

# Tithe Farm & Ladygrove Residents Association (TFLRA)



## Summer 2016



**WELCOME** – The good British summer weather is just about here with us again – though it's always a question of 'do I need a sun hat or umbrella'!! Hopefully the warm sun will stay with us for a while, enabling us to get out and enjoy the gardens. Summertime also means its time for the subs to be collected, which will be £1 for the year again. Thanks to you all for the subs and of course the articles – this enables us to put together this Newsletter, bringing your community to your door.

**RETURN TO THE RIVER** - When we think of ground breaking wildlife documentaries we probably think of exotic locations and animals, like snow leopards hunting in the mountains of Pakistan, or killer whales hunting seals in Patagonia or even giant centipedes catching bats in caves in the Amazon - so it is somewhat of surprise to that wildlife behaviour possibly never recorded before has been filmed on the river Ock here in Abingdon.



Filmmaker Stephen De Vere – who has filmed sequences for the BBC's Life of Birds, Life in the Freezer, Africa and most recently the sparrowhawk sequence in The Hunt - has spent the past few years filming and documenting the wildlife in English rivers for his film 'Return to the River'.

It might not have the cinematic scale of the recent BBC wildlife documentaries, but it does provide a more personal insight into our rivers and by returning to the same spot several times he documents the changes in the river and the behaviours of the animals, as well as uncovering secret worlds, which many of us are too busy to notice.

Whilst the kingfisher and otter footage is sublime it was not filmed in the area, yet another charismatic animal – the water vole was filmed on the Ock. Charting their behaviour, from their first emergence in spring and the establishment of their breeding territories to seeking out new food sources and avoiding predators – by climbing trees, and it is this seldom seen behaviour (possibly never filmed before) that Stephen has managed to capture for his film – making these shy, endearing and now very rare creatures the stars of the film.

For anyone with an interest in river wildlife, this film is highly recommended and not just because a leading wildlife cameraman has chosen to film on our local river.

More information on this and Stephen's other film 'Through the Garden Gate' can be found at: <http://britishnaturefilms.com/films/>



**FARINGDON ROAD** - Do you have children who go to Fitzharry's School or John Mason School? Are you concerned about them crossing the Faringdon Road? Should the Residents' Association be asking the County Council to put in another zebra crossing here? Let us know what you think.

**GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCHEME** - The North East Abingdon Good Neighbours Scheme now covers the whole of Abingdon and they are always looking for new volunteers to offer help and support to elderly, vulnerable and isolated people in their own homes. Tasks include shopping, gardening, collecting prescriptions, light housework and befriending. If you can offer any amount of time from an hour a week upwards, your help will be very welcome. To find out more, call 07956 019611 or email [gns.nea@gmail.com](mailto:gns.nea@gmail.com). You can also visit the Good Neighbours website at [www.neagns.co.uk](http://www.neagns.co.uk)





**REMINDER TO DOG WALKERS** - the bins at the bottom of Masefield Crescent playing field and in the field by Chaunterell Way are there for your use. People have said that they have found black plastic bags of dog poo in some very peculiar places!

**A WALK ON THE WILDSIDE** - by Max the Wildlife Watcher- When the weather is calm and hot, I have been amazed at the variety of butterflies and other insects that I have spotted along the hedgerows around the fields of Mill Road. Last year I took part in the Butterfly count <http://www.bigbutterflycount.org/> and logged the species I spotted in one hour (15th July- 7th August 2016). I was impressed with the number of people who had logged onto the website in our area. Dry Sandford nature reserve is a great place to spot butterflies and other insects around the ancient fossilised rocks that were once under the sea



You could make some 'moth candy', to get your children interested. What you need is; a big pan, a jar/pot, spoon, thick paintbrush, torch, brown sugar, treacle, fruit juice, water and cola. Heat the ingredients in a pan on a low heat, stirring constantly until everything has dissolved, adding more water if it looks like sticking. Stir until the 'moth candy' is thick and gooey. When it has cooled, put it in a jar and using the paint brush add it to various objects around the garden; walls, tree trunks, fence posts or even an old sheet/towel or rope on a washing line. When it is dark, go out with your torch and you hopefully will be amazed at the variety of moths.

The local Wildlife Trust has lots of exciting children's events in the summer Visit [bbowt.org.uk/whats-on](http://bbowt.org.uk/whats-on), for the full list of events.

*This is part of a longer article on butterflies and moths – for the full article see our blog site.*



**THE GARDEN IN SUMMER** (*Martin Gulliver writes*) - What you do this summer depends very much on the weather - it would be nice to sit back and enjoy the garden, but being British we know that rain and sun will combine and the garden will burgeon, so...

- Keep on top of weeding and deadheading. With the latter, as a general rule cut back to a lower bud(s)
- Trim the lawn regularly – little and often is best. If we get a hot spell and it goes brown, don't worry – it will recover.
- Sow more salad crops if you are that way inclined...a few seeds once a fortnight will ensure a regular supply.
- If you have a greenhouse, keep it well ventilated. Water the floor in the mornings to keep the air humid and prevent red spider mite.
- Keep containers well watered, especially hanging baskets. In holiday time bring them all into the shade while you are away – they will survive with one or two watering in the week.

As perennials flower and fade, cut them back hard and you should get a second flush of growth. Herbs can also be trimmed to keep them tidy, and the trimmings can be dried or frozen for future use.

**RIVER PATH** - A fantastic outcome! TFLRA, individual residents and other groups had been pressing the Vale of White Horse District Council for some time about the state of the path to Tesco's. All were delighted with new surface of the path that was laid in April. Shoppers, parents with babies in pushchairs, people going to and from work, people with mobility difficulties, joggers, small children on bikes are all now able to use the path. The work by the Vale appears to be part of a wider programme of improvement to this area, including work on the riverbanks, together with the Environment Agency. Wonderful to have some money spent in South Abingdon at last.





**VISIT TO THE ENERGY RECOVERY FACILITY AT ARDLEY** (*Sheila Bachmann writes*) - I recently visited the new Energy Recovery Facility at Ardley and was amazed. It is huge, built by Viridor using state-of-the-art waste management technology developed in France and Germany. The guided tour was well organised and it was fascinating to see the massive 35m high structure and the miles of piping and cables. The whole visit was really informative, very clean and not at all pungent.

The facility has two huge furnaces where rubbish is burnt at 850°C. The hot air is then pumped out, cooled and purified and the steam produced during this process generates electricity, about 29 megawatts (MW) of which 3 MW are used to run the plant and the rest is fed into the National Grid. This is enough electricity to run 38,000 homes, and the infrastructure is in place to provide central heating for Bicester Eco Town in the future.

This self-contained process produces about 10,000 tonnes of ash per year which is used for road building and can also be processed into carbon neutral breeze blocks for use in construction. Brilliant!

In the future they may also be able to dig up and burn the old landfill sites, and they can also process plastics that are not yet recyclable.

I have re-adjusted my recycling habits since my visit. Plastics that make a 'crinkly' sound, i.e. salad bags, crisp packets, etc. I now put into rubbish. See the recylenow website for more up-to-date information.

I would thoroughly recommend a visit. Tours can be arranged by contacting Alexandra Pyle, Waste Recycling Officer at the Vale on 01235 540566 or e-mail [Alexandra.Pyle@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:Alexandra.Pyle@southandvale.gov.uk). The next visit is planned for 4th August. Viridor also have a great Visitors Centre, organize school visits and engineering apprenticeship schemes.

*A longer article can be found on the TFLRA blog at <http://tflra.blogspot.co.uk>*

**THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY** (*report by Kay*) - The Queen celebrated her actual birthday on the 21st April, though she will also have an official birthday on 11th June. Why 2 birthdays? The British monarch's birthday celebrations have often been held on a day that is not their actual birthday, which is believed to have started during the reign of King George II in 1748, and is a tradition linked to the unreliable British weather because the royal family want to hold the grand birthday parade in the summer.



The Queen has now reigned for 63 years. A resident has a Coronation Programme which was presented to school children in 1953 - the Mayor of Abingdon at the time was Percy Holmes. It was a full Programme of Events lasting from Sunday 31st May to Thursday 11th June which included bell ringing, bun throwing, a Punch & Judy show, dancing, comic football / rucker match, roasting of an ox, a baby show, comic cricket match, cycle speedway, procession of decorated and illuminated boats, schools pageant and a play called The Two Angry Women of Abingdon, amongst numerous other activities.

A permanent memorial of the Coronation Year was the new bathing pool at Abbey Meadows which was formally opened on Thursday 4th June 1953 and included a swimming gala and a water polo match.

Happy birthday mam!



**TO MARK THE QUEEN'S 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY** (*report by Chris Palmer*) – On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May at the annual meeting of the Vale of White Horse District Council the honorary Freedom of the Vale was awarded to three locally based regiments: 3 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps, 4 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps and The Rifles. The award was made at a special meeting of the Vale of White Horse District Council by Chairman Cllr Mike Badcock. To mark this prestigious honour, scrolls were presented to representatives from each of the regiments.



**QUIZ – FRUIT SALAD** - find the 18 fruits hidden in this story

The weather seemed to be improving at last. If I could fix a date with friends, a walk in the countryside might be possible. Monday was out. Thursday should be O.K. We would need a map, plenty of water and food, of course. I phoned my friend, Pam, who asked if she could bring her sister, Pixie. Pixie! Really, they should ban a name like that. Never mind. Pam was a good cook and offered to bring a cake - ginger cake or angel cake or maybe chocolate cake with caramel on top. She loved cake but was always worried about her figure, afraid of getting too plump.



I phoned another friend, Maggie. She would bring sandwiches and her new boyfriend, Tom, a total waste of space in my opinion, but amiable enough. I saw the postman go past the house, but ten minutes later my neighbour appeared with a letter. Wrongly delivered again! On impulse, I asked him to join us and he promised to bring wine and crisps.



Thursday dawned, sunny and warm, and the six of us set off in two cars. We found a place to stop, a Pay and Display car park close to the hill we wanted to climb. Firstly, we had to walk through a field of flowering rape and Pixie started to sneeze so much she could hardly walk. I wished she had brought a hay fever remedy. Then we began to climb the hill and at last reached the top of the slope, aching legs forgotten, and spread out rugs for our picnic. Maggie brought out her contribution to the picnic, her rye bread with smelly cheese, but also rolls with Edam, so nobody was disappointed. Sandwiches, cake, crisps, wine..... no fruit? But that's all in the story!

Send in your answers either by email to [tfl\\_ra@zoho.com](mailto:tfl_ra@zoho.com) or drop it into 18 Mill Road – closing date 16<sup>th</sup> July.



**WINTER QUIZ RESULTS** – Thank you and well done to all who entered the Points of the Compass quiz in the last newsletter – the winner was Jacqueline Scott of Wordsworth Road who won a box of chocolates. Well done Jacqueline!!

The answers were: (1) Northern Lights, (2) East of Eden, (3) South Australia, (4) South Pacific, (5) West Side Story, (6) Southern Cross, (7) Great Western Railway, (8) North Sea route, (9) Eastenders, (10) South Pole, (11) La Fanciullia del West, (12) North Korea.

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**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)

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

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