
Tithe Farm and Ladygrove Newsletter April 2009

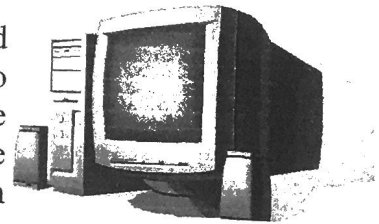


A Happy Easter to all our readers

Let's hope the good weather in the middle of March won't be the last sunshine we'll see this year. Look out for the article on spring gardening and send in your ideas and tips, too. Why not have a seed swap or offer any extra plants or seedlings you may have?

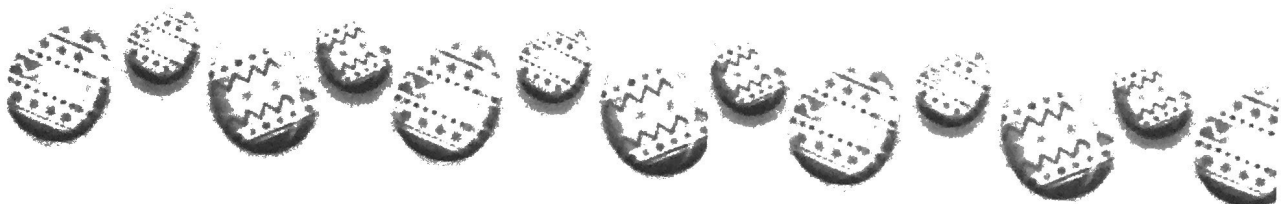
Exciting future for the newsletter! – There are plans afoot for a new Tithe Farm/Ladygrove website and within the next six months or so the newsletter will go online. There are many advantages to this. There will be more space for local information, events and meetings can be posted without missing the deadline and campaigning groups such as Save Abingdon from Expansion, SAFAG and flood action groups will be able to have a regular space for up to the minute news. We will invite regular articles on topics of general interest as well as occasional one-off pieces, poems, jokes, and how about a photo gallery? – it would have been nice to publish, for example, photos of the snow in February. There could be a For Sale/Wanted/ Free Swapshop section as well as the trade advertisement pages.

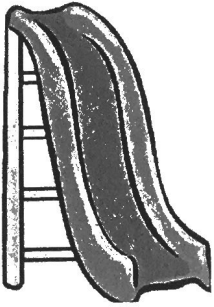
The paper newsletter will continue until the website is set up, and people who have no access to a computer and therefore wish to continue to have a paper version can request this by contacting the newsletter. If you would like to be a regular contributor to the online newsletter or to be involved in it in some way, please get in touch.



Save Abingdon from Expansion (SAFE) – Many people attended the public meeting at Preston Road Community Centre – far more than the Vale Council expected. Many more signed the petition. If you feel strongly about the proposal to build 1,500 houses on the land between Masfield Crescent and the A34, contact SAFE and receive updates on the proposals and the campaign. The e-mail address is: safe.abingdon@virgin.net or contact Ian Field on ianp.field@virgin.net, tel: 01235 531 735 or John Phillpott on johnphillpott@hotmail.com, tel: 01235 201 805.

A tiny minority of people did not sign the petition, seeing no justification for not building the houses. There is, of course, no reason why they should not get in touch with the Vale to voice their support for the development.





Ock Meadow Playground At the time of writing, there seems to be no real progress on the playground. Some children have taken matters into their own hands and climbed over the gate and who can blame them? A resident asked why there were no baby swings, and this does seem a shame as the equipment is clearly designed for younger children. I did point out, however, that newsletter readers were asked to give their ideas for equipment in the February 2008 newsletter. A grand total of 3 replies were received, which were duly passed on.

Dog Poo – yes, dog poo again. Please will dog owners clear up after their pets? Of course, the people who actually read the newsletter probably do, but many people come from elsewhere to exercise their dogs on the open spaces around the estates.

I think the best thing to do, if you see someone not clearing up after their dog, is to challenge them politely. Simply say, “Are you going to clear that up?” O.K. if they are big and scary with big, scary dogs, you may hesitate, but most dog owners will be pretty embarrassed and think twice before offending again.



Editorial Opinions – I hope I make it clear when something in the newsletter is my opinion or suggestion and when it is the opinion or a suggestion of a contributor. You are welcome to reply to anything you read, but please do not blame me personally for views expressed in the newsletter which are not my own. Some of the items that follow fall into the category of “other people’s views”.



Jephson Housing Association – I have received the following letter from the Jephson Housing Association. I include contact details for your convenience.

Jephson South&West, 1 Warwick House, Edison Park, Hindle Way, Swindon, SN3 3RB.

Dear Mrs Dangerfield,

Re: 21-29 Bridges Close & 28-54 Wordsworth Road, Abingdon

The Association are the landlords of the Sheltered Accommodation at the above address which is situated in your area. The residents at this scheme are continuing to have problems with the children that live in the area. Could you please print an article in your newsletter to ask parents to make sure that their children are not causing any of the following problems.

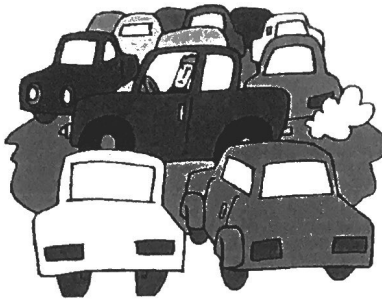
1. Children looking through flat windows which they find intimidating and upsetting.
2. Riding skateboards, bikes etc. on paths through the scheme. This could be a potential health and safety problem as sometimes the children ride through at some speed and could ride into a frail resident and possibly knock them over.

Causing problems on the grassed areas around the scheme.

I would appreciate your help in trying to resolve the issues above.

Yours sincerely, Marilyn Hampton, Housing Estate Officer

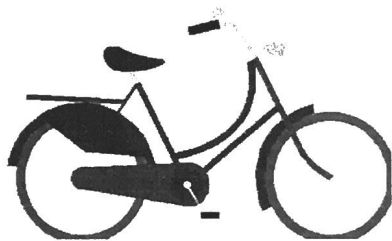
Tel: 01793 602 199, e-mail: swindon@jephson.org.uk



Ock Bridge traffic – Steve King, long term opponent of the AbITS scheme commissioned an independent traffic review, funded by local business and has sent me some ideas for the improvement of traffic flow across the Ock Bridge, which should, at the same time, improve the safety of cyclists and pedestrians.

“My proposal for the Ock Bridge is that of a similar layout to the Ferry Hinksey turn along the Botley Road, Oxford, the town side of the junction. Here, the pavements have been removed and replaced by two separate footbridges on either side of the bridge. As you may know, Ock bridge was widened on its west side some 25/30 years ago, and I believe removing the existing pavements would give enough room for three lanes of traffic. One lane would be for southern traffic (leaving town) and of the remaining two, the centre lane would be for Spring Road and Ock Street traffic, while the left lane would be a left turn “jet lane” into Marcham Road. The left side footpath would link directly to the existing Ock Valley footpath/cycle way and join up to the Marcham Road in the communal land by the pedestrian crossing, similarly the east side, starting at the crossing in the communal land and finishing by the cottages.” Mr King says that Ian Hudspeth, who has the Oxfordshire County Council’s portfolio for traffic and travel, is looking seriously at the idea, while suggesting keeping the east side of the footpath, possibly reduced in width.

If you have any comments or would like any of the points clarified, you can contact Steve King on stephen.king20@btopenworld.com



Pedestrian and Cycle safety – Larkmead School held a meeting in March, to which representatives from the secondary schools, both state and independent, and Abingdon & Witney College were invited, along with other interested parties. This was to discuss safe journeys to school, and how routes could be improved and dangerous crossings etc. could be made safer.

The Town Council also has a Cycle and Pedestrian working party which discusses these matters. If you have any ideas about how cycle and pedestrian safety could be improved, or know of any particular danger spots, please contact the newsletter.

Council Tax – Mr Ron Millward has e-mailed the newsletter about the following organisation:

With the ever increasing burden of Council Tax, the readers of the Tithe Farm and Ladygrove newsletter may well be interested to read the publication from Isitfair.

This is a non party political, nationwide campaign and provides information on this iniquitous tax. This month’s Isitfair newsletter provides disturbing information on the ever increasing costs of earnings and pensions for council employees and councillors. It also highlights the manipulation of the Town/Parish precepts.

Details of this organisation can be obtained on: www.isitfair.co.uk. Alternatively, contact them by e-mail: c@isitfair.co.uk or tel: 01428 712 680.



FREE!

3 x 8ft lengths of log roll garden edging

Free to collector

Tel: 01235 539 934

Farmers' Market – Friday 17th April 8.30 – 13.00 in the Market Place. Meat, fish, eggs, cheese, vegetables, delicious bread, cake, jams and pickles from local growers and suppliers.

What is Permaculture? – It isn't just about growing things. Come and find out at the Abingdon Carbon Cutters meeting on Wednesday 15th April at 7.30 p.m. The meetings are normally held in St Ethelwold's House, but have become so popular that a larger venue may be used. Contact the newsletter for more information. A donation is requested to cover room hire.

A new business – Cleantogo is a new business set up by Gary Keeble and Jason Hutchinson. It is an Abingdon based company specialising in Carpet/Upholstery and Oven Cleaning. Free, no obligation quotations, fair, competitive prices. Fully insured for work carried out. Contact Cleantogo@aol.com

The Garden in April

All being well, spring should be bursting out all over and a priority at this time of year is keeping weeds in check. If they are allowed to seed, the job becomes that much harder. Now is also time to give a quick feed to any spring plants that have finished flowering, especially hellebores. Allow bulbs to die back naturally (please don't tie the leaves of daffodils...) but give them a feed to boost the bulbs for next year.



Lavender can now be trimmed to size and hebes can also be pruned lightly to retain their shape. Rosemary and sage can also be trimmed to encourage new growth. Now is also a good time to get in place any plant supports that are needed. The sooner a support is in place the better so that the plants can grow through it, rather than trying to thread growth that is already flopping about through a new support.

Permanent containers can now be top-dressed; all that needs to be done is for the top inch or two of compost to be scraped away and replaced with new. It is also a good idea to knock container plants out of their pots to see what the root system is like. If the roots are starting to curl around the pot, it is time to transfer it to a larger container.

If you sowed early vegetable seeds, they may be getting big enough to pot on now. This especially applies to tomatoes, but do bear in mind that we can still get frosts so keep them protected. Continue sowing vegetables, such as carrots, radish, herbs and annuals.

Martin Gulliver

April Quiz - Forbidden Fruit

Hidden in the following passage are the names of 18 kinds of fruit. Can you find them all?
Answers to Eleanor, 23 Masefield Crescent by 22nd April.

I was trying out a new recipe for a dessert. It didn't look very good for the figure, especially for someone plump, and it didn't appear to be a candidate for "Jamie's Healthy Meals". You had to take one cup each of melted chocolate and double cream, mix them with digestive biscuits and slap ricotta cheese on top, or Angel Delight – strange choice. It had taken me half an hour to grapple with the spam on my computer, consisting of spurious lottery wins, adverts for Viagra, people wanting someone with ample money to invest in their business. Suddenly a movement outside caught my eye. A cat was stalking a bird. It had killed one last week. I jumped up so this wouldn't recur, ran to the front door and shouted at the cat. A woman going down the road got quite a scare. Back I went to my computer and searched for recipes. One consisted of stale bread, suet and jam. They should ban a nasty pudding like that. Then, suddenly, there it was, the perfect pudding, so I felt fairly cheerful. I had some cream in the fridge, and chocolate – I must have bought some long ago. I went to the shop to get the ricotta and just had time to pick up a Flake and a Wispa, pay at the counter and go home. I started by mixing the melted chocolate with the cream. It looked like slime from the bottom of a pond, but tasted delicious. I took another spoonful and another and another. Before I knew it, it was gone. Oh dear, I felt sick. I wish I hadn't eaten it!

- 1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____ 4) _____
5) _____ 6) _____ 7) _____ 8) _____
9) _____ 10) _____ 11) _____ 12) _____
13) _____ 14) _____ 15) _____ 16) _____
17) _____ 18) _____

Answers to the March Quiz – 1)Earthenware 2)Earthquake 3)Earthworks 4)Eartha Kitt 5) Friends of the Earth 6)Down to Earth 7)Air Guitar 8)Airhead 9)Airbags
10)Airlift 11)Put on Airs 12)Airbrush 13)The Firebird Suite 14)Firedamp 15)Firefly
16)Fireworks 17)Play with Fire 18)Firecrest 19)Bluewater 20)Watershed 21)Water under the Bridge 22)Water Music 23)Watermelon 24)Water vapour

Councillors' Surgeries
Tim Oates or Samantha Bowring at the TFLRA Committee Meeting

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

Date of the next TFLRA Committee Meetings:

Wednesday 8th April 2009 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room

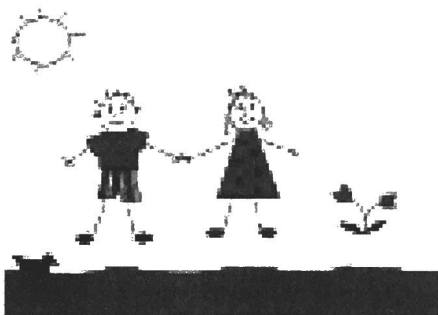
Deadline for items for the next newsletter: Wednesday 22nd April 2009

Contact the newsletter – items for publication:

Eleanor Dangerfield 01235 531 857- 23 Masefield Crescent- eledanger@hotmail.com

Riverside Pre-School

**Corner of Preston Rd and Cotman Close
Abingdon**



Pre-school education for 2 to 5 year olds

Mornings 9.15am - 11.45a.m.

Lunch club 11.45am - 12.15pm

Afternoons 12.15pm - 2.45pm

Morning, afternoon and free sessions available

Government funding available for 3 and 4 year olds

Children in nappies accepted

For more information or an application form phone
01235 531670 during pre-school hours