

TITHE FARM & LADYGROVE NEWSLETTER JULY 2007

The July newsletter is the last before the August break, so we would like to wish everyone a pleasant and enjoyable summer, with sunnier and drier weather than we are having at the time of writing this. Why can't we just have an hour's rain during the night, say, between 2a.m. and 3a.m.? Later in the newsletter we have some suggestions of activities for July and August, which should appeal not to people of all ages. **A.G.M.** This was held on 13th June. Various matters to do with Tithe Farm and Ladygrove were discussed, which will be mentioned below. Remember, any resident can attend the A.G.M. or any of the meetings. It is very informal and you can drop in for a short time if you have something you want to talk about. We are very grateful for all the help and contributions we have received over the past year. The printing costs are kept very low, about a quarter of what we would have to pay a commercial company, so many thanks to Joyce for printing the newsletter. The Lovegroves have kindly agreed to take over Treasurer's duties, but keep on sending money to me (Eleanor) for the time being until we have sorted out the bank paperwork.

New Councillors – You can read an introductory message from Samantha Bowring (Town and Vale) on behalf of herself and the new councillors. Surgeries planned so far are Saturdays 21st July and 15th September in the Jephson Common Room and Wednesday 4th July at 35 Ock Street (the Baptist Church, which incidentally does excellent, very reasonably priced snack lunches and has a Fair Trade shop). Please make use of your councillors' surgeries. Even if the problem is not within the Town or Vale's remit, they can direct you towards sources of help.

Play without bother – Now the summer holidays and (we hope!) good weather are approaching. We want children to be able to play safely, so we would ask them to be careful on the roads and not play immediately around gardens or cars. Equally, we would ask drivers to be extra careful on the roads and when reversing out of driveways. A resident has written in response to the letter from Jephson Housing Association published last month. See below.

Shrubs and parking. Please could residents bear in mind the need to keep shrubs trimmed and not overhanging the pavement, as this is causing a problem for pedestrians, who have difficulty in getting past or get wet as they brush past following rain. Please could residents also bear in mind other residents when they park and make sure they leave plenty of space for traffic and pedestrians. There has been a particular problem on the link road between Coleridge Drive and Wordsworth Road, which could cause an accident.

Nash Drive green space. Last month the newsletter mentioned that planning permission has been refused for 2x 2 bedroom houses to be built on the green space with the footpath through to Ely Close. Those green spaces were supposed to have been bought from the developer by the district council when the estate was finished, but for some reason (no doubt lost in the mists of time), the sale did not go through, so a resident managed to buy the land from the builder. You may have noticed that they have

stopped mowing the grass on that side of the footpath. The Vale is apparently trying to find out why they didn't buy the land. We will keep an eye on this story, and, as I said last month, please keep an eye on planning applications.

Old Gaol – Eight bids have been received for commercial development of the Old Gaol. Many people in Abingdon are keen to see at least part of it retained for community use. You may have heard of the C.O.G. campaign (Community in the Old Gaol) or seen the yellow banner on the Caldecott roundabout. 3,000 signatures have been collected so far and there is still time to sign.
For more information, contact Ann Dodd on 01235 525 997.

Things to do in July and August:

OPEN AIR POOL – The abbey Meadows pool opened on 26th May and will be open until 2nd September. Weather permitting, there will be 3 sessions: 9.00-12.00, 13.00-16.00, 16.30-19.30.

Prices are £3.00 adult, £2.10 concessions, children under 5 free. There is a snack, drink and ice cream kiosk, a water feature and the pool is apparently 4 degrees warmer than last year. Phone 01235 530 678 for more information.

Abbey Meadow Pitch and Putt – Also tennis courts and crazy golf - Open every day except Wednesday, 11.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.
Phone 07919 810 139 to check availability, prices and times.

Abingdon Library – The Big Wild Read – collect a pack, read six books and win a medal and certificate. (I think this is intended for children, though the leaflet I picked up didn't actually say so!) There are lots of other activities going on at the library over the summer holiday. Phone the library on 01235 520 374 or go to www.bigwildread.org.uk

Alice's Day – Saturday July 7th, Oxford City Centre. This looks good fun. Lots of Alice in Wonderland activities are going on between 10 and 6 to celebrate Oxford's millennium. Go to www.storymuseum.org.uk/alice Sorry, no central phone number given, but you can pick up a leaflet at the library.

**The Christian Aid Collection
in Masefield Crescent
raised £77..38p**

Thank you for your generous donations.

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BUYER COLLECTS

Response to Jephson letter

I wish to write a response to the letter written in the June edition, regarding the local children's behaviour.

I was very disturbed to read that there had been damage caused to the flats and that the children were generally making nuisances of themselves. Criminal damage is wrong and no one condones it. Whilst we all appreciate that damage etc is appalling, I would like to just point out a few things in the children defence as they seem to be constantly criticised.

The children that live around here aren't rude or aggressive children with a string of ASBO's around their necks, behaving in a delinquent manner. They are generally good kids, having fun, playing games that children play, Football, Curby, Skateboarding, cycling etc....Isn't this what childhood is all about! If you see children behaving in a manor that concerns you then please speak to the parents. Parents like their children to be near home, as in this society with Paedophiles etc on your doorstep you can not be too careful. We moved to this area as the green was such a wonderful play area for the children to play in.

Most of the issue's mentioned in June's newsletter are so easily addressed. No one asks the children in a POLITE manner if they would play their games elsewhere, or if they would PLEASE keep the noise down a little. What do they get..... shouted at, sworn at, and also threats of Physical assault made against them by some residents. If you speak with the children politely they will respond in the same way. If you come out shouting and threatening them, they are likely to imitate your behaviour. If you have problems with the children please speak with them or speak with their parents, you will be amazed at the difference this can make.

ED says please keep calm

The new Vale of White Horse District Councillors for this area are Samantha Bowring and Beth Fleming

Samantha can be contacted by email at samantha.bowring@whitehorsedc.gov.uk or by phone **07767 072095**

Beth can be contacted on **07894 518097**

Samantha is also representing the area on the town council along with Lorraine Smith and Tim Oates

We can all be emailed at ock.meadow.libdems@googlemail.com

We all live locally and are happy to be contacted to discuss anything you think we may be able to help with.

Samantha, Beth and Lorraine all have children at local schools and have used many local services such as the parks, library, leisure centre, Abbey Meadows Pool, family centre and playgroups. We are all keen to safeguard and to improve these facilities.

Over the next four years we are hoping to make sure Ock Meadow gets a good deal from the council. We are campaigning for the county to do more to alleviate traffic on Drayton Road, as well as improving things for pedestrians and cyclists. We also support the campaign to keep the local hospital and will be campaigning to extend the improvements to the Ock Walk to include the area between Drayton Road and Tesco.

Do get in touch if you have any suggestions or would like more information on the Town Council or Vale of White Horse District Council and what they can do for you.

Samantha Bowring

June Quiz answers – The winning entry of the June quizzes, after a draw of correct entries, was from Chris and John Ollenbuttel of Shepherd Gardens. Here are the answers to **Part 1**:

1)116 years 2)Ecuador 3)cows, sheep, horses (but not cats) 4)November 5)squirrel fur 6) dogs (so on your next holiday to Tenerife, you can tell people you're going to the Isle of Dogs) 7)Albert 8)crimson 9)New Zealand 10)orange

Part 2: 1)Toto –dog 2)Hedwig – owl 3)Aslan – lion 4)Macavity – cat 5)Riki Tiki Tavi – mon-goose 6)Mrs Tiggywinkle – hedgehog 7)Richard Parker – Bengal tiger 8)Black Beauty – horse 9)Tarka – otter 10)Bigwig – rabbit

July Quiz – Undiscovered Territories – Concealed in the following passage are the names of 21 countries. (There might even be one or two I haven't spotted!) Write them in the spaces below. Answers to Eleanor, 23 Masefield by 19th August (as there's no August issue).

It was hot on Gaynor's birthday, when we decided to go on a camping trip. We told the kids they could bring one pal each. Mark had been a cub a long time ago. He went to find the tent and I ran down the road to ask Vic to lend us a camping stove. I knew Vic had some camping gear – old fashioned, it's true – he was nearly ninety. He had led a team on a college expedition and claimed to have been chased by a tiger many years ago. He had seen the animal taking food from the club hut and had been lucky to escape. He disapproved of anything modern or ways of doing things which were new. "It's an old primus, but you can't beat it," said Vic on going to his shed to fetch it. "There's an absolutely futile ban on selling them these days."

Mark got out the tent. "How do we know all the bits are there," he said. "We can put it up in the garden, Mark," I replied. We got out all the bits and laid them on the grass. We fitted the poles together. I caught my thumb and it was painful. Then we spread out the tent. There was a zipper underneath to attach the front to the back. "It'll be ready to pitch in a minute," said Mark. "Take one end each. You kids can bang in the pegs." "We'll need to make a list," I said "Kettle, plates, cutlery, rolls and butter for breakfast and cereal." "I agree, cereal is essential," said Mark. "Shall we go tomorrow or Saturday?" I said "Can a day make a difference?" Mark looked up the weather forecast on the web. "Ah, rain tomorrow," he said "with a chance of thunder, but fine on Saturday. That settles it."

- 1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____ 4) _____

- 5) _____ 6) _____ 7) _____ 8) _____

- 9) _____ 10) _____ 11) _____ 12) _____

- 13) _____ 14) _____ 15) _____ 16) _____

- 17) _____ 18) _____ 19) _____ 20) _____

The Garden in July

As we come into the hottest part of summer, watering is uppermost in our minds, and it helps to know what needs water and what can cope without it. Lawns (except of course new ones) are fine and will always recover. Shrubs that have been in for more than a year will also be fine. Those that have been planted this year should be watered, but make sure you water the roots, not the plant itself. Take the rose off the can or hosepipe and dribble the water directly around the stem so as to soak the roots. This goes for all plants put in this year.

Similarly bedding should be kept watered, and most essentially, containers and hanging baskets. Normal summer rainfall whilst good for the garden, is not enough for containers, and hanging baskets especially suffer from drying out in the wind and should be checked twice a day. Some people like to put ice cubes on the surface of the basket to melt and water the basket gradually... try letting a few ice cubes melt in a bowl and you will see this is no where near enough water

Finally keep all veg well watered, especially salad crops.

As far as the garden in general is concerned, keep dead-heading plants to prolong flowering, and keep on top of mowing and weeding. Now is also the time to trim hedges, cut herbs for drying, and towards the end of the month, remove some of the foliage from tomato plants to let the air and sun get to the fruits. **Martin Gulliver**

Colmar – The Vale’s Twin Town in France

Alsace is a part of France I had never visited before. The town of Colmar is twinned with the Vale, so I took up the opportunity to go on a “Language Week” organised by the Colmar Twinning Society. Even better, the theme was “The Vine and Wine”.

We had to make our own travel arrangements, and in an attempt to be green, I decided to go by train – Eurostar to Brussels, train to Strasbourg and another train to Colmar. Other ways to get there are by plane to Basel in Switzerland, then train to Colmar., or by car. The advantage of travelling by train these days is that we were able to bring back more wine. People going by air would not be allowed to carry it in hand luggage.

In June, a new TGV service from Paris to Colmar was introduced, so the train journey is even quicker and easier (why can't we have trains like that here?)

There were participants on the course from other twin towns – St Niklaas in Belgium, Schongau in Germany, Lucca in Italy, Eisenstadt in Austria (a small town famous for its Haydn festival) and Princeton U.S.A.

Alsace is a fascinating area. Its heritage is Germanic, reflected in the medieval architecture, houses reminiscent of a pantomime set with “dovecote” style roofs, the dialect, names and cuisine (kugelhupf, a light bread baked in a jelly mould-shaped mould, and choucroute). The territory has changed hands between France and Germany many times over the past 500 years. In fact, it is possible for someone aged, say, 70, to have had a grandparent who was born French in 1869, changed to German (Franco-Prussian war), then French (end of the First World War), then German again (1940) and back to French (1945).

Another characteristic sight are the storks nesting on the roofs. Having declined for many years due to the draining of the marshes, they are now making a come-back.

Vineyards cover the plains and lower mountain slopes around Colmar. There are seven types of wine from Alsace, including Riesling, Gewurztraminer and Pinot Noir, the region's only red wine. We were entertained with excellent meals, two wine tastings with free bottles, a visit to the wine museum and sightseeing trips, French classes, as well as staying in the homes of our French hosts. The Twin Towns Society runs many activities and visits. To find out more, contact the Secretary, John Smith at jjps@btinternet.com

Eleanor Dangerfield

Councillors' Surgeries

**Samantha Bowring 4th July at 35 Ock Street 12-00
21st July at Jephson Common Room 10-30**

**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 – Wed 11th July 2007
in the Jephson Common Room at 8pm
Deadline for items for the next newsletter – Sunday 19th August 2007**

Contact us – items for publication:

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