traffic cone over the broken drain cover in this alleyway is a familiar sight - It has been there for months. The drain cover is the responsibility of Thames Water. They have been chased to do something about this.



MELISSA WRITES - I am 13, nearly 14 years old, looking to assist people in our local community with chores, dog walking and baby-sitting. I have experience with domestic duties as well as taking care of siblings and taking care of dogs. I am mature, friendly & outward going, and reliable. I am happy to help with your domestic needs in order to earn some extra money. Rates to be discussed. Call Melissa on 07375 413534. *Melissa lives on our estates and she is doing this with the approval of her parents.*



STEVENTON RECYCLING CENTRE - There is an impressive range of bins and skips for various recycling categories at the Drayton Recycling Centre, so probably worth listing these here. Most of these come under the umbrella of 'Household waste', so there is no charge made. At the Centre you can recycle aerosols, batteries, paper and cardboard, fluorescent tubes and low energy light bulbs, gas bottles, general household waste, glass bottles, green waste, hard plastic (such as buckets or toys), household/garden chemicals, large electrical appliances, metal, oil, paint (hardened), textiles and clothes, TVs and monitors, tyres and wood.



Of course, quite a lot of the above can be disposed of via the usual fortnightly kerb-side collections. At the Centre, outside of the Household Waste categories, charges are made for the disposal of hardcore, rubble, soil and DIY items, such as old baths or toilets.

The website <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/waste-and-recycling> also says 'If you have an item that could be re-used and re-loved please approach a member of the site team before placing the item into any of the containers at the recycling centre'. And firmly notes that there are no items for sale at the Centre, nor can anything be taken away.



GARDENING - SCENTED PLANTS (*Martin Gulliver writes*) - As well as colour, flowering periods, size and shape, scent should play a big part in selecting plants for the garden. Here are a few ideas.

Spring - Some winter scents will still be around, the strongest smelling spring bulbs are Hyacinths, whose scent will fill a garden as well as it fills a room indoors. Bulbs that have flowered indoors will be fine if planted deeply outside. Some Daffodils are scented, and as far as shrubs are concerned, Daphne, Mahonia and Viburnum will all still be flowering. Lilac has a short flowering period but the scent is wonderful.



Summer - There are many scented shrubs and flowers at this time of year. For permanent shrubs, consider Honeysuckle, Lavender and Mock Orange (Philadelphus). For annuals, I can recommend Night Scented Stock, Nicotiana and summer flowering bulbs such as Lilies and Freesias. Of course, there are many Roses that have a gorgeous scent - the old-fashioned ones are the best.

Autumn - like Spring, there will be a crossover, this time from Summer scented into Winter scented.

Winter - When not much is happening, a walk in the garden can be a joy when you plant Sarcococca (Winter Box), especially close to the door. Also consider winter Flowering Jasmine, Daphne, Viburnum and Mahonia as mentioned above.



In the greenhouse - strawberries, melons and other fruit if grown under glass give a glorious aroma. Scented leaves - plants that give off an aroma if you brush them or crush the leaves include many herbs - Ivy-Leafed, Pelargoniums and Lavender. Finally - Cosmos Atrosanguineus, a perennial, smells of chocolate and the Pineapple Broom smells of ... you guessed it – peaches! (no seriously – pineapple!)

PLANT SWAP - Another plant swap is planned for mid / late May on the driveway of 39 Masefield Crescent. The actual date will be decided later in the year, but will be at a weekend and probably between 3.00 pm and 5.00 pm. Look out for the posters, and a notice will also be put onto the Tithe Farm and Ladygrove blog. You can bring along your extra plants, surplus seedlings and spare cuttings and be ready to 'swap'. No money involved!



SPRING 2020 QUIZ - DOUBLE MEANINGS - Two meanings of the same word are contained in each phrase. Example: 'Move head quickly downwards to avoid aquatic bird = duck'. The last letter of each answer is the first letter of the next. Closing date **18th April** - there will be a small prize for the winner!! There are 3 ways to enter - drop entries into 21 Mill Road - **OR** - email to tfl_ra@zoho.com - **OR** - complete online at <https://tflra-quiz.weebly.com> for submission. Good luck!



1	Store money on the edge of a river	
2	Retain the main tower of a castle	
3	Fortified wine in a harbor	
4	Charge for bridge use with slow, solemn bell	
5	Whip with eyelid hair	
6	Greet the frozen rain	
7	Abandoned on the UK driving side	
8	Stumble on an excursion	
9	Waste away with longing for a conifer	
10	Leven and regular but more so	
11	Tidy and orderly undiluted spirits	
12	Short nail on a zigzag course	
13	Friendly and helpful sort	
14	Sketch an equal score	
15	Healthy underground water store	

WINNER OF THE WINTER NEWSLETTER QUIZZES

Adults Quiz - Again, thanks to everyone who submitted their entry by hand and online (check the online submission out on <https://tflra-quiz.weebly.com>). This year the winner was a resident of Wordsworth Road who won some chocolates. Answers were (1) Simon Cowell, (2) Stilton Cheese, (3) Snooker Cue, (4) Sailing Club, (5) Salisbury Cathedral, (6) Sweet Chestnut, (7) South Coast, (8) South California, (9) Sutton Courtenay, (10) St Christopher, (11) Steve Cram, (12) Siamese Cat, (13) Spider Cat, (14) Sugar Cane, (15) Snake Charmer, (16) Street Car.

Question 5 foxed a lot of people - so the answer to 'The Tallest Spire and of Interest to Russians' was Salisbury Cathedral.

Children's Colouring Competition - And another big thank you for everyone who sent in their super pictures for the Colouring Competition - they were all were so colourful and artistic, making it very hard to select a winner. In the end there were 2 joint winners selected from the under 6's category who were Finlay from Mill Road and Charlie from Masefield Crescent. The over 6 winner was Evie from Ladygrove. There were prizes for all the winners.

Well done to you all The pictures were displayed in the Jephson Flats common room window in January..





FALLEN TREE - Storm Ciara brought down a tree on the Coleridge green. Apparently this tree was the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council. It was inspected and removed within a few days of the damage. Good to be able to report quick and efficient action this time from our County Council.

FALLEN FENCE - In our Autumn newsletter, we wrote about the problem of the partially fallen fence along a passageway between Maberley Close and Francis Little Drive. After contacting local Councils, we had been told that this is a privately owned fence along a privately owned pathway and that they could not help. This part of the path was possibly a little bit of land never taken over by a council or an individual when our estates were built decades ago. The problem has, however, now been solved! The fallen and leaning panels were removed towards the end of February. We have no idea who did this but whoever you are - thank you very much!



ABINGDON CUTS PLASTIC (*This group, part of Abingdon Carbon Cutters, writes*) - We started in January 2018 and are affiliated to the national environmental charity 'Surfers Against Sewage' (SAS), and in summer 2019 became the 65th community to be granted 'Plastic-Free' status. Of course, this doesn't mean there is no single-use plastic in the town, but that there are enough businesses, schools, individuals and community groups committed to reducing their use of plastic. To be granted the status, we had to meet the five SAS objectives, which include having strong links with the Town Council, which now has a Green Scrutiny committee. Another objective is to take action, eg., our twice-yearly river and riverbank clean-ups in conjunction with AbiBinit litter-picking group. 12 businesses are "Plastic-Free Champions"; Added Ingredients sells SESI refills of washing up liquid and other cleaning liquids. We give a talk on 'Plastic Pollution and how to reduce it' for example to schools and Scout groups.

We are trying to get supermarkets and manufacturers to produce less plastic packaging etc, and we encourage everyone to 'Refuse, Reduce Refill, Re-use'. Inevitably we all have some unavoidable plastic waste, some of which can be recycled. We are looking into where our plastic waste actually ends up, and exploring what best uses can be made of waste plastic. Our group meets every 4-6 weeks and we always welcome visitors or new members. For more information, contact annesmart51@hotmail.co.uk.

CITIZENS ADVICE IN SOUTH AND VALE *writes*: - We need volunteers to help with the following in our Abingdon offices: Reception duties, Advisers, Head office administration, fund-raising, as well as communications and website designers. Volunteers are also needed in our other offices in Didcot and Thame.



We are a local charity providing free, confidential advice. Last year, our 150 skilled advisers helped over 11,000 local people from advice centres in Abingdon, Didcot, Faringdon, Henley, Thame and Wallingford. Many people who come to us face difficult and sometimes frightening problems that threaten to overwhelm them. In 2019 we helped three quarters to resolve their problems.

For volunteers, we offer a welcoming office environment and an opportunity to gain new skills, meet new people and make a real and valued contribution to your local community. It's up to you when you volunteer. We normally ask for two half days a week but can be flexible. If you are interested, please use this link: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer/>. Or, if you would like to discuss these volunteering roles, please email Jon Bright, Director: jon.bright@osavcab.org.uk





MILL ROAD / FRANCIS LITTLE DRIVE JUNCTION - The long saga of the overgrown ivy on the Burton Close footpath seems to have come to an end, but the saga of the poor road surface at this junction goes on and on still. Reports / complaints on FixMyStreet about the lack of road markings and the potholed surface have been made over the last few years. Some patching was done in late summer 2018. A month or so later, a comment on FixMyStreet noted that the repair was already breaking up. After several further reports, a pothole or two was filled in late January this year by OCC Highways. Other large potholes were ignored. So again, reports are being posted about the holes, the loose stones and little in the way of road markings. When will this work be done properly? There is understanding that OCC has funding problems, but this partial work which seems to deteriorate quickly is hardly a good use of limited money. Residents may wish to take this up with OCC Highways or perhaps talk to their County Councillor, Neil Fawcett.



'ALL ABOARD THE SKYLARK'! (from *Max the Wildlife Watcher*) - is what I cry when I hear the shrill, 'high in the sky' sound of the Skylark (more on that later).

Not growing up near farmer's fields, I was delighted to hear the regular sound of this bold bird from the fields off the playground in Masefield Crescent. I can even hear it when I am putting out my washing... The skylark is smaller than a starling, brown and streaky with a short crest. They advertise their territories by a spectacular song-flight, during which the bird rises almost vertically with rapid wing-beats, hovering for several minutes and then parachuting down. Song flights of up to one hour have been recorded, and the birds can reach 1,000 feet before descending. When walking around the fields you might spot a brown dot in the sky, twittering away. Skylarks need to have 2-3 broods of young each year in order to maintain populations. Most cereals are now sown during the autumn, which means that the crops are too tall and dense to allow skylarks to raise more than one early brood. Spring-sown cereals allow skylarks to make later nesting attempts, but have disappeared from most regions of Britain. A reduction in the number of nesting attempts is probably one of the main causes of skylark population declines in Britain.

And the phrase 'All Aboard the Skylark' - apparently this goes back to seaside holidays, probably pre-war, when the seaside was the British seaside and the holiday was the one week or more when city dwellers got to head for the coast and sit in a bus shelter watching it rain while eating cheese sandwiches. The 'Skylark' was a blanket term for a little tripper boat that would take landlubbers (without life jackets, naturally) on short trips either from the beach or around the docks. Thus it came to be that whenever a group of Britons boarded any kind of ship/vehicle they would sing out 'All Aboard The Skylark'!



Even further, it's all that remains of a very old (well Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century) phrase 'dance and skylark', there are even records of the phrase 'all hands to dance and skylark' in captains' orders from the days of Nelson's navy. I assume that skylarking originally referred to the exuberant flight and song of a Skylark as it flies in the Spring and Summer. People behaving exuberantly and perhaps bursting into song were probably referred to as skylarking. Long may we continue to hear real skylarks in our lifetime and carry on skylarking about.

'All aboard the Skylark' anyone?

MASEFIELD CRESCENT PLAYING FIELD - following a few incidents of racing cars on the Masefield Crescent playing field, the Vale of the White Horse Council have been erecting bollards at the entrance with a central droppable bollard, enabling Council only vehicles access when necessary. Hopefully this will stop further disruption and for the field to be used as its intended for - playing!



COUNCILLOR ERIC DE LA HARPE WRITES - I have had the privilege of being a Town Councillor and Vale District Councillor since May. It has been hard work learning the ropes, getting to grips with how they operate and finding the time to do it all after work. For the Town, I chair the recently formed Green Advisory and Scrutiny Committee where, amongst other things, we are looking at the carbon footprint of Council operations with the aim of making them carbon-neutral. On the Vale, I sit on the new Climate Emergency committee where our main challenge is to find the funding to achieve our ambition of carbon neutrality.

I encourage members of the community who have an interest in climate issues to read the minutes of Town and Vale meetings and send me their comments, attend the meetings or take up the opportunity to speak at them. Please see <https://www.abingdon.gov.uk/town-council/minutes-agendas-19-20> or <http://democratic.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/mgListCommittees.aspx>:

I have also been appointed as the Vale Cycling Champion to work with the Champions from all the other Oxfordshire Councils to promote cycling and walking. There are some exciting projects being discussed to connect Oxford with its surrounding towns and to host the OVO Energy Women's Tour in the county. Cllr de la Harpe can be contacted at eric.delaharpe@abingdon.gov.uk or eric.delaharpe@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

WASTE COLLECTIONS - As our bins are collected on Fridays, we seem to have more than our fair share of alterations to the collection in the coming months. These are:

Easter	Friday 10 th April	collection on Saturday 11 th April (grey bin/food waste)
	Friday 17 th April	collection on Saturday 18 th April (green bin/food and garden waste)
May Bank Holiday	Friday 8 th May	collection on Saturday 9 th May (grey bin/food waste)
	Friday 29 th May	collection on Saturday 30 th May (green bin/food and garden waste)

We are reminded that Saturday collections start earlier than normal at 6.00am

ADVERTS - You can advertise your business. A full advert can go on the Blog with a short summary in the paper newsletters. £10 for residents for a year. We look forward to hearing from you!

- **Window Wise** - Supply and fit double-glazed windows, doors and conservatories – Repairs undertaken on all double glazing - No pressured sales - Friendly service. Ring Martin for a free quotation on 07885571778 or 01235-559334.
- **Jazzercise Wantage** - opening 7th March 2020! Jazzercise is the original dance party workout. We fuse dance cardio with kickboxing, pilates and strength training - set to the hottest playlists. Join the fun! All fitness levels welcome. Monday 7pm-8pm and Saturday 9am-10am. Loyd Lindsay Rooms, Ardington, Wantage, OX12 8PS. For more information contact: Tel. 07917 205372 or email jazzercisewantage@outlook.com Facebook & Instagram: @jazzercisewantage

NEXT MEETING AND CONTACT - The meetings for the next few months will be on Monday 16th March, Tuesday 21st April, Monday 11th May and Tuesday 9th June, and are all at 8pm at the Jephson Flats Common Room. Residents are most welcome to one or all of these meetings, but do check the Blog / contact us beforehand in case there are any changes. For article contributions, announcements, advertising or if you'd like to come along to a meeting, email at tfl_ra@zoho.com or phone / text our telephone number **07856 869 335** to leave a message.

Chair: Anita 39 Masefield Crescent / Treasurer: Val 17 Nash Drive / Editor: Kay 36 Masefield Crescent