

# TITHE FARM & LADYGROVE NEWSLETTER MAY 2007

**Welcome** to the May newsletter. It will soon be time to renew your subscription. We are keeping the cost at £1..50 per year and your newsletter deliverer will be coming to collect the money, possibly this month, but more likely in June or July. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers, both old and new who deliver the newsletters every month and collect the subs. It's quite a daunting task to have to knock on every door, and though they usually encounter a friendly face, very occasionally they have to deal with grumpy, complaining people, which isn't very pleasant. So if you have something to complain about, or you think the newsletter has too much of something and not enough of something else, then contact us, write a letter or an article or give us your ideas and opinions.

**Here are some of the things we can publish in the newsletter:** Local events, news of local clubs or societies, news of births, deaths, marriages, arrivals and departures on Tithe Farm and Ladygrove (with the subject's or family's permission, of course), items for sale or to give away, articles, poems, letters, opinions, moans and complaints (but no naming and shaming of individuals), ideas for improving the local area. So, come on then. It's your newsletter.

## **May Day and Spring Bank Holiday Refuse and Recycling Collections**

Most people remembered to put their bins out on the right days over Easter. Here is a reminder of the next Bank Holiday collections:

### **Normal Collection Day**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May  
Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May  
Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May

### **Bank Holiday Collection**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May  
Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June

## **Local Elections**

Don't forget, the local elections take place on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Participate in local democracy.

If you don't vote, don't moan!

**Peter and Hilary Green** have been our local Councillors for many years. Peter has been Mayor for the past year and Hilary has also been Mayor. They are now stepping down from office and we would like to thank them for their hard work in the area and for their regular surgeries in the Jephson Common Room. They were presented with a farewell gift at their last councillors' surgery and we would like to thank them for their kind donation to our funds.

**Read their valedictory article in the newsletter.**

### **Correction**

Last month we stated that the students of the University of the Third Age met at 1.15 p.m. every Monday at the Preston Road Community Centre. Please note the time should be **2p.m. for 2.15 start until 4.30 p.m.** We apologise for the error.

### **A menace with a shotgun**

We have received some disturbing news from a resident of Francis Little Drive. His cat "Merlin" was badly injured by a shotgun pellet. The cat has fortunately made an amazing recovery – they certainly do have nine lives – but the owner has paid £700 in vet's bills, as well as being caused great distress. Next time it could be your pet, or worse, a child. If you have any information, please call the police.

### **Abingdon Market Place Refurbishment**

The old basalt blocks, which were becoming very worn and uneven, have been taken up and are being re-laid with resin bonding. The old trees have been removed. They were becoming dangerous and the roots were pushing up the blocks. They will be replaced with "Liquidambar" trees (about 12 feet tall) which will turn a lovely colour in the Autumn. The service road by the NatWest bank will be re-laid and the pavement outside will be widened. There will be York stone pathways across the Market Place, with a central York stone slab commemorating the 450<sup>th</sup> Charter Anniversary Year. The steps to the High Street will be removed. Vale Council funding matched the Town Council's funding for this work.

**The new Co-op** - Work on the new Co-op building in West St. Helen's St, which has been abandoned for ages, making a real eyesore, will begin again in the Summer.

### **Events**

**8th Abingdon Air and Country Show**  
**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May**  
**9a.m. Abingdon Airfield**

**DRAGON BOAT RACING**  
**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Abingdon, off the Culham Road**  
**30 teams will compete and raise money for charity**  
**Also funfair, stalls, food and drink**

### April Quiz answers and Winner

The April Quiz was won by David and Pat Adams of Francis Little Drive. Here are the answers:

1)Tithe Farm 2)farm hand 3)handwriting 4)writing paper 5)paper chain 6)chain gang 7)gangway 8)waylay 9)lay by 10)bypass 11)passport 12)port side 13)sideshow 14)show room 15)room service 16)service wash 17)wash bag 18)bag lady 19)Ladygrove

### May Quiz – May Day Adverts

Do you take advantage of the commercial break to make a cup of tea, put out the bins and other necessities? Or are you an avid advert watcher? If you are the latter, this quiz is for you. Replace the word MAY DAY with the name of the product or company. But be warned, some are from a **very** long time ago. Answers to Eleanor, 23 Masefield, by 20<sup>th</sup> May.

- 1) MAY DAY. The name on the world's finest blades. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) MAY DAY. Where the magic never ends. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) MAY DAY. Everything we do is driven by you. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) MAY DAY. It's not just oil, it's liquid engineering. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) MAY DAY. 99.9% need not apply. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) There are some things money can't buy. For everything else there's MAY DAY  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7) The man from MAY DAY, he say yes. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) MAY DAY. It could be you.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 9) Can you tell MAY DAY from butter? \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) MAY DAY. Everything you want from a store and a little bit more. \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) MAY DAY. Bet you can't eat three.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 12) More reasons to shop at MAY DAY.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 13) MAY DAY cleans a big, big carpet for less than half a crown. \_\_\_\_\_
- 14) MAY DAY. A little dab will do ya. \_\_\_\_\_
- 15) Don't forget the MAY DAY, mum. \_\_\_\_\_
- 16) MAY DAY. Try something new today. \_\_\_\_\_
- 17) MAY DAY. Let your fingers do the walking. \_\_\_\_\_
- 18) MAY DAY. Because life's complicated enough. \_\_\_\_\_
- 19) MAY DAY. Soft, strong and very, very long. \_\_\_\_\_
- 20) MAY DAY. Sweet as the moment when the pod went pop. \_\_\_\_\_
- 21) MAY DAY. It's for yooo-hooo. \_\_\_\_\_
- 22) MAY DAY. Australians wouldn't give a XXXX for anything else. \_\_\_\_\_
- 23) MAY DAY. Connecting people. \_\_\_\_\_
- 24) MAY DAY. It's a lot less bovver than a hover. \_\_\_\_\_

## **THIRTY TWO YEARS ON....**

You may already know that Peter and I will not be standing for either the Town or District Councils in May. We made the decision some time ago – four years ago, in fact – that this would be our final term. I have served as a town councillor for twelve years and Pete joined the town council eight years ago. We've both served around six years each on the Vale of White Horse District Council, so I guess between us, we have clocked up 32 years of council work.

During those years we have seen many changes in the town and on the two estates. One of the big changes for me was that Tithe Farm and Ladygrove was initially a town ward with one elected town councillor, then four years ago it became part of the Ock Meadow Ward – and there were three of us!

Over the years, we have tried to resolve some issues. We have campaigned for and against different projects and developments, written letters on behalf of residents to work through problems, and attended public meetings - one on the Green itself, due to lack of room in the meeting room. We dealt with a wide variety of subjects, disabled access, fences, green spaces, footballers and football fields, drainage, more fences, potholes and, of course, footpaths. More recently there have been concerns about vehicle parking, trolleys in the Ock and ...more fences!

We attended a lot of council committee meetings, read a lot of reports, wrote more letters and listened a lot!

All of the above is, of course, the general work of a councillor representing their community and it is enjoyable, and especially when there is a good result. Sometimes, I'll admit, it can be very frustrating hacking through the bureaucracy! Our endeavours resulted in a variety of outcomes - some were even successful! Even though it took a long time to get through the system!

However for both Pete and me, there was a really special honour, one that was unexpected when we both stood for the first time as councillors, and that is the honour of being the Mayor of Abingdon. I feel that I have been doubly honoured, if that is possible, as I have been both 'Mr Mayor' and the 'Mayoress'

I am standing down with mixed feelings. We have made a lot of friends through being councillors and we have learned a lot about our town and its history. But, I shall, for instance, (in a perverse way), miss the regular Saturday morning council surgeries at Jephson Common room, and we would like to thank the Tithe Farm and Ladygrove residents committee for their support. They ensured that residents have been aware of the councillor surgeries, brought local concerns to our notice, and reported relevant town or Vale information in the newsletter.

Thanks to everyone for giving us the opportunity to represent a great part of Abingdon – we look forward to seeing you again soon, maybe on the Ock Valley Walk!

*Peter and Hilary Green*

### Must –Visit Web Sites

[www.google.co.uk](http://www.google.co.uk) - This is the search site of choice. If you want all the words in your search to be included in the results, use the plus sign eg [restaurant+Italian+oxford](#). If you only want results that include a particular phrase, use quotation marks eg “Oxford covered market”.

[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk) - A huge site that covers all radio and television. Especially useful is the radio player that enables you to listen again to radio programs or show the play lists for individual programs so you can find out what a particular song is.

[www.comingsoon.net/trailers](http://www.comingsoon.net/trailers) - Excellent site for forthcoming movie trailers – broadband only though!

[www.abingdonwalks.co.uk](http://www.abingdonwalks.co.uk) - does exactly what it says!

[www.snopes.com/info/whatsnew.asp](http://www.snopes.com/info/whatsnew.asp) - This site is excellent at answering those questions about urban myths. It is also very useful at sorting out e-mails that pretend to be virus warnings, or “please pass this e-mail on to 10 other people” and other internet hoaxes. If you receive such an e-mail, check on this site before doing anything.

[www.jacquielawson.com](http://www.jacquielawson.com) - An English company, and the most popular animated greeting card site on the net. Only £4 per year and the cards are wonderful.

[www.everyhit.com/retrocharts](http://www.everyhit.com/retrocharts) - A site that shows what the top ten was on any given day since music charts began. What was number one on the day you were born? Starts with November 1952 - luckily I just squeeze in! *Martin Gulliver*

### The Garden in May

Spring is now well and truly sprung (we hope...) so the garden should be burgeoning. Keep on top of lawn mowing – a quick cut once a week is much better than a hack with a machete every two months!

Spring flowering shrubs that have finished flowering can now be pruned. As a general rule of thumb, cut back branches that have flowered to allow new branches to grow. Formal hedges can also be lightly trimmed now.

Thin out both annual and vegetable seedlings and continue sowing both every two or three weeks to ensure a succession of colour/crops.

Towards the end of the month we should be free of frosts so you can start to bring bedding out into the garden and planting up hanging baskets. Plant plugs have been available at the garden centres for some time and are ideal for this, but not until all risk of frost has gone.

Being the month for the Chelsea Flower Show, this is also the time for the “Chelsea Chop”. This involves cutting back by about one third perennials that have yet to flower. This will make the plant more bushy and encourage more flowers.

As usual, keep an eye out for pests and diseases before they take hold, and keep containers watered. After the unseasonably warm April (as I write...) containers will dry out quickly, and may need watering every day. As a general rule water in the evening so the plants take it up overnight rather than losing it to evaporation during the hot day.

*Martin Gulliver*

**Councillors' Surgeries**

**Mike and Marilyn Badcock 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month** in the Family Room,  
Abingdon Conservative Club, Ock Street.

**Date of the next TFLRA Committee Meeting –  
Wednesday 9th May 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room.  
Deadline for items for the next newsletter – Sunday 20th May 2007**

**Contact us – items for publication:**  
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**HOST FAMILIES**

**Urgently required for international students  
in July/August.**

**Please phone Kate on 01235 210 290 for further details**

**Local Elections  
Thursday 3rd May 2007  
Your polling station is  
Jephson Common Room  
Bridges Close**

**LOST**

**A set of keys, Tennyson Drive , Even side in alley way.**

**Two small silver, one brass, one back door.**

**If found phone 01235 559 990.**