

TITHE FARM & LADYGROVE NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2008

A **Happy New Year** to all Tithe Farm and Ladygrove residents. Let us hope that 2008 brings better times. Dare we hope for some good weather this Summer?

Councillors' Surgeries – new arrangements. Lib Dem Town Councillor Timothy Oates attended our pre-Christmas committee meeting, where we raised some local concerns with him. Councillors' surgeries up to now have been held on the second Saturday morning of each month, but hardly anyone ever came, so to avoid wasting everybody's time, it was unanimously decided to discontinue these and for one of the councillors to attend the regular TFLRA committee meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room. Committee meetings are open to all residents, so do come along with any questions, local concerns, complaints, ideas and, of course, words of praise and support. If you have a private matter to discuss, you can phone one of the local councillors:

Samantha Bowring (Town and Vale) – 07767 072 095

Beth Fleming (Vale) – 078414 11166

Timothy Oates (Town) – 01235 535 807

Lorraine Smith (Town) – 01235 201 219

Christmas card and tree recycling – Tesco has a box for Christmas cards until the end of January.

You can also take cards to the Abbey Centre in Audlett Drive, Monday – Friday between 9.30 and 3.30. They also take unwanted foreign coins and stamps.

Some garden centres, such as Wyevale and Millets, take trees for recycling, up to 7th January, which is probably too late for this newsletter. You can put your tree beside or in your brown bin or take it to Drayton Waste and Recycling Centre.

Appeal for a newsletter deliverer – A vacancy has arisen for a newsletter deliverer for Byron Close. If you can spare about 20 minutes a month, please contact Eleanor (contact details on back page). If more than one person volunteers, it will be useful to have a reserve who can cover for holidays etc.

Editorial Staff – Many thanks to Grenville, who has been formatting the newsletter for the past 2 ½ years. He took over this task as an emergency measure, saying he would do it for six months, and would now like to step down. If you have Publisher on your computer and would like to volunteer, please contact Eleanor on 531 857. It would only be a question of giving up two or three hours once a month. If you would simply like to be on the Editorial team we would also be very happy to hear from you. Fresh ideas and ways of doing things are always welcome. Newsletters such as this rely on volunteers and contributions from local people. Without this input, the newsletter cannot carry on.

Burton Close/ Suffolk Way blocked off – We have asked the local Councillors about the blocking off of this access. Apparently no right of way exists here. The actual right of way follows the line of the former canal, going east from Burton Close and out on to Drayton Road.

Keep off the grass! – Frustrated drivers, stuck in jams heading North on the Drayton Road have been driving across the grass into Coleridge or Masefield, making huge, horrible tyre tracks. Well, I know I'm going to offend some people here, but, it's **illegal, selfish, dangerous and destructive**. Letters to the newsletter on this subject are most welcome.

Advertising in the newsletter – We want to confine business advertising to two pages only of the newsletter. These pages are currently full, but if you would like to advertise your business, you can be put on a waiting list. Many adverts are due for renewal in the Spring,

so spaces may then become available. Prices are £15 p/a for residents and £20 for non-residents. We can usually do a one-off advert or short feature if there is space, at £2 or £3, depending on size.

Private "for sale" or "wanted" adverts are free, and don't forget the "Free Swap Shop" section for things you want to give away. You can always advertise events, clubs, societies and voluntary organisations, of course, but give plenty of notice.

ABINGDON GREEN GYM

Do you want to get fitter and shed those surplus Christmas pounds while enjoying the fresh air? Green Gym is a small, friendly voluntary group. We meet on Saturday mornings, 9.30 – 12.30 to carry out environmental tasks on various sites around Abingdon. Tools and refreshments provided. For further details and programme, contact Eleanor on 531 857 or e-mail eledanger@hotmail.com

Conservatory Panels for sale

I have two double glazed conservatory panels which were made to the wrong measurements for my requirements. They are both 6ft 7in tall with a small opening window at the top. One is 5 ft wide and the other is 5 ft 2 ½ in wide. They are brand new. Inspection welcome. Any reasonable offer considered. Contact Joyce or David 524 833.

December Quiz answers and January Quiz

The December "Merry Christmas" quiz was won by Karen and John Miller of Masefield Crescent. Here are the answers: 1)Dutch 2)Spanish 3)Irish 4)Greek 5)French 6)Czech 7)Welsh 8)Danish 9)Portuguese 10)Polish 11)Swedish/Norwegian 12)Italian 13) German 14)Scots Gaelic 15)Russian 16)Finnish
Christmas Anagrams: 1)CRACKERS 2) TURKEY 3)FAIRY LIGHTS 4)SNOWMAN 5) STOCKING 6)SANTA CLAUS 7)REINDEER 8)PRESENTS 9)CHRISTMAS TREE 10) NATIVITY 11)MISTLETOE 12)CAROL SINGERS 13)JINGLE BELLS 14) DECORATIONS

That Was 2007 That Was – Answers to Eleanor, 23 Masefield by Sunday 20th January.

- 1) What did locals and not-so-locals do when a ship ran aground off Branscombe Beach, Devon?

- 2) Which city won the licence to build Britain's first super casino?

- 3) Name the bird flu strain found at Bernard Matthew's turkey farm in February.

- 4) What method of transport landed Andrew Flintoff in a spot of bother?

- 5) British sailors were captured by Iran in the Gulf. Name the ship they were serving on.

- 6) Which English county was hit in March by an earthquake measuring 4.2 on the Richter scale?

- 7) At which U.S university did a gunman shoot dead 32 people in April?

- 8) From which Portuguese holiday resort did Madeleine McCann disappear in May?

- 9) Which famous ship was badly damaged by fire in Greenwich?

- 10) Naomi Campbell was sentenced to community service. What was her offence?

- 11) Who did the England football team play in their first match at the new Wembley stadium? _____
- 12) Which birthday did Prince William celebrate in June? _____
- 13) Name the B.B.C. correspondent who was released in July after being held hostage in Gaza for 114 days. _____

14) Which new logo caused a storm of criticism in the summer?

15) Name the U.S. space shuttle that went on its first mission in 5 years in August.

16) What route did the A380 superjumbo take on its first trip?

17) Eurostar trains started running from St Pancras. Which London station had they used previously? _____

18) John Darwin reappeared 5 years after he was feared dead in an accident involving what means of transport? _____

19) Nick Clegg won the leadership of the Liberal Democrats. Who was his rival in the contest? _____

20) In which city was Benazir Bhutto making an election speech when she was assassinated? _____

Post Christmas Blues...

...and a sure-fire way to cure these is to think about tax? Unfortunately those of you who are required to lodge Tax Returns with the Inland Revenue might have to think about it as the last date for these is the end of this month. Any not sent in by then will automatically incur a £100 penalty.

The penalty itself cannot exceed the amount of tax outstanding as at the 31 January, so if your tax bill turns out to be less than £100 you will get a partial refund, but if you have an idea of your tax liability, it is worth sending a cheque to reach the Inland Revenue by the 31st, either with or without the Tax Return.

From April this year the rules are changing, insofar as the Inland Revenue are trying to encourage taxpayers to send in their returns via the internet. This is an excellent system as your tax liability is calculated automatically. You can check your tax position at any time during the year via the internet, and tax refunds are normally issued within a few days rather than weeks

The new time limit for paper Tax Returns will now be the 31st October, a full three months earlier than at present, but Tax Returns lodged online will not have to be in until the 31 January and even at that late date, the Inland Revenue's computer will calculate your tax liability immediately.

Rest assured however that paper Tax Returns will still be accepted, but must be in by the end of October.

MARTIN GULLIVER

Vegetables in January

As promised I aim to concentrate on vegetables in small spaces this year, and particularly in containers. It is possible to make small raised beds which are ideal for vegetables and a lot can be crammed in to a small well dug bed, so any tips I give can just as well be applied to these as to containers.

Consider what containers you can use. The usual flower pots are fine as long as they are about 10" wide and deep with good drainage. Consider window boxes as well, but last year I used plastic storage containers bought in Stroll-in for about £3 each. They are about 30" by 18" by 12" deep and provided holes are drilled in the bottom they are absolutely ideal. Keep old potting compost sacks as well, and in fact any large plastic container can be used, once again provided drainage holes are made. General purpose potting compost is fine and for drainage in the bottom of the pit I use broken up polystyrene such as that found in packaging and to hold young plants.

Not a great deal can be done yet unless you have a greenhouse, in which case it is worth sowing a few salad crops indoors on a window sill to go out to the greenhouse in a month or so. These will include lettuce, radish, broad beans and peas. In fact it is worth sowing a few lettuce leaves every few weeks, so that when the weather is suitable you will have some ready to move out. Seed potatoes can also be bought this month and set out indoors to be "chitted", that is laid out in a cool light place with the buds uppermost to encourage sprouting. These will eventually be planted out in pots or bags in March.

MARTIN GULLIVER



Pantomime
Abingdon Drama Club will present "Jack and the Beanstalk"
at the Unicorn Theatre, Medieval Abbey Buildings, Abingdon.
Evenings: Fri 11th, Sat 12th, Thurs 17th, Fri 18th, Sat 19th Jan at 7.30 p.m.
Matinees: Sat 12th, Sun 13th, Sat 19th Jan at 2.30 p.m.
Tickets: £6 (children £4) from The Bookstore, Abingdon Precinct
or from Ticketline 01235 524538

Your new neighbourhood watch coordinator is

Kathy Gubbins

Regional Watch Administrator for Vale Area

Tel: 01235 556938

Fax: 01235 556957

E-mail: Kathryn.gubbins@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Councillors' Surgeries
Please see new arrangements on page one

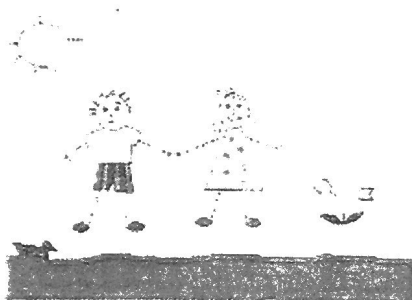
Mike and Marilyn Badcock 1st Saturday of the month in the Family Room,
Abingdon Conservative Club, Ock Street.

Date of the next TFLRA Committee Meeting –
Wednesday 9th January 2008 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room.
Deadline for items for the next newsletter – Sunday 20th January 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