

TITHE FARM & LADYGROVE NEWSLETTER APRIL 2006

Welcome to the April newsletter, and a happy Easter Holiday to everybody. Let's hope the weather will be more spring-like by the time you get this. Please accept our sincere apologies for the late arrival of the March newsletter. I realise that one of the events would already have been out of date. In this edition we have spring gardening and water saving tips, a new quiz, the launch of a free swap shop section and news of many events taking place in April and early May and much more.

Annual Subs The annual newsletter subscription will be raised from £1..20p to £1..50p per year.

The present subs barely cover the cost of printing and we are very lucky to have our own resident printer. The deliverers will be coming round to collect subs in June or July.

I would like to thank those residents who have volunteered to deliver newsletters. If anyone else would like to volunteer, please let us know. Vacancies arise every so often and it's useful to have someone to step in if a deliverer goes on holiday. I would like to clear up some misunderstandings that arose over the "Donation to the Senior Citizens' Party". This is paid every year from the subs in the form of a donation in return for the use of the Jephson Common Room for TFLRA committee meetings. Don't forget, these meetings are not secret conclaves but open to **all residents**. See the back page of the newsletter for the date of the next meeting.

Green Boxes and Brown Bins Two residents have pointed out that some people are putting cardboard in their green recycling boxes. VWH does not collect this, so the bin men leave it and it blows all over the road. You can take cardboard to the newly reopened Drayton Recycling Centre or get a brown bin for compost and cardboard at a cost of £29 per year. If you think that's a bit steep, why not share the cost (and the bin) with a neighbour?

Drayton Recycling Centre As you probably know, this has now reopened and is open from 8a.m. - 5p.m. seven days a week. From April to September it is open until 8p.m. on Thursdays. The items you can recycle are much the same as previously. There is now a bin for plastic food containers, but when I went there, it seemed to be stuffed full of all sorts of assorted plastic. I think it's a pity there isn't a section for items that other people might find useful and could simply take away. There used to be a portacabin at one time at the old dump where you could buy things. I don't know why they don't do this. It's probably due to some obscure law or arcane directive that I don't know about. Perhaps somebody could enlighten me! If you have things to get rid of, check out Freecycle on the web or see our own TFL **FREE SWAPSHOP**.

Save Radley Lakes The deadline for objections to RWE Npower's application to fill Thrupp Lake with pulverised fuel ash (PFA) has been extended to April 13th, so

there is still time to send your objections to Oxfordshire County Council. Abingdon Town Council planning committee has unanimously agreed to recommend the full council to oppose RWE Npower's plan. If you would like to send an objections card to the County Council or to sign the petition, please contact me, Eleanor, on 531 857. Remember, even if you objected back in the Autumn, this is a new application, so new objections are needed. You can find out more on www.saveradleylakes.org.uk

Eleanor Dangerfield

Free Bus Travel for the over 60s and disabled. If you live in the Vale of the White Horse and are over 60 and/or have certain disabilities, you could be entitled to free bus travel. The full fare bus pass will entitle the holder to free off peak bus travel within the Vale and within Oxford city. This includes the Park and Ride service. For further information about the scheme, contact the Benefit Support Office on 01235 520 202 ext. 463. Alternatively, you can visit your local service point in Abingdon, Wantage or Faringdon.

Nash Drive near no. 22. Separating the houses from the field is a fence. This has been broken down to enable walkers, cyclists and even motorcyclists to cut through. It is becoming very muddy and untidy. There is **no** right of way there and the authorities have been notified so that the fence can be repaired. Until this happens, will residents **please** discontinue using this footpath-come-short cut. It is most distressing for residents who have kept the fence secure for many years.

Lilian Barry

Lilian also attended the Councillor's Surgery on 11th March. She has something to say about general apathy and has compiled a list of forthcoming events.

Only four residents attended the meeting. Let us have a few more please, to show that some of you are interested in what goes on around you! Every 2nd Saturday of the month, 10a.m. - 11.15a.m. in the Jephson Common Room, Bridges Close. (If you don't know, where the Jephson Common Room is, contact one of the editorial team and we will help you find it!)

Events in April and May

3rd and 4th April - "Half a Sixpence" Amey Theatre, Abingdon Operatic Society.

8th April - Spring Craft Sale, Northcourt Centre

8th April - "Street Child" by Berlie Doherty, Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon Junior Drama Club.

9th April - Palm Sunday Procession, Abingdon Church.

14th April - Good Friday Drama, Market Place.

22nd April - Handel's "Messiah", 7.30 p.m., Baptist Church.

22nd April - St George's Day Dinner Dance, Guildhall, Abingdon Round Table.

23rd April - Cello and Piano Recital, 4 p.m., St. Helen's Church, Valerie Findley.

10th May - Annual Mayor Making Ceremony, 7 p.m., Guildhall, Abingdon

EVENTS WORTH CELEBRATING?

The year 2006 sees both the Queen's 80th birthday and the 450th Anniversary of the granting of Abingdon's Royal Charter. If you would like to mark either or both of these occasions with a Tithe Farm and Ladygrove event, let us know at the newsletter. However, you **must** be prepared to help with the organisation.

ITEMS FOR SALE

**Solid pine single 4 poster bed with curtains and mattress.
less than a year old.
£150 o.n.o.
Tel: 01235 201 570**

**Belling Electric Farmhouse Cooker
1000 wide and 600 deep Burgundy doors. Black glass top.
4 solid rings plus heated warming area Fan assisted grill. One large fan
assisted oven One smaller oven and storage compartment
Good condition. Sold as seen, £100.
Tel: 01235 559 334**

TITHE FARM AND LADYGROVE FREE SWAPSHOP

Ever feel guilty about the things you throw out?
Things that aren't quite good enough to sell or to take to a charity shop?
They might be just what someone else is looking for.
An old item of furniture or equipment which someone else could fix or restore.
Offcuts of wood, doors, paving slabs or tiles, ends of carpet rolls that might
just fit a porch or downstairs loo.
There will be an "available" and a "wanted" section.
Contact the newsletter with the items you want to get rid of,
giving contact phone number or e-mail address.
Items must of course be safe and legal!

Here are a few to kick things off:
AVAILABLE: Free to a good home:
Double glazed window, 118cm wide by 150cm deep, fan light opening.

Radiator, 71cm wide by 73cm deep
Tel: 01235 201 854
Epson stylus colour ink cartridge SO20110
Tel: 01235 531 857


HOST FAMILIES
Urgently required for international students
in July/August.
Please phone Kate on 01235 210 290 for further details.

March Quiz Answers and winner

Tonk's Funerals staff were the winners, (by default, theirs was the only entry!), of last month's quiz, and even then they got one answer wrong. The fact they had time on their hands, however, was good news for all of us. I think they deserve an Easter egg. Here are the answers: 1)calves 2)pupils 3)palms 4)drums 5)soles 6)lids 7)feet 8)irises 9)tendons 10)nails 11)muscles 12)instep 13)temples 14)heart 15)arms 16)trunk/chest 17)hips 18) waist 19)navel 20)funny bones/humerus

April Quiz - Multicoloured Melodies

The initials represent the name of a song and the singer/group. The letter in brackets is a colour. For example, (W)C by BC = White Christmas by Bing Crosby. TM(B) = The Moody Blues. Answers to Eleanor at 23, Masefield by 19th April.

- 1) (Y)ROT by MM _____
- 2) (Y)S by TB _____
- 3) LT(P) by TS _____
- 4) L(W)B by TS _____
- 5) (Y)R by C _____
- 6) G(Y)BR by EJ _____
- 7) LI(R) by C de B _____
- 8) T(G)(G)GOH by TJ _____
- 9) IT(N) by VP _____
- 10) (B)GITR by BM _____
- 11) (G)D by SS _____
- 12) AWHAH by C(B) _____
- 13) (B)I(B) by LBE _____
- 14) M(Y) by D _____
- 15) (B)N by D(P) _____
- 16) (B)SS by EP _____
- 17) (P)H by JH _____
- 18) H-H(S)L by JB _____
- 19) (B)EG by VM _____
- 20) A by (B) L _____

Gardening in April

The garden will be starting to warm up now as Spring bursts into life (with any luck...) so a lot of growth should be in evidence. Apart from weeds, young growth should be protected from slugs and snails, using slug pellets, or, if you are organic, egg shells, grit or other physical means. I grow hostas in pots and found copper tape around the rim of the pots very effective last year.

Carry on dividing perennials, and keep an eye on seeds sown in March. Pot them on before they get to leggy and give them as much light as possible. Carry on sowing vegetable and salad crops – a few every two weeks or so should ensure a succession of crops throughout the year. Sow tomatoes indoors now too.

As daffodils finish, dead head them but please do not tie the leaves into knots! Feed the foliage and the flowers will be even better next year. If any came up “blind” ie with leaves but no flowers, dig them up and re-plant them deeper – planting them too near to the surface is a common cause of non-flowering in bulbs.

In general, keep the weeds down, carry on mowing the lawn and give the garden a feed.

Saving water

With the impending hosepipe ban, saving water in the garden is a must. Generally, Lawns will survive all but the worst drought so these can be left. Similarly, trees and shrubs that have been around for a few years should survive.

Newly planted shrubs will need water, but raise a small ridge of soil around the stem/trunk so that the water “puddles” around the plant and goes directly to the roots. Water in the evening so that the water does evaporate quickly in the sun. After watering, put a mulch on the soil to keep the water in – grass cuttings will do fine.

Vegetable, especially salad crops, do need water, but again use the puddle method, and as with any watering, water the roots, not the leaves. Containers will also need water, especially terracotta, but when planting them up this year, use an old compost bag to line the inside of the pot first so as not to lose too much water through the sides. This does not apply to plastic pots of course. Line hanging baskets similarly, so as to retain moisture, and again water in the evening.

Martin Gulliver

Councillors' Surgeries

Peter and/or Hilary Green – 2nd Saturday of the month 10 – 11.15a.m. Jephson Common Room.

Mike and Marilyn Badcock 1st Saturday of the month in the Family Room, Abingdon Conservative Club, Ock Street.

**Date of the next TFLRA Committee Meeting –
Wednesday 12th April 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room.
Deadline for items for the next newsletter – Wednesday 19th April 2006**

Contact us – items for publication:

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eledanger@hotmail.com
Grenville Wells tithefarm2@yahoo.co.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING What is Neighbourhood Policing?

Changes are currently being implemented in the way your local police and other partners will be working with communities. Neighbourhood policing is the label given by central government to describe how we will work closely together to solve crime and disorder problems, as well as improving conditions across the neighbourhood and feelings of security. Police officers and partners will work directly with local people in identifying the problems that are most important to them, giving people real opportunities to have a say in local policing priorities.

The Neighbourhood Action Group.

A key part of neighbourhood policing is the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG). The NAG is a problem solving group responsible for undertaking the priorities decided upon by the local neighbourhood. It is a group of 10-12 people from the police, local council's partner agencies, residents and other key members within the local community. The NAG will meet approximately every 4-6 weeks and will give regular feedback to the communities.

Neighbourhood Contacts.

One of the first Neighbourhoods to 'Go Live' will be South Abingdon. They will share a NAG with Drayton, Sutton Courtenay and Appleford. PS Cranidge will be the Neighbourhood Sergeant for this NAG and PC Pollard will be the local Neighbourhood Officer for South Abingdon, PSCO Miller will be the local PCSO for South Abingdon. To contact any of your local team please phone – 0845 8 505 505

Ladies look no further than 'Hats & Tiaras'

Hats & Tiaras is a new small business which I have set up for all you ladies who, like me, adore hats. Why spend £'s on them for one occasion when you can hire them from me at very competitive prices in a friendly environment where you can also bring along your outfit to match it up perfectly. I have a wide variety of hats from subtle to stunning in beautiful colours and spectacular designs that would suit everyone. So ladies, if you're going to Ascot, have a special wedding or christening to go to or even that summer garden party, look no further – pop along for a coffee while you look and try on from the selection of hats. Prices start from as little as £15.00, with a deposit of the same amount which you get back on return of the item. Contact Carol on 07967509582 or email me on carol.chung@ntlworld.com for an appointment.