

TITHE FARM & LADYGROVE NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2006

Welcome to our December issue. It seems early, at the time of writing, to be wishing all Tithe Farm and Ladygrove Residents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, but shops have been doing this since about the end of September, so I suppose it really isn't too early.

Traffic Survey There were 35 replies to last month's traffic survey, which is actually a TFLRA all time record, but really, when you consider there are about 650 households receiving the newsletter, it isn't really very many – about 1 in 19. It is certainly not enough to have any clout as a campaign/ petition or to be able to join forces with other South Abingdon residents or those in Drayton or Sutton Courtenay. **If you meant to fill in the survey but forgot about it, we will still accept completed surveys up until about 18th Dec. If you have lost it, phone me, Eleanor on 531 857 and I'll let you have a copy.**
The draw was won by the Palmers of Longfellow Drive.

Here is a summary of the main points raised. Apologies if we haven't included your particular one.

Everybody agreed that the new traffic scheme in the town centre had made matters worse. The Stratton Way lights now cause huge tailbacks along Ock Street, which there never were before. The traffic backs up along the High Street and blocks the exit from W. St Helen's Street. The queue into town from Culham is worse and more drivers will go through Sutton Courtenay and up Drayton Road.

Journey times from Mill Rd to the double roundabout can take up to 25 minutes. There were many complaints about Drayton Road cars not letting cars out of Mill Road. I suggest a campaign of collective sustained hooting, which is probably illegal but could well work!

Some notable journeys: 30 min by taxi to Malthouse surgey resulting in a much higher fare.

30min on a Saturday through town to Abingdon F.C.

45 min to the swimming pool.

An hour to Ock St dental practice including finding a parking space.

People are tending to turn right at the end of Mill Rd and go to Culham/Cowley via Sutton Courtenay.

Going to Didcot to shop is now quite usual. Abingdon shops will lose out.

One resident even said he often drives down to the Milton interchange to go north on the A34.

A few people now walk/ cycle more and a few also said they would use buses if there were more services. There should be a north/south bus route serving Spring/Wootton Road and thus the secondary schools and the college. A pensioner without a car said the town bus timings make it difficult to go into town, shop and get the bus back.

Many people said there were too many pedestrian controlled lights now. I think pedestrians would disagree. They could be better phased so as not to change so quickly in peak times.

Most people agreed that opening the slip roads at Drayton would help, as would a proper interchange at the A34 in N. Abingdon.

One resident pointed out that traffic from N. Abingdon coming down the relief road to the roundabout by the police station has priority and thus holds up Marcham Rd traffic, with a knock on effect.

Other suggestions were: A southern bypass going east/west or at least a bridge across the river at the end of Preston Road to the Culham Road. A foot/cycle bridge here might encourage more people to walk/cycle.

An interesting suggestion, which could be easily implemented was a slip road from Drayton Road left on to Marcham Road using the gravelled "garden" by the new flats, where nobody ever sits.

A path could be made for pedestrians/cyclists on the left hand side of the wall and bridge, with a footbridge over the Ock, which would be safer.

Thank you for all these suggestions. Maybe more people will now be encouraged to fill in the surveys. **Christmas and New Year Refuse, Brown Bin and Recycling Collections.**

In case you have lost that vital piece of paper containing this information, or can only find last year's or the year before's.....

Normal Collection Day

Mon 25th Dec

Thur 28th Dec

Mon 1st Jan

Thur 4th Jan

Mon 8th Jan

Thur 11th Jan

Christmas/New Year Collection

Wed 27th Dec

Sat 30th Dec

Wed 3rd Jan

Sat 6th Jan

Tue 9th Jan

Fri 12th Jan

Dispersal Order

This information has been passed on to me by Councillor Mike Badcock:

For your information, the South Abingdon Dispersal Order will be extended from 22nd November 06 until 22nd May 2007. As before, the hours the dispersal is in force are between 17.00 and 6.00. The area now includes Tithe Farm and Ladygrove estates and covers all roads, recreation areas, play areas and open spaces south of the River Ock.

Between the hours of 22.00 and 6.00:

The basketball Court and surround on Lambrick Way and Southern Town Park and skate park area. A map of the designated area will be displayed in conspicuous locations.

The reason for seeking the authority has been based upon the number of calls received by the police from members of the public relating to groups of youths gathering in the designated area. Residents and business surveys also indicate that this is an issue that causes concern to the residents and businesses in the location.

These groups of youths have caused harassment, alarm and distress to members of the public and businesses and there is documentary evidence to support this.

In granting the order under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003, police and extended police family will restore confidence and provide reassurance to the local community.

Richard Baker

Anti Social Behaviour Co ordinator

Vale of White Horse District Council

01235 520 202 Ext 309

Or Contact the police (non emergency line 0845 8 505 505)

Please Quote (URN 982 of 23/5/06)

Or in an emergency dial 999

FOR SALE

12 volt Renault Clio battery. Never used

Original cost £49 (receipt available)

£25 o.n.o.

Tel: 01235 527 365

**Need someone to take away those dreaded jobs
of ironing and cleaning?**

Then I'm your woman!

Interested?

Then call me on 07789172549

WORLD CHALLENGE

Hello, my name is Helen Upshall and I am 16 years old.

I attend Fitzharry's School and have been given a once in a lifetime chance to visit South Africa with an organization called World Challenge.

World Challenge offers young people the opportunity to visit developing countries resulting in "education through exploration." The expedition takes place in July and August 2008.

This programme will allow me and the rest of my team to explore the country and participate in a community project. To go on this special and unique expedition, I have to raise just under £3,000 between now and June 2008.

Therefore, I am offering to undertake errands and your boring and tedious jobs in return for donations towards reaching my fund raising target.

Examples of jobs and donations – Open to negotiation

- Car washing - £4.00 (medium sized car)
- Ironing - £4.00 per hour
- Gardening - £5.00 per hour
- Cleaning - £5.00 per hour

Other jobs – donations

- Dog walking
- Small errands

Please feel free to keep my details from now to June 2008 handy for when you need that extra pair of hands!

Contact number: 07966940161

The Garden in December

...can pretty much be left to it's own devices.

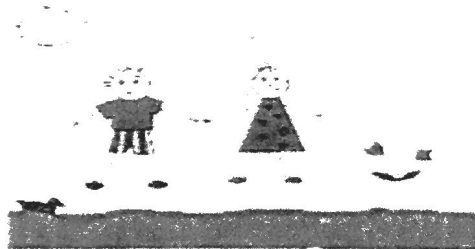
So how about making your own Christmas wreath for the front door? A wire coat hanger, a few pieces of evergreen tree bound into it and then anything with berries, rose hips or pieces of holly can be used to make a simple wreath. Make sure to put some cling film on the door behind the wreath to protect it.

Similarly a simple table decoration can be made with a piece of oasis soaked in water then festooned with pieces from the garden stuck into it. Make it fairly close to the day itself so it keeps its freshness indoors and keep the oasis in a saucer of water so as to keep it moist and prolong the life of the foliage.

Back outside, the birds will welcome feeding at this time of the year (indeed all year round) and they love peanuts in a hanger as well as fat-balls, both of which are less messy than pure seed when it comes to sprouting underneath the feeder. I have also found that they love the last few scraps at the bottom of cereal packets (muesli and shredded wheat especially). A supply of fresh water is essential and if a freeze is forecast overnight, reduce the level of any birdbath in the evening so there is room to top it up over the ice the next morning. *Martin Gulliver*

Riverside Pre-School

Corner of Preston Rd and Cotman Close
Abingdon



Pre-school education for 2 to 5 year olds

Mornings 9.15am - 11.45am

Lunch club 11.45am - 12.15pm

Afternoons 12.15pm - 2.45pm

Morning, afternoon and full day 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

November Quiz Answers and Winner – The winners of this quiz, drawn from correct entries, were Peter and Pauline McCarthy of Tennyson Drive. Here are the answers: 1)Ramsgate 2)Folkestone 3)Hastings 4)Cowes 5)Poole 6)Lyme Regis 7)Exmouth 8)Penzance 9)Newquay 10)Minehead 11)Weston-Super-Mare 12)Swansea 13)Fishguard 14)Holyhead 15)Blackpool 16)Morecambe 17)Whitehaven 18)Ayr, 19)Thurso 20)Wick 21)St.Andrews 22)South Shields 23)Whitby (though one competitor points out Captain Cook was born in Marton near Middlesbrough, but learned seamanship in Whitby) 24)Hull 25)Felixtowe

December Quiz – For this month’s quiz you need to work out the title or first line of a Christmas song or carol from the initial letters, e.g. GRYMG = God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen. Answers to Eleanor, 23, Masfield Crescent, by 18th Dec.

Songs

- WSGSUTC _____
- RTRNR _____
- ISMKSC _____
- IDOAWC _____
- WWYAMC _____
- JBJBATW _____
- SCICTT _____
- MAW _____
- TTDOC _____
- AIWFCIMTFT _____

Carols

- GKWLO _____
- HTHAS _____
- SNHN _____
- OLTOB _____
- AIAM _____
- OCA YF _____
- OIRDC _____
- WSWTFBN _____
- WTKOOA _____
- THATI _____

See the below for another holiday brainteaser.

No prizes for this one, but a tremendous feeling of satisfaction if you solve it! The answer has nothing to do with the sense or logic of the paragraph.

About December

This is an unusual month – Santa, snow and so on. This is an unusual paragraph, too. How quickly can you find out what is so uncommon about it? It looks so ordinary that you may think nothing is odd about it until you match it with most paragraphs this long. If you put your mind to it and study it, you will find out, but nobody may assist you; do it without any coaching. Go to work and try your skill in figuring it out. Par on it is about half an hour. Good luck – and don’t blow your cool.

Councillors' Surgeries
Peter and/or Hilary Green – 2nd December 2006 and 6th January 2007
10 – 11.15a.m. Jephson Common Room.

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

Date of the next TFLRA Committee Meeting –
Wednesday 13th December 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room.
Deadline for items for the next newsletter – Monday 18th December 2006

Contact us – items for publication:
Eleanor Dangerfield 01235 531 857 23 Masefield Cr
eledanger@hotmail.com
Grenville Wells tithefarm2@yahoo.co.uk

ABINGDON HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS.....

Urgently need more members—it is only £3.00 for single or £5.00 for double. Please support your local hospital. Also they run a whist drive on the first Friday every month at 7 p.m. in the day hospital. Anyone interested in joining the League of Friends or the whist drive, please phone Abingdon 520 392.

Gifts of hand soap, toothpaste, talc, foam bath for wards 1 and 2 gratefully received.

BUS NEWS

The 35A service will run half hourly at peak times from 10th December. Times are slightly altered, so look out for the new timetable.

An X13 service to the JR Hospital will also start on 10th December.

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

