

# Tithe Farm & Ladygrove Residents Association (TFLRA)



## Winter 2015



**WELCOME** - Autumn is nearly passed and winter seems to be upon us again all too soon, with Christmas just around the corner. We hope you enjoy this extended Newsletter - what better way than to snuggle up in the warm, read the articles, have a go at the quizzes, or how about the colouring competition (though only a prize for the children mind)! If you have something you'd like to add to a Newsletter, get in touch!! Our next meeting will be our Christmas meeting so there'll be nibbles, drinks and chatter - come along, meet your neighbours - all welcome!

### COUNCILLORS NEWS

#### NEW RECYCLING SERVICES (by Chris Palmer)



Some new recycling services have been introduced by Vale of White Horse District Council. From this week you can now recycle:

- broken or unusable small electrical goods in grey bin week
- tatty, torn and unusable old clothes and textiles in green bin week

Just put them in a tied carrier bag next to your bin on your normal collection day.

Small electrical items - taken to a specialist site in Newbury for sorting, storing and processing into new gadgets. Textiles - taken to a sorting warehouse in East London - any cotton and polyester gets cut into industrial rags, and any wool is shredded and made into felt or new yarn.

See also: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/new-recycling-services-now-available>

**REPORTING ROAD PROBLEMS TO OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL** (by Monica Lovatt) - Did you know you can report potholes, blocked drains, overgrowth of vegetation and anything to do with roads and pavements online on the Oxfordshire County Council website at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/>. On the Home page you'll find the link Report a Road Problem, where you'll be taken through a process, and there's even a map for you to pin point the exact location of the problem. You will be given a number and most things should be responded to in 10 working days. You can remain anonymous.



For all Councillors News see the TFLRA Blog on <http://tflra.blogspot.co.uk/p/councillors-news.html> - this is updated regularly.

### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR REFUSE COLLECTION

Friday 25th December	Tuesday 29th December	Grey Bin and Food Bin
Friday 1st January	Tuesday 5th January	Green Bin and Food Bin (no Garden Waste)
Friday 8th January	Monday 11th January	Grey Bin and Food Bin
Friday 15th January	Saturday 16th January	Green Bin, Brown Bin and Food Bin





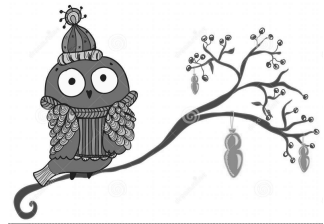
**BEEFEATER** - not the burger kind (or the gin)! (by Paul Abbot) - I have lived on Masefield Crescent for the last 16 years, however have lived in Abingdon since 1981 as it was my first posting after joining the RAF in 1980. I served on 99 Squadron at RAF Brize Norton until March of this year when I heard of an opening at The Tower of London as a Yeoman Warder, commonly known as Beefeater. The criteria is very strict for applicants, you must have held the rank of Warrant Officer in either of the three services, you must have completed at least 22 years service, I had done 35, and you need to have been awarded the Long Service & Good Conduct medal.

34 potential applicants applied which was short listed to 14 for interview, which included your partner as you were joining a village community within The Tower of London and it is important that your wife will embrace the obvious constraints that go with living within a walled community that gets locked up nightly at 10:00pm.

The 14 were reduced to 4 candidates for a second interview resulting in an offer for me to take up the post as of 1st May of this year. I am now coming to the end of my probation period where I have had to learn the 'Tour' which is a one hour presentation from 1066 to present day, and having dropped History at school, a decision I now regret, I can safely say it has been a very steep learning curve.

We are now looking forward to life together in The Tower while our son, Luke, will have the run of our 'country Oxfordshire retreat'.

**GARDENING AT CHRISTMAS** ... really? - It's Christmas and you want to be gardening? - Sigh... Well now is a good time to trim evergreens while it's dormant out there, and of course keep on top of weeds. A lot of plants will still have some foliage and berries etc, so how about making a centrepiece for the dinner table? Buy an oasis cone, get it nicely soaked and then add Ivy, berries, holly etc. Keep it in a saucer and the saucer topped up with water and it will look fabulous.

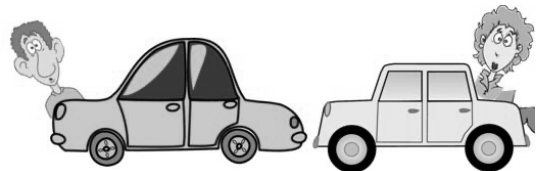


Think about planting up a winter container. Heathers, Ivy, Skimmia, Heuchera all look good – check out the garden centres now. As with any containers in winter, keep them raised an inch or so off the ground to aid drainage.

Ideal Christmas gifts? We gardeners love good tools, so a top of the range trowel and fork set is always welcome. We never have enough flower pots and trays, and terracotta pots look good in a greenhouse.

I think that covers everything ... Happy Christmas!

**STREET CORNER PARKING** - When parking vehicles on roads, do make sure you don't park on, or too near street corners (Highway Code does say not to park opposite or within 10 metres of a junction). It makes crossing difficult for pedestrians, including our school children, plus it makes sightlines very difficult for cars and cyclists when pulling out at junctions. Let's keep all our folk safe.



**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH** - A message from the Neighbourhood Watch - a resident has been informed that a group of people are targeting customers in local stores/car parks. They are distracting people by asking questions ie 'I am lost' or 'have you seen my child'. While you are trying to help them, an accomplice steals a handbag or shopping from your car. 2 other scams to be aware of locally too - bogus callers and thefts from works vehicles. Keep safe.





**CHRISTMAS QUIZZES** - the answers to the cryptic clues are words associated with Christmas

1. Filling the shelves with small gifts (8).....
2. Who the dyslexic devil worshipper sold his soul to! (5).....
3. Join the army and regroup as glittery decoration (6).....
4. Smart looking tree (6).....
5. Is it prêt à ? (6).....
6. Fielding, Coward or Gallagher? (4).....
7. Bird doesn't really come from this country (6).....
8. Santa's deadly mode of transport? (6).....
9. What Mrs Claus said to Santa when he asked for the weather forecast (8).....
10. The gift is here (7).....
11. Stole time to kiss (9).....
12. Christmas girl (5).....
13. Actor at the top of the tree (4).....
14. Glean news from this holy messenger (5).....
15. Will these three see off the magic? (4) .....

Closing date 10<sup>th</sup> January 2016 - drop entries at 18 Mill Road or email at tfl\_ra@zoho.com (don't forget to include your name and address) - a small prize for the person with the most correct answers.

Winner of the **Autumn Quiz, Blue Haven** was Mrs McCarthy of Tithe Farm who receives a small gift! Well done!! Answers were 1) Once in a blue moon, 2) Out of the blue, 3) Blue sky thinking, 4) Blue blood, 5) Bluebird, 6) Blue Peter, 7) Blue whale, 8) Got the blues, 9) Bluetooth, 10) Bluebottle, 11) Bluestocking, 12) Blueprint, 13) Blue collar worker, 14) the Blue Danube, 15) Little Boy Blue.

**WORDSEARCH PUZZLE - UP MY STREET**

No prize here ..... a puzzle just for fun!!

E	D	B	N	L	X	Y	V	R	N	J	M	S	X	I	V	D	H	M	I
G	R	R	O	O	N	U	X	O	I	I	N	N	J	Y	U	S	W	E	H
D	E	I	T	N	I	A	R	M	I	L	L	L	X	T	L	V	Y	D	N
I	H	D	R	G	Y	Y	S	M	C	H	A	U	N	T	E	R	E	L	L
R	P	G	U	F	B	V	M	H	G	E	E	Q	V	P	P	J	U	I	M
E	E	E	B	E	L	T	T	I	L	S	I	C	N	A	R	F	V	C	E
L	H	S	F	L	M	A	S	E	F	I	E	L	D	U	X	M	W	O	L
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C	H	T	R	O	W	S	D	R	O	W	D	O	O	W	P	R	O	T	B
W	V	H	N	W	Z	T	E	N	N	Y	S	O	N	G	X	E	L	P	S

- Bridges
- Burton
- Byron
- Chaucerell
- Coleridge
- Ely
- Francis Little
- Longfellow
- Maberley
- Masefield
- Medlicott
- Mill
- Nash
- Orpwood
- Shepherd
- Tennyson
- Wordsworth

**COLOURING COMPETITION** - for all our budding young artists out there! Book token prize for each winning picture in 2 categories - ages up to 6 and over 6 years old. Drop entries into No. 18 Mill Road - closing date 22<sup>nd</sup> December. All entries will be displayed in the Common Room. Extra copies of the colouring competition can be obtained from us if needed. Prizes kindly sponsored by Rollinson Property Services of 1 Wordsworth Road.



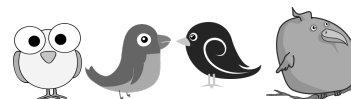
FIRST NAME.....

AGE.....

Not for publication  
CONTACT.....



**ON THE WILDSIDE** - It was on a winter's cycle ride through Ock Valley Walk that I spotted a flash of blue skimming over the water. The kingfisher was flying parallel with me, so I got a decent aerial view of it for a few seconds. It put a spring in my step for the rest of the grey dreary day. We are so lucky that we have a healthy population of these elusive, jewelled gems in Abingdon, which could outshine any bird of paradise. At 17 cm our native bird, feeds on insects and fish. Making burrows in sandy riverbanks and laying 5-7 glossy eggs at a time. Winter is a brilliant time to spot our local birds, take note of nests and dreys (squirrel's homes). If you put out a variety of food regularly in your garden/balcony and top up a water bath (a plant pot dish will do) through winter, our feathered friends will soon add you to their daily 'neighbourhood rounds!' You could be seeing the regulars; robins showing off their winter plumage, blue and great tits, iridescent starlings (when seen up close). During colder spells you may also see some rarer visitors. I was amazed to see a reed bunting and black cap last year, but then remembered there were plenty of reed beds nearby.



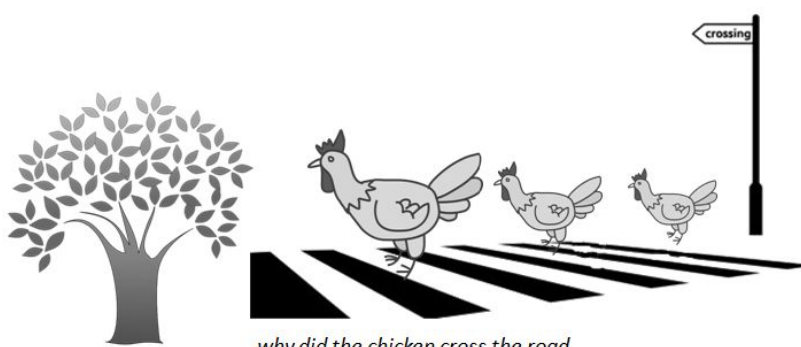
Why not become a growing number of 'citizen scientists' and take part in the Garden Bird Watch for the RSPB in 30-31st January 2016 or BTO. It will take an hour of your time and you can record data online or via a paper copy. After all that's how I got hooked aged 9 doing a bird survey with the YOC as recommended by Blue Peter!! Who knows where it may lead you?? Max the wildlife watcher.

**RIVER PATH** - Last time we said that the Vale Property team were inspecting the state of the footpath from Ladygrove to Tesco's. Afterwards, they said that they thought it wasn't in too bad a state and that a few dips and ruts were to be expected. We disputed this! Since then we have had some information from a non Council/Environment Agency source that there is possible work planned for the Ock path and Sandford Brook areas but we have no details or confirmation at the time of writing. Watch this space!

**AN ORPWOOD ROAD RESIDENT REMEMBERS...** - Long before our houses were built, when the main road south out of Abingdon was the Drayton Road, a little girl called Eileen and her brother played in the south Abingdon fields of Tithe Farm and Ladygrove.

Mill Road was only a farm lane then, leading to the Mill itself and the small row of cottages. Twice a day the cows would be taken out of the fields either side of the lane and moved down to the milking barns and sheds - these were on the other side of the Drayton Road, roughly where Lady Eleanor Court has been built. The farmhouse was where the low 'odd' numbers of Mill Road are now and Eileen would be sent by her mother to knock at the back door of the farmhouse to buy a jug of milk. Along with the milk, she was often given a pear or apple for being a helpful girl. The apples and pears would have come from the orchard on the other side of the lane, now covered by the 'even' numbers of Mill Road and Burton Close. Best of all in the orchard was the old walnut tree, where Eileen was allowed to pick up the fallen nuts. Farmer Cox's hens were kept behind the farmhouse - probably now Wordsworth Road area - but were often seen strolling across the lane to peck in the orchard. We don't see many hens crossing our road now!!

More memories in another newsletter.....



why did the chicken cross the road .....



**BURTON CLOSE/DRAYTON ROAD FOOTPATH** - In our last newsletter we mentioned that the Residents' Association was contacting Oxfordshire County Council Highways Section about the overgrown state of this short, but much used, footpath. We were pleased to see that the ivy that was badly obstructing the footpath was soon cut back and the cuttings later removed from the adjacent verge. The other problem was the obstruction of the exit railings by a hedge next to the warehouse. People have said it is increasingly difficult to get buggies through the gap. It has taken the Residents' Association nearly three months to get an answer from the County Council about this problem but we have just heard that they have now instructed the warehouse to cut back the hedge.

By the time you read this, the barriers should be clear again - if they aren't, we certainly will be back in touch once more with the Highways Department!

**ABINGDON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS** - The hospital (ACHLOF) are currently looking to increase their membership (this does not include working in the hospital) - the annual subscription is only £5. If any friends are interested in joining, please send subscriptions to The Treasurer, 1 Willow Court, Abingdon OX14 1ZB tel: 01235-533171. Cheques payable to ACHLOF - please include your name and address and email if applicable. Email them on achlof1@gmail or log onto their website for updates [www.achlof.weebly.com](http://www.achlof.weebly.com)

#### ADVERTISEMENTS

**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](mailto: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](mailto:contact@ptoxford.co.uk) - website [www.ptoxford.co.uk](http://www.ptoxford.co.uk)

**Ashnah American Tribal Style® Folk/Belly Dance** - unique, modern, improvisational group dance - Classes Wednesdays 6.30pm Conservative Club - [www.ashnahtribalbellydance.com](http://www.ashnahtribalbellydance.com) - tel: 07979734852 - email [ashnahbellydance@googlemail.com](mailto:ashnahbellydance@googlemail.com)

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 MEETINGS** - Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December, Stonewater Flats Common Road, Bridges Close, - come along for Christmas drinks and nibbles - all welcome!! First meeting for 2016 will be on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January. See blog for more details and meetings.



#### CONTACT

For contributions, articles, announcements or if you'd like to come along to a meeting - email at [tfl\\_ra@zoho.com](mailto:tfl_ra@zoho.com) or phone 07732251334 to leave a message

**Chair:** Anita, 39 Masefield Crescent - **Treasurer:** Val, 17 Nash Drive

**Blog:** [www.tflra.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.tflra.blogspot.co.uk)

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