

TITHE FARM & LADYGROVE NEWSLETTER JULY 2005

Welcome to the July newsletter and a happy summer holiday to all children (and teachers, of course) and anyone else taking their summer holiday at this time. There will be more children playing outside, particularly with the fine weather we're having, so drivers, please watch out for children, and equally, children, be careful on the roads.

Apologies for the June newsletter being a bit late. The deliverers were collecting subs, which slowed it down a bit but we would like to thank everyone who has paid so far. If you haven't paid yet, you can pay with the July newsletter. If you are able to volunteer to deliver some newsletters, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

As the publication of the newsletter has been relentlessly sliding into the following month, the Committee agreed to skip the "August" newsletter and call the next one "September". It will still appear at the end of August/ beginning of September.

Play equipment As you may have noticed, the metal "wall" now has a basketball hoop on it. At the Councillor's surgery Hilary Green said that the Town Councillors were not satisfied with the positioning (balls are likely to go into the neighbouring field), the installation or the surface underneath. Apparently, it was installed by the company it was ordered from. The technical officer at the Town Council has been to look at it and the Councillors have asked for strong representations to be made to the company. I wondered if it was meant to be a climbing wall as well, as I've seen children shin up it using convenient gaps as footholds, but apparently it isn't.

Paths and Roads on Tithe Farm and Ladygrove Many people have complained about the state of the roads and pavements. The County Council is responsible for these. They are "on the Council's list" for improvements, but it is uncertain how much priority they have been given. Has anyone had an accident caused by pot holes or uneven surfaces? Let us know at the newsletter if you have.

The Electricity sub station between Byron/Maberley and Nash Drive is a cause for concern. The hole underneath is getting bigger and there is a danger of children getting in there. The more people who complain to the electricity company, the better.

Trolleys in the Ock (again!) At the last count there were thirteen in the river beside the footpath to Tesco including a group (or should it be "a clash" of trolleys?). This time last year the Environment Agency fished them out, but they were soon back. It is up to Tesco to find some means of keeping them on their premises, such as coin release locks and/or a wheel locking barrier around the site. The Committee would like to ask everybody on the estates to write to Tesco, and to make this easier, we will publish a tear out section in the newsletter in the near future which you just need to sign and hand in. A lot of letters, (preferably asking a question), are better than one petition, which, however many signatures it contains, only counts as one complaint.

Cars on the pavement Talking of things in the wrong place, there has been a complaint from a Mill Road resident about cars parked on the pavement. All the houses on the estates have driveways and Mill Road is quite a wide road, so there is really no need to park on the pavement.

AbITS The main work on the Abingdon Integrated Transport Strategy will start in September. The detailed plans of the Town Centre works are in the "Town Crier". You should have had a copy through your door in the last few weeks. It is interesting to note that, referring to other road improvement schemes, "Investigations into improvements at the Ock Street/ Drayton Road junction have failed to identify a feasible and economic solution at the present time". So the jams continue. The date of the next AbITS Members Steering Group, which is open to the public, will be on **Thursday 8th September at 10a.m. in the Guildhall.**

Building Site You have probably noticed the building work on Marcham Road opposite the hospital. Apparently it's going to be a care home for elderly people with mental problems such as Alzheimers.

Tourist Information Office As you probably know, the Tourist Information Office on Bridge Street closed a few months ago. This left a gap in these services at the busiest time of year and caused great inconvenience to visitors as well as residents and people running tourist linked businesses. The reception area of the Town Council Office in Old Abbey House will become the "Visitor and Community Information Service" and will open in August.

Footpath to Tesco

Mrs Phyllis Turret complained to the Vale Council about the state of the footpath to Tesco. We publish part letter she sent us and the Council's reply to her complaint.

"As you probably know, the Tesco's footpath can become a slippery quagmire of mud and puddles in some weathers. Dangerous if you walk! I enquired at the Council Offices about resurfacing....."

The Council's reply, "The path you refer to is an informal footpath which is not adopted by Oxfordshire County Council as a public footpath.

The District Council has a duty of care for people using the path and as such the path is inspected by our Engineering Department on a regular basis and any Health and Safety issues dealt with.

Currently there is no proposal or available resources to re-surface this path but we will continue to monitor the situation and carry out repairs as necessary."

I must say this reply seems a bit odd, as we heard at the Councillor's surgery in February of a plan to move the footpath further away from the river.

Amy King is hoping to take part in an exciting expedition and needs to raise money. "I am in year 10 at Larkmead and have been given the chance to go to Vietnam in the 6th form as part of World Challenge. The expedition takes place in July 2007 for four weeks, which we spend trekking, helping a local community by painting a school or helping to build a clinic etc.

To do this I need to raise quite a large fund of money by myself and would be willing to do dog walking, baby sitting, ironing or any jobs for a reasonable rate to be discussed.

If you are interested, please ring 01235 203 130 and ask to speak to Amy King

Himalayan Balsam – Have you seen this plant?

Himalayan Balsam is a highly invasive species, introduced as a garden plant over 150 years ago. It is closely related to the Touch-Me-Not Balsam, but is bright pink rather than yellow. It has the same type of seed pod which explodes on touch, scattering the seeds, which travel down waterways. There is a great deal of it along the banks of the Ock and local conservationists are trying to get rid of it, as it tends to take over and then die back in winter, leaving banks bare with insufficient cover for small mammals such as water voles. The stem is hollow and semi-transparent and it can be pulled up very easily. You are very welcome to help get rid of this plant, but don't fall in!

Eleanor Dangerfield



Himalayan Balsam
Impatiens Glandulifera

This poem was sent into the newsletter from one of our younger readers. I thought it was really good. Well done Lilly!

Cat Kisses

Sandpaper kisses
On a cheek or chin –
That is the way
For a day to begin.

Sandpaper kisses –
A cuddle, a purr
I have an alarm clock
That's covered in fur.

By Lilly Connolly aged 9



July Quiz - Groups and Bands

The answers to these cryptic clues are all pop groups or rock bands. They are spread over the past forty-five years, so you should have heard of at least some of them!

Answers as usual to Eleanor, 23 Masefield by 17th August.

- 1) Amazing Lawn _____
- 2) Sahara travellers are glad to see it. _____
- 3) Phase of light sleep _____
- 4) How things look without your specs. _____
- 5) Gifted Child? _____
- 6) Crazy Outdoor Sermonisers. _____
- 7) Fossilised Flowers _____
- 8) Nuclear young feline _____
- 9) What you might say when you thump someone. _____
- 10) Non-black bits of a zebra. _____
- 11) Heavy metal airship _____
- 12) Misspelled Coleoptera _____
- 13) The _____? Never heard of them. _____
- 14) They gather no moss _____
- 15) These lads sell you a hamster or rabbit. _____
- 16) Things stay as they are. _____
- 17) Prosperous City Rodents _____
- 18) Both of you _____
- 19) Nun on a toboggan _____
- 20) Desperate Trouble _____
- 21) The Boys in Blue _____
- 22) The Bible begins _____
- 23) Cheery Week Starters _____
- 24) The Lads at the Seaside _____
- 25) Not quite straight _____

You may have noticed posters around Abingdon recently, entitled: 'Save Radley Lakes', and wondered what all the fuss is about. The reason is that RWE Npower, operators of Didcot A Power Station, have applied for detailed planning permission to fill two lakes at Radley with fly-ash. The planning application is now open for public consultation until 20th August.

The two endangered lakes are over 50 years old and are beautiful mature lakes supporting a great wealth of wildlife, including uncommon, rare and protected species.

SaveRadleyLakes was set up by local people to oppose the proposed continued dumping of fly ash at Radley and to preserve the remaining lakes and their surroundings. We find that there is overwhelming public support for these aims.

Most people are horrified by what is being proposed by RWE Npower and the number of people declining to sign the petition is minimal.

The filling of these lakes and the destruction of the aquatic wildlife that they support will severely damage the ecology of the whole area. The construction of the clay bunds using heavy machinery will inflict severe physical damage on the surrounding land, and involves, as has previously occurred, the wholesale destruction of trees (despite their explicit protection under the conditional planning permission).

The lakes support a huge diversity of wildlife throughout the surrounding area, which has become one of Oxfordshire's most treasured wildlife sites. There are at least 6 species of orchid, Kingfishers, Cetti's Warblers, Great Crested Grebe, Water Voles, Badgers and Otters, and many others.

The area was listed, in the Oxfordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan as a County Wildlife Site and an Ecologically Important Landscape. One lake is also a popular fishing lake and contains a population of very large carp. With a bit of vision and some magnanimity, the area could become something really marvellous rivalling the London Wetlands Centre, and would be a superb amenity for the community.

All this will be destroyed forever if RWE Npower are allowed to continue with their blatantly unsustainable and environmentally damaging activities.

We believe that Didcot should recycle much more of their ash, as they have continually been promising to do since 1981. Didcot, we believe, recycles less than half of its ash production. In Germany, home of RWE, they recycle about 95%. A contributory factor in all this is the absence of the 500,000 cu.m dry ash storage facility that was supposed to have been constructed on the site of Didcot Power Station in the 1980s. At that time, the CEGB argued that this facility was an essential part of the ash disposal operations at Radley, as it would allow stockpiling of PFA for recycling and permit proper regulation of ash pumping to Radley. However, this facility was subsequently lost, we are told, as a result of the construction of Didcot 'B'. The extension of the operating life of Didcot 'A' without this stockpiling facility was a major planning oversight that has contributed greatly to the current problem, and meant that much more ash has been

Councillors' Surgeries

Peter and/or Hilary Green – 2nd Saturday of the month 10 – 11.15a.m. Jephson Common Room.

Mike Badcock 1st Saturday of the month at the Conservative Club.

Date of the next TFLRA Committee Meeting –

Note there will be no August meeting.

Wednesday 14th September 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room. Any resident is welcome to attend.

Deadline for items for the next newsletter – Wednesday 17th August 2005

Contact us – items for publication:

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Note new Email address

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**Neighbourhood Watch -We are looking for volunteers for the relaunched scheme
For details phone 07751413402**



Tithe Farm and Ladygrove residents protest against the cutting of the 35a service to once an hour. In the foreground Dr Evan Harris M.P. lends his support.

FOR SALE

Tempo massage exercise cycle brand new (B H Fitness) £80 ono
Please contact Yolande Mob no. 07866 772344 after 3pm weekdays all day weekends