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\* Tithe Farm and Ladygrove Newsletter April \*  
\* 2013 \*  
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**Welcome** to the April newsletter. Calling the last edition the Spring newsletter probably was tempting providence a bit but we hope that by the time you get this one we will have seen the last of Winter.

**The Local Plan Exhibition** was held in the precinct in March and many residents may have gone to see it. The local plan addresses the projected needs for development in the area over the next fifteen years and covers housing, business, community facilities, heritage, transport and the environment. You can still see it at the Vale office and pick up a leaflet or go to [www.whitehorsedc/localplanpartone](http://www.whitehorsedc/localplanpartone) or phone 01235 540 499 for information. The plan is not yet finalised and the Vale wants your comments. You can make your comments online or fill in a form and post it. **The consultation closes on 9<sup>th</sup> May so there isn't much time.** Read the opinions of one resident in this newsletter. The Residents' Association has purchased the full version of the consultation draft so if you would like to read all 197 pages of it, please contact the newsletter to borrow it. You may only keep it for a few days, however, as there will be many people in the queue!

**Thames Valley Alert** enables the police to keep you informed of crime trends in your neighbourhood and to provide details of meetings and general crime prevention advice to help you to protect yourself against crime. You can sign up to receive texts on your mobile phone or e-mails. To register, go to [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk) or if you are not on the internet, contact the newsletter and we will give you a form to fill in and post.

**How do you know** if the tradesman you employ to do a job in your home or garden is honest and reliable? Of course the best thing to do is to get a recommendation from a friend or neighbour but that isn't always possible. Oxfordshire Trading Standards runs the Buy with Confidence scheme, which lists reliable tradesmen. Visit [www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk](http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk) or phone 0845 051 0845.

**Overgrown vegetation** – with balmy spring weather just around the corner, there's no excuse for not getting out there with your shears and cutting back that hedge or shrub that's obstructing the footpath. We know where you live! However, **please do not** cut back somebody else's overgrowth without their permission. An elderly resident has complained of a neighbour doing just that.

**There are still too many vehicles**, particularly large vehicles parked on or too close to corners and junctions. These obscure drivers' and pedestrians vision and can cause accidents.

**Mark Miller**, who is running in this year's London Marathon on 21st April, sent in the following fundraising update and thank you:

"There were a total of 8 prizes won by residents of the estate and my total raised as a result of the raffle was £1,817.00. A MASSIVE thank you to everyone who supported me."

**Spring Cycle Festival – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April.** If you're not watching the Marathon, why not dust off your bike and join the Spring Cycle Festival in the Market Place, from 9a.m. onwards. There will be fun events and rides for all abilities. Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult. Find out more at [www.abingdonfreewheeling.org.uk](http://www.abingdonfreewheeling.org.uk)

**Heritage and Nature Walks – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May** – Walks leave the Market Place at 10.30 a.m. and 2p.m. Choose from guided walks of varying length covering places of historical or natural interest. For more information, visit [www.friendsofabingdon.org.uk](http://www.friendsofabingdon.org.uk)

**Pathway Workshop** – The Pathway Workshop in Blackbird Leys is a registered charity which trains disadvantaged people in making outdoor furniture from recycled wood. They make benches, picnic tables, garden chairs, raised beds and compost bins as well as smaller items such as bird boxes and hedgehog houses. Go to their website at [www.pathway-workshop.co.uk](http://www.pathway-workshop.co.uk) or phone 01865 714 111. If you can't find what you want, the workshop offers a design and build service, which will make items to exactly your requirements.

**Passion Play** – Congratulations to everybody who took part in or contributed to the Abingdon Passion Play on Palm Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. They and the spectators braved the bitter cold and it was a truly amazing spectacle and community event.

**I hope that many of you were able to see the “Local Plan” exhibition in the precinct. Here are a resident’s comments on it:**

### POINT OF VIEW

**' Your Vale your future' comments to the Local Plan.**

I visited the recent exhibition of the Draft Local Plan held in the Abbey Precinct and found it interesting and informative as far as it goes ... I have just 'trolled' through the whole thing (all 197 pages!) and feel as though my head is about to burst!

As far as I understand it this is about future planning and what will happen in the Vale between now and 2029 – the next 15 years!

They have put in an amazing amount of work and it goes into great detail about 'Spatial Views', 'Strategic Objectives', 'Core Policies', Housing Development, etc., etc., but what does it actually say? I found very little in the way of ideas or solutions on ways to deal with what, in my opinion, are the most urgent problems facing Abingdon at the moment: transport and flooding.

On Transport they say that: “At present there are no identified solutions to these problems, which are likely to be undeliverable without significant investment”. (p.69 5.33) and there will be no building in Abingdon until transport is sorted, but is “safeguarding” land for a “possible future southern by-pass” enough? I don't think so. It only takes one small accident or road works and the town is grid-locked. Why is the council not being more pro-active in planning this 'future' by-pass? The traffic has been impossible for years. Are we going to have to suffer traffic congestion for the next 15 years because of this inertia.

Flooding is another urgent issue that is hardly touched upon in the Plan. To “abide by National Planning Policy Framework” and make recommendations for development is, of course, necessary, but is it enough to stop our homes being flooded? I cannot believe that there is no viable Flood alleviation scheme, especially considering the very near miss we had recently during the heavy rainfalls. Were not enough houses flooded in 2007? Surely, with multi-agency co-operation and the local community, something could be done but, to plan nothing is, in my view, not an option.

I feel disappointment, anger and frustration that an opportunity seems to have been wasted to plan for the future of the Vale and our area in particular. Yes, they recognise the problems, but where are the contingency plans? For the next 15 years?!

This is the 1st Draft of the Local Plan and the Council would like to hear our views. Evidence will be published on 28th March and **the deadline for comments is 4.00pm Thursday 9th May 2013**. These comments will help finalise the plan, which, after further consultation and a final draft, will be sent to the Secretary of State. So it is important that we get our comments in on time!

You can look at the plans at the council offices, the library or online [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/localplanpartone](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/localplanpartone). They would prefer comments online but you can also fill out a form and send it to: Planning, Vale of White Horse District Council, Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon, OX14 3JE. If you have any queries about submitting your comments you can contact the Planning Policy Team on – 01235 540499 or e-mail: [planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

If you feel as exasperated as I do, please do write your comments.

**Sheila Bachmann**

If you would like to read the full 197 pages of the Local Plan, we have ordered one for the Residents' Association. To borrow it, contact Eleanor (contact details on back page).



## NEW IDEA TO ALLEVIATE FLOODING

Could something as simple as planting trees be the answer to flood control in our area?

This was an exciting new suggestion from Malcolm Moor (Chairman of SAFAG – South Abingdon Flood Action Group) at a recent Flood Forum held on 28th Feb at the Preston Rd. Community Centre.

He, together with engineer Deborah Prichard from JT Consulting, has prepared a 'River Ock Catchment Study' in which he says; “There is an urgent need for better flood defences in Abingdon” (1) He explained that it is about working with nature to try and store more water in the landscape and slow its passage downstream.

“During extreme rainstorms holding back a proportion of the water run-off from fields to delay water entering the main river at the headwaters will allow time for flood water in the lower river sections to be evacuated without overflowing banks before this additional water reaches Abingdon.” (2)

Matthew Woodcock from the Forestry Commission, who is a 'Woods to Water' specialist, explained that this could be done by carefully planting trees in strategic locations and at relatively low cost. Not only do trees remove a large quantity of water from the ground, even trees as young as two years old can make a substantial difference.

Matthew told of his experience in siting new woodlands that can then be coppiced and used as renewable fuel. It is worthwhile for landowners to have 'self-supporting landscapes' as, once the woods are planted, they become a very sustainable natural energy source. He mentioned a Waitrose store that is fully heated and powered from wood chips.

This land management approach is being tried in several studies : 'Slowing the Flow Project' in Pickering, North Yorks (undertaken by Forest Research and the Environment Agency) (3), and national pilot studies are also under way for the: Ouse, Aider, River Uck in Sussex and Pontbren in Wales.

"There is a great deal of public interest in these projects and local people and organisations are actively encouraged to participate and help achieve a successful outcome." (4)

The big question now is: 'how do we take this idea further for the River Ock'? Many people at the meeting showed considerable interest, amongst others, Nicola Blackwood MP, Ian Hudspeth, Leader Oxfordshire County Council and Barry Russell, Operations Manager of the Environment Agency. They all have copies of the 'River Ock Catchment Study', but will they do anything?

"If this study and appropriate tree planting had taken place after the 2007 Summer Floods then many trees would already have been in place for five years and Abingdon and the Ock catchment would already have the framework for a long term sustainable flood defence strategy in place." (5)

For more information, go to: SAFAG website, <http://www.safag.org.uk> where you can read a report of the Flood Forum meeting and full 'River Ock Catchment Study' ( ref. Quotes, 1, 2, 4, 5) Also 'Slowing the Flow' at Pickering, [www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/INFD-7YML5R](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/INFD-7YML5R) (ref. Quote 3) and there was an article by Mark Taylor in the Abingdon Herald on Wednesday, 6th March 'Seed of idea planted' [heraldseries.co.uk/news](http://heraldseries.co.uk/news)

**Sheila Bachmann**

### *Gardening Tips for a delayed Spring!*

I suppose we shouldn't really be surprised at the extreme weather in March – it seems the norm these last few years – but the garden, as always, will recover.

Spring may have been postponed this year, but it will still arrive so just delay those usual spring jobs like seed sowing until the weather warms up. It will also be worth delaying indoor sowing too, as seedlings left indoors too long will become 'leggy' and weak.

Plants in baskets and containers should survive happily – they have been in during the winter, and unless they remain frozen for more than a few days, all should be well. If you have any over-wintered plants, start to water them now and check for survivors. The best test is to carefully scrape away some bark at the foot of the stem. If it is brown underneath, it is dead, if it is green – there is still hope!

It is good to see Abingdon in Bloom is back this year, and I hope you will all put on a good show in your front gardens. I was lucky enough to be "mentioned in dispatches" a few years back, and it is a wonderful feeling!

*Martin Gulliver*





## April Quiz

### Hard boiled eggs

It's not so long since Easter and this quiz has eggs in the answer, or sometimes in the question. Answers to Eleanor, 23 Masefield by 19<sup>th</sup> May.

1. Bejewelled gifts for the Imperial Russian household  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Fail to spread the risks \_\_\_\_\_
3. You can't make an omelette.....  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Alternative name for aubergine \_\_\_\_\_
5. Encourage someone to do something foolish or daring  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Event at children's sports day \_\_\_\_\_
7. A shade of blue \_\_\_\_\_
8. Which came first.....?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Tread carefully for fear of causing offence  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Avian source of riches \_\_\_\_\_
11. Easter game involving a slope \_\_\_\_\_
12. Try to instruct someone senior in what they already know  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. It is good in parts, my lord \_\_\_\_\_
14. Egg shaped sports ground \_\_\_\_\_
15. End up looking foolish \_\_\_\_\_
16. Brainy person \_\_\_\_\_
17. *Limnanthes douglasii* \_\_\_\_\_
18. 1967 black comedy by Peter Nichols about a couple caring for their severely disabled daughter. \_\_\_\_\_
19. Hard boiled egg encased in sausage meat \_\_\_\_\_
20. Warm drink made of beaten egg, sugar, beer and rum  
\_\_\_\_\_

Answers to the Spring Quiz - 1)daffodils 2)The Producers 3)Springbok 4)cuckoo 5) April showers 6)Springwatch 7)Easter 8)Springfield 9)Stravinsky 10)Cheltenham Gold Cup 11)hot cross bun 12)Equinox 13)Mother's Day 14)spring onions 15)Caroline Lamb 16)Zebedee 17)Mayday 18)spring water 19)hope 20)Saffron



**Councillors' Surgeries - at the TFLRA Committee Meeting**  
Your local Councillors have been invited to the Committee meetings. **Contact details:**  
Samantha Bowring(Town) samantha.bowring@abingdon.gov.uk 07767 072 095  
Mike Badcock- michael.badcock@abingdon.gov.uk 01235 201 810  
Marilyn Badcock - marilyn.badcock@abingdon.gov.uk 01235 201 810

**Mike and Marilyn Badcock- 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month in the Family Room, Abingdon Conservative Club,  
Ock St**

**Dates of the TFLRA meetings: usually 2nd Wednesday of each month  
8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room – all residents welcome – check beforehand in case of change of  
date. Next meetings, Wed 8<sup>th</sup> May , Wed 12<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Contact the newsletter – items for publication: Eleanor Dangerfield 01235 531857 23 Masfield -  
eledanger@hotmail.com. Deadline for next newsletter – Sun 19th May 2013**

## MARKET PLACE EVENTS

**Fri 19<sup>th</sup> April - Farmers' Market – 8.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.**

**Sat 20<sup>th</sup> April – Abbey Sax – 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.**

**Sun 21st April – Spring Cycle Festival – 9a.m. onwards (see main newsletter)**

**Sat 27<sup>th</sup> April – Abbey Brass – 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.**

**Sat 11<sup>th</sup> May – Abingdon Town Band – 11a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Mr Hemmings' Morris Dancers 1.30 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.**

**Fri 24<sup>th</sup> May – Homecoming Parade for 12 LSR Dalton Barracks – Abingdon Fire  
Station 9.45a.m. to Market Place**

**Mon 27<sup>th</sup> May - Friends of Abingdon Historical and Nature Walks – 10.30 a.m. and  
2p.m. (see main newsletter)**



## ABBEY GROUNDS EVENTS

**Sat 1<sup>st</sup> June – Fun in the Park – 11a.m. – 3p.m. – Free event  
Music in the Park – from 5.30 p.m. – Adults £5, children £2, under 5s free  
Entry by wristband on sale at Town Council Offices or at Market Place  
Stall on 13<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May.**

