

# Tithe Farm & Ladygrove Residents Association (TFLRA)

## Spring 2016



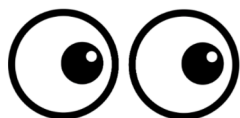
**WELCOME** – Christmas has been and gone ..... hope you all had a great one, enjoyed reading the extended Christmas Newsletter and that your New Year Resolutions are still going strong! The winter nights are already getting lighter and Spring is just around the corner ... well, nearly! During the delivery of the next newsletter, the Summer edition, we will also again be collecting the yearly subscription.

**MORE MEMORIES** - In the last newsletter, we heard about some of the memories of Eileen, now of Orpwood Way, about our area before our estates were built. Children today aren't often found playing by themselves near the houses and old Mill by the Ock, but Eileen and her brother had no restrictions about that back in the 1940s and early 1950s. But even after all those years, she still remembers the problems caused by her little brother losing his shoe in the mill stream and having to have it fished out by a friendly fisherman!



On the opposite side of the Drayton Road, where the Virginia Way estate is now, Eileen recalls cornfields. This was a great area to play and explore especially after the harvest although she also recalls getting a wheat husk embedded in her foot and having to be operated on by her father on the kitchen table. Life seems to have been very adventurous for the young people back then – Eileen and her friends were allowed to climb and play on the hayricks which were built in late summer where Lady Eleanor Court stands now. Definitely something that no child is allowed to do now!!

After the farm was sold and Tithe Farm houses started to be built, the farmer's son, Ken Cox, moved to a house in Wilsham Road where he also had a barn. He kept hens there and sold eggs – does anyone else remember buying their eggs there all those years ago?



**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH** – In February we heard that the Abingdon area is being targeted by 'courier' fraudsters. The Police report that they know of some 13 cases of this type in the area since mid December, with victims losing a lot of money. The victim is telephoned and then tricked into handing over cash to a courier pretending to be from a bank, the Police or even from Martin Lewis, the

Money Saving Expert founder. For any residents concerned about a relative or neighbour who may fall for this crime, the Police have produced a 'prompt card' which can be put near the phone or front door to remind vulnerable people that these sort of calls are almost certainly fraud. Contact the Residents' Association if you want a copy of this prompt card.

Any other relevant alerts for Neighbourhood Watch from the Thames Valley Police Alert, will be posted on the TFLRA Blog Neighbourhood Watch section.

**EASTER 2016 – WASTE COLLECTION CHANGES** - Our normal collection will be moved from Friday 1 April to Saturday 2 April (grey bin and food waste bin).



**BURTON CLOSE/DRAYTON ROAD FOOTPATH** - We were very pleased to see that the overgrown bushes that were obstructing the barriers at the Drayton Road end were finally well cut back. We (and Oxfordshire Highways Department) had thought that these bushes were owned by the Allparts warehouse. We were wrong - the grounds and vegetation are maintained by a management company for the whole site, so the problem had to get over yet another communication hurdle. Let's hope solving the problem isn't so difficult to resolve if there is another time.

**DRAYTON ROAD BUS STOP** - Back in October, we were told about the very poor surface of the bus stop layby on our side of the Drayton Road. Pieces of loose concrete looked as if they could be easily knocked into the road. This was reported on 'Fix my Street' (<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/>). After a lot of chasing for a reply, Oxfordshire Highways told us in January that this work will be done sometime in the new financial year. They say the concrete will be removed and replaced with tarmac.



**WILDLIFE WATCHER** - Max the Wildlife Watcher writes - In my new home I was excited to hear the hum of the bees in my garden and then to find someone selling homemade honey along my street. Could my small patch be helping the wider environment? Bees need our help. Honeybee colonies have declined by 53% between 1985 to 2005 due to; intensive farming, lack of traditional meadows, use of chemicals and weakened bee colonies being affected by diseases. What can we do? Whether 'your plot' is a balcony, window sill, or garden, planting bee friendly plants all helps, such as: lavender, buddleia, sedum, foxgloves. To extend the nectar season plant primrose, English bluebells in spring and honeysuckle and golden rod in autumn. BBOWT (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust) has a useful leaflet 'gardening for bees'.

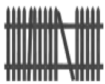


Wishing you a super Spring. I'm buzzing off to have to honey with my toast.



**CARS BLOCKING DRIVEWAYS** - We understand that some residents occasionally have problems when other people's cars are parked on the road but left blocking the driveway. We asked the Community Police what a resident can do in this situation. Here is their reply:

*In answer to your questions, if a vehicle is blocking a driveway and the driver is unknown or uncooperative the police do have the power to have the vehicle removed. If anybody finds themselves in the position of a vehicle preventing them from leaving their house they are to dial 101 and explain to the call taker the situation. A PCSO or Police Officer will then attend.*



**RIVER OCK** - The Environment Agency have said they will inspect the broken down fence between the weir and the bridge on the Ock path. It is lying partially in the river and there was concern that this might impede the water flow if debris collects behind it.

**PLANT SWAP** - For all Tithe Farm and Ladygrove gardeners!! There will be a Plant Swap on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May on the driveway at 39 Masefield Crescent between 3.00 p.m. and 5.00 p.m., come rain or shine. Bring along your extra plants, surplus seedlings or spare cuttings and be ready to 'swap' - all for free!! Please do check the Blog and our posters beforehand in case we have to change the date at the last minute.



**POST** – What is happening with our post? Everyone we have spoken to on our estates have told us that they have problems with postal deliveries. Post is put through our letterboxes with the right number but for the wrong road, we get post for neighbours and even for houses on the other side of the Drayton Road! There appears to be two problems here – firstly it seems that the Sorting Office isn't consistently doing a good job, and secondly, delivery people aren't checking the post before putting through the letterbox. It is very worrying to think that our personal information may be popping through the letterbox of a random house somewhere in South Abingdon. The majority of people are very helpful, taking letters around to the correct address or putting it back in the post ..... but there may be someone, somewhere, less willing or even someone away on a very long holiday!

The TFLRA has taken this up with the Sorting Office but residents affected may also wish to make formal complaints themselves.

**ABINGDON GREEN GYM** - If, while walking along the Ock Path, you have seen people in green sweatshirts, wielding saws and loppers, picking up litter or pushing wheelbarrows, you have encountered the Abingdon Green Gym.



The first Green Gym was started nearly fifteen years ago in Sonning Common by a doctor as a way for people to get fitter while doing useful conservation work. There are now Green Gyms all over the country and six in Oxfordshire. Some Green Gyms meet on weekdays but the Abingdon one meets on Saturday mornings and we work on various sites in and around Abingdon. It is free to join and tools and gloves are provided. People of all ages and levels of fitness are welcome.

Among the tasks we have undertaken are making woodchip paths, hay raking at Barton Fields, reed raking at Cothill Fen, coppicing, clearing brambles, tree planting, building a dead hedge at Boars Hill and a living one at Sunningwell. At every session we make sure there are tasks to suit everybody and refreshments are provided half way through.

If you are interested, phone Eleanor on 01235 531 857 or visit our website:  
[www.abingdongreengym.org.uk](http://www.abingdongreengym.org.uk)



**THE GARDEN IN SPRING** (*Martin Gulliver writes*) - This is very much dependent on the weather - Spring can come early or late but this is a general guide:

- As snowdrops fade, split them up to increase stock.
- Prune and feed roses - cut back any dead or diseased stems and cut remaining stems back to a couple of outward facing buds above the ground on hybrid tea and floribunda roses.
- Cut back and feed perennials - they can also be split now when new growth is apparent.
- Sow hardy annuals now either direct in the ground or in pots to plant out later.
- Feed all borders – weed them first then apply a mulch.
- Top dress containers - scoop off the top 2” of soil and replace with fresh, and give them a feed.
- Start sowing early veg, including carrots, parsnips, radish and spring onions.
- Early potatoes that were chitted in February can be planted out now.
- Try sowing a few salad crops...sow in succession to get a steady supply.



**QUIZ - Points of the Compass** - The answers all contain a compass point – North/northern, West/western etc.

1. First book of Philip Pullman’s “Lyra” trilogy .....
2. Novel by John Steinbeck .....
3. The capital is Adelaide .....
4. Here, there is nothing like a dame .....
5. And here, there are jets and sharks .....
6. Constellation visible in the Antipodes .....
7. Once nicknamed God’s Wonderful Railway .....
8. Sea route linking Atlantic to Pacific via the Arctic Ocean .....
9. Their local is the Queen Vic .....
10. Amundsen got there first .....
11. Opera by Puccini .....
12. Ruled by Kim Jong Un .....

Closing date for entries is 30<sup>th</sup> April – drop entries into 18 Mill Road or email them to [tfl\\_ra@zoho.com](mailto:tfl_ra@zoho.com)



**CHRISTMAS QUIZ WINNERS / ANSWERS** - There were quite a few correct answers sent in for the adults Christmas Quiz from the December Newsletter - the winner was Daphne Stevens of Mill Road - well done!! Daphne wins a small prize.



The answers to the quiz were 1) Stocking, 2) Santa, 3) Tinsel, 4) Spruce, 5) Manger, 6) Noel, 7) Turkey, 8) Sleigh, 9) Reindeer, 10) Present, 11) Mistletoe, 12) Carol, 13) Star, 14) Angel, 15) Magi (Kings)



**CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S COLOURING COMPETITION WINNERS** - We had a great response for the children's Colouring Competition in the Christmas Newsletter, well done to all who submitted an entry - it was a tough decision to select winning pictures from such beautiful pictures!! Our independent judge selected 2 winners for both categories - Lois age 4 and Anna age 6, and the runner up is Izabel age 8, all from Tithe Farm. The children received a book token each. Well done!

**CYCLING PROFICIENCY** - Some of you will have noticed that a local school has been holding a cycling proficiency training course on Mill Road and we very much appreciate the care that is taken as you drive past our young learners. Please could we ask though that, in the interests of supporting this learning, the proper rules for right-of-way are observed as we are teaching the students not to proceed when they do not have priority.



#### ADVERTISEMENTS

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



**Irish Dancing School** - All ages and abilities welcome. Community Centre, Boulter Drive Abingdon OX14 1XP. Thursdays 5.30pm-6.30pm. Contact Sam Crossan 01235 520886 or email [crossanschoolofirishdancing@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:crossanschoolofirishdancing@hotmail.co.uk)

**Ashnah American Tribal Style® Folk/Belly Dance** – For all ages - Classes Wednesdays Beginners 6.30pm–7.30pm 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 MEETING** – please see blog at [www.tflra.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.tflra.blogspot.co.uk) for the next meeting.



#### 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)