

TITHE FARM & LADYGROVE NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2007

Welcome to the February edition of the newsletter. Winter really seems to have arrived at last, though by the time you get this, the weather will probably have changed again. The gales of the 18th have certainly ripped away some fence panels and no doubt caused other sorts of less obvious damage, but I suppose there's nothing we can do apart from listening to the weather forecast and tying things down wherever possible.

A load of rubbish - The storms have certainly been blowing rubbish around but it doesn't help when some people put their bins and boxes out on the wrong days, especially if that day happens to be a windy one.

There have been complaints about the increasing amount of litter around the estates. No doubt the people who throw it down don't bother to read the newsletter, and I know some residents gallantly take a bag and pick up litter, but many people have the attitude of "I pay my Council Tax and it's the Council's job to pick up litter". Let us know at the newsletter what you think about this or any other issues and we will publish your letter.

Dog's mess as well - there has been more of that around recently, and, unlike horse manure (a special feature of Masefield Crescent and Mill Road at the weekend when the riding school is out), you can't even put it on your rhubarb.

New houses on the Esso/Renault site - The Town Council has voted against this development, but as they don't have the final say, it may well still go ahead.

Market Place - Work is due to start in February on the Market Place, so, according to the town website, the regular Monday market will move to the Civic car park in Abbey Close (by the Vale Council Offices) from Monday 19th February.

Thank you to the residents who have volunteered to deliver newsletters. We are still looking for people who might like to be on a reserve list of deliverers. This is very useful if anyone drops out or is ill or away on holiday etc.

**Event - Mayor's Civic Charity Ball - Friday 23rd February - 7p.m.
Tickets £28 from Old Abbey House**

TITHE FARM AND LADYGROVE FREE SWAPSHOP

**FREE: 5 ½ square yards
Cotswold natural dressed stone**

Must collect

Tel: 01235 201 813

The Save Radley Lakes Campaign

You may have seen quite a lot in the local press, radio and T.V. recently about the Save Radley Lakes campaign. Although the lakes are at the other end of Abingdon, many people on Tithe Farm and Ladygrove know them through being keen walkers, cyclists, bird watchers and fishermen. Some residents also know them from their childhood as "the pits" and remember playing and swimming there.

Oxfordshire County Council has now given planning permission for the last remaining large lake, Thrupp Lake, to be filled by Didcot Power Station with waste fuel ash. RWE Npower, which owns Didcot power station, says, in every newspaper article and radio and T.V. interview, that it is going to "restore" the area to a nature reserve. I suggest you go and visit one of the already filled lakes, or failing that, go to the Radley Village website – www.radleyvillage.org.uk – then go to Photographic Tour, then Thrupp Lane Sand and Gravel working and PFA landfill and see if you still believe them!

However, the campaign is by no means over and we need your help. This is the current situation:

An application has been made to Oxfordshire County Council to have the land registered as a "Town Green". This would prevent any development.

At the end of December, a group independent of Save Radley Lakes moved into "Sandles", the empty house owned by Npower by Thrupp Lake. They have been monitoring any activities at the lake and also looking out for otters and water voles, which are known to live there. They have now received an eviction order from the County Court.

If you would like to help with the campaign, for example by writing letters, helping to fund raise or even by changing your energy supplier away from Npower (and telling them why!), contact Eleanor on 531 857 and ask for an information pack.

UNWANTED PHONES?

Do you have any old, unused mobile phones that are collecting dust?

By giving us your unwanted phones, you could help both our cause and the environment.

We are from Fitzharrys World Challenge team and are raising money for an expedition to South Africa in 2008. To help us raise £3000 each, we are collecting old handsets (including batteries) to be recycled and sent to developing countries.

Any profit from this scheme will go towards our fund.

If you think that you could help us, please fill in the form below and return along with any handsets to:

42, Coleridge Drive, Abingdon, OX14 5NT

Please feel free to phone us on this number for any extra information: 01235 203 027.

Many thanks, Helen Upshall and Hannah Joyce

_____ declare that the mobile phones I am donating may be recycled by World Challenge team members Helen and Hannah, from Fitzharrys School. I have checked to remove the SIM cards from my phones and understand that, once I have given the phones to this service, it will not be possible to have them returned.

Signed _____ Date _____

OXFORD WELSH MALE VOICE CHOIR
and guests

IN CONCERT
CELEBRATING ST DAVID

featuring

Rhian Williams
Mezzo Soprano

Immogen Garnett
Harpist

TRINITY CHURCH Conduit Rd ABINGDON

SATURDAY MARCH 3rd 2007 7.15pm

**In aid of Trinity Church Organ Appeal
and the OWMV Choir charity**

Tickets: £10 / £9 [concession]

Available from: Music Shop St Aldates Oxford
Dawsons High St Abingdon
Ron Salter 01869 331245
John Prout 01235 521307

The Garden in February

As I write, we have had a very mild, wet start to the New Year, but no doubt we will pay for it soon. As February comes along, bulbs start to show more, especially snowdrops, irises and winter aconites. Now is a good time to make a note of gaps to be filled with bulbs later in the year. Snowdrops that have finished flowering can be lifted, divided and planted out again.

Fertilizers can now be applied to the ground to get things moving, and as winter flowering shrubs lose their flowers, they can be pruned. Heathers just need a light trim to keep them compact. If you kept the old stems on your perennials last year, now is the time to cut them back to allow new growth to come through.

Buddleia is a popular shrub but can get huge. At the end of the month, cut them right back almost to the base, leaving one or two buds on each stem, and they will send out new branches in the Spring. If left unattended for too many years, you get a lot of top growth and a bare base so this should be done every year.

If you have winter pansies, keep these dead-headed to prolong flowering. Check all pots and containers, repotting the plants if they need it. With a very large shrub in a pot, just scrape away the top 2/3 inches of soil and replace with fresh compost. (top dressing)

Martin Gulliver



the infictables

will be playing the best reggae, ska and soul

**at Abingdon United FC,
Northcourt Road, Abingdon**

on Saturday 3rd March 7:30 pm till Midnight.

Entry is strictly by ticket only

tickets are £5.00. For tickets or more information please contact

Alan and Kirsty on 01235 550072

All proceeds from this event will go to 6th Abingdon Trinity guides.

January Quiz answers and February Quiz

There were no entries at all for the January Quiz, which either means it was too hard and everyone is waiting eagerly for the answers or that nobody could care less and has thrown the newsletter out. Anyway, here they are: 1) George Galloway 2) Ben Fogle 3) Women’s bob skeleton 4) northern bottle nosed whale 5) Simon Hughes and Chris Huhne 6) Harold McMillan 7) Numbersixvalverde 8)Marco Materazzi 9) She was kidnapped and kept prisoner for 8 years before escaping 10) Mnemonic for the planets in order out from the sun. Pluto was demoted from being a planet 11) sting ray 12) Ban Ki-Moon 13) a Picasso painting. He was planning to sell it and put his elbow through it. 14) Daniel Craig 15) Tracey Temple 16) Hug a hoodie
As nobody sent in the answers, maybe we should have a sort of reverse quiz and people can make up the questions.

If anyone **does** want to send in a quiz for the newsletter, they are welcome to do so.

February Quiz - The Spring is Sprung

Yes, I know it isn’t spring time yet, but we can look forward. All the answers contain the word “spring” in any of its 3 meanings. Answers as usual to Eleanor, 23, Masefield by 18th February.

- 1) Rugby playing antelope _____
- 2) Tiny, wingless insect (collembola) _____
- 3) Home town of Bart & Co. _____
- 4) Source of the Thames _____
- 5) In the red centre of Australia _____
- 6) Californian holiday resort of the stars _____
- 7) Music by Aaron Copland _____
- 8) Stravinsky’s shockingly modern composition _____
- 9) Nature notes with Bill Oddie _____
- 10) High water at new or full moon _____
- 11) May 28th 2007 _____
- 12) Making the house sparkle from top to bottom _____
- 13) Early brassica _____
- 14) Helps divers and athletes to jump _____
- 15) Purest H2O _____
- 16) Scots and Americans call them “scallions” _____
- 17) Your kids _____
- 18) Shock jock show host, subject of an opera _____
- 19) Chinese hors d’oeuvre _____
- 20) Song in spoof opera in “ The Producers” _____

Councillors' Surgeries
Peter and/or Hilary Green – 2nd Saturday of the month 10 – 11.15a.m. Jephson Common Room. (Please check first)

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 14th Feb 2007 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room.
Deadline for items for the next newsletter – Sunday 18th February 2007

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



ALADDIN
AT STEVENTON VILLAGE HALL FROM 4TH - 10TH FEBRUARY
Performances :- Sunday 4th at 2.30
Wednesday 7th, Thursday 8th, Friday 9th, at At 7.30pm
Saturday 10th at 2.30 and 7.30
Tickets from:- Margaret Telephone 01235 834067

LAST LAUGH
Jokes courtesy of Sam Kirkwood

NEWSPAPER HEADLINES
Something went wrong in jet crash- expert says
Safety experts say school bus passengers should be belted
Enraged cow injures farmer with axe
China – President greeted by 21 gun salute in Square of Heavenly Peace
Miners refuse to work after death
If strike isn't settled quickly, it may last a while
Red tape holds up new bridge
Overcrowding in cemetery causing grave problems
Man struck by lightning faces battery charge
Local high school dropouts cut in half

**Why don't you send in some jokes? As long as they're newish,
(i.e. not "Why did the chicken...?") clean and family-friendly, we can print them.**