

THE FARM & LADYGROVE NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2008

– **Welcome** to the February newsletter. The recent heavy rain and flooding of the Ock has been very worrying for those people flooded out last time. Let us hope that by the time you read this, the danger will have passed. Maybe it will at least force the Environment Agency and local councils to put in place some flood defences and mitigation measures, instead of just pretending it's a once in 100 year occurrence.

On the subject of flooding, the Vale has been looking to buy two four-wheel drive vehicles that can get through flood water when other vehicles cannot. They will have other uses, but flood planning was the main reason for deciding to buy them. They will be able to help move and deliver sandbags.

Town Councillor Tim Oates attended the TFLRA Committee meeting on 9th January, in line with the new arrangements to replace the previous councillors' surgeries. These were some of the matters discussed:

Playground in the Ock Meadow at the back of Chaunterell Way: Councillor Samantha Bowring has secured some funding for new equipment and would welcome feedback from local people, particularly children, as to what they want, (bearing in mind that it is a playground for younger children). There should be enough money for a piece of multiplay equipment. **So, children, what would you like in that playground? Let us know at the newsletter.**

Some time ago, when the care home was built on Marcham Road, we were told that there would be funding available (called S106), which could be used to improve the footpath along the Ock to Tesco. Samantha is looking into this and will let us know. The idea would be to move the path slightly away from the river, as the banks are crumbling, and to improve the surface. You will have noticed that the bridge just before Tesco has been repaired.

The Vale has placed tree preservation orders on the land on Nash Drive (where the footpath goes through to Ely Close), on which there was a planning application.

The housing development on the land on Drayton Road, where the Renault garage used to be, is going ahead but has been modified so that it will help alleviate flood risk.

Newsletter volunteer deliverer – Many thanks to Lesley, who has volunteered to deliver the Byron Close newsletters. If anyone else would like to volunteer, we would welcome reserve deliverers, who could take over if someone drops out or is on holiday or temporarily out of action.

Help with formatting – we are still looking for someone, preferably with the Publisher package, who could help format the newsletter. It only involves a few hours once a month.

Advance notice of litter pick in March – The Green Gym will be clearing litter along the Tesco path on **Saturday 8th March** 9.30-12.30 and would welcome helpers from Tithe Farm and Ladygrove estates. Gloves, litter pickers, optional luminous jackets and refreshments provided. For further details, phone Eleanor on 531 857.

**FOUND
In Maberley Close
Keys with pink marker
Collect from 2, Maberley Close**

CHARITY CALENDARS FOR SALE!

Abingdon Centre Netball Club has produced a calendar in the style of the famous Women's Institute calendar, featured in the film "Calendar Girls".

Models for this calendar are all club members, aged 18-61. Profits from the sale will help to fund the rising costs of running the 6 senior and junior squads.

25% will also be donated to Macmillan nurses. Prices have now been reduced from £7..50 to £5. Calendars are available from the Fone shop in the Wootton Road, shops in Abingdon or the Jam Factory Centre on the corner of Oxpens Road and Botley Road in Oxford

Vegetables in February

Containers can be prepared now and covered with polythene or put under cover to warm them up. Use ordinary potting compost and make sure that there is about 2" of drainage at the bottom of the container. If you are planning to grow runner beans in a pot, use John Innes potting compost as this is heavier and will make the pot more stable. It is also worth buying the supports now – 6 ft canes should be fine and ensure that you have a pot big enough, say 20" diameter.

Carry on sowing early crops as mentioned last month including lettuce, radish, broad beans and peas. When looking for varieties at the garden centre, look out for those recommended for small gardens or containers. As veggies in containers are becoming more popular so varieties are being produced that are bred for this.

If you are sowing under cover, such as in a greenhouse or cold frame, other crops can be sown now, including salad onions, leeks and spinach. Start leeks off in a pot on the windowsill, as the earlier they start the better the eventual crop will be.

Now is also a good time to pot up some mint. Mint is usually best replaced every year as old plants can get very straggly. If you have an existing plant, dig up a few roots and pot them up – they will soon start to grow. Keep mint in a pot, either on the patio or sunk into the ground, so as to avoid the roots rampaging all over the garden.

MARTIN GUNNER.

January Quiz Answers and February Quiz – Here are the answers to the “That was 2007” quiz: 1)They looted it 2)Manchester 3)H5N1 4)a pedalo 5)HMS Cornwall 6)Kent 7)Virginia Tech 8) Praia da Luz 9)Cutty Sark 10)She threw a mobile phone at her assistant 11)Brazil 12)25th13) Alan Johnston14)the2012 Olympic logo15)Endeavour16)Singapore to Sydney 17)Waterloo 18) a canoe19)Chris Huhne 20)Rawlpindi

February Quiz – Two P’s in a Pod – The answers to the clues consist of 2 words or names, each beginning with P. Answers to Eleanor, 23 Masefield, by Wednesday 20th February.

- 1) He delivered the mail to the folk of Greendale. _____
- 2) As Barrie’s tale told, he could never grow old. _____
- 3) This rare diamond soon became a cartoon. _____
- 4) This once banned book relates small town life in the States. _____
- 5) The five Bennet sisters on the lookout for Misters. _____
- 6) This dough is the base of a vol-au-vent case. _____
- 7) Two saints or two birds. Which one is preferred? _____
- 8) It has a grand sound, Derby’s own football ground. _____
- 9) Meat from a pig’s belly in pastry and jelly. _____
- 10) Sacred drama is made once every decade. _____
- 11) John Bunyan in jail sat writing this tale. _____
- 12) Fifty years he has been the spouse of our Queen. _____
- 13) If your car wants to win, it’s the place to begin. _____
- 14) You’ve not met this friend. It’s a letter you send. _____
- 15) This little equine pulled trucks down the mine. _____
- 16) It might need a crown, Haiti’s capital town. _____
- 17) On a fracture, a cast, and this stuff made it last. _____
- 18) Being careful of money, but mean and not funny. _____
- 19) Here’s where you refill, then pay at the till. _____
- 20) Redskins smoked this and swore they would not go to war. _____

We welcome quizzes contributed by our readers and quiz enthusiasts. Cryptic quizzes always seem to be the most popular. Questions should, ideally, have only one possible correct answer. So why not have a go!

Flood watch

I have been asked by our regional neigh bough hood watch coordinator to ask for people to set up a working Group to discuss ways of helping with flood alerts in the areas of Tithe Farm and Lady grove. Obviously we know the environment agency send out messages regarding 'flood alerts', but it would be good to set up a local group who could discuss ways of helping out locally with the flooding. Any body interested in helping please contact

Kathy Gubbins Regional Watch Administrator Vale Area
on 01235 556938. at the watch office

For Sale

Early Learning Centre Happyland Castle £10

Early Learning Centre Happyland train track with station and train £10

Early Learning Centre Clickclack track £8

Fisher Price Little People Airport with figures £10

Mamas and Papas nappy stacker £8

Toys R Us Booster seat/travel high chair £8

All in good/excellent condition. Please call Jane on 01235 533861

FOR SALE

**18 SPEED RALEIGH MOUNTAIN
CYCLE**

**21 INCH FRAME
IN GOOD CONDITION
£30 ONO**

**PHONE
07751 413 402**



OXFORD WELSH MALE VOICE CHOIR

and guest soloists – soprano and harp

present a

ST DAVIDS DAY CONCERT

Amey Hall Abingdon Boys School Park Road Abingdon
Saturday March 1st 2008

7.30pm Doors open 6.45pm

Tickets: £10.

Available from: Dillons Peachcroft Abingdon
Coventry Bldg Society West St Helens Street Abingdon
DCS Joncare Ltd 8C Radley Road Ind Estate Abingdon
Blackwells Book/Music Shops Oxford

OWMV Choir: Ron Salter 01869 331245
John Prout 01235 521307

Benefiting: The Abingdon Bridge.....*a safe haven for youngsters....*

Help Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir celebrate their 80th year!

Councillors' Surgeries

Tim Oates or Samantha Bowring at the TFLRA committee meeting

**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 February 2008 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room.
Deadline for items for the next newsletter – Wednesday 20th February 2008**

Contact us – items for publication:

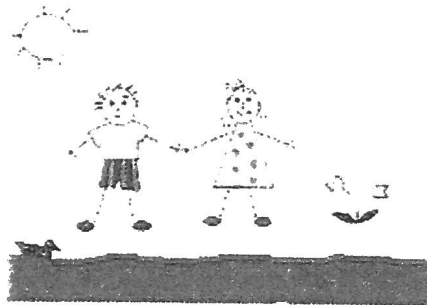
Eleanor Dangerfield 01235 531 857 23 Masefield Crescent Abingdon

eledanger@hotmail.com

Grenville Wells tithefarm2@yahoo.co.uk

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**