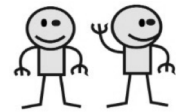


Tithe Farm & Ladygrove Residents Association (TFLRA)

Autumn 2016



WELCOME – Welcome to all new residents – we hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. Well ... what mixed weather we had this summer - hope you all managed to at least get one barbeque in this year! Thank you to all who contributed this years £1 subs towards keeping this newsletter running, and also a really big thanks to those who gave extra – without you all, we couldn't produce this.



PAST AND PRESENT - Looking forward... and looking backwards, *Anita Wickens writes*. A couple of us from TFLRA were invited to visit a meeting of Fitzharry's Residents' Association. They are a much smaller group than ours – only about 145 houses – but we found lots in common. We were really pleased to hear how much they liked our newsletter! Their newsletter is mostly sent out by email – would anyone on Tithe Farm and Ladygrove be interested in getting our newsletter in future by email, rather than paper? Let us know.

And looking backwards - I've been given a box of Residents' Association papers, mostly from the 1970's. I found a 1976 information sheet for newcomers and saw there was once a regular mini-bus service around the estates! Other papers included problems with rubbish collection and grass cutting – some things never change. And did you know that building a row of shops was part of the original plans for Francis Little Drive? Many social events were organised by the Residents' Committees back then, including an estate Arts and Crafts exhibition in 1975 in the Long Gallery, Abbey Buildings. I have a feeling that a few of our older residents may remember that. Subscriptions in the 1980s were 50p per household, so we have done well to keep our subs to £1.00 some 30 years later! If anyone would like to look through these papers, they would be very welcome to do so.



HISTORY UNDER OUR FEET - Did you know that back in the 1960s some Roman remains were found when Masefield Crescent was being built? The archaeologists discovered the remains of a small building – they didn't seem to know what it was used for but as it was found to be open on one side, it can't have been meant for living in. They also dug up some other odds and ends, pottery pieces, a few coins, some bone hair pins and a 'cosmetic spoon', all dating from the 3rd or 4th centuries. Did a

Roman lady stop here on her journey and lose her hairpins plus some of her make-up?

RECYCLING OF TEXTILES - We have heard of several instances of bags of textiles being left behind by Biffa, despite being put out on the right day with the green recycling bins. We asked the Vale about this. They said 'Sometimes the first waste truck does not have a textile cage fitted in which to store collected items, so sometimes a separate vehicle comes around just to collect textiles, so that may cause some confusion if people are taking their green bins straight back in after they're emptied and think the textiles have been missed'. Apparently, it doesn't matter whether the bags of textiles are left alongside or on top of the green bins - just not inside them! If any collection really has been missed, residents can call Biffa on 03000 610610.



CHANGING SACKS TO BOOST RECYCLING – From November, green wheelie bins will only be emptied if the recycling in them is loose or in clear sacks. The Vale says that recycling waste is still being contaminated with things like food waste, dirty nappies and other things they can't recycle. If waste is put into black or coloured sacks, this is not spotted until too late and whole truck loads are being rejected at the waste recycling centres. During October, bin hangers will be left on any bins containing black or coloured sacks – they will be emptied on that occasion, but continuation after 3rd November means the bin won't be emptied. For more info phone the Biffa on 03000 610 610 or at admin.vale@biffa.co.uk



DOORSTEP CHARITY BAG COLLECTIONS - We have been told that there have been incidents of an unidentified white van trawling our estates when charity bags have been left out for collection. The bags have disappeared before the official collection gets here. People may wish to consider giving directly to their favoured charity instead.

TESCO TROLLEYS - Is this a downside for our much-improved river path? Tesco's trolleys have found their way here and have been left abandoned. Call Tesco's on 0800 505555 to report an abandoned trolley or email them on customer.service@tesco.co.uk Let them know the exact location/post code and the trolleys should be collected with 2 working days.



THE GARDEN IN AUTUMN (*Martin Gulliver writes*) - As the weather turns cooler, plants will slow down but there should still be plenty of colour. Go out and buy some perennials that are in flower now and you know you'll have colour this time next year.

There will also be plenty of winter bedding available now – pansies and violas especially. They make very good hanging basket plants too. Most hardy bedding should last until the first frosts. Clear fallen leaves from beds and lawns and compost them. Put them in a plastic bag, pierce a few holes in it and by next year you should have valuable leaf mould! Raise permanent containers off the ground to aid drainage, and wrap tender ones in bubble wrap or fleece. Other perennials can be cut back and split up now. Discard the older central part and plant out the fresher outside growths. Leave seed heads on plants as they provide valuable food for birds ... and can look decorative when frosted.

Some light pruning can be carried out - mainly just to keep larger shrubs in shape. Those that you normally prune in spring, eg roses and buddleia, can be cut back by a third to prevent them loosening their roots in the wind, before the main pruning next year.

A WALK ON THE WILDSIDE - (*by Max the Wildlife Watcher*) - Living on the edge of Abingdon has many benefits; the greater opportunity to see our largest UK mammals is one. I have yet to see any foxes, badgers or even otters!



However I have been lucky to see something larger than those. Whilst visiting my favourite 'pooh stick' bridge on Mill Road, we spotted four fallow deer in the field towards the Superstore. There were two females and two young. The coat is usually orange-brown, boldly spotted in summer and no spots in winter. They have a distinctive white rump with black border. The species was introduced by the Normans



and quickly became established in the wild in hunting forests and chases. There are no really accurate estimates, but there must be tens of thousands of fallow deer in Britain. However I have very rarely seen them so close to houses. To see them so close to our estate in the daytime was very exciting. If you want to become even more of an expert, try and start learning to recognise footprints (winter is a good time) and droppings of our mammals.

Visit http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/animaltracks_tcm9-133380.pdf for identification of footprints and visit PTES (Peoples Trust for Endangered Species) to learn more about UK mammals. The RSPB website even explains how to make a cast of some footprints for the really adventurous.

MICHAELMAS AND RUNAWAY FAIR – It's the season for the annual Abingdon Fair once again!!! The Michaelmas Fair will be running from Monday 10th October until Tuesday 11th October and the smaller Runaway Fair will follow the week after for one day on Monday 17th October.





FARINGDON ROAD CROSSING - In the last newsletter, we wrote of our concern about children having to cross this busy road on their way to school. Thank you for your feedback on this article. Soon afterwards we heard that this is actually in the County Council's programme of works. They are now at the stage of applying for Planning Permission. This hasn't been done at the time of writing, but we hope to have more news in the next newsletter. Wish we could claim some responsibility for the crossing plans but success has been nothing to do with the Residents' Association!



TESCO'S RIVER PATH - We reminded the Vale that they were going to remove the fallen and defective lengths of barbed wire along the Chaunterell Way / Tesco's river path. They confirmed that they will do this once the nettles die down. We'll remind them again if they don't.



BUS CHANGES - In July, it was a great relief to many people to hear that our local bus service had been kept – for the time being at least. We now have 2 bus routes only along the Drayton Road, the local 41 town service plus the X2 service. The old X1 service has been renamed the X32A and runs from Abingdon centre to Wantage, via Culham, ie, no longer along the Drayton Road.



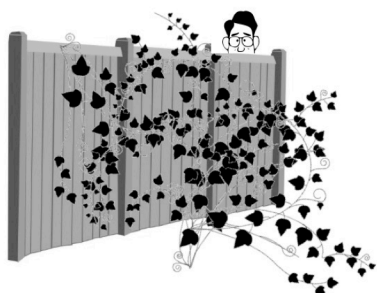
Town Service 41 - Runs weekdays, Monday to Friday, in a loop from Saxton Road bus stop, Drayton Road to the Town Centre then on to the Community Hospital on the Marcham Road. Leaves Saxton Road every half hour from 8.45am until 11.45am, then every half hour from 12.55pm to 14.55pm, and arrives at Stratton Way in the town centre 12 minutes later.

X2 service - Runs between Oxford, Abingdon, Didcot and Wallingford. The timetable is far too complicated for us to try to produce it here, but the bus does run approximately half hourly during the main part of the day on weekdays. It runs approximately hourly early mornings, evenings and at the weekends. See the bus stop for more information or online here http://www.coronetbingo.com/X1-X2_Oxford-Abingdon-Didcot_June_2014.pdf



WINTER RECIPES - It is still August as we write this, so Christmas is a long, long way ahead but we are starting to think a bit about the Winter newsletter. Does anyone have any special Christmas recipes that they would like to share with other residents? Let us have them if you do have something special – we'll print one or two in the next newsletter. A small gift for anything we print. We'd especially welcome recipes from any of the children too. Email us your recipes on tfl_ra@zoho.com or drop them off at 18 Mill Road.

UPDATE ON THE TREES ON THE GREEN – The Town Council reported that they are aware of problems with 2 of the trees on Wordsworth / Longfellow green and they have now received the results of their tree survey. The trees (marked with tags 161 and 164) will be felled in the autumn.



UPDATE ON BURTON CLOSE / DRAYTON ROAD PATHWAY - We were pleased to see that once again the overgrown laurel and elder bushes that were encroaching onto the path and towards the barriers at the Drayton Road end have been cut back. The committee contacted the Poplars home on the Drayton Road regarding the ivy which is making an appearance on the path again. We received a reply to say they are currently in discussion regarding responsibility and maintenance of it and will make sure the issue is contained so as not to cause any future hazards.



AUTUMN QUIZ - Extraordinary Eggheads

The answers to the following clues begin with 'EE' – closing date 22nd October. Please drop your entries into 18 Mill Road or email them to us tfl_ra@zoho.com or phone 07732251334 to leave a message. There'll be a small prize for the winner.



1. These two Northern blokes brought us sunshine and jokes _____
2. In this cockney soap, with disasters they cope _____
3. By jumping with skis his fans he did please _____
4. A flag waving theme and Gerontius' dream _____
5. This theatrical dame with "a handbag" won fame _____
6. In Springtime you eat this chocolate treat _____
7. Wallis not to disown, he gave up his throne _____
8. From Victory's mast, this message was passed _____
9. This grand dame from Oz , Barry Humphries once was _____
10. This fish like a snake, with a shock makes you quake _____

WINNER OF THE SUMMER 'FRUIT SALAD' QUIZ -

Thank you to all who entered the Fruit Salad quiz in the last newsletter – it was close, but the winner was drawn out to be Phil Stopford of Tennyson Drive. Well done!!!! For all who are still scratching their heads, here are the answers:

- (1) Date, (2) Apple, (3) Banana, (4) Orange, (5) Melon, (6) Fig, (7) Plum, (8) Tomato, (9) Mango, (10) Pear, (11) Noni, (12) Papaya, (13) Grape, (14) Kiwi, (15) Peach, (16) Cherry, (17) Lychee, (18) Damson



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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

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 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 or phone 07732251334 to leave a message

Chair: Anita, 39 Masefield Crescent - Treasurer: Val, 17 Nash Drive
Blog: <http://tflra.blogspot.co.uk>

