

TITHE FARM & LADYGROVE NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2008

Welcome to the June newsletter, which, I hope will reach you earlier in the month than the May edition did. Many thanks to the deliverers for getting them out so quickly after publication. This is also the month when you will be asked for your £1.50p sub, which is not just for the newsletter, but also pays for membership of the Tithe Farm and Ladygrove Residents' Association.

A.G.M. – The TFLRA Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday 11th June at 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room. Any resident is welcome to attend and no one will be forced, cajoled, bribed or blackmailed into accepting any official position.

Trolleys – A number of people have commented about my appearance on the front page of the May 15th Herald, leaning on a Tesco trolley and looking suitably annoyed, as instructed by the photographer. The article was as a result of a letter I e-mailed about the non-collection of the trolleys that the Hope'08 volunteers had pulled out of the Ock on 3rd May during their litter pick and, to my surprise, this made the front page of the paper. Quite independently of this, another Tithe Farm resident had also written to Tesco Head Office to complain about stray trolleys. Sadly, I have to report that, despite the bad publicity, at the time of writing, the trolleys are **still** uncollected.

Buses – I was disappointed to read in a short and easy-to-miss article in the Abingdon Herald, that the 35A and 35B buses will no longer run between Abingdon and Didcot in the evenings and these journeys will be operated by Thames Travel as routes 32B/C. It seems extraordinary that, in these days of high petrol prices, when many people think twice about using cars, bus routes should be cut. There are plenty of buses to Oxford. Why not to Didcot, and why should the South of Abingdon be almost totally deprived of buses? The argument seems to be, "There's a bus once an hour, but hardly anyone uses it." Er.... Yes, well that's because it's only once an hour. If buses ran every 15 or 20 minutes, started early in the mornings and carried on late into the evenings, people might actually use them. It would also help if the 35A/B timetable hadn't been craftily designed so that the bus leaves Didcot station precisely 3 minutes before the train from London gets in.

Garden Waste Green Bags – A resident has contacted the newsletter to complain about the withdrawal of garden waste green bags, which used to be, it seems, supplied free to pensioners and people on benefits. She writes as follows:
"I have been informed by the Council that garden waste green bags are no longer available, but brown bins are, at £33 per annum. Is this the way to treat pensioners? I am in my 77th year and cannot afford this out of my pension. It is hard enough to live now that **all** prices have rocketed."
The letter has been passed on to our local Vale councillor. Has anyone any comments on this matter? Some local authorities supply green waste bins free, which seems reasonable if we are being constantly urged to recycle our waste. What do other readers think?

Bicycle / Car collision – the right to reply – last month we published a letter from a resident whose son had been involved, while cycling, in a collision with a car. The driver of the car contacted the newsletter to put his side of the story. Since the parent of the boy on the bike was allowed to remain anonymous, this courtesy will be extended to the driver of the car. He writes:

“Further to the May issue of the Tith Farm & Ladygrove newsletter, I would like to give my version of the incident that happened on Saturday 12th April. I was on my way home with my brother-in-law when a young boy rode straight off the pavement into the front of my car. He did not attempt to look either way before coming off the pavement on to the road. My speed was approx 10 miles per hour. It is very difficult to speed on this stretch of road due to parked cars. I am a very experienced driver of many years and luckily I managed to brake in time.

As soon as the young boy hit my car, my brother-in-law and myself jumped out to see if he was O.K. We were more concerned about the young boy than the damage to my car or his bike. We asked where he lived and he said, “I’m O.K. it doesn’t matter”, jumped on his bike and rode off.

I was concerned and came home and called the police immediately. They advised me to go straight to the police station and give a statement, which I did straight away. I gave my statement to the police at Abingdon station.

I asked if I should knock on doors to find out if the young boy was O.K. but they advised me not to. If the parents were concerned, they would come to the police station to see if the incident had been reported. I asked around the neighbourhood over the next couple of days as my main concern was for the young boy.

I strongly object to the way this letter has been published in the newsletter. My concern would be why a young boy of 10 years old has not been educated to be aware of road safety. Is a young boy of this age safe to be out on his own? Is this not down to the parents educating their children? Children will not be safe if they are not educated by their parents.”

Well, I think both parties have had their say, and that, as far as the newsletter is concerned, is the end of the matter.

Anonymity – It is clear why both parties in this incident wish to remain anonymous. The newsletter is willing to allow items to be published anonymously as long as the writer identifies him/herself to the editor and the request seems reasonable. However, for most communications **please** allow your name to be published.

Bike week – 14th – 22nd June is **National Bike Week**. Why not make a point of cycling to work, school, college, the shops, the leisure centre? Or, if you haven’t cycled for years, get back on a bike. Beat the jams, avoid soaring petrol prices and get healthier. See the “Pedal Power” poem on page 4. Visit www.bikeweek.org.uk

ABINGDON DRAMA CLUB

presents

“Improbable Fiction” by Alan Ayckbourn

at the Unicorn Theatre, Medieval Abbey Buildings

Wed 2nd – Sat 5th July at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets: £7 (concessions £6) from

The Bookstore, Abingdon Precinct or from Ticketline 01235 524 538

Pot Holing

Oxfordshire is famous for its potholes
Walk along a road and you will see
You can bet your bottom dollar
You will hear somebody holler,
"Look here what the Council's done to me."
There's always someone somewhere comes a cropper
And knees and bums do bruise so easily'
But we never see an on-the-beat young copper
To help us up and cheer us on our way.
The pavements too are really a disgrace
One false step and you're flat down on your face.
What happens to the tax we pay, I wonder?
Cash from fines from cameras they hide.
I think that they are making quite a blunder
So fill the holes, we need a safer ride!

Lilian Barry

AVONDALE PERLE 2-BERTH CARAVAN FOR SALE

Calor gas bottles for cooking and one light. Wired for mains with 12-volt converter to 12 volts for fluorescent lights. Basic crockery etc. included.

With full awning, ground sheet and curtains.

Can be seen at any time at 2, Tennyson Drive and inspected by arrangement.

Phone 01235 201 757. £600 o.n.o. One owner from new.

FOR SALE

Philips 28 inch wide screen T.V. 2 ½ years old
with transferrable extended warranty until 19/9/2008
£60 o.n.o.

also

Glass fronted bowed television/D.V.D. unit (Vineys)
Very good condition. (Cost £350). Space needed.
£65 o.n.o. Tel: Jackie 0770 4355441

FOR SALE

Yamaha Electronic Keyboard PSR420 - £60 o.n.o.

Silver Tubular High Sleeper Bed (single) with folding guest bed
and under desk. £90 o.n.o. Buyer to collect.

Witter Tow Bar to fit Volkswagen Passat Estate Car - £70 o.n.o.
Please ring 01235 533349 for further details



Vegetables in June

The recent (as I write...) hot spell in May will have brought on the veggies at high speed and you should by now be harvesting salad leaves and radishes. Continue sowing as before but try and sow during a cool period rather than in a hot greenhouse to give the seeds a better chance of starting.

By this month, most plants should be outside, including runner beans and outdoor tomatoes, leaving more room in the greenhouse for tomatoes and cucumbers. Make sure that the greenhouse is shaded using either shading paint on the glass or a screen that can be used over the roof and stored away in the winter. Make sure also to keep the greenhouse well ventilated on hot days.

Other seeds to sow outside now include runner and dwarf beans, courgettes, pumpkins and oriental vegetables. These, especially pak choi are fab for a stir fry.

As always, keep watering the plants, and keep an eye out for caterpillars on cabbages and cauliflowers as this is the time of year that they hatch.

In anticipation of good weather, time to drag the barbeque out, and when the coals are hot pick a few herb leaves from the garden, especially rosemary and thyme and sprinkle them on the barbie to fill the garden with a Mediterranean aroma.

Martin Gulliver



Pedal Power

Feeling fat, forty and frumpy
In summer clothes, I just looked lumpy
Lose some pounds that's what I needed
My new year's resolution's been superseded

Out comes the bike, dust off the webs
It's time to use pedal power instead
The car must be garaged petrol's too high a price
Using one's own stream is really quite nice

It's kind to the environment and my health should get better
Although I might drive still in the really wet weather
I'll give this cycling a jolly good go
I might lose a few inches you just do not know

So off I pedal, it's been twenty years
I hope I remember just how this thing steers
I've started my 1st trip I hope I get back
Without suffering from a massive heart attack

I make it back home with my heart still pumping
I've gone round the block, it's a start. that's something
Little by little my journeys increase
Don't laugh but next year I might cycle to Greece

May Quiz Answers and June Quiz – 1)Hermione Granger & Ron Weasley - Hogwarts 2)Jane Eyre – Lowood 3)Peter “Tucker” Jenkins – Grange Hill 4)Mr Cleaves – Kelsey Grammar School (Little Britain) 5)Billy Bunter – Greyfriars 6)Lord Havelock Vetinari – Ankh Morpork Assassins Guild School 7)Bart & Lisa Simpson – Springfield Elementary 8)Becky Sharp – Miss Pinkerton’s Academy 9)Libby Kennedy - Erinsborough High 10)Adrian Mole & Pandora Braithwaite – Neil Armstrong Comprehensive 11)Troy Bolton & Gabriella Montez – East High 12)Nicholas Nickelby – Dotheboys Hall 13)Eustace Scrubb & Jill Pole – Experiment House 14)Buffy Summers – Sunnydale High 15)Darrell Rivers & Sally Hope – Malory Towers 16)Danny Zuco & Sandy Olsen – Rydell High 17)Marty McFly – Hill Valley High 18)John Ridd – Blundell’s 19)Lyra Belacqua – Jordan College 20)Katrina Stafford & Patrick Verona – Padua High

Correction – It was Kirsty Shearer who compiled and supplied the May quiz.

June Quiz – Movies by Numbers

The clues are film titles, all containing a number (cardinal or ordinal). Numbers are in brackets and articles (a, the, an) are in lower case. Example – t (9th) G = The 9th Gate
 Answers to Eleanor, 23 Masefield by 21st June.

- 1) (101) D _____
- 2) (1) F O t C N _____
- 3) (2) M F S S _____
- 4) t (3) S _____
- 5) t M (7) _____
- 6) (7) B F (7) B _____
- 7) S W A t (7) D _____
- 8) t (10) C _____
- 9) O (11) _____
- 10) (6th) S _____
- 11) A O (1,000) D _____
- 12) A t W I (80) D _____
- 13) (20,000) L U t S _____
- 14) (12) M _____
- 15) t (39) S _____
- 16) F (451) _____
- 17) (84) C C R _____
- 18) (3) M A a B _____
- 19) (2001) a S O _____
- 20) t I O t (6th) H _____

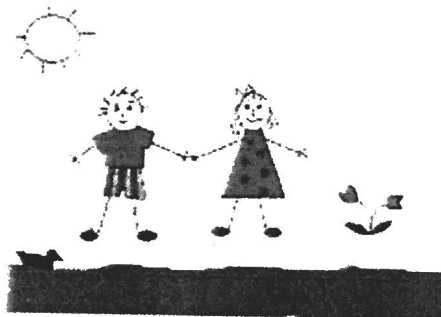
Councillors' Surgeries
S. **David Bowring or Tim Oates at the TFLRA Committee Meeting**

**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 11th June 2008 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room (A.G.M.)
Deadline for items for the next newsletter: Saturday 21st June 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

SAVE RADLEY LAKES SPONSORED WALK

Saturday 14th June Abbey Meadows to Radley

4 miles (start 12.00 noon) or 8 miles (start 11 a.m.)

For entry/sponsorship forms visit www.saveradleylakes.org.uk
or contact David Guyoncourt 01235 529 151 or Marjorie White 01235 530 174