

Tithe Farm & Ladygrove Residents Association (TFLRA)

Autumn 2017



WELCOME - Seems school summer holidays were here one minute and gone the next - hope you all had a restful, relaxing holiday home or away, despite the rain typically coming out to play once the holidays started!!! Thank you to all for your annual contributions towards keeping this newsletter running – it's greatly appreciated. Ok ... so who's started their Christmas shopping??

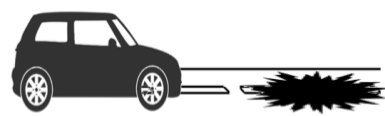


CARD DEFENDERS - Most new credit and debit cards come with Radio Frequency Identification technology (RFID) allowing us to simply tap our cards on card readers in order to make purchases up to £30. There has been some anxiety about criminals creating their own RFID readers in order to steal our details just by brushing against our pockets or bags with their devices. If you do have a concern about this, it is possible to buy Card Defenders from the Thames Valley Neighbourhood Watch Association (TVNWA) to prevent this. The Card Defenders are sleeve card holders which block RFID-reading technology. They cost £1.00 for one, five for £4.00 or

ten for £7.00 (plus a small postage charge). Contact the TVNWA Secretary, Naomi Arnold on naomi.arnold33@gmail.com for more details.

Please do take care when typing in the email address – there is another Naomi Arnold on the other side of the world who has a very similar email address and who has been getting dozens of these requests!

FIXMYSTREET - mixed reviews! - In the last newsletter we wrote about a success in getting a road repair done via the FixMyStreet website. Since then, we have heard of other residents having success in reporting highway/footpath problems that have (mostly) been attended to by the County Council Highways Dept. Where there has been a problem is when reports are made about weeds on pavements and along the gutters. OCC reply posts usually said that they have no budget for weed removal and are not now permitted to spray. Recently there had been some reply posts from the Highways Dept, telling people to contact Biffa (ie the District Council) about weeds. This is incorrect advice and OCC Highways have acknowledged that someone in that department has made an error. OCC's reduced budget does not make the District Council responsible for removing weeds from gutters and pavements.



And more about weed removal from kerbs and gutters - Some residents do clear the area in front of their houses, which is much appreciated, but others either do not wish to do so or are unable to do so. The Vale of White Horse District Council, however, funds an additional 'deep clean' team who can be directed to problem areas around the Vale and will clear weed growth even though it is not their duty to do so.

They agreed to send the team to south Abingdon for a few days and you will have seen the very good job they did in tidying up both sides of Drayton Road. Unfortunately, their allocated time ran out before they could do more on our estate than a part of Wordsworth Road. Perhaps there will be another time.....

FLU JABS AT MARCHAM ROAD HEALTH CENTRE - Marcham Road Surgery's flu clinics are on Sunday 17th Sept between 4pm and 5pm, Saturday 23rd Sept between 2pm and 3pm and Sunday 8th Oct between 4pm and 5pm.

For patients over 65 or with serious long term health problems. If your newsletter arrives too late for the first clinics, we hope you can make the October date. No appointment is necessary. For more information see www.marchamroadhealthcentre.co.uk

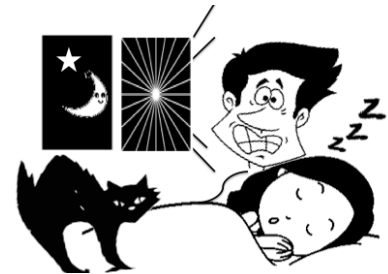


NEWSLETTER DELIVERIES - Many thanks to the three residents who said that they would be able to deliver some newsletters should TFLRA have an unexpected problem getting a batch around. Also, many thanks to our regular deliverers!



PCSO's - We were very pleased that two PCSOs, Emma and Jo, were able to stop by our July meeting for half an hour or so. Their time with us was appreciated as they have to cover a wide area in this part of Oxfordshire. Residents told them about some of their concerns, mainly parking at junctions obscuring sight lines and the occasional speeding car. The PCSOs told us that our two estates seem to have more visits from unlicensed scrap metal dealers and suspicious collectors than other areas in Abingdon, but on the other hand, we are the 'best' in Abingdon for reporting these suspicious door-to-door collectors. Of course, some of these callers are genuine (for example, people collecting our newsletter subscriptions!!) but others are not. We were told that the Police had recently taken one unlicensed door-to-door scrap metal dealer to Court. If you are concerned about the genuineness of a door-to-door caller, just ring 101, the non-emergency Police number.

If residents would like contact from Abingdon neighbourhood team for questions or concerns (incidents cannot be reported through this channel) then they can email at:
abingdonneighbourhoodpoliceteam@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk



SECURITY LIGHTS - Residents have asked us to pass on their concerns about security lights left on continuously overnight. Some of these lights shine into other people's bedrooms, making sleep difficult without installing black out blinds. It is suggested that residents who are concerned about security consider other options, such as movement sensitive security lights.

SPRING BULBS (*Martin Gulliver writes*) - 'Tis the season to plan and plant spring bulbs. No doubt bulb catalogues will have been arriving via the postman and as inserts in other magazines, and the choice is wide. Garden centres are a better port of call as you can see the quality of the bulbs, and can often buy in bulk – fill a bag of daffodils is popular. Ensure the bulbs are firm and free of mould. The following are the most planted.



- Daffodils - many sizes, some scented, best planted in drifts
- Crocus - many different colours, also best planted in clumps
- Iris - a good variety of blues, whites and mauves, good in rock gardens
- Tulips - a wide variety of colours and shapes, good in a formal plot or in pots

Most bulbs should be planted in September - tulips can wait until October or November. Plant any bulb at four times its size - ie if a bulb is 3cm tall, plant it 12 cm deep and ensure it rests on well drained soil rather than dense earth. Bulbs look good naturalised in grass...scatter the bulbs in a drift and plant them where they fall. Another good idea is to plant layers of bulbs in a pot so they come up at different heights.



HEDGEHOG SURVEY - As a follow-up to the article in our summer newsletter on hedgehogs, the Mammal Society will be running a survey on hedgehogs in our gardens during National Mammal week, 21st - 29th October. If you want to take part, go to:
<http://www.mammal.org.uk/national-mammal-week/>

MICHAELMAS FAIR AND RUNAWAY FAIR - It is nearly that time of year again. The annual street fair will take place along Ock Street and the town centre on Monday 9th October and Tuesday 10th October. The smaller Runaway Fair will be a week later, on Monday 16th October in the town centre.





AUTUMN QUIZ - Political Worldwide – We need to sort out the politicians - solve the anagrams to find politicians and leaders from Britain and around the world.

1. HA! ME STAYER
2. NUCLEAR MEMO MAN
3. MAKE ALL GREEN
4. RHINOS ON JOBS
5. I INVALID TRUMP
6. CANCEL VIBE
7. CON ME BY JERRY
8. NO CRETINOUS GAL!
9. OBTAINED BAT
10. HIM A DOLPHIN MP
11. DUMP DARN LOT

Closing date for entries is 22nd October – drop entries into 18 Mill Road or email them to tfl_ra@zoho.com
There will be a small prize for the winner!!

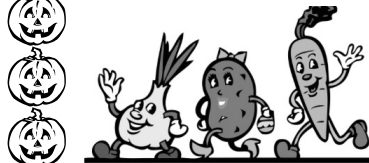
WINNER OF THE SUMMER QUIZ – And the winner is – Gill Martin of Medicott Drive!! Well done Gill – a small prize for you - and thank you to all who sent in their answers. Here are the answers: (1) Sunblest, (2) Go out in the mid-day sun,(3) Land of the Rising Sun, (4) Bring me sunshine, (5) Sunflower, (6) Empire of the Sun, (7) Sunkist/Capri Sun, (8) Here comes the sun, (9) Sunlight soap, (10) A thousand splendid suns, (11) Desert/Tequila sunrise, (12) Sunset Boulevard, (13) Sunpat, (14) Sun King, (15) Midnight Sun.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER STICK TOGETHER *(by Max the Wildlife Watcher)* - A phenomenon known as a murmuration when starlings roost together in winter. Our single RSPB nature reserve in Oxfordshire, Otmoor (website link below) is an excellent place to witness this spectacle. Go in the winter months starting in November and wrap up warm. Arrive at least an hour before dusk. At weekends the car park gets extremely busy, but places do become available if you are patient enough. I took some children to witness it last year; it was impressive, made extra special with a large super moon. The birds apparently flock together for safety in numbers, warmth at night and exchange of information of good feeding grounds.



I am pleased to see and hear a small flock of starlings around our estate. They remind me of teenagers hanging out and strutting on our lawns to find insects and worms. Their numbers have greatly reduced (according to BTO by 66%) since the 1970s. They nest in holes and cavities (a pair nests in the guttering of a house behind mine) and fledge after three weeks. Their feathers start off brown, producing white spots in winter. However during breeding season they are sleek and glossy, with iridescent colours of green and purple. Quite stunning if you see them up close. The colour of the base of its quite long yellow beak is different in males and females - it is pink for girls and blue for boys! Maybe the birds born around our houses will be the ones joining the Otmoor murmurations in their mesmerising ‘aerial dance’. Long may it continue!
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/find-a-reserve/reserves-a-z/reserves-by-name/o/otmoor/about.aspx>

FOOD RECYCLING - The Vale of White Horse Council have changed their policy on food recycling. Now we can line our food waste caddies with plastic bags, such as carrier bags, pedal bin liners or bread bags, as well as compostable liners and newspaper. But they ask that we don't put any other food packaging in unless it is being used as the liner.



STONEHILL COMMUNITY GARDENS - Stonehill Community Gardens have completed a successful first year. See our blog for more details of their work. They are looking for crowdfunding backers for the coming year - if you are interested, go to <https://igg.me/at/stonehillcommunitygarden>

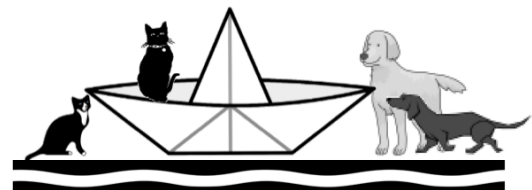


TESCO BUS - We have lost our local 41 bus service which went near Tesco's, but you can get there by using the service run by Tappins. At the moment, this runs once a week, on Friday mornings. You have about an hour to do your shopping before catching the return service. Ring Tappins on 01235-819393 for current time details.



TREES ON WORDSWORTH / LONGFELLOW GREEN - The Town Council will be considering a plan at their October meeting to plant new trees on the green, replacing the ones felled some time ago. If agreed, the trees will be planted either later in the autumn, or in the spring. See our blog for more details as we get these.

OCK VALLEY FLOOD GROUP (Marilyn, Secretary OVFG writes...) - The group was formed in 2008, after the devastating floods of 2007. The group is made up of local residents, who are all volunteers and we meet every 2nd Saturday of the month, from March to October, and work to clear debris from the Sandford Brook. We work closely with the Environment Agency and both local councils to keep the waterways clear and, hopefully, to prevent flooding in the future! *Information from the Environment Agency:* The St Helens flood defence wall was completed at the end of July 2017. The River Thames and the River Ock hydraulic modelling have been updated.



The Environment Agency has identified areas in Abingdon where a temporary flood defence could help reduce the impact of flooding. Temporary defences include pumps and barriers that are stored elsewhere and delivered to a location when required. The Environment Agency management staff or their contractors, including Eddie Stobart (Road Transport) Ltd will deliver the equipment to site and deploy it when required. Temporary flood defences will be deployed to protect: Potenger Way, Chaunterell Way and Orpwood Way, Tower Close, Meadowside and Healey Close. We are always looking for new volunteers and would welcome more from residents of the estate. If you are interested in joining in, please contact us via our website, ovfg.org.uk where all the information above can be found in full. It's only a couple of hours a month, all equipment is supplied and refreshments are provided at the end of each working party!

ADVERTS

ADVERTS - 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!

- **Window Wise** – Supply and fit double glazed windows, doors and conservatories – Repairs undertaken on all double glazing – No pressurised sales – Friendly service. Ring Martin for a free quotation on 07885571778 or 01235-559334.
- **Milk and More** - delivered to your door! To arrange home deliveries of milk and other goods, contact Steve Enock Dairies Ltd of Milk and More. Deliveries on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Tel 0345 606 3606 email steveenock@hotmail.com.
- **Simon's News** - Newspaper home delivery, 7 days a week - telephone 01235-553001.

NEXT MEETING AND CONTACT - Please see Blog at <https://tflra.blogspot.co.uk> for the next meeting. For contributions, articles, announcements or if you'd like to come along to a meeting email at tfl_ra@zoho.com or phone / text on our new number **07548419545** to leave a message.



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