



Tithe Farm and Ladygrove Residents Association (TFLRA)



Summer 2020



WELCOME - And what a year this has been so far!!!! We sincerely hope you've all kept well during this difficult time, have kept busy, or simply found this was the time to just unwind and recharge your batteries. During this period there has been a great spirit of co-operation, with neighbours helping neighbours, shopping, swapping plants and looking out for each other, and a small bonus being the weather has been glorious during this time, enabling us to enjoy being out in our gardens more during the restrictions. The TFLRA team are delaying the collection of subs this year, though we'll be 'round for your pound' in the Autumn (depending on restrictions) instead of the Summer.



COUNCILLOR JEANETTE HALLIDAY - It is likely that residents will be aware that one of our Town Councillors, Jeanette Halliday, died on 17th April. Although she had been unwell for some months, this sad news came as a shock to many people. Jeanette had been a Councillor for our area for some time and had always looked after our interests well. She was also a previous Mayor of Abingdon and had served on numerous local committees. We are assuming that there will be a by-election sometime in the future to fill the vacant Town Council seat.



VE DAY - What a lovely day this was - the sun shone, many people hung out bunting, chairs and tables were placed in front gardens, cakes were made, tea brewed, some brought out the bubbly, music was played, neighbours had the luxury of chatting to others (whilst social distancing), children played in the empty streets and I believe there was some dancing and singing in some roads too! Whatever you did, however you celebrated or didn't, we hope you had a wonderful day.



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS! - (Late) happy birthday wishes to Margaret of Medicott Drive who was 90 in May. A group of her neighbours and other residents gathered in the street on the day to sing Happy Birthday to her. All were social distancing, of course.



MASEFIELD PLAYING FIELD ENTRANCE POSTS - Users and neighbours of the Masefield Crescent playing field will have been very pleased to see that the Vale District Council took quick action after cars started entering and racing round the field. A good deal of damage was being done to the field surface and also to the play equipment but the installation of solid wooden posts at the entrance has stopped this.

Unfortunately, motor bikes can still access the field, although it is hard to see how this can be prevented.





PEDESTRIAN CROSSING LIGHTS - Updating and improvement work has been done to our pedestrian crossing on the Drayton Road by Oxfordshire County Council. The poles and signal controller have been replaced, with units that they say will reduce power consumption and carbon footprint. The crossing has been upgraded with detectors which will allow for a variable crossing time dependant on the walking speed and number of pedestrians.



MASEFIELD / LONGFELLOW ALLEY WAY - In April, regular users of this alley way on their way to the playing field will have been impressed by the look of this alley way. Workmen turned up in April and made a good job of clearing it of all weeds and rubbish. We have to assume that this was a County Council Highways job as they are responsible for the alleyways on our estates. Sadly, the vegetation is starting to grow again now but it looked great for a time anyway.



ROAD AND PAVEMENT REPAIRS - Although we are waiting for more attention to our pavements and roads, it was pleasing to see that Oxfordshire County Council Highways Dept., have at least done a repair to the very poor road surface at the junction of Mill Road and Francis Little Drive. This must, however, be the third or fourth time a patch repair has been done. This repair does look reasonably solid so we are hoping it lasts a little longer than all the other previous patching. OCC Highways has also done some repairs to the footpath in front of 10 – 22 Longfellow Drive, which had crumbled in several places.



ABINGDON COMMUNITY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM - A big thank you goes out to all those involved in our neighbourhood team, for delivering notes to all houses and then going above and beyond in helping those who need shopping, prescriptions and other general light tasks. It means a lot to so many. If you're vulnerable or can't get out and would like some like someone to get your shopping or prescriptions, please get in touch by either **Phoning** your local Street Rep (information on the cards that were mailed through your door), **Email** abingdoncoronaresponse@gmail.com, or alternatively see our **TFLRA blog post** <https://tflra.blogspot.com/2020/03/help-available-during-virus-outbreak.html>.



FACE MASKS - A very kindly resident has been making face-masks and would like to give them to anyone who'd like one. Please get in touch with the TFLRA (details at the bottom of the newsletter) and we'll pass on your details. We'd like to also give our thanks to the resident for making these - they're so very much appreciated! X



Mmm .. no dear

ABIMEDS - A great local service is provided by the AbiMeds team who will collect prescriptions for you from Abingdon pharmacies. You don't have to be self-isolating or vulnerable. The aim is to reduce the risk, not only to those queuing but to also to pharmacy staff. The number to ring to find out more about this is 01865 818351 (Monday to Saturday 9am to 4pm). You can see more information on <https://abimeds.org/>.





SUMMER QUIZ - CRYPTIC FILMS - Guess the film from the cryptic clues - there are 7 James Bond's!! Either drop your entry into 21 Mill Road - OR - email to tfl_ra@zoho.com - OR - complete online at <https://tflra-quiz.weebly.com> for submission. There will be a small prize for the winner! **Closing date 13th July.** Good luck!



1	Negative medic	
2	Kisses from Putin	
3	Sea creature crossed with feline	
4	Small females	
5	Lunar gardener	
6	Gambling for the Windsor's	
7	Spanish white house	
8	Short meeting	
9	Lazy medic	
10	Verdant 1,760 yards	
11	Just one chance at reincarnation	
12	Rebellion on a coconut bar	
13	Water store canines	
14	Rose coloured mountain lion comes back	
15	Gilded digit	

ANSWERS TO THE SPRING QUIZ DOUBLE MEANINGS - We had many entries sent in online (good to know it works)! as well as the usual drop off point and via email too, and the winner was a resident from Tennyson Drive. Well done! Answers are (a) Bank, (2) Keep, (3) Port, (4) Toll, (5) Lash, (6) Hail, (7) Left, (8) Trip, (9) Pine, (10) Even, (11) Neat, (12) Tack, (13) Kind, (14) Draw, (15) Well.

AND A LITTLE OOPS! - Following the print and distribution of the Spring 2020 Newsletter we spotted a couple of typo's with the Quiz - question (3) should have said 'Harbour' and not 'Harbor' and question (10) should have said 'Level' and not 'Leven'. This was taken into account when marking entries. Apologies for that.....





GARDENING (*Martin Gulliver writes*) - We have had an odd spring, and summer may well match it. We must be thankful for the warm sunny weather (as I type this) and more time in the garden. An ideal opportunity to tend to the garden using the articles I've written over the years, which I am sure you have all kept carefully indexed and bound! Growing to eat is great fun and so easy even in a small garden.



Salad leaves are ideal - cut and come again leaves will do well in pots, but discard after three cuts and sow at regular intervals. Even lettuces designed to grow full size such as cos or iceberg, can be grown close together and the leaves picked when ready. In trays, try sowing peas, about 1" apart, then harvest the tops when they reach about 3" - they are lovely in salads. As with any salad crops, sow a few seeds each fortnight to ensure a succession of pickings rather than a glut.



I'm sure many of us remember growing mustard and cress on damp paper on the windowsill. But you can also grow many other crops in a similar fashion - these are called micro greens. Radish, coriander, celery, spinach, beetroot, rocket all produce seedlings in a few days, which can be cut and sprinkled on salads or used in sandwiches. Use a shallow container, like an old butter carton or meat tray from the supermarket, and put several layers of kitchen towel at the bottom, soak them and then sprinkle the seeds thickly. Keep it moist and cut when the seedlings are about 2" - 3" high.



SPRING GARDEN COMPETITION?? - There were many lovely gardens around our estates in Spring, and the Summer gardens are getting going as we write this article. It has been suggested that we have a Spring Garden competition in 2021. Would you be interested in this? Or perhaps a Summer Garden competition or a Hanging Basket and Tubs competition?? Do let us know - you can use our email address or telephone number at the end of this newsletter. Looking forward to hearing from you.



SHRUBS AND HEDGES - And thinking about vegetation growing rapidly, can we remind residents to check that their shrubs and hedges aren't beginning to obstruct our pavements?



SHOPPING LOCALLY - Things are changing all the time, and as this article is being written, we are hoping most shops will re-open on 6th June. But who knows what the position will be when you get to read this article later in the month? General retail has had a dreadful time for the last few months. Many small independent shops and traders in Abingdon will be hoping that residents will now support them by shopping locally. Some shops have been able to continue working without open doors - Mostly Books in Stert Street, for instance, has been selling books 'remotely'. And, if the book wanted is in stock, they have been delivering locally for free the same day using bicycle power! Let's look forward to seeing a busy town centre again.





WALK ON THE WILDSIDE My newly discovered wild places (by Max) -

Hopefully like me, you have been able to make the most of self-isolation to discover wild spaces close to home. I know I have with my family and we have had a glorious Spring this year. We have found a meadow near the stables on Stonehill lane, with bountiful butterflies and a possible a red kite's nest. A small wooded area; the other side of the river Ock, where Muntjac deer cool off from the heat. And my daughter's favourite new wild spot is the Sutton Wick/Drayton, Millennium green pond, teeming with life; including a variety of dragonflies (Broad-bodied chaser which are stunning) and many mating newts. Is there more wildlife out during the daytime this year, because the roads are quieter, or because there are more admirers 'exercising', around to notice them? Top tip: Write a nature diary or personal blog with dates, to remind yourself of the exciting new discoveries you have found this year and promise yourself to revisit them next year at the same time when life might be (hopefully) a little more busy.



If you are more house bound this year, there are lots of websites to get you closer to nature: Count garden mammals and send sightings to PTES survey. Online training for bat surveys via The Bat Conservation Trust. BTO is offering free access this year to their Garden Bird Watch survey. Join Chris Packham for his self-isolating bird club, 9am #wildmorningswithchris or #breakfastbirdwatch with the RSPB. Find wonders in weeds (our native wildflowers) @morethanweeds and the Botanical Society has launched a wildflower survey and improve ID skills bsbi.org/garden-wildflower-hunt. Finally #WildlifeFromMyWindow, brings like-minded people from around the world.



If you don't use websites, there is lots to see from your windows and gardens such as the swifts who have returned earlier this year and screech in daily to the nest boxes. So fingers crossed they may have some young to join them when going further afield in late Summer. Hopefully we might be able to do that with our own families as well.



HEDGEHOGS - A Wordsworth Road resident would like to remind us not to put out bowls of milk (or bread) for hedgehogs if we are lucky enough to have some in our garden. Plain water only should be left. Meat-based wet dog/cat food is OK but will also attract less welcome visitors such as rats and foxes.



SPRAYING THE SET-ASIDE FIELD - Walkers were surprised and concerned in mid-May to find that the set-aside field had been sprayed with chemical. Almost all the wildflowers had been killed, leaving only the grass alive. The verges seem to have escaped the destruction but the main body of the field is now just plain grass.

Residents will have seen the notices at the two entrances off the B4017 which clearly state that this field is for recreational and dog-walking use, with the objective also of encouraging and developing wild-flower growth. A concerned resident contacted both DEFRA and the Vale Council. The Vale officers also expressed surprise and they are investigating what has happened and why it happened. If we get any more information, we will post this on the blog.





PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT - Residents may have noticed that a house in Tennyson Drive has been empty for some months. There was concern from people living near this area when it was learnt that there was a proposal to turn this into a dwelling containing 3 two-bedroomed flats and one single-bedroomed flat. In other words, a conversion from a three-bedroomed property into a seven-bedroomed property, with four parking spaces. Views were expressed that this was not only visually out of keeping with the area, but had the potential for a great increase in the number of cars parked on or near a busy street corner. A number of objections were made to the Vale of White Horse Planning department, including objections from Abingdon Town Council and the County Highways authority as well as from neighbours. At the time of writing, a decision on this application has yet to be made by the Vale Council. While we would always welcome newcomers to our estates, it is felt that this should not be at the expense of the look of our estates or the safety of our road users.

SOMETHING FOR NOTHING - An added interest to our strolls around the estate has been the number of boxes with give-aways on people's driveways. Books, maps, DVD's, children's games and toys They have all been on offer. Perhaps a good idea to continue doing this after things return to normal? Less clutter at home, no need for a trip to a charity shop and someone else enjoys your unwanted items.

ADVERTS - You can advertise your business. A full advert can go on the Blog with a short summary in the paper newsletters. £10 for residents for a 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 pressured sales - Friendly service. Ring Martin for a free quotation on 07885571778 or 01235-559334.
- **Jazzercise Wantage** - Opened on 7th March 2020! Jazzercise is the original dance party workout. We fuse dance cardio with kickboxing, pilates and strength training - set to the hottest playlists. Join the fun! All fitness levels welcome. Monday 7pm-8pm and Saturday 9am-10am. Loyd Lindsay Rooms, Ardington, Wantage, OX12 8PS. For more information contact: Tel. 07917 205372 or email jazzercisewantage@outlook.com Facebook & Instagram: @jazzercisewantage

NEXT MEETING AND CONTACT - The meetings for the next few months are currently postponed. Residents are most welcome to the meetings once we reconvene in the Jephson Flats - but do check the Blog / contact us beforehand for when this might be. For article contributions, announcements, advertising or if you'd like to come along to a meeting, email at tfl_ra@zoho.com or phone / text our telephone number **07856 869 335** to leave a message.

Chair: Anita 39 Masefield Crescent / Treasurer: Val 17 Nash Drive / Editor: Kay 36 Masefield Crescent

