



Tithe Farm & Ladygrove Association (TFLRA)

Winter 2014

Welcome to the December edition of the TFLRA newsletter. Besides other articles and updates, we have two Christmas competitions in the newsletter for you – a picture to colour for the children and a Christmas puzzle for us older ones.

People have been welcoming the return of the newsletter and the blog is also taking off. Don't forget that you can get in touch with us by email on tfl_ra@zoho.com ... or you can call us on 07732251334 and leave a message. You can advertise in the newsletter and blog, give us announcements/information/articles or send us something for the Children's Corner. Or let us know that you would like to come to our meetings.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a good New Year.

LOCAL UPDATES

Following the County Council meeting about the crossing proposals for Ock Street and Marcham Road, disappointment and frustration about the outcome is shared by many on our estates, as there is still considerable anxiety about the problems that the increased traffic will bring. If no legal challenge, then the 158 or so properties will go ahead on the Drayton Road. Next year we will have the added problem of the closure of Steventon Bridge which may be closed for around 8 months and work will also soon be started on the Milton interchange. We'll keep you updated on the TFLRA blog at www.tflra.blogspot.co.uk (where you can post your comments) and in future newsletters.

KEVIN-THE-POSTMAN

Farewell to Kevin-the-Postman! Kevin of Coleridge Drive retired in November after delivering mail for 35 years, the last 25 years of which doing the Ladygrove and Tithe Farm deliveries. We shall miss his cheery daily presence but wish him well for his retirement.

CHAUNTERELL WAY PLAY AREA

A Ladygrove resident was concerned that the gate to the Chaunterell Way play area was being left open, allowing access for dogs. She also had recently found broken glass around the play equipment. The Residents' Association contacted the Town Council who have agreed to put a notice on the gate to remind users to close it behind them. They will also check that the gate is easy to close. They confirm that they litter pick the area 4 or 5 times a week and also have independent safety checks from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and their insurance brokers. They also say that they should be able to respond to reports of dangerous items within 24 hours or sooner, and also ask for the co-operation of the community in all this. The Town Council staff will ensure the 'cattle grid' section in the gateway is kept in good order to prevent dogs from entering. The Community Police have agreed to pay attention to the area on their patrols.

THE LAST OF THE POETS

Tony Godfrey writes: Over the last few months we have been looking at the poets of Tithe Farm. The last one, Byron, was a bit of a maverick and he is to be found on the other side of Mill Road. Byron was a great poet but is probably more famous because of his scandalous life, but he was politically and socially aware too. His early poetical success was 'Childe Harold's Pilgrimage'. However, because of his shocking behaviour (not fit or TFLRA readers!) and because of debt, he went into exile on the continent in 1815. In 1824 he joined the struggle for Greek independence but died of malaria before active service. Interestingly his legitimate daughter was a mathematician and was involved in the development of computers. Byron was described in his day as Mad, Bad and Dangerous to know - but he was never dull.

MINOR INJURIES UNIT

The Minor Injury Unit at Abingdon Hospital, Marcham Road, Abingdon is open 10am – 10:30pm daily. Staff there are able to treat: minor bumps to the head, sprains, broken bones, fractures and dislocated fingers, minor burns, cuts and bruises, nose bleeds, bites and stings, simple ear, nose and eye complaints such as removal of splinters or foreign bodies. Telephone number 01865 425161. Out of Hours number is 111.

When the Minor Injury Unit is closed the nearest emergency department is the John Radcliffe Hospital in Headington, Oxford. Tel: 01865 741166. If you, or someone else experiences severe chest pain, loss of consciousness, severe loss of blood or difficulty in breathing - **DIAL 999**.

CHRISTMAS REFUSE COLLECTION

During the week and after all bank holidays, refuse collection will be changed:

Normal Collecton Day

Friday 26th December

Friday 2nd January

Friday 9th January

Revised Collection Day

Monday 29th December

Monday 5th January

Saturday 10th January **

** Note that Saturday collections will start from 6am, an hour earlier, so remember to put your bins out the night before.

For the full list of dates, please visit the VWH website link at <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/your-recycling-and-waste-collections/bank-holiday-co>

THE GARDEN IN DECEMBER

Martin Gulliver writes: So ... Christmas in the garden, eh?? Let's face it no one wants to garden over Christmas, unless it's digging up fresh parsnips on the day, which I did a few years ago - they tasted fab. However you will have need to have sown those back in March - so where were you?? How about making a centrepiece for the table? Buy a small piece of oasis from the flower shop and then cover it in bits and pieces from the garden. Ivy is a good cover-all, and then add anything with berries...holly, pyracantha, cotoneaster...get them before the birds do!! Leave the arrangement in a saucer of water so that the oasis soaks it up, and it should last well.

If you really need to get some Boxing day exercise, you can always check the garden over for broken branches that need trimming, weeds that need pulling, empty any bird boxes, and keep bird baths, seed and nut feeders full.

Talking of birds, they will enjoy bacon fat and rind, as well as pieces of cheese - they adore stilton but nothing too salty. A stroll down to the river on Boxing Day is also nice - feeding the ducks, swans, moorhens...and by the way - if it has red on its beak it's a moorhen, if white, it's a coot.

Finally, if you really want to stay in, at least look out at the garden and make any plans for the new year - what to move, plant, repair, dig up...and make a careful note.

Merry Christmas!

THOMAS'S BIRD CAKE

We had a nice recipe for a yummy bird cake! This will help feed the birds this winter - why not try and make one too. Thank you Thomas (age 7)!

Things	Warm the lard til it is soft and squidgy, add meat and cheese scraps, a few sultanas, and lots of bird seed, and mix it all together.
Lard	
Meat	
Cheese	
Sultanas	
Bird Seed	YUM!



ADVERTISING (see TFLRA Blog for full adverts at www.tflra.blogspot.co.uk)

Something Fishy! A large variety of fresh fish delivered to your door. For further details ring MURRAY WALL 07808-868090 or email muzzywall@live.co.uk

Mathews & Son - Greengrocers. Daily deliveries and retail / catering supplies. 5 Harwell Road, Sutton Courtenay OX14 4BN. Tel 01235-848239 / mobile 07958-534183. Email mathewsandson@hotmail.co.uk.

Abbey Press - Nuffield Way - providing a one-stop solution for all your print and design needs - 01235-554555.

Simon's News - Newspaper home delivery, 7 days a week - telephone 01235-553001.

Remember that you can also advertise your business. A full advert can go on the blog with a short summary in the paper newsletters. £10.00 for residents for the year.

We look forward to hearing from you!

QUIZ - HIDDEN CHRISTMAS WORDS

The following passage has 15 hidden words, both sacred and secular, associated with Christmas. Write your answers on a piece of paper, mark with your name and address and drop your completed entries into 18 Mill Road. There is a prize for the first correct answer drawn. Closing date is 5th January 2015.

Christmas again! How would we spend it this year? I must make a list or I would panic and leave something out. To start with, I was wondering if the house looked presentable. If Martin's elderly aunt saw it in its usual state, she might have a cardiac arrest. I searched for the musical snowman Gerry bought last year but failed to locate it. Never mind. Identical ones were usually in stock in garden centres in December, but then, I don't go to a garden centre every day. The phone rang. Elaine answered it and came back looking belligerent. "Aunt Ethel wants to bring Oliver," she said. Oliver was Aunt Ethel's son and the black sheep of the family. "They're coming in the car Oliver bought when he got his licence back," said Elaine. "Well, we'd

better not leave any alcohol lying around." I'd never seen her this antagonistic. "And I hope he gives me something better than the "I love London" keyring I got two years ago."

CHRISTMAS IN AUSTRIA

An Austrian resident writes: Christmas is celebrated in most countries in Europe in different ways. In Austria the main celebration is on the evening of the 24th of December with a special but simple meal, often fish, carp or some other fresh water fish. The presents and tree are brought by the "Christkind" (Christ as newborn child) for the children, although it is the parents who prepare everything in a room in secret, out of sight of the children who are getting more and more excited by the minute. The tree is normally decorated with silver balls, silver coated or wrapped walnuts, sweets and genuine bees' wax candles. The room is then entered when everything is "ready" and the sound of a little bell is the sign that the "Christkind" has come. Then Christmas carols are sung by the family around the lit tree before the presents are opened.

On the 25th a special meal is prepared. It may be something local, turkey is not a tradition, although some families may eat them. Nowadays many "Santas" are also seen in shop windows and on the streets of major cities. How children are able to square the circle between "Christkind" and Santa is a mystery. The idea of Santa bringing the presents is actually rooted in "St. Nicholas" whose saints day is the 6th of December. But that is another story.

AND LASTLY A PICTURE FOR THE YOUNG ONE'S TO COLOUR IN (OLD ONES TOO)!

Colour in this lovely Christmas tree and drop your pictures into 18 Mill Road - closing date is 22nd December. There'll be a book token prize for the children - one picture from each category will be chosen from up to 6 years and 6 and over. Book token prizes being sponsored by Lottery Windows of Coleridge Drive. All submitted pictures will be shown on the TFLRA blog at www.tflra.blogspot.co.uk.

NAME

AGE

ADDRESS



CONTACT

For contributions, articles, announcements or if you'd like to come along to a meeting - email at tfl_ra@zoho.com or phone 07732251334 to leave a message.

Co-ordinator - Maureen, 8 Byron Close

Treasurer - Anita Wickens, 39 Masefield Crescent

Blog - www.tflra.blogspot.co.uk