

THE FARM & LADYGROVE NEWSLETTER MARCH 2008

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Welcome to the March newsletter. Amazing but true, it is Easter Sunday on 23rd. It seems as if we have only just had Christmas and the clocks won't have gone forward, but here are the Bank Holiday rubbish and recycling collections:

Normal Collection Day

Monday 24th March
March
Thursday 27th March
Monday 31st March
Thursday 3rd April

Holiday Collection

Wednesday 26th

Saturday 29th March
Tuesday 1st April
Friday 4th April

Action 4 Abingdon – As you may have read in the Abingdon Herald, a group has been formed which is seeking to reverse the new town centre traffic system (I don't mean all the cars are going to have to go backwards – now, there's an idea!), and halt the decline of the town centre. Steve King is the person in charge and there is a website – [www. ACTION4ABINGDON.org](http://www.ACTION4ABINGDON.org)

It's one of these websites where you have to register and have a password but you can post your comments and ideas and read other people's. There is also an e-mail address. It is: ACTION4ABINGDON@btopenworld.com

Suggestions for new play equipment – Three people contacted the newsletter with suggestions for new equipment in the Ock Meadow playground. Suggestions were as follows:

A wide seesaw with room for 2 or 3 children each end, a climb up, go through a tunnel and down a slide or fireman's pole, and swings.

Roundabout, slide with a climber and rockers, like the ones in the playground in Cotman Close near Thameside Primary.

A wooden play frame like the one in the playground in the middle of the converted flats in Ock St/High St.

These suggestions have been passed on to Cllr. Samantha Bowring. Maybe we could arrange a meeting to discuss them. It isn't too late to send in ideas.

Comments were made about the broken glass in the grass around there, and a suggestion was made to make a larger area of spongy surface, where the glass would be more visible and easier to sweep up – the area is meant to be cleaned three times a week, but if it is, they certainly don't pick up broken glass. Of course the ideal thing would be for people not to break glass in the first place.

Strange smell? – A resident has noticed a smell of burning straw from stables on the south side of Abingdon. This can go on all night. I can't say I've noticed myself, but if anyone else has, please contact the newsletter and we'll try and find out more about it. The same resident wants a classic style racing cycle – to get away from the burning straw, perhaps? Look out for the advert further on in the newsletter.

Good news for Radley Lakes – As you may have read in the local press, Npower has suspended its plan to fill Thrupp Lake with waste fuel ash “for the time being”. However, they could still use it at a later date. That is why the campaign to get the area designated a Town Green is continuing. Funds are needed for legal fees. The next event is a quiz night on 15th March at Radley Village Hall. Look out for the notice in this newsletter.

Litter Pick - There will be a Community Litter pick on Saturday 8th March along the path to Tesco, in conjunction with Abingdon Green Gym. Gloves, bags, litter pickers, luminous jackets (optional) and refreshments will be provided. Meet by the children's playground at the back of Chaunterell Way about 9.45ish or by the recycling bins in Tesco car park at 9.30. If you can't make that time, join us anywhere along the route. We'll be there until about 12.30. If the weather is impossibly bad, it will be cancelled.

I know some residents take a bag and pick up litter while they are out walking their dogs etc. and we are very grateful to them. I wish people on the other side of Drayton Road at the back of Ock Street would do the same. Is there a “dirtiest town in Britain contest” going on?

Lilian, our unofficial poet laureate, has written a poem for us:

Relaxation?

Off we go for a country walk
To have some peace and maybe a talk
Now dog owners, listen – it's terribly hard
When you can't see so well and a dog's left a “card”.
We're approaching the river and it's really not fair
A couple of Tesco trolleys abandoned out there.
Right in the water were two I could see
We rescued the nearest one, my friend and me.
We carried on walking, then gasped with surprise –
A pile of empty beer cans and left over “fries”.
My friend said, “Disgusting! I've no bags. Have you?
We can't leave them there. What on earth shall we do?”
We'll contact kind members of TFLRA
They will collect them, but not straight away
But they do have a Saturday scheme, I have heard
When VOLUNTEERS have a litter pick day, spread the word.

Lilian Barry

See above, for the next litter pick. Contact Eleanor (see back page) for further details, or just turn up. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Formatting the newsletter – We are still looking for someone, preferably with the "Publisher" package on their computer to help format the newsletter. Grenville has been doing it for more than 2 ½ years now and would like to step down. It only takes up 2-3 hours once a month. Also if anyone would like to join the editorial "team" (how few people can you have and still be a team?), please contact the newsletter. It is always good to have new ideas and a fresh approach.

Burton Close/Suffolk Way – This is definitely not a right of way and never has been. It's unfortunate, as the cut through was very convenient while it lasted.

Abingdon Arts Festival – This runs from 1st-15th March. There will be painting, children's events, exhibitions, a "wish tree", theatre, music, poetry and dance. You should have got a colourful brochure through your door a few weeks ago, but if you, unlike me, keep your recycling bin directly under your letter box, you can check the website, www.abingdonartsfestival.org.uk

Flood Mitigation Work – The subcontractors to the Environment Agency are currently working on flood prevention measures on the Stert and Radley Ditch. Hopefully, they'll start on the Ock soon. They have been cutting down trees on the other side of Drayton Road by the bridge. Perhaps this is part of it.

WANTED

Racing cycle with classic style frame
(straight cross bar)
10-12 gears, 22in frame, reasonable condition
27in wheels, aluminium if possible.
Will negotiate price.
Phone 01235 550 895 any evening.

SAVE RADLEY LAKES QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 15th March 7.30 for 8p.m. start
RADLEY VILLAGE HALL
Teams of 6-8 or join a team when you arrive
Tickets £10 per person, including supper
Bar, raffle, prizes
Contact Eleanor on 01235 531 857
or Marjorie on 01235 530 174

Vegetables in March

Although there is still a chance of frosts, seed sowing can begin in earnest now, outside as well as inside. Continue sowing salad crops, and any that were sown inside can now be put out in a cold greenhouse or cold frame to harden off ready to plant outside later.

On the subject of sowing indoors, remember sowing mustard and cress as a child? Well it's back in fashion but you now sow vegetable and salad crops, cut them after a week or so at the seedling stage and call them micro greens! I've tried celery, beetroot and coriander which all taste great either as a salad garnish or in a sandwich.

Outside sowings can include radish, lettuce, peas, broad beans and beetroot, as well as the salad crops. Now is also the time to sow the early potatoes that were chitted inside earlier. Put three in a large container and just cover with compost. As the plants grow, cover the tips with more compost, (earthing up) and continue to do so until the container is full. This ensures a good crop that should fill the container.

To save on containers, potatoes can also be planted in an old compost bag, with holes punched in the bottom, and as the plants grow, roll up the sides of the bag and add more compost. The potatoes are ready to dig up after the plants have flowered and they start to wilt.

Martin Gulliver

The Old Gaol Development – A model of the Old Gaol development, together with display boards, information leaflets and a comments box is now on public display in the Vale of White Horse Council Offices. Cranbourne Homes has been chosen to develop the site and there will be 10 apartments on the upper floors of the Old Gaol. There will be 43 new apartments between the Old Gaol and Twickenham House in East St. Helen's St. The residential units will have "green" roofs, photovoltaic panels, a grey water system and an underground car park. There will be shops and restaurants on the ground floor of the Old Gaol and public access through to riverside gardens. Most people hoped that the new development would provide at least some non-commercial, non-residential "community use" space and C.O.G. campaigned long and hard for this, but in the end, this was rejected as too expensive, although the Bridge project will be offered some space in the old police station.

Watch Out for Scams— Watch out! - scams are out there to take your money. Figures suggest that scammers fleece £2 million from 30,000 victims in Oxfordshire each year. Letters saying you have won the Spanish lottery are favorite at the moment. Oxford trading standards are collecting evidence. So if you have received junk scam mail, drop it in to County Hall in Oxford. This will help to expose the scammers.

February Quiz Answers and March Quiz – The February quiz was won by Gillian Moore of Masefield Crescent. Here are the answers: 1)Postman Pat 2)Peter Pan 3)Pink Panther 4) Peyton Place 5)Pride and Prejudice 6)Puff Pastry 7)Peter and Paul 8)Pride Park 9)Pork Pie 10)Passion Play 11)Pilgrim's Progress 12)Prince Philip (should've been 60 years, how time flies!) 13)Pole Position 14)Pen Pal 15)Pit Pony 16)Port au Prince 17)Plaster of Paris 18)Penny Pinching 19)Petrol Pump 20)Peace Pipe

March Quiz – The Jewels in the Crown The answers to the clues all contain the name of a precious stone. Answers to Eleanor, 23 Masefield by 17th March.

- 1) Romantic name for Ireland _____
- 2) Worthy but unrefined man _____
- 3) Rhyming slang for curry _____
- 4) Recent film set in Africa, starring Leonardo di Caprio _____
- 5) Bizet opera set in Ceylon _____
- 6) Mouthy American comedienne and chat show hostess. _____
- 7) James Bond film with title sung by Shirley Bassey _____
- 8) Grain used in Scotch broth _____
- 9) Bigoted Cockney hero of a 60's sitcom. _____
- 10) Most magnificent crown jewel. Means "Mountain of Light" _____
- 11) Dorothy went there to find the Wizard _____
- 12) Victorian detective thriller by Wilkie Collins _____
- 13) Book and film about a Vermeer painting _____
- 14) Song by Marilyn Munroe from "Gentlemen prefer Blondes" _____
- 15) The Queen will celebrate this in 2012 _____
- 16) Former T.V. a.m. presenter and now obesity adviser _____
- 17) 1979-82 science fiction T.V. series with David McCallum and Joanna Lumley _____
- 18) New scientific facility at Harwell _____
- 19) Cockney royalty _____
- 20) U.S. naval base on Hawaii, attacked by the Japanese in 1941 _____

Councillors' Surgeries
ring, or Tim Oates at TFLRA committee meeting

Rilyn Badcock 1st Saturday of the month in the Family Room,
Conservative Club, Ock Street.

Date of the next TFLRA Committee Meeting –
Wednesday 12th March 2008 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room.
Deadline for items for the next newsletter – Monday 17th March 2008

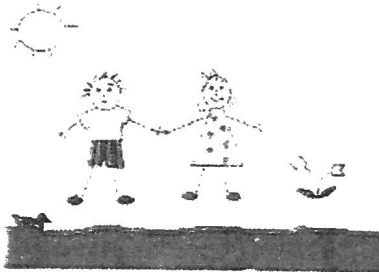
Contact us – items for publication:

Eleanor Dangerfield 01235 531 857 23 Masefield Crescent Abingdon
eledanger@hotmail.com
Grenville Wells tithefarm2@yahoo.co.uk

Many residents will have known **Kit Chisnall**, who died at home on 14th January. Kit was 86 years old and had lived in Longfellow Drive on the corner of Tennyson Drive for many years. Her neighbours and friends will all miss her.

Riverside Pre-School

Corner of Preston Rd and Cotman Close
Abingdon



Pre-school education for 2 to 5 year olds

Mornings 9.15am - 11.45am
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