

# Tithe Farm and Ladygrove Newsletter

## February 2012

This early Spring newsletter begins with a look ahead to June, so please read the plans for the Jubilee. It's down to you to make it happen on Tithe Farm Ladygrove. We also have news of spring events and our regular gardening slot, plus of course, the quiz.

If you think there's too much gardening and wildlife in the newsletter, why not contribute an article yourself on whatever interests you? Whether it's running marathons, travel, fine dining, scuba diving, playing in a band, stamp collecting or just something you have strong opinions about, we want to hear from you.

Thank you to the residents who have offered to become newsletter deliverers. More offers of help are welcome.

### Diamond Jubilee

Ten years ago, we celebrated the Queen's Golden Jubilee on Longfellow Green, and of course, we'd like to celebrate the even more important Diamond Jubilee if enough residents want this and enough are willing to help.

The plan is to hold an event on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** from late morning to mid afternoon. We would use the **playing field behind Chaunterell Way** this time as there's more space.

Entry would be free by programme to all Tithe Farm and Ladygrove residents who subscribe to the newsletter. We would provide free food and entertainment, though you would need to bring a little money for things like a raffle and stalls.

Here are some ways you could help: Setting up, clearing away, lending a gazebo, putting up a gazebo, lending garden chairs and tables, helping serve food (we've already had some offers to run a barbecue), baking cakes, running a stall, donating prizes, running children's activities, face painting, organising music..... If you think you could do any of these things, or have other suggestions, please contact the newsletter. The contact details are on back page, where there is also a form you can fill in and return, or phone or e-mail if you prefer.

I've checked the national and local Jubilee programmes and you won't miss the Jubilee Ball, the Ock St party, the fireworks or the bun throwing or any major televised events.

However, **we must have volunteers to help**, otherwise we won't be able to run a Tithe Farm/Ladygrove event. Remember, the more volunteers we get, the more free time you will have to enjoy the party. So don't delay, volunteer today!

### Face Painting

If there are any talented young face painters out there, who would be prepared to offer their services on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, we would be prepared to pay them a small fee.



# ABINGDON ARTS FESTIVAL

15<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012

Abingdon Performing Arts Group Enterprise (APAGE) is proud to announce the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Abingdon Arts Festival - a programme of performing and visual arts events for and by the people of Abingdon. This year we're proud to have as our **headline guest**, writer and stand-up comedian, **Mark Steel**.

Arts Festival 2012 brochures have been delivered to every household in the Abingdon area and more than 40 events, many over several days, will be held at 21 venues throughout Abingdon.

Festival events will include Literature, Film, Music, (every type you can imagine and maybe some you can't!), Theatre, Art Exhibitions, Workshops and Children's Events.

From symphony orchestras to Indie rock, from jazz to making your own music; from classic silent movies with live music to photographic competitions; from **making** your own prints to printing your own masks; from Bollywood dance to physical theatre and of course, a Rhinoceros.

This year's headliner **Mark Steel** will be bringing an element of his **Radio 4** comedy show, **Mark Steel's In Town** to his performance. This means Mark will write material shedding light on the quiriness and interesting aspects of each town he visits, allowing each show to be unique. Abingdon watch out!

**Mark will be available for press interviews and book signings after the show and he does like to chat to audiences.**

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## Abingdon Arts Festival Ball

To celebrate and announce this year's Abingdon Arts Festival, the traditional pre-festival ball will take place on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February** at the **Guildhall, Abingdon**.

There will be live music by Abingdon's "Swing Time" dance band, conducted and led by George Haslam, with Dorothy Shaw on piano.

The ticket price includes a buffet of delicious international dishes plus desserts.

There will be a raffle with prizes donated by local businesses.

All proceeds will help to fund the Festival.

8p.m. – bar opens at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets: £18 (£16 concessions)

From The Bookstore, Abingdon Precinct or Old Abbey House.

[www.abingdonartsfestival.org.uk](http://www.abingdonartsfestival.org.uk)



## *The Garden in Early Spring*

In the vain hope that spring will not be far away, now is a good time to feed all borders. Use well rotted compost if you can get it, otherwise a handful of general fertiliser scattered per square yard will be fine. The idea is to get things moving after winter. Also top dress containers. This purely involves scraping away the top inch or so of compost and replacing with fresh.

Trim winter flowering heathers as they finish and this will ensure they keep their shape and provide good flowers next winter. Also cut back old hellebore leaves to let light get to the new growth that should now be showing.

Prune fuchsia and buddleia hard back to encourage new growth. Buddleia can often get leggy and thus only flowers at the top of the bush so cut it back now to buds just a few inches from the base and it will soon throw up new flowering branches.

Chit seed potatoes if this has not already been done. Place them in a tray (egg boxes are ideal) in a light, frost free place – say a spare room. Place the eyes uppermost and they are ready when shoots are about 1” long, plump and dark green.

In the greenhouse, hardy annuals can be sown ready to flower early in the summer. You can also sow salad crops to get early leaves.

As snowdrops fade, lift and divide them to spread them round the garden. Now is also an ideal time to buy them “in the green” - that is as dormant leaves, and the newspapers will often have adverts. They are much cheaper this way and much more reliable than bulbs which rarely do well.

As we get into March, roses should be pruned now; firstly cutting out any dead or diseased wood, then cutting back any stems that face in to the middle of the bush, and finally trimming the outer stems by about two thirds. The idea is to open out the middle of the bush, and make sure any cuts are just above a bud and sloping away from that bud.

If you chitted seed potatoes earlier these can now be planted in bags, on a layer of 4-6” of compost, two or three potatoes to a bag. Keep them well watered and in good sunlight. Now is also the time to start sowing hardy annuals outside, as well as salad onions, carrots, spinach, lettuce, peas, rocket and cauliflower. Indoors you can sow herbs and half-hardy annuals.

It is a good idea to have a general potter round the garden to tidy up where new growth is showing, keep on top of weeds and also pot up any seedlings that may have sprung up – plants for free! Give the garden a general feed – use garden compost or fertilizer and fork it into the ground - to encourage new growth. This especially applies to newly-pruned shrubs.

Finally, I’m sorry to say, the lawn can be cut in fine weather...but not too short.

*Martin Gulliver*



## Romantic Couples Quiz

identify the couple from the rhyming clue

1. To Saint Andrews they went and exams they sat,  
but he likes her best in her cowboy hat. \_\_\_\_\_
2. We put our families in a pet,  
both Montague and Capulet. \_\_\_\_\_
3. We robbed a bank and we were high,  
but we got set up by the FBI. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Not tonight my dear, I'm in a stew,  
I have to go to Waterloo. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The romance was off when she met Blaine,  
but now it is back on again. \_\_\_\_\_
6. On his death he said 'look after her well',  
If her oranges she cannot sell. \_\_\_\_\_
7. His self-importance was so great,  
she learned not to discriminate. \_\_\_\_\_
8. A spicy little madam she  
and he a big star in the Galaxy. \_\_\_\_\_
9. I rescued him from Caesar's grasp  
and when he died I got an asp. \_\_\_\_\_
10. The love of this pair became so hot  
they tried to burn her in Camelot. \_\_\_\_\_
11. To marry her would cause a frown.  
So for the woman he gave up a crown. \_\_\_\_\_
12. When 'the baddies' were caught he got the glory,  
but she was the one who got the story. \_\_\_\_\_
13. In Amsterdam we went to bed,  
Imagine what the papers said. \_\_\_\_\_
14. Thinking home thoughts from abroad I spend my days,  
but how does she love me, let me count the ways. \_\_\_\_\_
15. She changed her style, he got in fights,  
but they sorted it in Summer Nights. \_\_\_\_\_
16. When he died I made a fuss,  
so they named a museum after us. \_\_\_\_\_
17. Out on a windswept Yorkshire moor  
Kate Bush she knew us, she wrote the score. \_\_\_\_\_
18. To Have and Have Not then we went with the flow,  
which carried us on to Key Largo. \_\_\_\_\_
19. We radiate the love we know  
and after dark we start to glow. \_\_\_\_\_
20. Because of her love for a shepherd boy,  
they brought a thousand ships to Troy. \_\_\_\_\_

Answers to Eleanor, 23 Masefield, by March 14th.

**Winter Quiz – Answers:** 1)Merry Christmas 2)Magic Circle 3)Michael Caine 4)Morello Cherry 5)Monday's Child 6)Manchester City 7)Milk Chocolate 8)Masterchef 9)Master of Ceremonies 10)Manx Cat 11)Maiden Castle 12)Military Cross 13)Morning Cloud 14)Mini Cooper 15)Mango Chutney 16)Michael Crawford 17)Mexico City 18)Mission Control 19) Martin Clunes 20)Mount Carmel

**Councillors' Surgeries - at the TFLRA Committee Meeting**  
**Your local Councillors have been invited to the Committee meetings.**

**Contact details:**

Samantha Bowring (Town) samantha.bowring@abingdon.gov.uk 07767 072 095

Mike Badcock- michael.badcock@abingdon.gov.uk 01235 201 810

Marilyn Badcock – marilyn.badcock@abingdon.gov.uk 01235 201 810

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

**Dates of the TFLRA meetings: 2nd Wednesday of each month  
8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room – 14<sup>th</sup> March, 11<sup>th</sup> April – all residents  
welcome – check beforehand in case of change of date.**

**Contact the newsletter – items for publication: Eleanor Dangerfield 01235 531857  
23 Masefield - eledanger@hotmail.com. Deadline for next newsletter – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

**TFL Diamond Jubilee Party - Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2012 – 11a.m.-3p.m.**

If you are able to help in any of the following ways, please detach and send in this slip to  
23 Masefield Crescent. Alternatively, e-mail or phone Eleanor.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tel:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mobile:** \_\_\_\_\_

**e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

I am able to: lend a gazebo, lend garden tables and chairs, donate cakes,  
donate raffle or tombola prizes; (tick or circle as appropriate)

I am able to help on the day in the following ways: setting up, erecting gazebos,  
clearing away, serving food and drink, selling raffle tickets, checking programmes,  
manning a stall, supervising activities, anywhere I'm needed! (tick or circle as  
appropriate)

I have a special talent and would like to: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick if you would like to join the planning sub committee



### CHARITY EVENT

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2012 , 7.30 p.m. - midnight

### THE INFLATABLES

will be playing the best Reggae, Ska and Soul  
at Abingdon United Football Club on Northcourt Road.

Entry by ticket only. Tickets £6.

For tickets or enquiries, contact Alan and Kirsty on 01235 550 072  
or 07429 681 783. Profits will go to local Alzheimers charities.

**Litter Picking** – On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January, four public spirited residents set out for the first mid week litter pick on the Ock Walk area. We decided to tackle the open green area on the eastern side of Drayton Road and the short cut between Ock St and Drayton Road. If you ever walk that way, you will know what a litter blackspot it is. We collected 8 bags of rubbish and recycling from that area alone. We plan to have more midweek litter picks on different parts of the Ock path and if you'd like to help, contact the newsletter. Litter sticks and bags will be provided and days will be flexible according to what best suits the volunteers.

**Ock Valley Flood Group** – This volunteer residents' group was formed to carry out work on the river Ock to reduce the risk of future flooding. The group meets on one Saturday morning a month from March until October. The dates for 2012 work parties are as follows:  
**10<sup>th</sup> March, 14<sup>th</sup> April, 12<sup>th</sup> May, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 14<sup>th</sup> July, 11<sup>th</sup> August, 8<sup>th</sup> September, 13<sup>th</sup> October.**

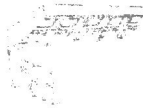
If you would like to get involved, please contact a committee member:  
marilyn\_corbett@btinternet.com; jim.king43@btinternet.com; chris.hammy@ntlworld.com; richard.webber77@ntlworld.com  
or phone Jim on 07702 154 252.

### Eggs for Sale

1.50 per half dozen.

Please knock at 9 Masefield Crescent, or call Jakki on 07917 107001.

I would appreciate the return of empty egg boxes!



### Kennington Library World Book Day Event

Kennington Library will be celebrating World Book Day 2012 with a visit from Cressida Cowell, author of the children's book series 'How to Train Your Dragon' and 'Emily Brown'. Cressida Cowell will be giving a children's talk from 2-4pm on Saturday March 10th at Kennington Village Hall. The library is also running a colouring competition for children aged 5 and under, and a drawing competition for those aged 6 to 11 from February 10th to March 9th.. Admission is free but booking is essential. All children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information or to book come into Kennington Library or ring us on 01865 730763. Opening hours and directions can be found on our website: <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/kennington-library>

