

THE FARM & LADYGROVE NEWSLETTER APRIL 2007

Welcome to the April newsletter and we hope you have an enjoyable Easter holiday. Spring is certainly far advanced, despite the Arctic blast we are having now, though by the time you read this, there may well be a heat wave, or a flood, or a hurricane.

If you are a keen gardener, look out for the "**Garden in April**" article in the newsletter and for news of this year's Abingdon in Bloom competition in your Spring copy of the Town Crier, which you should have received in the past couple of weeks.

Bank Holiday Bin Emptying Dates – Here are the dates for the Easter and May Day Bank Holiday collection of rubbish, compost and recycling bins. Please put your bins out on the right day and if you're going to be away, ask a neighbour to put it out or bring it in for you. And please, please, if you see bins rolling around the road like tumbleweed in the Wild West, be public spirited and put them back in the driveway or front garden. If people paint their house number on the bins and lids, they might even get back to the right house.

Easter 2007

Normal Collection Day

Monday 9th April
Thursday 12th April
Monday 16th April
Thursday 19th April

Bank Holiday Collection Day

Wednesday 11th April
Saturday 14th April
Tuesday 17th April
Friday 20th April

May Day 2007

Normal Collection Day

Monday 7th May
Thursday 10th May

Tuesday 8th May
Friday 11th May

Housing on Esso/Renault Site – The Vale Council Planning Committee have passed plans to build 63 new dwellings on this site in Drayton Road. It is worth noting that the two Abingdon Councillors on the committee voted against. There is a condition that a play area is incorporated on the site

Environment warden - Thank you to David Coates, the Vale Environment Warden, who came to talk about his job at the March Committee meeting. He certainly has a busy time chasing fly tippers, dirty dog owners and litter droppers all over the Vale. We heard that there are fixed penalties for dog fouling, parking on the pavement or grass verge is actually illegal and, rather alarmingly, if someone does work on your house or garden and fly tips the waste, you are actually held responsible. That is, if you are silly enough to carve your name on your rubble or dug-up lawn.

Last call for the Magical Mystery Tour – If you are interested in an evening mystery coach tour sometime in June, this is your last chance to let us know (contact details on the last page). You don't have to commit yourself irrevocably, but we need to know if it is worth while running it. The cost will be approximately £7

Possible theatre trip – If anyone is interested in a theatre trip, please contact the newsletter. Suggestions of where to go or what to see are welcome.

Anyone for bowling? – If you are interested in making up a group to go ten pin bowling (over 16s only), phone Arthur on 01235 531 857.



PAVING JOB? A SENIOR CITIZEN IN FRANCIS
LITTLE DRIVE NEEDS SOMEONE TO DIG UP HER
GRASS AND PUT DOWN PAVING SLABS. IF YOU
COULD DO THIS JOB FOR A REASONABLE PRICE,
PHONE 01235 539 248.



SAVE RADLEY LAKES SPRING FAIR
Saturday 7th April
10a.m. - 2p.m.
Radley Village Hall



County Hall Exhibitions

There are currently two exhibitions showing at the County Hall until the 26th May 07
The main area is devoted to the "Witney Blanket Story" and is about the history of
blanket making in Witney. Also given are details of a circular walk of about 3 miles
linking a number of buildings involved in this trade.
The second smaller exhibition is of old foreign and UK matchboxes.

The Garden in April

As I write this, snow is falling, amply demonstrating the folly of anticipating Spring! Now is an ideal time to trim evergreens and grey-leaved shrubs (including lavender) to keep them compact and bushy. Trim heathers that have finished flowering and deadhead daffodils. Please do not tie the leaves in knots! Just let them die back naturally and give them a feed – they'll reward you next year. If any did not flower, try digging them up and planting them deeper.

Forsythia that has finished flowering can be pruned by cutting flowered shoots back, to two or three buds above the base.

Continue sowing annuals- those sown later in the year will provide colour later in the summer. Thin out those sown last month before they get too leggy. This also applies to vegetable seeds – a few sown each fortnight will ensure a succession of crops. Any newly-planted shrubs and plants should be kept watered and keep a look out for weeds in the borders.

If primroses have finished flowering, dig them up, split them, trim the leaves by two thirds and plant them out in a spare corner to be transplanted in the autumn. It sounds drastic but it works!

Finally keep the birds fed and watered and take care when rootling around in the bushes and birds are nesting as we speak.

Martin Gulliver

Preston Road Community Centre

Support your local community centre or lose it You can book it by calling the booking secretary on 01235 201652

Some of the current activities include

Students of the Third Age meet on Mondays 1–15 till 4-30pm

Bingo Tuesday nights - doors open at 7-00pm - eyes down 8-00pm

CRIME PREVENTION TRAILER COMES TO YOUR AREA

At Reynolds Way

25th April 2007

10am to 4pm

**There will be a chance to talk to Thames Valley Police
about your local issues**

March Quiz Answers and Winner

The March quiz was won by Laurie Varley of Masefield Crescent. Here are the answers: 1) Automobile Association 2) Anne Boleyn 3) Arctic Circle 4) Anno Domini 5) Accident and Emergency 6) Albert Finney 7) Alf Garnett 8) Ainslie Harriot 9) American Idiot 10) Al Jolson 11) Allen Key 12) Arthur Lowe 13) Adrian Mole 14) Ante Natal 15) Atlantic Ocean 16) Albert Park 17) African Queen 18) Anne Robinson 19) Arnold Schwarzenegger 20) Alan Titchmarsh 21) Any Umbrellas? 22) Ace Ventura 23) Ash Wednesday 24) ax 25) Alan Yentob 26) Absolute Zero

April Quiz - Follow On words – The answer to each clue consists of two words – compound words or words often used together, such as toothbrush or High Street. The second word of answer number one is the first word of answer number two, and so on.
Answers to Eleanor, 23 Masefield by 18th April.

- 1) Where roughly half our readers live. _____
- 2) Agricultural worker. _____
- 3) A graphologist can interpret this. _____
- 4) Used for correspondence. _____
- 5) Kids used to make this for a Christmas decoration. _____
- 6) Work party of U.S. convicts _____
- 7) Passage, or walkway to ship. _____
- 8) To ambush or intercept. _____
- 9) Use it for parking at the roadside. _____
- 10) Road avoiding a town. _____
- 11) You need one to go abroad. _____
- 12) The left of a ship. _____
- 13) Subsidiary attraction or entertainment. _____
- 14) Go here to buy your brand new car. _____
- 15) Hotel staff bring food or drink to your door. _____
- 16) Pauline did this for you at the launderette. _____
- 17) Use this to carry you toothbrush and flannel. _____
- 18) Homeless woman carrying all her possessions. _____
- 19) Congratulations! You've arrived where the other half lives. _____

If you'd like to carry on the theme or perhaps take the clues off in a different direction, please feel free to send them in. We also welcome quizzes sent in by readers.

Neighbourhood Action Group News

Local residents, local agencies and the police in South Abingdon, Sutton Courtenay, Appleford and Drayton formed a Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) last summer to tackle local concerns.

In South Abingdon the major problem identified by residents was anti social behaviour. In response to this the NAG agreed that a dispersal order could be an effective tool to counter this problem. This has now been in place since last May covering a large part of South Abingdon. The police have been making more regular patrols in the area and those engaging in anti social behaviour are required to 'move on' if they are creating a nuisance or behaving in a way which makes other residents feel uncomfortable.

This has led to groups being moved on and a number of people being arrested and successfully prosecuted for breaching the order. Although the problem of anti social behaviour has not been completely solved there has been a significant reduction in instances of anti social behaviour, criminal damage and theft. So the situation in South Abingdon has improved. The dispersal order is arranged jointly by the police and the Vale of White Horse District Council and the NAG supports a potential extension of the order for a further six months, as it has greatly improved the security and quality of life within the area.

In the villages the problem, again identified by residents, is very much one of speeding vehicles. The NAG has acquired a speed indication device (SID) which informs drivers of their speed should they exceed the limit. This has been used across the villages and in the future will be used by a group of local volunteers to raise awareness of speeding issues in the villages. Increased speed monitoring will take place and those who drive too fast can expect to be contacted by the police. Speeding kills. Many of the culprits live in the villages themselves, others may be commuters hurrying to work and some just blatantly flouting the speed limits. The strategy from the NAG to combat this issues is one of education and awareness followed by enforcement for those who persistently offend.

'The work we undertake is one way in which local residents can have their say to improve their quality of life. It works to the priorities identified by the local residents and to date, is starting to be effective in combating the main issues raised by the communities it serves.' said the NAG members.

Mary de Vere 01235 203169

**THE LAST COUNCILLOR'S SURGERY FOR
Peter and Hilary Green 14th April 2007 10 – 11.15a.m. Jephson Common Room.
I am sure we would like to thank them both for their hard work over the years**

NOTE elections in May for your new councillors

**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 11th April 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room.
Deadline for items for the next newsletter – Wednesday 18th April 2007**

Contact us – items for publication:

Eleanor Dangerfield 01235 531 857 23 Masefield Cr
eledanger@hotmail.com
Grenville Wells tithefarm2@yahoo.co.uk

HOST FAMILIES

**Urgently required for international students
in July/August.**

Please phone Kate on 01235 210 290 for further details

HAIR AND BEAUTY EVENING

**In aid of Save Radley Lakes
Thursday 12th April 7.30 p.m.
Radley Village Hall, Entry £5**

MODELS WANTED!

**Demonstrations – Consultations
Hair and Beauty Tips – Product Advice
Raffle – Refreshments
Offers – Fun Quiz**

Tickets from Eleanor – 531 857 or Marjorie – 530 174