

TITHE FARM & LADYGROVE NEWSLETTER MAY 2008

First of all, apologies for the lateness of the May newsletter. I've been away on holiday for 4 weeks, so this is a rush job on my return. I would like to thank all those who helped to get the April newsletter distributed, also to those who have kept me informed of goings-on while I've been away. Naturally I did not want to advertise the fact in that newsletter that my house was going to be empty for almost four weeks! It seems I missed the chaos caused by the Marcham Road roadworks and the knock on effects on Drayton Road. It seems that traffic in Abingdon is just one long series of mayhem and disaster!

I also saw that a new Londis store had opened in the town centre in the defunct Cargo premises. What with Waitrose and Somerfield, not to mention the new Coop taking shape, one does wonder if it's really necessary. What a pity they couldn't have sited it at this end of the town, where a "convenience store" really would be convenient.

Subs are due in June/July and your deliverer will be coming round to collect them. They will still be £1.50p for the year. I will keep the newsletter going until next April and, hopefully, after that, somebody else will be willing to take it on.

Advertising in the newsletter – Private "For Sale" or "Wanted" ads are free. Don't forget the "Free Swapshop" for things you don't want money for.

There is space available for new business ads (£15 p.a. for residents, £20 for non-residents). First come, first served.

You can also advertise charity or community events, clubs and societies for free.

Fences – the good, the bad and the ugly. The fence next to the footpath that runs between the back of Jewsons/Grahams has been patched up. There's still some rubbish trapped behind it, but it's an improvement.

The fence from Burton Close into Suffolk Way has been broken down. We'll have to see whether it gets replaced. It goes to show what a useful shortcut it was.

A startling green metal fence has appeared around the land in Nash Drive which was bought by the resident next to it. Well, I suppose he bought the land fair and square even if it should not have been available for sale.

Gardens Competition – Now Spring has arrived, we hope, keen gardeners might like to think about entering the Abingdon in Bloom competition, organised by the Town Council and sponsored by Notcutts. There are prizes for best front gardens, back gardens, neighbourhood groups, hanging baskets and containers. Entry forms are in the Spring edition of the "Town Crier" or obtainable from the Town Council office, Abbey House or Notcutts in Nuneham Courtenay.

CARS PLEASE SLOW DOWN! – The newsletter received the following e-mail from a resident. I hope anyone who ever drives a car on Tithe Farm/Ladygrove will read it and take it very seriously:

My family and I live on the Ladygrove/Tithe Farm estate. Both my children play out a lot as I definitely don't want them to be part of the cotton wool kids brigade who never do anything. Unfortunately, maybe I should, as my son was knocked off his bike on Saturday 12th April. The guy in the black 4x4 got out and asked if he was OK, but as my son was very scared by that point, he just said "Yes, I'm fine." Out of respect, I do think he should have brought him home as it was only at the top of our street. I am not having a go, but my son is 10 years old, he isn't nasty or horrible, he just likes to play outside as safely as he can. I would have liked to know what exactly happened, as he was so shaken up he couldn't tell me properly, nor could his friend who was with him. If he pulled out in front of a car, then I apologise for him, but he tells me the car was going too fast and just appeared next to him, hitting him on the side of his bike, causing damage and knocking him off. He has very nasty bruising on both sides of both legs and on his shoulder. He was very lucky it wasn't worse. This is really to say, **CARS PLEASE SLOW DOWN!** Most of us have, or have had children who cycle around, or play out around the estates, so shouldn't we all be aware of what happens around us instead of how fast we can go down that bit of road or how quickly we can get home. He wasn't on a blind bend or doing something wrong, he was just crossing the road on his bike. Kids should be allowed to be kids and play, they need to learn, just like we have all had to do. So why not, while driving around, be more aware of your surroundings, and give them time to get out of the way or even second guess what they might do?

My son was very lucky not to sustain serious injuries. **YOUR CHILD MIGHT NOT BE!**

Newsletter comment: The resident has identified herself to the newsletter, but wishes to remain anonymous. If you wish to reply or comment, contact the newsletter and we will pass on your contact details.

With Summer approaching and more children playing outside, please be extra careful. Francis Little is a long, straight road, Medlicott is a through road and Mill Road is the entrance to the estates.

Britain has one of the lowest road accident rates in Europe, but one of the HIGHEST child casualty rates as a percentage of the whole.

FOR SALE

Circular Trampoline – no cover or sides.

£100

Buyer to collect and reassemble

Tel: 01235 202 176 or 07743 304 590

FLOODS - It's now almost ten months since the floods that turned so many lives upside down in this area and what has been done to ensure that it doesn't happen again?

Lilian has written a poem, which surely sums up what so many people feel.

Not much help for flood victims

“There's always something that can be done”,
Say the environment chaps, “But not by us”.
Floods can happen anywhere, but it isn't fun.
They seem to think we are making too much fuss.
Passing the buck is their main occupation.
They maintain it's a job of “Do it yourself.”
A pump, they say, would solve the situation,
“You should put all important documents on a high shelf.”
Victims long to ask the vital question _____
“Where is the help promised so long ago?”
They are so ready to offer an obvious suggestion,
But organisers, we think it's time for you to go.
Farmers used to dig ditches to drain the water
Thames water should attend to all their leaks.
Men don't come to dig ditches as often as they oughter.
Residents have been complaining for many weeks.
In the meantime, victims are ready to make their mark.
They will not be brainwashed for too long.
I've heard they're forming a group to build an ark.
Will history repeat itself and a modern Noah come along?

Lilian Barry

Flood Prevention Action Group? – In last month's newsletter I passed on the suggestion from the local councillors that a group should be formed, as has been done in the Stert and some other flood prone areas, to put pressure on the Environment Agency, local authorities etc. to put in place better flood prevention and mitigation measures. So far I have had no indication that anyone is interested in forming such a group. SAFAG (South Abingdon Floodplain Action Group) appears to be totally defunct now, so a new group is needed.

Don't forget, if you don't keep nagging the powers that be, nothing will ever get done.



Vegetables in May

At the risk of sounding repetitive, carry on sowing vegetable and salad crops so as to ensure a regular supply. As the days get warmer, it is better to sow lettuce seeds in the late afternoon, as if they get too warm they don't start so well. Alternatively keep the seed in the fridge for a few days before sowing.

Towards the end of the month you can start sowing seed outside, and also put outside plants already growing under cover. Harden them off by leaving them outside for a few days and then bringing them in at night, so they acclimatise to the outside world.

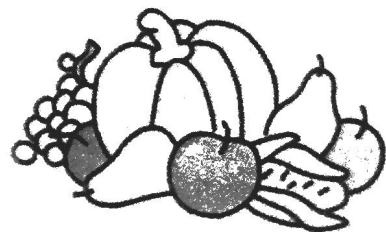
Mangetout can be sown now, and the tips of these can be snipped off and used in salads. Assuming the usual damp weather, slugs can also be a danger so keep an eye on them using whichever method you prefer.

Anything already growing outside can now be thinned out. This purely means pulling out the weaker seedlings leaving stronger plants to grow on. The seed packet will give a guide, but seedlings closer together will give smaller roots/plants whilst those given more room will give greater results.

When thinning out carrots, the smell produced will attract Carrot Root Fly, so put up a physical barrier around the plants, such as polythene or fleece attached to bamboo sticks.

As always, keep all containers weeded and watered.

Martin Gulliver



April Quiz Answers and May Quiz

The April anagram quiz was won by Sandra Cox of Masefield Crescent. Here are the answers: 1)Margaret Thatcher 2)Gordon Brown 3)George Bush 4)David Cameron 5)Ken Livingstone 6)Tony Blair 7)George Washington 8)Edward Heath 9)Franklin D. Roosevelt 10)Ronald Reagan 11)Winston Churchill 12)Harold Wilson 13)Boris Johnson 14)Lloyd George 15)Abraham Lincoln 16)Jimmy Carter 17)Hillary Clinton 18)Alistair Darling 19)Jack Straw 20)Harriet Harman

May Quiz – Literary Education This quiz was supplied by Langley Shearer. Many thanks for giving my jet lagged brain a rest! Answers to Eleanor, 23 Masefield by 21st May.

Match the literary characters to the schools they are associated with:

Characters

- 1) Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley _____
- 2) Jane Eyre _____
- 3) Peter "Tucker" Jenkins _____
- 4) Mr Cleaves _____
- 5) Billy Bunter _____
- 6) Lord Havelock Vetinari _____
- 7) Bart and Lisa Simpson _____
- 8) Becky Sharp _____
- 9) Libby Kennedy _____
- 10) Adrian Mole and Pandora Braithwaite _____
- 11) Troy Bolton and Gabriella Montez _____
- 12) Nicholas Nickelby _____
- 13) Eustace Clarence Scrubb and Jill Pole _____
- 14) Buffy Summers _____
- 15) Darrell Rivers and Sally Hope _____
- 16) Danny Zuko and Sandy Olsen _____
- 17) Marty McFly _____
- 18) John Ridd _____
- 19) Lyra Belacqua _____
- 20) Katrina Statford and Patrick Verona _____

Schools: Rydell High – Kelsey Grammar School – Padua High – East High -
Hogwarts – Hill Valley High – Jordan College – Grange Hill – Experiment House –
Dotheboys Hall – Erinsborough High – Sunnysdale High – Malory Towers – Lowood
Charity School – Greyfriars – Ankh Morpork Assassins Guild School – Springfield
Elementary – Miss Pinkerton's Academy for Young Ladies – Neil Armstrong
Comprehensive – Blundell's

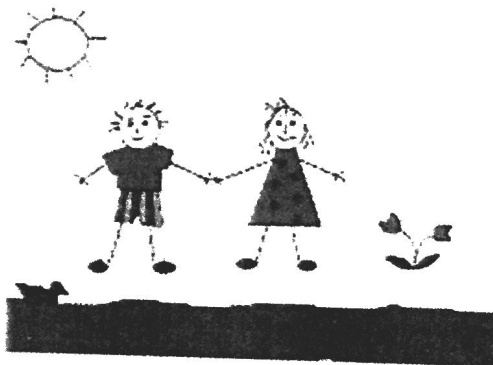
Councillors' Surgeries
Samantha Bowring or Tim Oates at the TFLRA Committee Meeting

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 14th May 2008 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room
Deadline for items for the next newsletter: Wednesday 21st May 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