

Tithe Farm and Ladygrove Newsletter

AUTUMN 2010

Welcome to the Autumn newsletter – In the last newsletter there was news of the changes to the Waste and Recycling collections and by now you will have had your information leaflets and copy of “Unvaled”, giving details of the new arrangements and the starting date of 4th October. We asked for your views and received one letter and one e-mail, neither of them favourable.

Mr Yaxley wrote:

The bins etc., which will cost us all through our rates, have been undemocratically forced upon us by our council and the “green experts” without giving us a chance to object. The bins are not suitable for elderly couples who generate hardly any food waste, often only a few vegetable parings, one small black bag of general waste and half a green box of recyclable waste per week. They definitely are an “overkill”. There is no need for so many large bins which will litter our gardens and vehicle parking spaces and cause many problems for those of us who are physically handicapped.

Mr Roger Redknapp was similarly unimpressed. Here is his e-mail:

Having read two publications from the Vale of White Horse DC concerning the changes to the waste/ rubbish collection scheme I contacted them for clarification of its operation. My particular concerns are the sizes of the recycling and land fill bins, 240 litres and 180 litres respectively as the only route to the rear of my property is through a garage that is severely restricted.

The response of the waste management team is as follows:

Alternative bag collection is not available. To be eligible the property would have no front garden.

There are no plans for smaller bins that would be easier to handle.

Store the bins in your front garden.

You must take all the bins or opt out of the scheme altogether.

If you opt out there will not be an opportunity for a rate rebate.

I find this lack of foresight by the council coupled with their apparent lack of flexibility in the operation of the scheme extremely disappointing. As there are many linked houses in this area. The situation outlined above must affect more than one household. We can therefore look forward wheeled bin storage in front gardens (very attractive) or making our own arrangements for waste disposal.

The only other advice given was writing to your councillor.

Another rubbish related complaint – A resident put out a charity bag on collection day, and to her extreme annoyance, it was picked up by the bin men and chucked in the crusher. Well, all I can say in consolation is that this won't happen after 4th Oct as **only wheelie bins** will be emptied and **no bags whatsoever** will be collected.

Returning to Nyala found the operation now established, with the other Puma ensconced in El-Fasher along with numerous Mil-8s and even a Mil-26 'Halo' for company. Our operational area to all intents and purposes formed a triangle consisting of El-Fasher to the North, Nyala to the South and Geneina, a dirt airfield close to the Chadian border. In the middle, dominating the landscape to a height of 10,000ft., was Jebel Marro, an extinct volcano. The flying rate was extremely low, enlivened only by the occasional trip to Geneina, El-Fasher when the other Puma went U/S, or to Camp Tillo in the Nuba mountains. Night flying was prohibited by the military, the airfield closing to civil operations at dusk. Any impending military activity could be deduced by the fact that the mobile phone network suddenly became inoperative! Upon noticing this we would then adjourn to the roof to watch the firework display of flares, dull thuds and booms on the far horizon to the South lighting up the night sky. Rebel activity was largely unseen by our detachment although on one out village landing in the desert with UN liaison officers on board we found ourselves "piggies in the middle" between a rebel detachment and government troops, with everybody looking through field glasses at one another.

As already hinted at, management of the operation left a lot to be desired, with staff already quitting the field, so to speak. I had resolved to leave at the completion of my second tour as my annual tour to the South of France operating a corporate S76B was a firm prospect. The observant reader will have noticed considerable holes in this narrative. For instance, just how did a minor player in the Southern Alps obtain a contract to operate up to, subsequently, six Pumas in the Sudan? Never having operated outside the EU before and with no experience of either the Puma or working for the UN? Within a year virtually all the initial staff had quit or been sacked and the operation became a largely Armee de l'Air affair along with South Africans recruited via an agency company. An accident largely unreported in the Western press in which a young Sudanese aid worker was killed put the final nail in the coffin of this minor player's attempt to join the 'big boys' and the contract was not renewed by the UN although I believe the company still operates elsewhere in Africa. Finally, the name of this company? Well, it rhymes with Kellogg!

Would I do it again? Answer: of course, it was an adventure! But the old adage "there's no fool like an old fool" comes to mind.

Submitted by: Tim Oates (ex REME/AAC pilot) & current member of Ox and Bucks., AACA. (Army Air Corps Association). Contact Tim if you would like to read the article in full.

Andy Ritchie has started his own IT trouble shooting and repair business. Here he tells you about the service he offers:

Is your computer slow? Do you want it to be looked at for a respectable price, by a local IT Professional?

If you have a problem with your computer, or need some guidance or advice on new software and hardware. Then please read on...

AJRitchie.co.uk is a local, professional IT Repair company that can help you with your IT Equipment. Be it hardware or software, I am here to help. My services include help with setting up Routers / Printers / Scanners or other hardware. Installing, updating and managing the correct software. Advice on backing up your data, making sure it's protected from viruses and speeding up your computer. I also offer very competitive prices on training for software such as Word, Excel, Outlook or PowerPoint. (XP, 2003 or 2007)

My main focus is to help those who are unfamiliar with IT, who have problems they wish to be resolved but don't want to pay unfair prices.

I can offer you all these services, and better than that, I can visit your house, or connect to your home computer from mine, meaning there's no need to disconnect any cables and drop it off to be repaired.

If you believe my support can help you then please feel free to contact me at andy@ajritchie.co.uk. I have been repairing computers professionally for 5 years and am ready to help with any questions or issues you may have. For more information please visit www.ajritchie.co.uk

Autumn Quiz - Simply Red

The answers all contain the word "red". Send to Eleanor at 23, Masefield by 21st November.

Famous Moscow location _____

They hunted for it _____

A famous racehorse _____

Senator McCarthy feared them in his sleeping quarters

These rays enable night filming _____

She encountered a lupine villain _____

Shepherd's delight _____

Cult comedy and type of star _____

Chairman Mao's little one _____

Rabbie Burns' love was like one _____

Clue that leads astray _____

Tabloid newspaper _____

Cervus elaphus _____

Winter visitor of the thrush family _____

Air display team _____

Maria Marten was murdered here _____

In debt _____

Caught in the act _____

Viking explorer went to Greenland _____

Symbol of Wales _____

Mars _____

International humanitarian organisation _____

Official regulations _____

Sequoia tree in California _____

Sung at end of Labour conference _____

Answers to Summer Quiz: 1) Piece of cake 2) Loose cannon 3) The bottom line 4) Tongue in cheek 5) Hard cheese 6) Salad days 7) Knuckle down 8) Swing the lead 9) Big girl's blouse 10) Can of worms 11) Cloud cuckoo land 12) Damp squib 13) Take a rain check 14) Burn your boats (or bridges) 15) High five 16) Blow your top 17) Green eyed monster 18) At the eleventh hour 19) Jack of all trades 20) Square peg in a round hole

The Garden in September

Rain at last....well it is as I type this anyway!
I told you the lawn would survive...

September often marks the start of more autumnal weather – so it's come a bit early. However most bedding will last until the first frosts in November so keep deadheading and weeding. It is very unlikely that we'll get a frost in September so tender plants can still be left outside but if you want to keep them over the winter, consider taking cuttings now so that you have a chance with several small plants rather than trying to protect one large plant and risk losing the whole thing.

This is a good time of the year to start planting new trees and shrubs, as the last few warm weeks give the plants time to settle in before the winter. You can also now start splitting overgrown perennials as they begin to die down. If the clump is big, break off the outer pieces which are fresher and discard the older centre portion.

Bulb planting can also start now, particularly daffodils and crocuses although tulips can be left for a while. If you are unsure where the gaps are in your garden, plant the bulbs in pots and leave them in a cool dark corner so that when shoots start to come through in the garden, the gaps can be filled from these pots.

Now is also a good time to treat the lawn by using a spring tined rake to go over the whole area, getting rid of the thatch and aerating the grass.

Finally think about plants for winter colour. The garden centres are full of winter-flowering pansies and violas so fill a few pots and hanging baskets. Incorporate a small ivy for a bit of evergreenery (is that a word? It is now!)

Martin Gulliver

The Ock in Autumn

As summer moves into autumn the animals in the river become less obvious: the kingfishers have raised their young and have moved to their winter feeding sites; the warblers, house martins and swifts have migrated to Africa; and the water voles, having finished their breeding season, have retreated into their burrows to see out winter. But there are still many things to see this time of year. Often overlooked on pavements and trees is lichen, a fascinating symbiotic organism formed from a partnership between a fungus and an algae. The fungus protects the algae by providing it structure and safety, whilst the algae provides the fungus with food through photosynthesis. Fungi themselves can provide the wildlife spectacle of the season. Although they grow all year round, it is usually at this time of year that their fruiting bodies can be seen, and what a display they can be. Along the Ock there are the usual suspects of bracket fungus, wax caps and milkcaps, but in nearby nature reserves nearly 900 different types have been identified and the local wildlife trust often organise fungi walks; well worth attending, but as they can be popular, it is often worth booking. It is often said that freshly picked fungus are the best to eat, but only a mycologist should attempt to eat them as many look very similar, and even one that is edible may be infested with fly larvae. Suffice to say I will continue to get my mushrooms from supermarkets.

e-mail: Ockviewer@gmail.com

Councillors' Surgeries
Tim Oates at the TFLRA Committee Meeting
See the main newsletter for contact details of your Town and Vale Councillors

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 (check in case of changes)

Wednesday 15th September 2010 - 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room

Wednesday 13th October 2010 " " " "

Wednesday 10th November " " " "

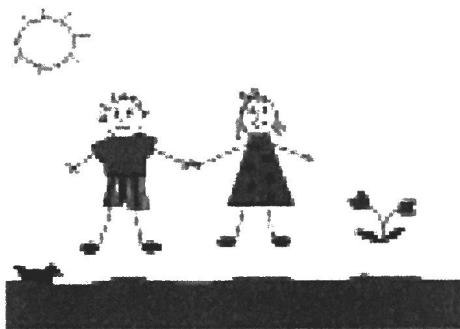
Deadline for items for the next newsletter: Wednesday 21st November 2010

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

Children in nappies accepted

Children in nappies accepted

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