



Tithe Farm & Ladygrove Residents Association (TFLRA)

Spring 2015

WELCOME - We hope that you are enjoying the new Residents' Association newsletter!! As we explained in the first edition in September, we have been able to cover the costs of the newsletters from existing funds. But now we must top these up in order to carry on. Subscriptions are being kept at £1 for this year and someone will be calling on you at the time of the next Newsletter in June or July to collect this. We will do our best to see everyone. But if we can't find you at home, please contact us on our email tfl_ra@zoho.com or ring 07732251334 and leave a message if you want us to collect your subscription.

AND ANOTHER WELCOME - TO ANY 'NEWBIES' - A big welcome to any new families if you've recently moved to either Ladygrove or Tithe Farm - we'd love to see you at the Resident meetings.

JEPHSON FLATS - NEW NAME!! - Jephson flats in Bridges Close, where we hold the TFLRA meetings, have been changed to Stonewater. The Housing Association Group, Jephson, have amalgamated with Raglan Housing and have now become a new organisation called Stonewater. So ... when you get your voting cards for the 7th May elections, don't be confused if it says your voting station is at Stonewater!!

BIN REQUEST - A request for a bin for Longfellow/Coleridge green was brought up at the last meeting. Reply from the Town Council - *I took your request to our Amenities meeting last night and they decided after some discussion not to put a bin in the area you requested. Instead they are going to monitor the area for a few months to see if a bin is required although no complaints have been received about litter in this area to date.* If residents are concerned about rubbish on the green, do contact the Town Council on 01235-522642.

COMMUNITY POLICE INFORMATION - The Police Community Officer has expressed an interest in attending a future TFLRA meeting to talk about Neighbourhood Watch and anything else of interest. We will keep you informed.

PLANT SWAP - For all Tithe Farm and Ladygrove gardeners!! There will be a Plant Swap on Saturday 16th May on the driveway at 39 Masefield Crescent between 3pm and 5pm, come rain or shine. Bring along your extra plants, surplus seedlings or spare cuttings and be ready to 'swap' all for free!!

Calling young gardeners - get ready for the children's summer sunflower competition. Details will be in the June newsletter but get those seeds planted soon to see who can grow the tallest sunflower!

ABINGDON HYDRO - Abingdon Hydro - a member of the Abingdon Hydro committee writes - *'People look at the Thames weir and wonder how that flow might be put to good use. Abingdon Hydro was set up to use water power to generate 100kW electrical power by raising monies to construct two Archimedes screws - highly visible renewable energy and to benefit the community. If you want to know more about this project, go to <http://abingdonhydro.org.uk>'*

ABBEY MEADOWS - The Vale Council are suggesting 3 options for the future of the Abbey Meadows area - pick up a booklet in town for details (at Added Ingredients, Mostly Books or the Council Offices) or see 'News' on the Council's website. Their deadline for responses is 7th April.

EASTER AND MAY BANK HOLIDAYS RUBBISH COLLECTIONS

HOLIDAY	NORMAL COLLECTION	REVISED COLLECTION	WHICH BIN
Easter Bank Holiday	Fri 3 rd April	Sat 4 th April *	Grey bin and food bin
	Fri 10 th April	Sat 11 th April *	Green recycling bin, food waste & garden waste
May Bank Holidays	Fri 8 th May	Sat 9 th May *	Green recycling bin, food waster & garden waste
	Fri 29 th May	Sat 30 th May *	Grey bin and food bin

* Please note that Saturday collections will start from 6am, an hour earlier than usual

THE GARDEN IN MARCH by *Martin Gulliver* - March is generally considered the start of the gardening year and it can be very busy depending on the weather. Feed all beds with a general purpose fertilizer to kick start plants into growth. If you can get garden manure, this is wonderful and improves soil structure as well. The grass will probably need its first cut. Keep the mower blades high for the first few trims. Roses can be pruned now. Cut out any dead or diseased wood, and any weak stems. Cut other branches down to a low outward facing bud. It may seem drastic but they will thank you. Give them a feed after pruning. Seeds of hardy annuals can be sown outside now, and half hardy can be sown indoors. Sow some salad leaves and sow in succession every fortnight to give a supply during the summer. Winter shrubs that have finished flowering now can be pruned - a general rule of thumb is that shrubs should be pruned, if required, after flowering. Buy snowdrops "in the green" now - they are available at garden centres and by mail order. they are far more reliable than bulbs. Daffodils, as they die back, should be dead headed, but allow the foliage to die back naturally, and give them a feed to plump up the bulbs for next year. If any failed to flower, dig them up and plant them deeper.

MILL ROAD / THE MILL by *Tony Godfrey* - In Abingdon we are lucky because the countryside is so easy to reach on foot. In a car you find contrasting scenery within a 30 minute drive -the Cotswolds with gentle rolling hills and honey coloured cottages, empty sweeping downland with its huge fields and big skies and, nearer home, the lush watery Thames valley.

Mill Road which separates Tithe Farm and Ladygrove is unusual in that it changes from a pleasant suburban street into a narrow country lane with an old mill house at the end. The mill has now been changed into a country home but you can still hear the roar of water from the mill race as you stroll past reminding you of its original function.

Mills are interesting. They are one of the earliest forms of technology, using the power of channelled water to activate the wheel which will turn the millstone to grind the grain into flour. In all probability the mill was the property of Abingdon Abbey which dominated everything. The corn which was taxed from the local farmers would be taken from the tithe barn and ground into flour for the monks to use and to sell. Individuals could bring grain too. The millers themselves often had a bad reputation for dishonesty exploiting their customers' ignorance of weights and measures.

There are lots of mills in this area because there is plenty of water around and there are still a few small working mills to show how the process works. There is one by the Thames in Mapledurham near Reading which might be a pleasant outing in the summer. However, if you want a bag of flour urgently it's easier to nip into Tesco's!

POST BOX COLLECTION TIME - The collection time for the afternoon post from the post box on the corner of Tennyson and Wordsworth will change on the 16th March from 5.30pm to 4.45pm.

CRYPTIC 5 LETTER WORDS



The answers to the cryptic clues are all 5 letter words eg *hooded bird = robin*. The last letter of Answer 1. Is the first letter of Answer 2, and so on. The last letter of Answer 10 is the first letter of Answer 1. Closing date 30th April 2015. Drop answers into 18 Mill Road or email them to us on tfl_ra@zoho.com. Small prize for the winner drawn!

- 1. Move an old fashioned woman’s undergarment.....
- 2. Orange effervescent dance.....
- 3. Part of body plays church music.....
- 4. New work of fiction.....
- 5. Deceitful while at rest.....
- 6. Spruce up the husband to be.....
- 7. Eat Canadian elk for dessert.....
- 8. More senior tree.....
- 9. For measuring the monarch.....
- 10. Ethnic groups in athletic contests.....

WINNERS OF THE DECEMBER COMPETITION - Thank you for all the entries for the Christmas Quiz - there were 15 hidden words, both sacred and secular, associated with Christmas. The winner was Valerie Hitchcock of Tennyson Drive. Well done Valerie!! You can find the answers on our Blog at tflra.blogspot.co.uk.

Also another big thank you and a well done for everyone who took part in the children’s Christmas colouring competition!! Such talented artists, and so difficult to select the winners. In the end 2 entries were chosen, 1 from each category - up to 6 years and over 6 years. The winners were Evie aged 4 and Caroline aged 10. Well done to you both!! The winning entries can be also seen on our Blog at tflra.blogspot.co.uk

ANNOUNCEMENTS - We’re very sad to announce that resident Ann Goddard from Bridges Close, passed away towards the end of last year. She was a well known and familiar figure on Tithe Farm, where she’d lived for over 20 years, and was often seen around walking her little dog JJ. Ann was a retired school teacher who previously lived in Drayton, and was the Residents’ Association Treasurer until ill health prevented this. She will be missed.

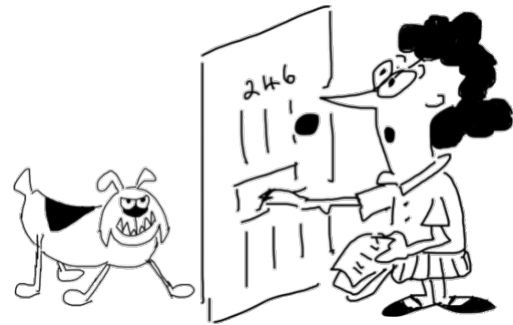
DELIVER US FROM EVIL - a light-hearted poem from Kay

Letterboxes can leave me in a dither
Approaching each door as I prepare to deliver
With a resounding SNAP!, just like a mousetrap
Pinching my fingers and making me shiver



A gnome eyes me warily, as I creep up the next path
I ease past the prickly bush, and round the birdbath
A dog barks at me, as I tackle a tree
I'll need a cup of tea after this aftermath

Rat-a-tat-tat, rat-a-tat-tat
The letterbox rattles as the newsletter hits the mat
I gave it a shove, and prayed it wouldn't trap my glove
Or my hand won't be pounced on by a cat



Red doors, blue doors, some made of wood
So many variations in this neighbourhood
Some boxes I can't find, in this area I'm assigned
I'd post it, honestly, if only I could!

Think of those who deliver to your door
Fighting fierce letterboxes, which I'm sure are carnivore
If you see us about, please wave with a shout
And we'll wave back with stubby fingers, I'm sure



ADVERTS (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.

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

Natural Movement Training - Christof Bachmann, Personal Training & Sports Massage Therapy - telephone 07547-818614 - email contact@ptoxford.co.uk - website www.ptoxford.co.uk

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!

NEXT MEETING - Tuesday 14th April at 8pm Stonewater flats Bridges Close. See blog for more details.

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