

Tithe Farm and Ladygrove Newsletter

December 2004



Welcome to the December/Christmas/New Year newsletter, and a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers.

Spectacular displays of lights are going up all over the two estates, cheering up the dreary winter weather and ensuring that Tithe Farm/Ladygrove can be seen from space, along with the Great Wall of China and the motorways of Belgium.

I hope this will reach you by Christmas, but I make no guarantees and can only apologise in advance if it doesn't. While on the subject of apologizing, there is quite a lot of it to be done. You will have noticed that last month's newsletter was somewhat sparse and lacking in content. Also a resident's advertisement of items for sale was left out and a promotional article for "Creative Corner", which had appeared a couple of months ago, appeared again due to a misunderstanding. Despite appearances, there were no more adverts than usual, but they appeared to be extremely huge and therefore very obtrusive. The lack of other material is where you, the residents and readers, come in. (see below).

I would like to thank Peter and Hilary Green for their article about getting involved in local politics. I only knew about the new Co-op building because I was approached in West St. Helen's Street by a local resident asking me to sign a petition against the Star Ship Enterprise style design, which was the one approved by the District Council, and in favour of a design far more in keeping with the area. It is really important to keep one step ahead of planning applications, so objections can be raised and opposition mobilised in time. Otherwise we may wake up one day and find that the Earth is about to be destroyed by Vagon spaceships to make way for an interstellar bypass. (I refer you to "The Hitch Hiker's guide to the Galaxy".)

I would also like to thank Mike Matejtschuk for his letter about the Telephone Preference Service, detailing really useful information about avoiding unsolicited phone calls, whether the outright criminal or the simply unwanted and time-wasting.

To return to my point about lack of material, we need **contributions from you, the readers**. We have said before, but it is your newsletter. We need contributions from you to make it successful - information about local events, clubs, societies, complaints, letters, ideas, useful tips, jokes, quizzes, news of births, deaths and marriages, residents leaving or arriving, (with prior consent of those involved) and anything else that may be of interest. If anyone can help with information about Council meetings and planning applications, that would also be very welcome. Without contributions and more help, the newsletter simply cannot continue.



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Thank you to the newsletter deliverers and sub collectors

Residents give up their free time to deliver the newsletter and collect the annual sub. To thank them, they were invited to a special committee meeting on 8th December in the Jephson Common Room, with mince pies, nibbles and drinks. It was lovely to see so many people on the night and look forward to a productive and successful 2006.

FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS OF MABERLEY CLOSE

Linda and Richard would like to thank you all for your kindness and help at the time of Fred's death. The collection you made was very touching and has been donated to the NSPCC.

November Quiz winner and answers

The Box Office Brain Busters quiz proved very popular and was won by Hazel Byrne. Hazel wins a

bottle of wine or a donation to a charity of her choice. When there is more than one correct entry, we have a draw for the winner.

The answers are as follows:

- 1) Casablanca 2) Gone with the Wind 3) Jaws
- 4) Silence of the Lambs 5) Goldfinger 6) Octopussy 7) Carry on Camping 8) Shakespeare in Love 9) The day of the Jackal 10) A Man for All Seasons 11) Castaway 12) The Wizard of Oz 13) 2001 14) Star Wars 15) Alien/E.T./The Stranger 16) Alfie 17) The Dambusters 18) Sliding Doors 19) Notting Hill 20) Finding Neverland 21) Grease 22) Chocolat 23) Billy Liar 24) The Graduate 25) Quo Vadis

Christmas Shopping Coach Trip

Our coach trip to Milton Keynes was a big success. The saying "Shop till you Drop" certainly was taken with great enthusiasm by many of our coach party, as some of them made return trips to our coach with all their Christmas bargains, large and small. On a personal note, a big thank you to the ladies at the back of the coach who picked me up when I was laid on my back giving a good impression of an upside down tortoise. You know who you are.

Jean White

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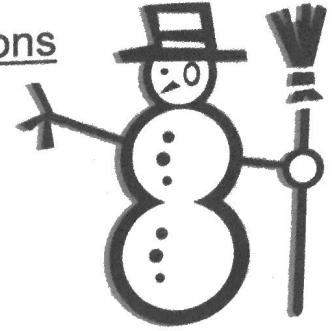
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Christmas & New Year Refuse & Recycling Collections

If, like me, you have lost the notice of Christmas and New Year collections, you might find this useful:



Refuse:	Mon 27 th Dec	moves to	Wed 29 th Dec
	Mon 3 rd Jan	moves to	Thur 6 th Jan
	Mon 10 th Jan	moves to	Wed 12 th Jan
	Mon 17 th Jan	moves to	Tue 18 th Jan
Recycling:	Thur 30 th Dec	moves to	Tue 4 th Jan
	Thur 6 th Jan	moves to	Mon 10 th Jan
	Thur 13 th Jan	moves to	Sat 15 th Jan
	Thur 20 th Jan	moves to	Fri 21 st Jan

By which time, it will be nearly Easter.

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Open spaces and nature reserves in the area

Since joining the Green Gym, I've discovered a number of these, most in easy walking or cycling distance. Apart from the Ock valley walk on our own doorstep, there is the Abbey Fishponds Nature Reserve between Radley Road and Audlett Drive, the Southern Town Park off Lambrick Way, with plenty of natural open space beyond the rugby and football pitches, Barton Fields, behind Audlett Drive, between Crabtree Place and Barton Lane, with river and stream flora and fauna and Cothill Fen opposite the Merry Miller Pub in Cothill, which has a peat bog, a very unusual feature in this area. I'm hoping to include more detailed articles about each site in future

newsletters, written by the people who work on them and therefore know them best. These sites need volunteers to help with their upkeep, and a good way of helping is to join the Abingdon Green Gym, which meets on Saturday mornings. For more information, contact me or BCTV on 0118 947 5049.

Eleanor Dangerfield

A.M.V.
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Super Reindeer Down Under

Perhaps you remember I told you last year
About Santa Claus and his Super Reindeer,
Who flew through the sky and leapt down on the roof
And helped with the presents and was Santa's right hoof.

Well, when winter came round and December again,
He was tired of the fog and the snow and the rain
And the short, gloomy days and the clouds and the thunder
And decided to take a vacation Down Under.

He set off one day flying faster than sound
His twinkling hooves never touching the ground
Over deserts and mountains and jungles and seas
Across the Equator and south on the breeze.

Till below him he saw (this will give you a clue)
A coat hanger bridge in a harbour of blue
And a strange-looking building of sailing ship form
He thought, "This must be Sydney, and isn't it warm?"

So Super Reindeer to a beach glided down,
Where people were lying and trying to get brown,
And carrying a surfboard, sunglasses and lotion
A figure was waddling down to the ocean.

A tubby old gent with a bushy white beard,
Wearing bright coloured shorts, and wasn't it weird?
Super Reindeer was certain he'd seen him before
But quite where that was he couldn't be sure.

Santa's cousin turned round, (for that's who it was)
Said, "G'day, Super Reindeer and welcome to Oz.
I'm just chilling out before the big night.
You're my cousin's chief helper, now isn't that right?"

Now, come and meet Bruce, he's my chief kangaroo.
If I didn't have him, I don't know what I'd do."
And, surprising to see, Bruce was snow white, not brown,
From his hat, there hung corks which bobbed up and down.

Santa's cousin said, "Bruce, take our friend on a tour
Of Australia's sights. You'll impress him for sure."
So they flew over mountains and a bright coral reef
And jungles and swamps without coming to grief.

They met with koalas and wombats and possums
And saw gum trees and wattles with bright yellow blossoms
And across the salt pans and the desert they flew
To that famous old rock that is called Uluru



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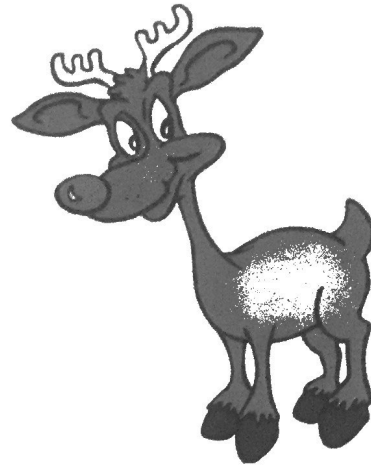
They flew back and found him preparing a feast
Of turkeys and steaks, ten dozen at least.
And roasting them all on a beach barbecue
He asked Super Reindeer to stay and eat, too.

Super Reindeer said, "Thanks, I must be on my way.
Old Santa will need me before Christmas Day."
So waving goodbye, he flew back to the North
And arrived on the evening of Dec 24th.

He told his adventures while loading the sleigh
And when they were ready, it was up and away.
He was glad to be back. It was really a thrill
To slide down the chimneys, the stockings to fill.

Eleanor Dangerfield

Last year, you were invited to draw or paint a picture of Super Reindeer. This year we have another competition, (open to under 15s only), for a picture of Super Reindeer's adventures in Australia, Bruce the Kangaroo, Santa's cousin or anything else connected with the poem. Send your entries to Eleanor at 23, Masefield Crescent by 16th January and there will be a prize for the best entry.
If you missed last year's "Super Reindeer" poem, just contact me and I'll let you have one.



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A Festive Quiz...just for fun...

'Visit from St. Nicholas' or also known as 'Twas the night before Christmas':

- What were mamma and I wearing?
- How fast were the reindeer?
- How many reindeer have names starting with the letter D?
- What were St. Nick's clothes made of?
- How big was St. Nick?
- How does he let the narrator know he was nothing to dread?
- How does he get up chimneys?
- How many times does he whistle in the whole poem?
- Is he ever referred to as Santa Claus in the poem?
- What they fly like?

(Answers below)

Take Care

Christmas is here again, it seems to come around quicker each year; it is a busy time of year for everyone; including the criminals. A high percentage of crime is carried out by opportunists; therefore we are seeking your assistance in preventing this type of crime.

As I have said before Abingdon is still a relatively low crime area, although if you are a victim it does not seem that way, so is you can consider some of the following it may prevent you from becoming a victim and spoiling Christmas for the whole family.

YOUR CAR

Presents: Please try not to leave them in full view, try to keep them out of sight, if they can be seen, they can be stolen.

KEYS - Never leave keys in the ignition, even for short periods, e.g. at garage forecourts.

Do not leave the vehicle unlocked at any time.

Take all valuables with you, do not leave anything in the glove box or under the seat, they know all the likely places.

Park where possible in well-lit locations.

AT HOME - Ensure all doors and windows are locked when you leave the house.

Presents displayed under the Christmas tree look attractive but can usually be seen through the window. Keep them out of view.

CAR KEYS - Never leave car your keys on view near windows letterboxes and cat flaps as they can be 'hooked' by criminals.

Going away for Christmas?

Consider using timers on lights and ask a neighbour to keep an eye on the house.

Opening the door to Strangers - Use a chain or door bar and only open the door after identifying the caller. Do not keep large amounts of cash at home.

PROPERTY - Make your property identifiable; mark it with your house number and postcode. Advertise the fact that your property is marked, as that in itself can be a deterrent. If you are offered a quality product at a bargain price ensure the source is genuine.

BICYCLES

One crime we do suffer with in this area is theft of pedal cycles. Please ensure that all cycles are locked when left unattended. Do not leave them on view in the front garden, put them in the shed or garage, and even then use a padlock. Have them marked with your house number and postcode.

Please consider the above measures to stop criminals enjoying Christmas at your expense.

Neighbourhood Watch

If you know a neighbour who is not a member or if you are not a member yourself, now is a good time to give it serious consideration. Neighbourhood Watch schemes can cut crime and opportunities for crime. Help and reassure those who live in fear of crime, and encourage neighbourliness and closer communities.

If you would like any further advice please contact your local Crime Reduction Adviser on 01235 556855.

On behalf of all at Abingdon Police Station, have a Happy and Secure Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

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David Coates, who most of you knew as the Neighbourhood Warden, has now changed his job to concentrate on the 'environmental crime' side of keeping us on the straight and narrow. His job now involves dealing with graffiti and fly-posting, but most of all dog fouling. He can be contacted on 07909 535558 or 01235 520202 ext. 641. His working hours are 8.00am to 4.00 pm.

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A Festive Quiz...answers...

A. mamma was in her kerchief and I was in my cap, nothing else is said; B. "more rapid than eagles"
C. three; D. Fur; E. Don't say, but must be small, because of his miniature sleigh, tiny reindeer, little old driver, little round belly, and called an elf; F. "a wink of his eye and a twist of his head"; G. "laying a finger aside of his nose, and giving a nod."; H. twice; I. No; J. "down of a thistle"

Contact Us:

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Your Councillors Surgeries

Mike Badcock

Held on the 1st Saturday of the month 10.00 to 11.30 at the Conservative Club.

Peter and/or Hilary Green

Held on the 2nd Saturday of the month. 10.00 to Midday, in the Jephson Flats common room.