

TITHE FARM & LADYGROVE NEWSLETTER JUNE 2005

Welcome to the June newsletter. This is the time of year when we collect the subscriptions (£1..20p, senior citizens exempt unless they would like to contribute.) Your newsletter deliverer will be calling either this month or next. If it gets to August and your sub hasn't been collected you can drop it in to me at 23, Masefield or give it to any other committee member.

If you would like to volunteer to deliver a batch of newsletters, please get in touch. We are really desperate for deliverers. Some people inevitably drop out and that leaves some of the others doing two or three roads. It doesn't have to be your own road, and it may be only half a road if it's a long one. Besides, we'll make sure you don't have to do any sub collecting this year so you won't be thrown in at the deep end.

A.G.M. The Residents' Association held its A.G.M. on Wednesday 8th June. I agreed to be treasurer again. Gena decided to step down from TFLRA activities and we thank her for her past work. Grenville Wells kindly agreed to help out with formatting the newsletter for the time being.

New members are always very welcome at Residents' Association meetings. They are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room. (If you are new and don't know where this is, it is on Tithe Farm facing the green that lies between Wordsworth Road and Longfellow Drive, next to the end of Bridges Close). We really need new blood, especially young blood, but don't worry if yours is a bit mature.

The Future of the Newsletter We discussed this at the A.G.M. First of all, many thanks to those who have made contributions to the newsletter, however small and to those who have expressed their appreciation of it. Everyone agreed that we needed far more participation if the newsletter is to continue. We need more contributions and more people on the editorial team. Two is not really enough! As sub collecting time is upon us, we decided to try and continue the newsletter for another year, then call it a day if we don't get more interest.

New Play Equipment A metal mesh wall thing has appeared on Masefield playing field. Either it's a visitation from outer space or work on the long-promised play equipment has begun. If things go according to plan, a football goal should eventually appear on one side and a basketball hoop on the other.

Toucan Crossing I have been told that work will very shortly begin to install one of these in Drayton Road, near the Ock Bridge, where the foot/cycle path comes out of the Ock meadow and continues on the other side of the Drayton Road.

Closure of the Abbey Meadow Open Air Pool

It is now certain that the pool will be closed. According to the Parks and Landscapes Department of the Vale of White Horse District Council a proposed 'water feature' on the site of the Abbey Meadow Pool is at the design stage. It is intended to cater for the older children and will consist of interactive water jets spraying upwards from the ground and also at higher levels from various pieces of equipment.

The existing interactive water feature in the Abbey Meadow caters for children from about 2-5 years and apparently in the 3 years it has been running, or spraying, there have been no accidents, it has been well used and it is free for the children.

However the cost to install this new water feature would be £150,000. The running cost would be £10,000 per year and that, according to the Parks and Landscapes Department is much less than the council's subsidy for the Abbey Meadow Pool.

If you want to find out more information about this or anything to do with the District Council you can look on their website, www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Reservoir News It seems that the proposed reservoir on land between Steventon and East Hanney, which seemed to go onto the back burner for a few years, has now gone up to the top of the agenda. A planning application is likely to be put in within the next two years, maybe less if the dry weather continues. As somebody pointed out at the meeting we had with Thames Water a few years ago, a new reservoir doesn't actually make more rain fall out of the sky. It is merely a water storage facility. The newsletter will let you know of any public meetings to do with the reservoir. Maybe this is the right point at which to hand over to Lilian Barry, who has some wise words about saving water.

Eleanor Dangerfield

There may be a ban

Thames Water has warned us there may be a hosepipe ban and residents are asked to be very careful how they use the water. Levels of water in boreholes and rivers are below average. Levels in the county fell to just 58% between November and April. There hasn't been a ban in the county since 1990. Water your garden late at night to save evaporation and use a watering can instead of a sprinkler.

Lilian Barry

Creation Theatre Company

The Creation Theatre Company's summer season has started in Headington Hill Park, Oxford. This year they are putting on "As You Like It" from 3rd June - 9th August and "A Midsummer Night's Dream" from 7th July - 10th September. These plays are made for outdoor performance. I am looking forward to going this year and I would really recommend Creation's productions. There are evening performances every day except Sundays and matinees on most Saturdays as well. Ticket prices range from £8.50 - £19.50. There is also a café serving very nice food and drink. You can contact Creation on 01865 245 745 or www.creationtheatre.co.uk.

May Quiz Answers

Here are the answers to the May newsletter quiz, M and Ms.

1) Mickey Mouse 2) Morris Minor 3) Mo Mowlem 4) Michael Moore 5) Maggie May or Meter Maid 6) Matthew and Mark 7) Mastermind (also Mensa Membership accepted) 8) May Morning 9) Magic Mushroom 10) Magic Midget 11) Maundy Money 12) Mister Men 13) Merry Men 14) Maid Marian 15) Martyrs' Memorial 16) Miss Marple 17) Marilyn Monroe 18) Mary and Martha 19) Of Mice and Men 20) Mother Machree (Sorry, Molly Malone wheeled a wheelbarrow and sold shellfish)

This month's winner was Jill Jones of Masefield Crescent.

I couldn't think of a quiz for this month and nobody sent one in. In fact, hardly anybody sent anything in! (Refer back to introduction). So I'm inflicting a poem on you instead.

If you don't like my poems, then **write something yourselves.**

The Land of Oddsock

The land of Oddsock is a wonderful place.
You can't get there by boat or by travelling through space.
In the land of Oddsock you can do as you please.
There are flying meringues and spaghetti on trees.
You can bathe in a fabulous Cola filled lake
Surrounded by mountains of pizza and cake.

If ever you get to the land of Oddsock
Through a crack in a cupboard or cleft in a rock
You will see all your odd socks that could not be found.
They are waving balloons and dancing around
And having a party, which looks so much fun
And, unlike the Ark, they came in one by one.

Your lost socks will greet you, grey, stripy or black
And say, "We're so happy, we're not coming back.
We weren't gobbled up by a washing machine or
Sucked into the bowels of a fierce vacuum cleaner
But found our way here through that magical path,
Starting under a floorboard or mattress or bath."

But the happiest day that the socks celebrate
Is that marvellous day when a sock finds its mate.
When, at last, you decide to get rid of odd socks,
Which you've kept for a while in a bag or a box
And throw them all out on a spring cleaning day,
To the land of Oddsock they will all find their way.

Eleanor Dangerfield

This month we have a **Children's Art Competition**. There will be a prize for the best picture of "The Land of Oddsock". If you are aged 13 or under, send your entry in to Eleanor at 23, Masefield Crescent by Sunday 17th July.

Bus News

Jill Wells has found out the following (rather discouraging) news about bus services. Changes to the Oxford Bus Company's X13, X3 and 35A routes are due to be implemented on Sunday July 3rd. Nigel Eggleton, the commercial director of The Oxford Bus Company has sent us the following information:

Withdrawal of the X13 route. Numbers of passengers using the X13 have not increased since January 2005. There are several possible reasons for this. Severe traffic congestion in Headington and the Abingdon Road roadworks have had a negative effect upon the reliability and usefulness of the X13 to many prospective new passengers. Abingdon Route cards will continue to be available on routes X3, 13, 13A and 14. In recognition of the inconvenience this withdrawal will cause to many valuable customers, the prices of the route card are to be reduced by up to 18%. The monthly version will come down in price from £38 to £31. Interchange will be possible in Oxford City Centre where we hope to introduce a new X3 stop on Speedwell Street, where by crossing over the road, the route 13 can be caught.

Reduction of the 35A service to an hourly service. Regrettably, the financial performance of the 35A south of Abingdon has been similarly disappointing. Although we had great hopes for the route when we took it on board following the Stagecoach withdrawal, we have been proved incorrect. Passenger numbers have simply not grown to the extent we require to achieve an adequate financial performance.

Obviously we have taken into account the forthcoming developments in the Didcot area.

We are, however, firmly of the opinion that the Shopping Centre is unlikely to attract sufficient custom on to our buses to make retaining the 30 minute frequency worthwhile and hence have chosen to reduce the frequency once again to an hourly.

There are no changes to the evening or Sunday services.

Why not contact the Oxford Bus Company if you are inconvenienced by these changes? Or write to us at the newsletter with your views.

Christian Aid Collection The door to door collection in Masefield last month raised £72 ..14p. Many thanks to all who donated

Councillors' Surgeries

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

Mike Badcock (normally 1st Saturday of the month at the Conservative Club) will be on holiday in July.

Date of the next TFLRA Committee Meeting – Wednesday 13th July 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room. Any resident is welcome to attend.

Deadline for items for the next newsletter – Sunday 17th July

Contact us – items for publication:

Eleanor Dangerfield 01235 531 857 23 Masefield Cr a.dangerfield@ntlworld.com
Grenville Wells tithefarm2@yahoo.co.uk

Items for sale

Antique dark wood sideboard with mirror. Has been restored and is in excellent condition.

£49 o.n.o.

Tel. Sarah 559 016

1. Kentucky Breakfast Table + 4 Chairs (Nearly new) - Natural Colour: £45.00
2. Kids bicycle (BMX Supreme) + Pump - £15.00

Dr Subba Rao Pamidighantam PhD

42 Mill Road

Abingdon OX14 5NS

Tel: +44(0)1235 553311

Email: subbarao@pamidighantam.freeserve.co.uk

ABINGDON BAND WELCOMES ALL BRASS PLAYERS.

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Band Rehearsals: 8 – 10pm (Monday & Thursday)

Please contact 01235 535178 for details

Household Cleaning
(Mrs Mop & Mrs Bouquet)

Two highly recommended work alcoholics
are available for work in the Abingdon area only.
References are available.

For more information please call

June on 07817098713 or

Jill on 01235 527146

Lots of spare leisure time?

Retired or thinking of retiring in a few years time, then think Bowls!

What a way to enjoy yourselves in a good social atmosphere. Come

and have a free go at Abingdon Bowls Club in Albert Park on

Friday 17th June. 6.00pm until 7.30pm or Sunday 19th June 2.30 until 7.00pm.

You are all welcome to attend our Open Sessions.

All equipment will be provided for your use.

We look forward to seeing you on the green.

For further information call Ray on 01235 524591 or John on 01235 520523.

Gardens

Oh, we are all so busy
Lawn mowing is a chore
There isn't time for everything
And weeding is a bore

Paving can be pleasing
And pebbles from the shore
But ones eyes and spirits
Might need a little more

A bit of green, a potted plant
A shrub set by the door
Will keep our patch a pretty place
And who could ask for more

Anon

SARAH BULPITT BEAUTY THERAPIST

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Aromatherapist

Geof. Cross ITEC, MIPTI

The Treatment Room
29 Masefield Crescent
01235 553101

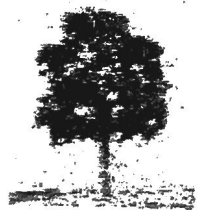
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