

# TITHE FARM AND LADYGROVE NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2009

**A Happy New Year** to all newsletter readers, as this is the first newsletter of 2009.

Sadly, the Ock Meadow playground remains closed and unfinished and it doesn't look as if anything can be done about the surface until Spring and (hopefully) better weather.

**The Ock Path** to Tesco remains in a poor state. Unfortunately, it is very difficult to find out who actually owns it or the field next to it and is responsible for its upkeep. It is termed "an informal path" and is getting more and more informal by the week and will eventually slide into the river in an informal, laid back sort of way.

Councillor Tim Oates has written to Sir Terry Leahy, head honcho of Tesco, to ask if the company could contribute towards the repair and improvement of the path.



**There will be a Litter Pick** along the aforesaid path, in conjunction with Abingdon Green Gym on Saturday 7th February, starting at 9.30 a.m. Meet by the playground behind Chaunterell Way, (sorry you can't have a swing while you wait!) Litter pickers, bags, gloves and half time refreshments will be provided. Let us know if you are coming (531 857 or [eledanger@hotmail.com](mailto:eledanger@hotmail.com)) so we can provide enough equipment and biscuits.

**1,500 new houses and a major road** coming to a field near you! – According to the Vale Council, several thousand new houses are needed in the Vale as part of the "South East Plan". One of the "Preferred Options" is to build 1,500 of them between the back of Masefield Crescent and the A34. Another option is to build them north east of Wantage and another, distributed between the larger villages. A major road would be needed, linking Drayton Road with Marcham Road at the Tesco roundabout and at the other end, link with the proposed southern river crossing. The new road, however, would not automatically follow the new housing. It is important to make your views known by **27th February**. Go to [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk) to see the plan and comment, or pick up a leaflet and comments form from the Vale offices. Make sure you get the green leaflet "Your Vale Your Future" plus the comments form. Don't confuse with the blue "Air Your Views" one (though you can complete this too, of course). If you have difficulties, contact the newsletter.

**Flood Action Group** – By the time you get this newsletter, there will have been a meeting about Flood Action Groups. We hope that money is going to be made available for flood prevention mitigation measures to be put in place, despite the government having quietly scaled down its plans to finance flood prevention. The last thing we need now is a relief road crossing the flood plain! For a report on the meeting, read on in the newsletter.

**May be the last newsletter?** – As I have been saying for the past eight months or so, I am planning to give up editing (and writing most of) the newsletter. It is time somebody else took over, so the last one I do will be in May. A new person could take a completely different approach – a quarterly newsletter perhaps, or a monthly news sheet, with or without adverts. It could be one where residents opt in rather than getting it by default unless they have specifically asked not to have it. It could be on line, with the option of asking for a hard copy if you are not on the internet. There are many possibilities, so get in touch if you think you could do it.

**Radley Lakes Saved!** – You may have heard from the local news about a week before Christmas that the Save Radley Lakes campaign has been successful. Npower has decided not to dump waste ash there after all, but has come to an agreement with WRG, which runs Sutton Courtenay tip, to put the ash there instead. The lakes will be handed over to the community and Sandles, the house on the corner of Thrupp Lake, will become an education centre.

**Wildlife Walk** – If you've never visited Radley Lakes or haven't been there for a long time, why not join a wildlife walk around the lakes on **Sunday 15th February**. Meet opposite the Sophos building in Barton Lane at 10a.m. Naturalists will be on the walk to point out flora and fauna. The walk will end at Radley Village Hall in Gooseacre, where refreshments will be available between 12 and 3 p.m.



**FOR SALE**  
Calling all golfers!  
**POWER CADDY ELECTRIC TROLLEY**  
with charger and battery  
£90  
Tel:01235 520 248



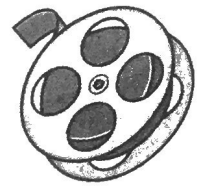
**WANTED**  
**GREENHOUSE**  
Max. size 8ft x 6ft  
Max price £100  
Phone Steve on 0794 114 8999  
or e-mail [steve.lee.60@googlemail.com](mailto:steve.lee.60@googlemail.com)



**ABINGDON FARMERS' MARKET**  
*in the Market Place*  
*Friday 20th February*  
8.30-13.30



**Film Showing –“An Inconvenient Truth”** – If you haven't yet seen this film about how Al Gore discovered Climate Change and tried to warn the Americans, you can see it at 35 Ock Street (the Baptist Church, next to Coxeter's) on Monday 23rd February at 7.45 p.m. There will also be stalls with leaflets and information.



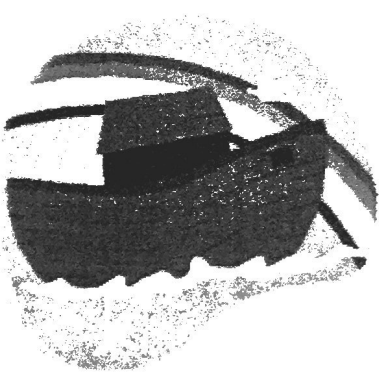
..... and if you want to find out about solar panels – the Wednesday before that ( 18th February), go to the Carbon Cutters meeting at 7.30 p.m. at St Ethelwold's House in East St. Helen's St. There will be a talk and people on hand who have already had solar panels installed.



## Flood Prevention Meeting on 22nd January 2009

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Richard Webber. There was a good attendance, particularly from Ladygrove and Meadowside. Bill Farrar, the Vale's Deputy Director of Commercial Services gave a presentation and the Direct Services Manager was on hand to answer questions. The Vale admitted that it had not been prepared for the flooding of July 2007 but since then, two 4x4 vehicles have been acquired, there are detailed maps and a control centre at Abbey House.

The point of the meeting was to get residents to form Flood Action Groups, which must then be registered. These groups would identify problems and solutions in their area and apply for grant money to get these measures carried out. Volunteers in the action groups would also be prepared to warn others, help with evacuation and transport sandbags in case of future flooding. The Council could give advice, link groups with each other and provide financial help. Deadlines for applying for money would be: First deadline, 28th February, second deadline in April and another deadline in June/July. The meeting generally felt that these deadlines were extremely tight. There was a successful flood action group in the Hanneys, and one has been started in the Stert area.



A good deal of time was allowed for questions and comments.

Most people were concerned about the lack of dredging of the river. Older residents remembered the river being dredged regularly and the channel being much deeper. One comment was that this was the third flood meeting and people would like to know what had happened ideas put forward previously. More feedback was needed. It also appears that there is now irrefutable evidence that overflow from Denman College Lake, swollen by water from the golf course, was deliberately pumped into the Ock. This has been categorically denied by the local authorities up until now, but Cllr. Webber promised to look into the matter.

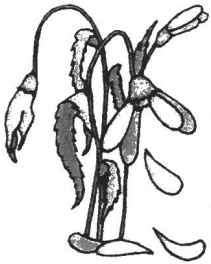
At the close of the meeting, a number of people came forward to give their names to Cllr. Samantha Bowring, so let us hope that an action group can be formed. If you couldn't come to the meeting but would like to be involved, contact Samantha on 07767072095 or via the newsletter.

## Give it a Whirl

Something new for Abingdon – Cancer Research UK Relay For Life

A small group of volunteers are seeking to establish a first **Relay For Life** event in Abingdon in the summer of 2009. This promises to be a very different experience for most people, including established Cancer Research supporters. And before you run away at the thought of vigorous exercise, it's a fun event suitable for all ages and abilities and no running is necessary (unless you want to). The event is held over a 24 hour period on a weekend. It draws on the community in Abingdon and South Oxfordshire: It combines lots of fun activities from face painting to singing and dancing (and you can participate or just watch) with the more serious side of remembering those that have been touched by cancer, celebrating the survivors, and most of all, being positive about the successes that future research is certain to bring. It's a group event meant for family and friends who between them carry out the *Relay*. Let's be honest, this is about raising funds for charity, but there's never been a more fun filled or rewarding way to get involved. If you want to know more, or how to get involved, you can call Paul on 07757713314 or email [abingdon.relay@btinternet.com](mailto:abingdon.relay@btinternet.com). There's also info on the web: <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/relay/> . We'd love to hear from you.

## The Garden in February



The freeze last month was good news and bad news for gardens. Although a lot of plants will have been damaged by the frost, many will recover and will just need the damaged parts to be trimmed off. The good news is that it will have killed off a lot of the nasty bugs that have been lurking in nooks and crannies.

Now is a good time to feed the borders as many shrubs will be starting to show buds. Any winter flowering heathers that have finished can now be trimmed and towards the end of the month fuchsias and buddleias can be cut back to the base to produce new growth for the summer.

Snowdrops may well be coming to an end now, in which case a larger clumps can be lifted, split up and replanted to increase your stock. Now is also the time to order snowdrops "in the green" as they are much cheaper bought this way and much more reliable than planting bulbs in the autumn.

On the food front, you can now start sowing salad seeds in the greenhouse and if you're planning to do new potatoes this year, this is the time to buy the seed potatoes and lay them out in a cool room, eyes upwards, to sprout. Tomato seeds can also be sown indoors ready to move to the greenhouse later.

Finally, seeds of hardy annuals can also now be sown in the greenhouse.

*Martin Gulliver*

# February Quiz—Linking Places

This month's quiz appears courtesy of the Shearer family. The answers to the clues are names of places in Britain and other parts of the world. Send your answers to Eleanor at 23, Masefield by 18th February.

Example: Cow in a jumper = Jersey

- 1) Streets burning \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Turpin's last ie bar \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Bluegrass fried chicken \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) The Northern lights of old Angus \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) An American in Hilton \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Murder near the Crypt Tales \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Merchant of Lido \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) Wombles Championship \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) The battery's down Knickerbockers \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) Sound place for bowls game \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) Dark blue bags \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) Tea party strangler \_\_\_\_\_
- 13) Plymouth sweater \_\_\_\_\_
- 14) Meet me in Cardinals \_\_\_\_\_
- 15) Iron Duke wins 18-15 sunset \_\_\_\_\_
- 16) Rock the Pavilion \_\_\_\_\_
- 17) George Square \_\_\_\_\_
- 18) Posh Falls \_\_\_\_\_
- 19) Sheriff of Forest \_\_\_\_\_
- 20) Goon cakes \_\_\_\_\_

**December Quiz – Answers** – The only entrant to get the December quiz completely correct was Mrs McCarthy, and she won the November one! Here are the answers:

1)Christmas Card 2)Cable Car 3)Captain Cook 4)Club Class 5)Clotted Cream 6)Cuckoo Clock 7)Corn Cob 8)Crew Cut 9)Christopher Columbus 10)Canterbury Cathedral 11) Craven Cottage 12)Conservative Club 13)Cross Country 14)Chess Championship 15) Cuban Cigar 16)Charlie Chaplin 17)Coca Cola 18)Caped Crusader 19)China Clay 20) Cream Cakes

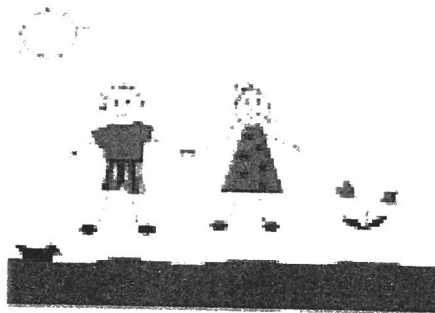
**Councillors' Surgeries**  
**Tim Oates or Samantha Bowring at the TFLRA Committee Meeting**

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

**Date of the next TFLRA Committee Meetings:**  
**Wednesday 11th February 2009 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room**  
**Deadline for items for the next newsletter: Wednesday 18th February 2009**  
**Contact the newsletter - items for publication:**

# **Riverside Pre-School**

**Corner of Preston Rd and Cotman Close**  
**Abingdon**



**Pre-school education for 2 to 5 year olds**

Mornings 9.15am - 11.45a.m.

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