

Tithe Farm and Ladygrove Newsletter

November 2004

Welcome to the November newsletter. With Christmas fast approaching and thoughts turning to Christmas shopping, our seasonal coach trip, this year to Milton Keynes, has proved very popular. If you have any suggestions for future trips or other activities we would be very delighted to hear them, or if you would like to publicise local events or activities, we would be very pleased to know about them. When are they going to start installing those traffic lights at the junction of Preston Road/Drayton Road? Maybe by the time this newsletter is delivered, work will be underway and they will actually be using those miles of cable, keep left bollards and Dr Who type Tardis boxes that are cluttering up the green at the end of Masefield and Wordsworth.

Anonymous Letter

A relatively new resident received an anonymous letter complaining that he had not cleared up after his dog. In fact, the letter was not really anonymous, as it purported to come from the "Tithe Farm Association". No such letter had been sent from or approved by the Residents' Association, and while we would all agree that owners should clear up after their dogs and thank the majority who do, we strongly disagree with the sending of this type of letter. It puts committee members in a very awkward position when they are accused of sending a letter which they have never seen before. It sometimes occurs to me, particularly when watching the television news, that there are more important things in life than dog's mess and we should not get bogged down in it. That is a very unfortunate turn of phrase, so I will now shut up.

Alan Huggins

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HUGGINS.JPG

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How to engage the community in local politics

How to engage the community in local politics? This is a question that is presently taxing the brains of many a pundit. I know one answer. Do something controversial in the planning field.

The other evening I was at a meeting in the Guildhall. I think it's title should have been 'People of Abingdon versus the Co-Op'.

For those who do not receive and or read a local newspaper, a new building of a somewhat modern design is going to replace the old Co-Op in West St Helens Street. The Vale of White Horse District Council has approved the plans, following the correct procedures. They were passed on the casting vote of the chair.

The Town Council had strongly opposed the plans and as has happened in the past, were not listened to. However at the meeting attended by well over a hundred people, the Co-Op learned of the displeasure of the people of town. I doubt if we will have any effect, as it was all too late.

Still the point of this rambling discourse is that many of those who were objecting had originally not known what was proposed so became organised too late.

The Office of the Deputy Prime minister has now issued a guidance booklet with recommendations to improve the access to planning information for the likes of us. The title is "Good-practice Guidance on Access to and Charging for Planning Information"

The Guidance summarises existing legislative requirements such as the Local Government Act 2000, European Directive 90/313/EEL and The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 – and anticipates the coming into force of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on the 1st January 2005. Definitely a best seller for Christmas! So order your copy now!

However there **are** a number of recommendations. I will not bore those who have stuck with me so far with all of them, but some are worthy of note, these are;

- Reviewing neighbour-notification letters to ensure that they can be easily understood and are not intimidating.
- Using the word "would" instead of "will" in planning reports, to avoid giving the impression that a decision has already been taken.
- Making planning policy documents available from more outlets including libraries, parish halls, community buildings and even post offices and supermarkets.

Those are just a few of the recommendations, many of the others the Vale already carries out.

On a more personal note most of our personal problems relating to Hilary's father are now resolved, now that he is settled in a very caring Residential Care home and we hope to be back to normal in the New Year.

Meanwhile have a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year and we are both looking forward to representing you all next year.

Hilary & Peter Green – 01235 535896

Decorate your own ceramics

at Creative Corner This innovative ceramics studio has recently opened up at the corner of Spring Road and Edward Street, (where Abigas used to be). They have a large and varied stock of unpainted, unglazed pottery, and, for £4 plus the cost of your chosen item, you paint and decorate it to your taste. It is then fired and glazed and you go back and collect it a few days later. There are tiles, plates, bowls, mugs, vases, figurines and many more to choose from. There are stencils and stamps for the less artistic, as well as plenty of advice. Groups and children's parties can be catered for and there are also evening sessions and courses available as well as "Take away" sets to paint at home. It's a really relaxing and enjoyable way to spend a couple of hours.

For more information, call 0800 083 5893.

ABINGDON EXTENSIONS

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Tel: Vince Simmonds 07752 626308 / 01235 527541

Quiz Page

The answers to last month's **Animal Alphabet** quiz were:

A – alligator B – bison C – chimpanzee D – dolphin E – eagle F – flamingo g – gnu h
hornbill I – ibis J – jackal K – koala L – lemur M – mandrill N – newt O – ocelot P –
panda Q – quail
R – reindeer S – sloth T – turtle U – ungulates V – vulture W – warthog Y – yak Z –
zebra

This month's quiz, open to all ages, is about titles of films, old and new. Solve the cryptic clues and send your answers to Eleanor at 23, Masefield by Sunday 12th December.

Box Office Brain Busters

- 1) You must remember this North African city. _____
- 2) No longer here. – Must have blown away. _____
- 3) Mandibles. _____
- 4) These young sheep are very quiet. _____
- 5) Gilded digit. _____
- 6) Cat with eight arms. _____
- 7) Continue to behave like a gay person. _____
- 8) The Bard is enamoured. _____
- 9) 24 hours of a scavenging dog. _____
- 10) A guy who is Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. _____
- 11) Rejected. _____
- 12) Practitioner of Magic from Down Under. _____
- 13) 3 years ago. _____
- 14) Astral Battles. _____
- 15) He's not from round here. _____
- 16) Short name of an Anglo Saxon king. _____
- 17) They destroy things that hold back water. _____
- 18) Neat room dividers or exits to your patio. _____
- 19) Between Queensway and Holland Park. _____
- 20) Discovering – fortunately **not** Michael Jackson's residence. _____
- 21) Found in a dirty frying pan. _____
- 22) Delicious brown confection. _____
- 23) William is untruthful. _____
- 24) He got his degree. _____
- 25) Where are you going? – as the Romans would say. _____

Dear Editor,

Your article about the horrifying telephone scam in the current newsletter made me wonder whether all of the residents know about the Telephone Preference service (TPS). Under the Privacy and Electronic (EC Directive) Regulations 2003, if you register with them it is illegal for anyone to cold call you. The service is free and the organisation non-profit making. You can register with them, and they will make sure that you do not receive any calls from commercial people whom you've not previously contacted yourself. This service is particularly useful if you have elderly relatives who find such calls frightening and confusing. When I registered our numbers, with their agreement, I also registered my parents' and in-laws' numbers. Whether from banks offering their discounted private health or crooks like the ones in your article, we have been free of any unsolicited calls (which always used to happen at mealtimes or in the middle of crucial televised football). A colleague who registered had one call, mentioned she was registered with TPS and the perpetrator put the phone down instantly. The website to contact is <http://www.tpsonline.org.uk> and you can also follow links to the Mail Preference Service, which deals with unsolicited junk mail.

Yours sincerely,
Mike Matejtschuk
45 Mill Rd

Your Councillors Surgeries

Mike Badcock

Held on the 1st Saturday of the month 10.00 to 11.30 at the Conservative Club.

Peter and/or Hilary Green Peter and/or Hilary Green

Please note there will NOT be a surgery for us in December. We hope to resume 'normal service' ie a surgery on the second Saturday of the month, in January. The first one would be 8 January 2005!es to contact us meanwhile, please phone 01235 535896.

Many thanks

Contact Us:

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