



Here are some announcements of events taking place between late October and Christmas. There are more events on the back page.

**SATURDAY 26th OCTOBER 2013  
ABINGDON ECO FAIR**

**TOWARDS A GREENER FUTURE**

Come and find out how to live better on less...

**Save money and be happier!**

**10am-2pm ABINGDON GUILDHALL**

Fresh Homemade Food - Lunch - Tea and Cakes

Stalls - Activities for kids

**FREE ENTRY**



**MAYOR'S HALLOWE'EN DISCO**

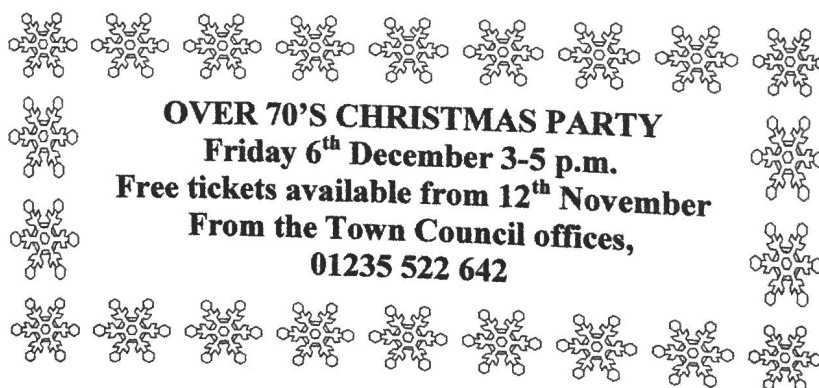
**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 7p.m.**

**in the Guildhall**

**for more information and tickets, contact**

**Sue Aldington [sue.aldington@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:sue.aldington@abingdon.gov.uk)**

**Or phone 01235 468 341**



**OVER 70'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 3-5 p.m.**

**Free tickets available from 12<sup>th</sup> November**

**From the Town Council offices,**

**01235 522 642**

**CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA**

The Christmas Extravaganza will once again take place on a Saturday this year - Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November, from 11.45 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. in and around the Market Place, with a parade, stalls and activities and ending with the switching on of the Christmas lights and fireworks. The theme this year is "Cinderella".

From about 5.30 on, there will also be a "pamper evening" in the Guildhall with various beauty treatments available. I don't have much information about this yet, so watch out for posters around the town or information on the town website.



# Hallowe'en

Eleanor Dangerfield



Love it or hate it, Hallowe'en is almost here! The shops are full of Hallowe'en costumes, food, sweets, pumpkins, scary masks, anything, in fact, that will persuade people, parents in particular, to part with their money as quickly as possible. You may have read in the newspapers that a couple of supermarket chains were obliged to withdraw a "mental patient" costume from sale on the grounds of taste. Well, at least it keeps most of the Christmas stuff out of the shops for another month.

So where did this modern Hallowe'en craze come from? I remember the odd Hallowe'en party, with traditional games like apple bobbing, usually hosted by Scottish or Irish people, but until about twenty or thirty years ago, it hardly featured at all in England as a celebration. In Scotland, there has always been the custom of "guising", where children dress up in costume and go from door to door or stand in the street asking for coins or food. This, of course, could lead to pranks being played on the unfortunate householders or passers-by.

Hallowe'en is a contraction of All Hallows Eve, October 31<sup>st</sup>, the day before the western Christian festival of All Saints Day. It is thought to be a Christianised festival of pagan origin with its roots in the Celtic countries and has always been popular in these countries. The end of October marked the end of the harvest and the beginning of Winter. It was thought that the souls of the dead could cross into our world and with them, evil spirits. The souls of dead loved ones could be guided into the home with lights and fires, which would also keep the evil spirits at bay. As Christianity spread into northern Europe, the early church fathers were very good at incorporating pagan customs and beliefs into Christianity, as we see in many of our Christmas and Easter customs.

Hallowe'en celebrations declined in England after 1605 when Guy Fawkes night on 5<sup>th</sup> November became popular and appropriated such Hallowe'en customs as bonfires. Also it came under attack from the Puritans in the 17<sup>th</sup> century but still remained popular in Scotland and Ireland.

It is clear that the modern rise in popularity of Hallowe'en, particularly Trick or Treating has come back here from across the Atlantic, along with the Americans' gift for commercialising anything and everything. So how did these customs get to America in the first place? The Puritans of New England were strongly opposed to Hallowe'en celebrations. However, in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, large numbers of Irish and Scottish immigrants arrived in America and brought their Hallowe'en customs with them. They began to use the native American pumpkin for their Jack o' Lanterns, which are larger far easier to hollow out than the traditional turnips which they had previously used. At first the Hallowe'en customs stayed within the communities but by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, they had spread throughout the U.S.A.

So, whether you are going trick or treating, to a party or just cowering in your house with the lights off until it's all over, Happy Hallowe'en!



# *The Poets of Tithe Farm*

## Part 2 of Tony Godfrey's article

In Spring it is always a pleasure to see daffodils in the front gardens of this estate. The poet William Wordsworth is often associated with these cheerful flowers. At school, students were often told to learn *The Daffodils* by heart:

*I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host of golden daffodils,  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*



Wordsworth recalls this occasion when he was walking by a lake near his home in the Lake district. It is a poem which is sometimes mocked for its simplicity. However, Wordsworth made a revolutionary change to poetry and its themes. Poetry, it was thought, should be on lofty topics but the publication (with Samuel Taylor Coleridge) of *Lyrical Ballads* changed all that. Wordsworth wanted to write poetry in the ordinary language of men and chose subjects which related to the lives of ordinary people who lived around him in the Lake District. So he chose shepherds, huntsmen, beggars and the mother of a disabled child as suitable topics for his verses. He also showed his deep love for the area he lived in - an area which at that time was thought to be desolate and backward. In fact he wrote the first tourist guide to the lakes. Go to Grasmere today and see how influential he was in putting the North on the tourist map.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge was a friend of Wordsworth and moved up to the Lake District to be near his friend but they later quarrelled. In his journals he describes his walks through the valleys and fells in all weathers. Some of his exploits were quite hair-raising. Today people visit the Lakes for hiking and facing the challenges of this beautiful part of the country and we can say that Coleridge was a pioneer of this leisure activity. His work is very different to that of Wordsworth both in subject and style. Many of his poems have a strange dreamlike quality. His poem *Kubla Khan* illustrates this very well:



*In Xanadu did Kublah Khan  
A stately pleasure dome decree  
Where Alph, the sacred river ran  
Through caverns measureless to man  
Down to a sunless sea...*



Coleridge in fact claimed that the poem was a vision in a dream he had had. When he was writing it, a visitor interrupted his inspiration so the poem was never finished.

**Many thanks to Tony Godfrey for this interesting article. In part 3 in the next newsletter, Tony will cover the remaining poets, Tennyson and Longfellow.**



## Autumn Quiz



### *Isles of Wonder*

Well, you'll be wondering about the answers, which are islands round Britain and all over the world. Answers to Eleanor, 23, Masefield, by 13<sup>th</sup> November.

- 1) Sharp cornered island \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Neither earth nor sea \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Divided island of tall conifer hedges \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Shorts wearing island? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Daft sounding islands \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) To no.5 add another I, remove an L and you have Italy's football  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Where dodos made their last stand \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) Named after a lettuce or vice versa \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) My little pony island? \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) Blokes island? \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) Very cold island \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) Has someone just discovered it? \_\_\_\_\_
- 13) Opposite of The Black Isle? \_\_\_\_\_
- 14) Where Darwin's theory evolved \_\_\_\_\_
- 15) Island of giant statues \_\_\_\_\_
- 16) Fishy sounding island \_\_\_\_\_
- 17) No holly or tinsel, despite its name \_\_\_\_\_
- 19) Volcanic island of fortified wine and cake \_\_\_\_\_
- 20) Put it on to keep you warm \_\_\_\_\_



September Quiz – Congratulations to Mr Miles of Masefield Crescent, Mr and Mrs Edgecombe of Wordsworth Road and former Ock Meadow Councillor, Tim Oates. Between them, they found even more cars than I thought I'd put in. Sadly, the prize is not a car.

Answers: Lada, Rolls, Morgan, Lotus, Datsun, Jensen, Rover, Ford, Bedford, Honda, Nissan, Alfa, Hillman, Dodge, Daf, Tata, Audi, Triumph, Austin, Talbot Lexus, Opel, Matra, Fiat, MG, Wasp, AC

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR GIFT IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS OR BIRTH-DAYS?

How about an original painting in oil or watercolour?  
As a local artist I paint most subjects – pets, local or holiday scenes, cars, aircraft, marine, sunsets etc.  
For more information, ring 01235 528 495  
It might solve your gift problem!

**FRANCIS FLOORING**  
Local up and coming flooring business.  
We can supply and fit all safety flooring, carpets, vinyl and lino.  
Very competitive prices.

Call 07432 844 948 for a free quote.



**Caldecott Primary School  
Holiday Play Scheme**

Children between The ages of 3-11 years are welcome.  
Sessions run from 8.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. at a cost of £23 .. 00 per child.  
For more details, please contact  
Maria Reader  
Childcare Co-ordinator,  
01235 523132

**BECKY ARMSTRONG**  
mobile hairdresser

for more details, prices or to book an appointment  
phone 07780 664 273



[www.class-cleaning.co.uk](http://www.class-cleaning.co.uk)

CLASS CLEANING is a family run business based in Oxfordshire servicing both the commercial and domestic sector.

**We offer:-** Regular home cleaning  
Spring cleans and one off cleans  
Residential letting cleans  
Daily office cleaning service

From initial contact to the implementation of works program, it is our number one priority to ensure that your specific requirements are met.

**Call us NOW...** Daytime: 07923 110 945  
Evenings: 01235 559 382

[classcleaningservices@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:classcleaningservices@hotmail.co.uk)

**Sarah's Carers**

Sometimes in life we all need a little help...  
We understand that asking for that help can be scary but taking that small step can make life feel so much better

From companionship to personal care, services delivered with a smile and designed to make you feel special and in control.

Call us now on 01235 828237  
[www.sarahscarers.com](http://www.sarahscarers.com)

*'I Do' Wedding Hair and Make Up*

*Friendly, Professional bridal hair and makeup artist available to come to your home or venue on your big day.*

*Also available for Proms and special occasion.*

Call Katie on 07545326730  
Or visit: [www.idoweddinghairandmakeup.com](http://www.idoweddinghairandmakeup.com)

## OXFORD KITCHENS & BATHROOMS



Luxury fitted Kitchens, Bathrooms & Appliances

1st Floor,  
1b Besselsleigh Rd,  
Wootton,  
Abingdon,  
OX13 6DN

t: 01865 326 009  
f: 01865 730 861  
oxfordkitchens@aol.com

## CLIVE BOWER

For your interior  
painting and decorating  
**10% discount for OAPs**  
Free advice and estimates  
Call Clive Bower on  
**01235-526690**

## WINDOW WISE

A small local family business providing high  
quality competitively priced double glazed  
windows, doors and conservatories  
- also offering household glass and glazing repairs,  
replacement PVC fascias and guttering  
For no-pressure sales and free quotations,  
telephone **Martin** on 01235-559334  
or mobile on 0788-55-71778

## D A THOMAS

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

Domestic - Industrial - Commercial Installations



20 Ely Close, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 5PU  
TEL/FAX: 01235 202992 MOBILE: 07721 097728

## A C ELECTRONICS

### T.V. & Video Repairs Great Service, Best Prices

**Competitive, Local & Reliable -  
The TV & Video Man that can -  
Andy will come to you -**

Most Makes of LCD & Plasma Repairs,  
Reprogramming & Installations  
Aerial & Satellite work undertaken  
Fast Efficient Service

**Abingdon 01235 525571**

**All areas covered**

**Including Wantage, Oxford & Didcot**

**acell@sky.com**

31 Mill Road, Abingdon



## Tonks Brothers Funeral Directors

158 Ock Street, Abingdon, Oxon. OX14 5DL

Telephone: 01235 - 539444

24 Hour personal service  
Dedicated chapel of rest  
Pre-paid funeral plans available  
Memorials supplied



Golden Charter  
Funeral Plans



## SLW Design

Creative Design Solutions

- House extension plans
- Planning application drawings
- Professional drawing services

Tel 07786 262 969

Email [info@slw-design.co.uk](mailto:info@slw-design.co.uk)

Web [www.slw-design.co.uk](http://www.slw-design.co.uk)

Please contact Simon for more information.

## CMM Accounting

### Practical Solutions for Accountancy

Offer a tailor made service to meet the needs of  
Sole Traders and Small Businesses

Bookkeeping Services: Purchase Ledger, Sales Ledger,  
Supplier Payments, Cashbook Maintenance, Fixed Asset Register,  
VAT Returns, Credit Control, Tax Returns,.

Management Accounts: Control Account Reconciliation, Bank  
Reconciliation, Cashflow Forecasting, Aged Debtors & Creditors  
Reports, Prepayments and Accruals, Month End Journals, Profit & Loss Reports, Balance  
Sheet Statements, Variance Analysis and Management Reports,  
Can work on or off site, depending on business requirements.

Contact details: T: 01235 555749/209120 M: 07740874825

[Colette.muir@cmmaccounting.com](mailto:Colette.muir@cmmaccounting.com)

**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 13<sup>th</sup> Nov, Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2013**  
**Contact the newsletter – items for publication: Eleanor Dangerfield 01235 531857**  
23 Masefield - eledanger@hotmail.com. Deadline for next newsletter – Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Nov 2013  
Treasurer: Anita Wickens, 39 Masefield Crescent

**Market Place and Town Events**

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October - Eco Fair - Guildhall - 10a.m.-2p.m.**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November - Mayor's Hallowe'en Disco - Guildhall - 7p.m.**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November - Remembrance Day Parade – Town Centre - from 10a.m.**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November - Christmas Extravaganza - Town Centre –  
11.45 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December - Over 70's Christmas Tea Party – Guildhall – 3p.m.-5p.m.**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Craft Fair – Market Place – 9a.m.-5p.m.**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December - Chamber of commerce Christmas Events  
Market Place - 10a.m. – 2p.m.**