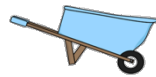
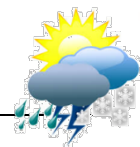


Tithe Farm and Ladygrove Residents Association (TFLRA)



Autumn 2020



GREETINGS AND WELCOME - Summer seems long this year, which is probably due to lockdown, children being at home plus the long spell of lovely weather we've had too. The very unusual circumstances meant this year there was no packing up school books in preparation of the summer holidays, no exams, no planning the perfect holiday and no family get-togethers either, and we do hope the school disruptions didn't impact too much on the children. A big thanks must be conveyed to all the people who gave up their time to organize and help those that needed help during the lockdown with shopping, prescriptions and other tasks. With lockdown easing this help has eased too, though some I'm sure are still helping out. You truly are appreciated more than words can say.



SUBSCRIPTION COLLECTION 2020 - Earlier this year it was agreed that June was not the time to collect your annual £1.00 subs for the newsletter but it would be delayed until the autumn. We are very much hoping we can do the collection with this newsletter although, of course, things are still far, far from being straight-forward. Collections will vary. Some collectors will put a little envelope through your door for your £1.00 and call back for it later. Some collectors will ask you to please

drop the envelope (marked with your address) off at a house in your road, and some collectors will be doing the old-fashioned method of just knocking at your door and asking you for the £1.00. They may give you an envelope so that the handling of cash is minimised. They will all be wearing masks and gloves, of course, and trying very hard not to look suspicious!! The committee very much hope that you will continue to read and enjoy the newsletter, which has been written for you all. Many thanks in advance for your co-operation in this continuing difficult time. And a special thank you to all those who have given us a bit extra in the past - it all helps to keep your newsletter running.

THOSE UNWANTED ODDS AND ENDS - If you don't feel like taking these along to a charity shop, or if they aren't right for a charity shop, don't forget Freegle. We have mentioned this before but in case you missed this, just search for Freegle, Vale of White Horse or use the link www.ilovefreegle.org/explore/ValeWhiteHorse-Freegle. Freegle's aim is to keep things out of the waste bins. Items have to be given for free and there are one or two other rules, such as no livestock can be offered. And for even smaller unwanted odds and ends, keep a look out for boxes of 'Help Yourself' items around the estates. And perhaps after reading those books you picked up for free, put them out again for someone else to enjoy?



VACANT SEAT ON ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL - Following the death earlier this year of our Town Councillor, Jeanette Halliday, there will be an election for a replacement Councillor. Because this is known as a 'casual vacancy', it had to be advertised by inviting 10 electors from the ward to write to the Vale of White Horse Election offices, asking that an election be called. If less than 10 electors had asked for this, no election would have been held and the Town Council itself would have chosen someone to fill the vacancy. As far as we can see, the only place the advertisement - ie., the legal notice - was to be found was on the Town Council's website. Hardly everyday reading for most people. The Vale has, however, confirmed that 10 people had obviously found the information and had asked for an election. But you will have to contain your excitement until next year as council elections generally have been put on hold because of the coronavirus pandemic.

GARAGE SALE - Terry of 52 Coleridge Drive will be holding a garage sale on Saturday 10th October, from 10:00am onwards. Weather permitting. We'll try to help with some reminder publicity nearer the date.





CAUGHT ON CAMERA - We try not to carry articles about dog droppings complaints too often as everyone must know not to leave their dogs' faeces behind and no-one really should have to be reminded. But in July this unpleasant problem actually made the local press when it was highlighted in the Abingdon Herald. They carried an article about a 'consistent dog mess offender' (their words) being caught on camera in Burton Close in the early hours of the morning. We read that the Vale of White Horse Envirocrimes team had 'launched an appeal' to trace a man whose dogs were being allowed to foul in this road and who did not pick up the faeces. The Envirocrimes team

asked that anyone with information about the identity of this chap and his dogs to contact them at envirocrimes@southandvale.gov.uk. Next stop Crimewatch?

TEXTILES, SMALL ELECTRICAL ITEMS AND BATTERIES - The Vale have updated their policies for the weekly collection of these waste items:

- Textiles still go out on green bin day, left in bags by the bin.
- While any size bag can be used, it must be able to fit, with its contents, into the cage under the refuse truck. The Recycling Officer gives the example of four folded pairs of jeans as being about the right dimensions.
- Carrier bags or 'bags for life' can be used - but not black/white/opaque bin liners, in case the operatives think they are filled with general waste.
- It is no longer necessary that the bags should be clear bags.
- There is no limit to the number of bags that can be put out, but as space in the cage is limited, there is a chance that not all bags will be taken.
- The above applies to small electricals, which should be smaller than a microwave to go into the cage.
- If household batteries are put out, those do need to be in a small clear bag and left on top of the green bin.
- The batteries and the electricals still go out on grey bin day.



No dear, I think we'll just take the jumper.....



WHAT HAPPENS TO THE TEXTILES/ELECTICALS COLLECTED?

- Textiles are taken to a charity and ranked on 'wearability'
- Those suitable for resale are sold in the charity shops
- Those that are not are shredded for stuffing and rags
- This means that clothing, shoes, bags, belts, hats, scarves and gloves are now accepted
- But no duvets or bedding. Sorry about that!
- Small electrical items are sent to specialist facilities that break them down and recycle the parts
- Batteries also go to specialist places and are broken down for valuable metals



CHAT GROUP - At the start of lockdown in March, a group of TFLRA members set up a small 'telephone chat group' for a few shielding residents who felt particularly isolated and who appreciated an informal telephone chat on a regular basis. Things have eased now but the chat group continues, enjoyed by all. The chat volunteers ask that if any other resident would like to have a friendly chat on the phone once a week or so, that they should get in touch with TFLRA, either by leaving a message on 07856 869 335 or by emailing tfl_ra@zoho.com. There is also an 'official' help line for older people called Silver Line Helpline, a free, confidential helpline offering information, friendship and advice to older people. They can be reached on 0800 470 8090 and say they are available 24 hours a day, every day of the year. They are a subsidiary of Age UK.

SAVE OLD ABBEY HOUSE - Julie Kelly, an Abingdon resident, has started a petition up 'Save Old Abbey House for the people of Abingdon', the old building in the centre of town where the Town Council used to reside. If you're interested and would like to sign, follow this link https://www.change.org/p/vowhdc-save-old-abbey-house-for-the-people-of-abingdon?original_footer_petition_id=&grid_position=&pt=



QUIZ - The following are anagrams of current (at the time of writing) British politicians. Once again, either drop your entry into 21 Mill Road - OR - email to tfl_ra@zoho.com - OR - complete online for submission at <https://tflra-copy.weebly.com/quiz.html>. There will be a small prize for the winner! **Closing date 4th October.** Good luck!



1	Merrier task	
2	Join horn boss	
3	Sprang paths	
4	Midair bacon	
5	Raisin husk	
6	He love magic	
7	A triple tip	
8	Bad murder	
9	My horrible entry	
10	Grace begs mojo	
11	A moan rally	
12	Snug relocation	
13	Aimed blind	
14	Moth can tack	
15	Obtain a debt	

SUMMER QUIZ ANSWERS - Lots of entries again were received for this quiz, and the winners this time were Jan and Eddie from Ladygrove - the prize of a box of chocs was presented to them! Answers were: (1) Dr No, (2) From Russia with Love, (3) Octopussy, (4) Little Women, (5) Moonraker, (6) Casino Royale, (7) Casablanca, (8) Brief Encounter, (9) Doctor Dolittle, (10) The Green Mile, (11) You only Live Twice, (12) Mutiny on the Bounty, (13) Reservoir Dogs, (14) Return of the Pink Panther, (15) Goldfinger.

ABINGDON HERITAGE WEEKEND 2020- Abingdon Heritage Open Days usually offer the opportunity to visit interesting buildings, many of them not normally open to the public. This year's event will of necessity be rather different. Plans include:



- *Videos of aspects of Abingdon's heritage*
- *Video tours of properties which would otherwise be open*
- *Live-streamed events from the County Hall Museum*
- *Information in windows of historic properties*
- *Self-guided walks using either leaflets or mobile phone technology*
- *Market Place stall with information and leaflets*

Full details of the event, held on 19th and 20th September, can be found at:
<https://abingdonheritage.org.uk>.



GARDENING MYTHS AND MISTAKES (*Martin Gulliver writes*) - (1) Established lawns don't need watering...even in a drought they will always recover. (2) I've read that putting ice cubes in a hanging basket will allow the water to soak through during the day – this is nowhere near enough water. Water late evening to allow water to soak in. (3) About watering...water the ground, not the leaves. Water in several small splashes so it doesn't just run off over the soil. Scrape a small moat around the stem to concentrate the water on the roots. (4) Pruning hard will invigorate a shrub – not always. Never prune into deadwood as a shrub will not grow from this. Prune into live wood, just above a bud. (5) Coffee grounds, eggshells do not work as slug deterrents. Either use organic slug pellets or use slug proof plants. (6) Some pots and containers do need feeding in the winter – winter flowering pansies and violas will benefit. (7) It's almost impossible to over-prune roses...cut them back hard in February and they will reward you. (8) A rain shower won't water the garden – especially a short sharp heavy one, so keep watering. A full day of soft rain is very beneficial however. (9) House plants don't need to stay in the house...they are quite happy outside during warm summer days, and benefit from light rain. (10) Bulbs – when the flowers die down, don't tie the leaves in knots! Leave them to die down naturally but keep feeding them as they store the goodness for next year's flowers.



WHAT'S THE POINT OF WASPS? (*a resident writes*) - Imagine - you're having a few drinks in the garden when a pesky wasp arrives, annoying you, causing panic and helicopter hands. You ask 'what's the point of wasps'?

There are approximately 9,000 species of wasp in the UK and include the parasitic wasps, some of which are so tiny they're like pin heads, and of the 250 larger ones which have a stinger, the majority are solitary and cause no upset to humans. However, the Nation's nemesis is the Common Wasp (*Vespula Vulgaris*). Common wasps live socially like bees but they haven't evolved a way of storing food to allow the colony to survive the winter. The only survivors are the young, fertilised queens who hibernate over winter and emerge in the spring to build nests where they lay around 20 eggs. The queen feeds the larvae until around May, when they mature and become workers. She then focuses on more egg-laying and the workers get on with feeding them, enlarging the nest as they go along. By around August the nest has grown to around 40cm in diameter, which can contain up to 10,000 wasps!

In late August and September, the queen quits egg laying and no longer releases the pheromone that causes the workers to work, who are basically made jobless and disorientated. Wasps are insect predators, which are caught to feed the larvae not themselves. Adult wasps are not able to digest solid food and need sugary liquid to survive, and with no larvae to feed, they become insatiably hungry which drives them to search for over ripe fruit or easy sugar ... your fizzy drinks.

So why are those who panic and try to swat them away more likely to be stung than those who remain calm? When you swat that annoying wasp it feels under attack, and because the redundant workers have their own pheromone which helps protect the nest, releasing this rallying cry for help, loads more wasps will start arriving in aggressive mode ready to defend. Think of it this way, from May that wasp has been working hard to keep things nice on planet earth, and it's now going to die, so why not give it a break, put a bowl of sugary drink somewhere out of your way and let it go out on a nice sugar rush. At the very least don't kill it.

What's the point of wasps? Without them it's likely that human life would not survive because, in the absence of their role as predators, our planet would be overrun by even more damaging insects such as aphids, ants and caterpillars.



Max the Wildlife Watcher will be back next time

SOMETHING FOR THE BIRDWATCHERS - Residents will have probably heard the screaming of swifts this summer as the birds streaked across the sky, searching for insects. A resident of Tithe Farm was delighted to be able to report that the swift nesting boxes she put up under her roof were used for the first time this year, with one or two babies being raised. She last saw them at the end of July. They would have gathered with other swifts and left for their winter lands in Africa. Perhaps there are other residents who would also be interested in putting up these boxes - we understand that there are a few about already.



THE 'SET-ASIDE' FIELD - In the last newsletter, we wrote about the concern of some residents to find that the field behind Masefield Crescent had been sprayed with a substance that killed the flowers, leaving only the grasses behind. A resident had contacted both DEFRA and the Vale, who are mentioned on the notice at the entrances to the field. The notice said that there was an agreement that the field was set aside to encourage the growth of wildflowers and to give opportunities for recreation. The Vale have now confirmed that they are not involved at all in the management of this field and have pointed out that the agreement mentioned on the notices expired in 2010. Another concerned resident wrote to the County Council, who also said that any involvement they had had ended 10 years ago. Efforts are being made to see if DEFRA can add anything to this. So, at the moment, we don't know what the future of this field will be. We hope very much that it will remain a field for us to enjoy and not be swallowed up with yet more houses

SPEEDING CARS AND VANS - Perhaps these are only driven by thoughtless visitors to our estates or delivery drivers running behind time and never driven by residents? But, please, please, do watch that speed gauge as you drive along our estate roads.




ENVIRONMENT - A resident has asked if we can be mindful about idling engines. It's tempting to start the car long before use to warm it up, de-ice it, or sit in the warmth or even the welcoming air conditioning, but exhaust fumes contain harmful gasses including carbon dioxide which is bad for the environment, contributes towards climate change and is equally bad for residents. Be green - switch off unnecessary engines.



FLOODING PROBLEMS AGAIN - Residents will be concerned to have seen that, once again, there were flooding problems in August around the Drayton Road end of Mill Road/Coleridge Drive/Wordsworth Road. This last happened back in May 2018 after another bout of very heavy rainfall. Was this flooding due to blocked drains? Due to rainfall being exceptional after a long dry, hot period? Due to something else? Several residents have reported our problem on FixMyStreet – there were also other reports of flooding from other areas of Abingdon. It is hoped that these residents get information back from the County Council about this problem and how it will be tackled. Residents may also wish to contact our County Councillor, Neil Fawcett. The County Council website gives his contact details as neil.fawcett@oxfordshire.gov.uk and mobile number as 07810 482376.



FRESH BREAD AND PASTRIES - Great news for those of you who like fresh bread and pastries! Our local brewery, Loose Cannon, in nearby Suffolk Way, will be selling bread and pastries, sourced from a very good local bakery, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings from Thursday 3rd September. Their plans are to open their shop from 8.00am for fresh bread and pastries until they run out. Pre-ordering of goods would be a good idea to avoid any disappointment (but you can always pop in) you will be able to do this on their website <https://lcbeers.co.uk/>. For more details, their telephone number is 01235 531141. Looking forward to strolling down there at the end of the week and returning home with fresh bread and pastries for breakfast - just like being in France without having to quarantine afterwards.



IVY GROWING OVER PATH DRAYTON ROAD/BURTON CLOSE - Last year we thought we had seen the end of this particular problem – the ivy had been hacked back, the Poplars had planning approval for redevelopment and what looked like a site office had been moved into the driveway there. But to date nothing has happened on the site and the ivy is growing yet again. So it was, yet again, reported on FixMyStreet. We understand that OCC has now contacted the owner of the fence about the obstruction. This will be chased up, if necessary.



MASKS - If you have walked along Coleridge Drive in the last few weeks, you may have spotted a selection of brightly coloured masks for sale. June

from 60 Coleridge Drive has been making dozens of these and selling them at cost (£2.00). They have proved very popular. We heard that even a delivery driver bought one for himself and one for his wife! June wants to thank all the lovely people who took a mask and left their £2.00 in the payment box.

TRAVELLERS - At the time of writing, the travellers have left the fields off Mill Lane and have not returned. They were there for some 5 days, arriving on 16th August. The departure appears to have been their decision as it seems unlikely that the (private) owner of the fields would have had time to complete the necessary legal process to evict them. Oxfordshire County Council informed the owner of the land that she/he was responsible for the removal of the rubbish and mess left behind, which we understand has now been done. Anyone wanting to know more about the rather complex legal position regarding gypsies and travellers may wish to look at:



<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/land-and-premises/gypsies-and-travellers>

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
 - **Hair Beautique** - A locally run home Hair and Beauty Salon, with a friendly service. Appropriate face coverings and sanitisers available. Contact: Chloe 0794 679 4786 for further information and opening hours.
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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

