




Tithe Farm and Ladygrove


Newsletter May 2009

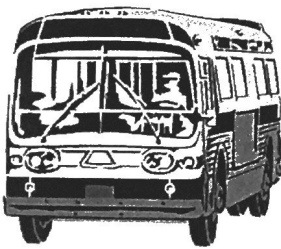



Welcome to the May newsletter. The website is coming on apace and we are inviting residents to become regular contributors. Everybody will have the opportunity of sending in news of local events, advertising clubs and societies, items for sale or free, as well as airing your views. The newsletter will continue to be delivered to all residents for the time being, until the website is established, but remember, if you have no access to a computer and want to continue to receive a paper copy, you will need to contact the newsletter.

Subs will be collected in June or July as usual. It remains at £1.50 and, although this covers the cost of the newsletter, you are in fact paying for membership of the Residents' Association.

A.G.M – This will be held on Wednesday 10th June at 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room.

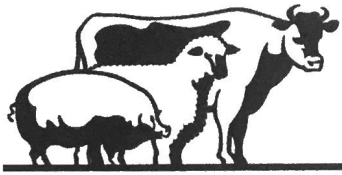
Flood Defence Work – It is very disappointing to hear that the Environment Agency will not carry out the recommended flood defence work in Abingdon. The demolition of the St. Helen's Mill bridge was the end of the work as far as the EA is concerned, and, amazingly, is considered sufficient to prevent future flooding in South Abingdon.



Bus service improvements – Councillor Tim Oates went to a meeting about bus services in Oxfordshire and has been campaigning on our behalf for improved bus services in South Abingdon. The planned improvements to the 35A route appeared to be “improved quality bus stop poles and signs”, for which I am sure we are exceedingly grateful, plus more Real Time Information screens (so we know the next bus is in 55 minutes), bus priority routes and cycle

racks. There is a rather vague “to look at possible improvements to the frequency of these services in the future”.

Tim e-mailed the Transport Planner for Oxfordshire County Council, Tim Hammond, saying that what residents really wanted was greater frequency of buses outside the rush hour and the X3/X13 to run to South Abingdon, and that new bus stops by the new flats on the old Esso/Renault site would be a good idea. There is supposed to be a public consultation, but as yet the date is not known. Meanwhile, if you would like to give Mr Hammond your views, his e-mail is john.hammond@oxfordshire.gov.uk or phone 01865 815086

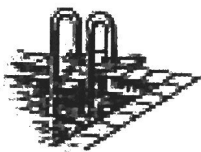


Farmers' Market
Friday 15th May 2009
8.30a.m. - 1p.m. in the Market Place
Local meat, fish, fruit and veg
Cheese, jams and preserves,
Bread and cakes



Growing your own veg – Class every Thursday morning at Peachcroft Farm,
 9.30-11a.m. Learn about soil structure, sowing, planting, feeding and harvesting your own veg crop while doing hands-on practical work. £6 per session. For more information, e-mail gyoveg@hotmail.com or phone Brigid Thurley on 01865 735 078.

Pamper evening at Drayton Village Hall – hosted by Oxfordshire Events, Friday 8th May, 7-10p.m. Complimentary welcome drink and chocolates on arrival. Treat yourself to one of the various beauty treatments that will be available throughout the evening. Indulge in some of the finest refreshments or browse around the many stalls, including jewellery, candles, cards, make up, gifts, food and other local crafts and produce. All ticket holders will have a chance to win a luxury pamper hamper to enjoy at home. Entrance tickets are £2.50 in advance or £3 on the day. To book your tickets in advance, visit www.oxfordshireevents.co.uk



Abbey Meadows Pool – The outdoor pool will open for the Summer on Saturday 23rd May. For opening times, prices etc. go to www.soll-leisure.co.uk or phone 01235 530 678.

And if the weather isn't so great....

County Hall Museum –

May Holiday Activities 26th-29th May – 10.30a.m.-12.30p.m. – Family friendly Tudor activities in the Museum cellar – make a Tudor pomander, write like a Tudor, dress up in Tudor costume. Come early to avoid disappointment. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



HANDYMAN

Gardening (weeding, hedge cutting, lawn mowing, pruning)

Decorating (painting, papering, plastering)

Fencing, paving, glazing

Electrical work

No job too small – No callout charge – Free quotes

Hourly rate or job price

I can work alone or help you if you need an extra pair of hands.

References can be supplied if necessary

Enquiries Welcome – Tel: 01235 511 347 or e-mail robert33wilson@btinternet.com



National Bike Week in Abingdon



June 13th -21st - Enjoy cycling, get fit and healthy, shrink your carbon footprint!

Saturday 13th June – Stall by St Nicolas Church 10a.m.-1p.m. See some unusual bikes, get your bike security marked, find out about Sustrans, take part in a cycling survey.

Sunday 14th June - 1-3p.m. Abbey Meadows. Picnic and Treasure Hunt ride. Bring a picnic, follow an easy circular course and fill in an answer sheet for the chance of a prize.

Sunday 14th June, Evening Town Boundaries Ride, led by Andy Watt, time and starting point to be confirmed. Andy will also be doing a sponsored ride. Watch this space!

Wednesday 17th June – Bike repair and safety workshop plus fun and interesting cycling films, St Ethelwold's, E. St Helen Street 7.30 p.m

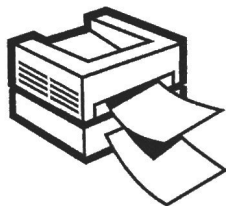
Sunday 21st June - 2.30-5.30p.m. Historic Ride around Abingdon. Meet at the archway by St Nicolas Church. Visit sites of historical interest, both ancient and modern.

Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Cycling helmets recommended.

For further details, contact Eleanor (see back page) or visit www.bikeweek.org.uk

Check before events in case of alterations.

JoyPrint – Joyce has been printing the newsletter for many years at truly rock bottom prices. Without her efforts, we could never have kept the cost as low as £1..50 per year. She now has some new equipment, meaning she can increase her range of printing services still further:



Full colour photocopies now available

Only 20p per A4 page - A3 available

B/W A4 - 4p per single page

Discounts for bulk (over 100)

Other services available:-

Laminating, binding, folding.

Newsletters, business cards, posters, flyers....

Call Joyce on 01235 524 833 or 07958 610606



REDWOOD GARDEN SERVICES –“I run a small, experienced family business based in the Oxfordshire area. Established in February 2004, we have built a reputation for providing a quality service through our friendly and reliable workmanship and whatever the size of your garden, we can provide a tailored service to meet your needs. Or if you have no garden at all but want to create one, then we can help.

Services include: grass & hedge cutting, strimming, patios, decking, turfing, garden maintenance and clearances, all types of fencing, block paving, driveways & landscaping.

I have a website where you can see examples of my work and standard of workmanship: www.redwoodgardenservices.co.uk”

Please contact Martin on 01235 210057 or 07974073852

Rob on 07929344332

GAZEBO HIRE AVAILABLE FOR PARTIES AND EVENTS



Twitchers Ramblings.

18/04/09

"Twas" early Saturday morning, bino's in hand, down Mill Lane, our first sighting of "HIRUNDO RUSTICA", the Swallow to us mere mortals.

Popularly regarded as the harbinger of summer, all the way from South Africa, it looked tired too! Preening itself on the power line.

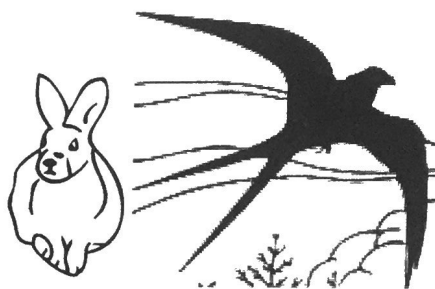
The adult birds usually return to the same locality where they bred the previous year.

I am still on the lookout for our local deer, best viewed either early or late in the day, but no sightings yet.

I haven't seen our local foxes for a while, but the occasional smell on wind whilst out with the dogs lets me know, they are still out there!

What about the Kites dipping and soaring on the thermals, a beautiful sight indeed, their staple diet of rabbit must be in abundance, too.

D A Whittington,
Francis Little Drive



The Garden in May

Depending on the weather (who knows??) the garden should be burgeoning by now and it is important to keep on top of weeding and the lawn mowing. Make sure that as plants grow they are supported – tie in climbers and ensure plant supports are in place early. If you are growing any shrubs against a wall or fence, now is a good time to trim any shoots that are growing outwards.

Continue sowing salad crops both indoors and out – in fact most seeds can now be sown outside including annuals and vegetables. Rocket is a good crop for a partially shaded site as it is less prone to bolting (going to seed too early).

Pot up containers and hanging baskets. Cram as many plants in as possible and incorporate water retaining granules to reduce the need for watering, although this still will have to be done daily even in wet weather. Include a couple of evergreens and keep the plants dead headed and fed throughout the summer.

Box hedge can now be trimmed, and any spring flowering perennials can also be trimmed back. Now is also the time for the "Chelsea Chop". This involves cutting back perennials by about a third which makes them bushy and increases the flowering later in the year.

Finally now is also a good time to re-pot houseplants. If the root ball looks ok, just re-pot it with some fresh compost. However if the roots are circling around the pot, then it needs potting *on* ie to a larger pot.

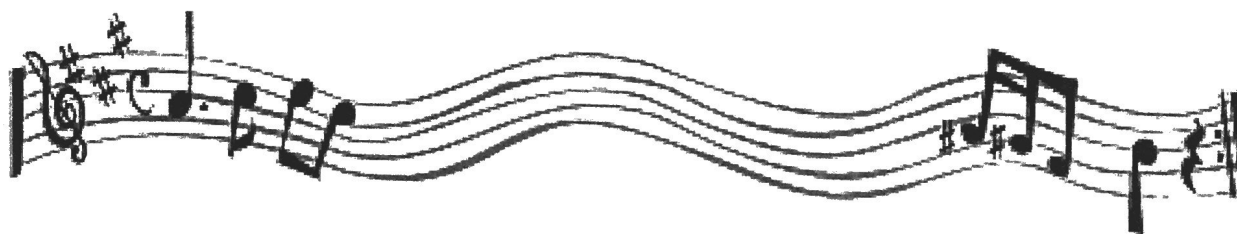
Martin Gulliver



May Quiz – Mystery Musicals

The answers to the clues are popular musicals. Send your answers to Eleanor, 23 Masefield Crescent by 23rd May.

- 1) Twist in the tale _____
- 2) Grumpy French people? _____
- 3) Felines _____
- 4) Night time fast train _____
- 5) Young lady from Vietnam _____
- 6) Me and the Monarch _____
- 7) Texas to the South, Kansas to the North _____
- 8) My Italian Mum _____
- 9) Ocean compass point _____
- 10) Slangy gents and ladies _____
- 11) A little orphan _____
- 12) Adam's diminutive wife _____
- 13) Tale from a compass point _____
- 14) I own beautiful woman _____
- 15) Music loving ghost _____
- 16) Acquire a firearm, number 11 _____
- 17) Fairground ride _____
- 18) Demonstrate water craft _____
- 19) In a dirty frying pan _____
- 20) Deity's magic trick _____



Answers to the April quiz – The quiz was won by Janice Crapper of Masefield Crescent.
1) fig 2) plum 3) pear 4) date 5) peach 6) apricot 7) orange 8) apple 9) grape 10) lemon
11) currant 12) mango 13) banana 14) melon 15) papaya 16) lime 17) kiwi 18) lychee

Councillors' Surgeries
Tim Oates or Samantha Bowring 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 Meetings:

Wednesday 13th May 2009 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room

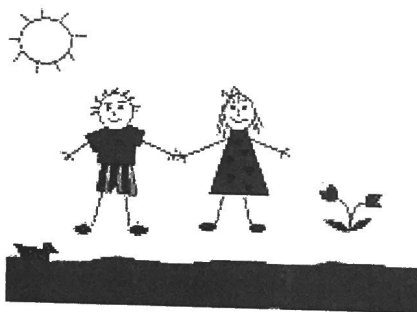
Deadline for items for the next newsletter: Saturday 23rd May 2009

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**