
* **Tithe Farm & Ladygrove** *
* **Newsletter July/August 2008** *

Welcome to the July /August newsletter. We don't publish one in August, so the next one will be in early September. Let's hope there won't be an extra "Flood Emergency" one again this year! For news about the re-convened Flood Plain Action Group, see the item later in the newsletter. With school holidays approaching, children, please take extra care playing outside and drivers, please be aware of children playing.

Motorbikes on the Ock Meadow – We have had a letter from a resident, complaining about motorbikes on the fields behind Ladygrove:

"There is an increasing problem of young children riding motorbikes up and down the fields behind our estate. Recently, we had three groups of kids aged about 12 to 16 riding up and down the fields behind Orpwood Way the whole afternoon, causing noise and nuisance to all of us who live in the area. I went out and had a word with them when they stopped outside our back fence, gunning their engines, and told them that it was, in fact, illegal for them to be riding motorbikes in the fields. I was, of course, met with some verbal abuse and they rode off, revving more than ever. They kept going for another hour or so.

Parents should be aware that, in order for kids to ride these bikes, which are unlicensed, they must do so on private land with the owner's permission. The Vale of the White Horse does not give permission for the riding of motorbikes in the fields behind our estate – I've asked them."

Thank you for your letter. This isn't just a question of kids making a noise or playing too close to people's windows. What these motorbike riders are doing is actually illegal and the parents, who have presumably bought the bikes for their offspring, should know this. Not only do the bikes cause noise and nuisance, but are a potential danger to people walking and children playing in the fields. I mentioned this problem to a Community Support Officer and he said that people should phone the police as soon as the bikers arrive. If they wait for half an hour or so until they can't stand the noise any longer, by the time the police arrive, the bikers have gone.

The number to phone is: 0845 8 505 505. Keep on phoning until something gets done and enlist your neighbours to phone as well!

Damage to a car – A resident of Francis Little Drive has had damage done to his car. Someone has scratched "Sam loves Jo" on it. Can anyone shed any light on this incident?

Reporting a street light not working – You can do this quite easily by e-mailing street-lighting@oxfordshire.gov.uk or by phoning 0800 317 802 (24 hour) and giving location.

The Northmoor Trust at Wittenham Clumps has plenty of fun summer activities. Its Summer Club features a Survival Day, Mini-Beasts and People from the Past, to name but a few. Check out the website at www.northmoortrust.co.uk or phone 01865 407 792.

The Abingdon Band is advertising for new members:



ABINGDON BAND

Welcomes all Brass instrumentalists
For membership of a lively, friendly
group, playing at fetes, garden parties,
civic functions, concerts and regular visits
to European countries.

For details contact 01235 535178
www.abingdonband.co.uk



FREE!

**250 gallon composter
unused**

Phone 01235 526 712

Don't forget that, as well as items for sale you can advertise items you are happy to give away for free.

FOR SALE

Trailer – Erde 102

£150 including cover

Phone Martine on 07789 172549

Oxford Kitchens and Bathrooms are advertising the following items (Tel: 01865 326 009

oxfordkitchens@aol.com) :

- 1) Semi counter top basin by Villeroy & Boch in Alpine white, from the "Century" range, single tap hole with overflow (Standard White) code will be 7143.55.01 retail price £202.00 + VAT, selling at half price £100.00 + VAT.
- 2) Semi counter top basin from Villeroy & Boch, from the Edition "Pure Basic" range, code 7106.65.01 again standard white finish, 650mm x 500mm single tap hole with overflow, retail price £288.00 + VAT, selling at half price £144.00 + VAT.
- 3) Basin "New Wave" range by Villeroy and Boch in white, code 5190.60.01 retail price for this item is £322.00 + VAT size 600mm x 455 mm with overflow, no tap hole, this basin is for mounting on the surface of a worktop and the tap is either wall mounted or is a tall tap mounted on the worktop. Selling at half price £161.00 + VAT.
- 4) Bowl and a half undermounted stainless steel sink complete with overflow and waste fittings and fixing clips. Selling at a third of the normal price at £60.00 + VAT
- 5) Water powered eco waste disposal machine! Very green! This item has been in storage for a few years and therefore is selling at £60.00 + VAT. A new waste disposal will cost in the region of £150.00 + VAT for a basic model.

Flood Prevention Action Group – The SAFAG (South Abingdon Floodplain Action Group) group has been reconvened and the newsletter is publishing the minutes of their first meeting. It is almost a year since the devastating floods which wrecked so many homes. It is very important that we keep up pressure on the powers that be to make sure such floods do not happen again, and to minimise the effects if they do. If this area does not make a noise, we will be forgotten again and other areas will get the money and the flood alleviation schemes.

If you would like to be kept up to date with SAFAG, contact Malcolm Moor malcolm-moor@aol.com ,
Tel. 07968628817.

Abingdon Flood Alleviation Scheme-River Ock.
Draft report by the Halcrow Group Ltd engineers.

At a meeting of SAFAG on 29 May the Environment Agency river engineer Jed Ramsay presented the draft of a study the EA had commissioned from Halcrow engineers to investigate a range of engineering measures to help protect Abingdon from a repeat of the July 2007 floods. The report contains six options ranging from low cost measures that could be quickly carried out to remove the bottleneck of the disused St Helen's Mill Bridge and installing flap valves on all pipes running into the River Ock, to more extensive engineering works that could take up to three years to implement. The major options included building embankments and walls along the river corridor in Abingdon from the A34 to Drayton Road Bridge. These embankments and walls would aim to contain the 100 year flood level up to 54.5m OD which would entail a wall of 400mm – 600mm built in the back gardens of properties on the south bank of the Ock including the Ock Mill Pub and hotel and the houses on Ock Mill Close. This wall would be strongly objected to by residents due to the severe impact of the construction and the loss of amenity and blocked views.

The other option is to construct a flood storage area upstream of the A34 to contain flood water before it reaches the Abingdon area. This would be the most attractive options with less environmental impact but it has a lower capacity than the embankments scheme without impacting on Marcham Village. If the

Marcham by pass road were built however, this could act as an embankment to protect the village.

Both options would cost about £3m and give quite low EA cost benefit scores to secure funding compared to flood schemes elsewhere in the country.

The study does not address the issue of the proposed extension of the Tesco store, which both the EA and SAFAG object to as increasing development in the flood plain. Nor does it assess the potential impact of the massive Steventon reservoir project. The EA have had discussions with Thames Water on their reservoir proposal which will entail some diversion of the River Ock south of Marcham. A flood relief channel would be required to take excess water from the reservoir directly to the Thames south of the Marina. This flood channel could be designed to also serve the dual purpose of diverting River Ock flood water directly into the Thames totally by-passing Abingdon. Any additional cost to perform this flood relief function would be small in comparison to the vast cost of the whole project. This would seem to be the best long term solution for safeguarding the town in the event that the reservoir were built but could take a decade to implement so more immediate solutions to protect our town are still needed urgently.

My Year as Mayor – by Lorraine Oates

Last year's Mayor of Abingdon, Lorraine Oates, tells of her experiences during her year as Mayor of Abingdon. Her husband, Tim Oates, is one of our Ock Meadow Town Councillors. He will be attending the TFLRA Committee meeting on Wednesday, July 9th and you are welcome to come and discuss any local concerns with him.

"It's been an eventful year. It began with the floods; a difficult and upsetting time, but people rallied round and helped. Thank you for all your support in my appeal fund, which helped a number of those who have suffered from the floods, also for your support for my charity funds, PHAB and Age Concern.

My next main duty was a much happier one; greeting the troops from Dalton Barracks on their return home from their tour of duty in Afghanistan and Iraq. It was an honour to present medals to these brave young men and women.

After this, came the Mayors' Conference, which was a great success.

There were also a number of light hearted moments during my year in office, which you'll perhaps not be surprised to hear. There was the moment when I was standing locked in the loo just before Princess Anne arrived to meet us at Dalton Barracks. Thank goodness for those burly soldiers who kicked the door in for me! On another occasion I arrived at a concert in St. Helen's Church, only to notice that I was wearing odd shoes!

These are just some of the high points, or perhaps the low points, but none of this would have been possible without a great deal of hard work from Council staff, my fellow councillors and last but not least, my husband, Councillor Tim Oates.

I would like to wish Councillor Patrick Lonergan and Councillor Pat Hobby all the best and good luck in the coming year as Mayor and Deputy Mayor."

Vegetables in July

July is usually the hottest month of the year and hopefully vegetables will be receiving plenty of much-needed sunshine. (Let's try not to think about last July...)

By now you should be picking salad leaves and herbs, beetroot, onions, garlic, peas, the first baby courgettes and first early potatoes.

With regard to watering your vegetables, the golden rule is 'soak not splash', giving plants an occasional thorough soaking rather than little and often. Apply water directly to the soil in the mornings to prevent leaf scorch. Alternatively water in the evening so the plants can take up water during the night. If you are going on holiday hopefully you can rely on a neighbour to keep the plants watered. As they are container grown they will of course need daily attention.

Tie in tomatoes and pinch out the main shoot on cordons and side shoots, and (as usual...) continue to make regular sowings of salad crops to see you into the autumn. Keep harvesting vegetables as soon as they are ready, most taste better when they are young and you can plant another crop in its place, getting more out of your containers.

Pinch out runner beans. Removing the leading shoot will encourage side shoots hence more beans will be produced.

Keep an eye out for slugs and snails as they love climbing up the sides of containers. Either use pellets, or copper strips around the rims of the containers are extremely effective. If you see cabbage white butterflies on the wing, start checking cabbage and other brassica plants for signs of eggs and caterpillars. Squash or pick off any you see.

Martin Gulliver

June Quiz Answers and July Quiz – The June quiz was won by John Belcher of Tennyson Drive. Here are the answers: 1) 101 Dalmatians 2) One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest 3) Two Mules for Sister Sarah 4) The Three Stooges/Sisters 5) The Magnificent Seven 6) Seven Brides for Seven Brothers 7) Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs 8) The Ten Commandments 9) Ocean's Eleven 10) Sixth Sense 11) Anne of 1,000 Days 12) Around the World in Eighty Days 13) 20,000 Leagues under the Sea 14) Twelve Monkeys 15) The Thirty-Nine Steps 16) Fahrenheit 451 17) 84, Charing Cross Road 19) 2001 – A Space Odyssey 20) The Inn of the Sixth Happiness

July Quiz – Cryptic Quiz Quiz – The solutions to the clues are all T.V. quiz and games shows, past and present. For some, you will have to dig a very long way back in your memory. Answers to Eleanor, 23, Masefield, by 20th August.

- 1) Make twice as much dosh. _____
- 2) Make your choice _____
- 3) Answers vertical or horizontal. _____
- 4) First in the class _____
- 5) Enquire of Mum, Dad and two kids. _____
- 6)Pass! _____
- 7) Superman doesn't like this element _____
- 8) Selling once in a hundred years _____
- 9) Ovoid crania _____
- 10) It may cause the chain to snap _____
- 11) Song by Cole Porter _____
- 12) Trap part of a sentence _____
- 13) 10, 9, 8, 7, 6..... _____
- 14) Can't leave the goggle box alone! _____
- 15) The cost is correct _____
- 16) Shall I give out the cards or not? _____
- 17)It is now! _____
- 18) Oxford v. Cambridge, for example _____
- 19) Tell me what that melody is called _____
- 20) Could be a video store _____

Councillors' Surgeries

Samantha Bowring or Tim Oates 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 Meeting:

Wednesday 9th July 2008 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room

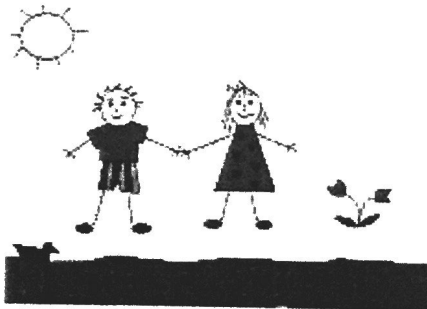
Deadline for items for the next newsletter: Wednesday 20th August 2008

Contact the newsletter – items for publication:

Eleanor Dangerfield 01235 531 857- 23 Masefield Crescent- eledanger@hotmail.com

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**