

THE FARM & LADYGROVE NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2005

Welcome to the November newsletter. We hope that there will be something to interest everyone this month, and there is certainly a variety of items from lost cats to found toy tigers, from playgroups and Girl Guides to giant sunflowers, paintballing and T.V. interference. We have the third instalment of "Family Tree" and news of the proposed reservoir from Councillor Mike Badcock. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed an item this month or in the past few months. We are certainly getting more items than we used to, and that is what the newsletter should be all about – by the residents for the residents.

Some people have phoned asking whether there will be a Christmas shopping coach trip and I'm afraid the answer is that this year there is no one able to organise it. It is a time consuming task and a big responsibility and we are very grateful to people who have organised trips in the past. If anyone would like to organise a future trip, please let the committee know.

Litter Pick Many thanks to volunteers who took part in the litter pick on 15th with the help of Abingdon Green Gym. I think we made a pretty good job of clearing the area along the Ock Path to Tesco. We shall probably arrange another one in February, weather permitting, when the vegetation has died back. Of course, it would be nice if people didn't drop litter in the first place.

Drayton Dump Closure Don't forget that the Drayton dump will be closed from late October for three months.

Events in November

Quiz Night and Dinner to raise funds for the Save Radley Lakes campaign – fed up with fireworks? Scared of loud bangs? Then this is the evening for you.

This fund raising event will take place on Saturday 5th November from 7.30 to 11p.m. in Radley Village Hall. The cost is £9 per person, and includes a general knowledge quiz and an excellent two course dinner. There will also be a bar, a raffle and music. For tickets, contact Eleanor on 531 857.

Abingdon and District Music Society – Diamond Jubilee Year

Orchestral Concert – Saturday 12th November 7.30 p.m. in the Silk Hall, Radley College.
Finzi Clarinet Concerto and Dvorak Symphony no 7
Tickets - £10 at door/ £8 buy early/ £1 children. Tel. 01865 735 182 or from (successor to) Modern Music, High St.

Choral Concert – Saturday 26th November 7.30 p.m. in St Helen's Church, Abingdon.
Mozart C Minor Mass and Wind Serenade in C Minor – Ticket information as above.

Sunflower News – Do you remember the sunflower competition announced back in May? Well, Kim Jones of Orpwood Way has written with news of the sunflowers grown by her children, Zoe and Luke, aged 10 and 8. The tallest of the plants reached an amazing 2m 94cm. The children had great fun growing them and people may have seen the flowers while walking their dogs in the field at the back of Orpwood Way. The seeds are being saved and dried to plant more for next year and feed the birds in winter. Well done to Zoe and Luke. They win a Spotter's Guide to birds, flowers and trees.

I myself grew sunflowers for the first time this summer, at least, deliberately. One grew once by accident in a hanging basket at my last house, but I am rather a random gardener.

Found – Cuddly Toy A toy tiger about 15-20 inches high has been found. If it belongs to you, please phone 526 262.

County Councillors Mike and Marilyn Badcock

Reservoir This now appears more and more likely, the demand for water for London is increasing and despite the leaks not being repaired to save water all agencies are saying that the reservoir is needed. At this stage what we would most like to hear about is what expectations you have for a reservoir. What sort of protection and safeguards ought we be demanding on your behalf? What constraints do you expect to be put on the contractor? What facilities would you expect to be provided for you and your families in years to come?

Drayton Road The County Council are currently installing the Pelican Crossing requested by many residents.

30MPH Sign in Drayton This flashing sign is proving a great success in slowing traffic in Drayton, we have spoken with the County Engineers about additional ones in Abingdon, they cost about £3,000 each!!! We have identified a site in Spring Road to attempt to slow vehicles speeding down the hill, where a large number of children from this area cycle to and from school, another site we have identified is opposite the Saxton Road junction. What other ideas do you have or do you agree with these proposals (These will need to be submitted for capital bids very shortly)

2006 – Abingdon's 450th Birthday Next year is the 450th anniversary of Abingdon being granted its first charter. Is there anything you think ought to be done to celebrate this anniversary? Yes – we will be having a Bun Throwing!

Councillor Michael Badcock

District and Town Councillor for Ock Meadow Ward

County Councillor for Abingdon West Division

E-Mail michael.badcock@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Councillor Marilyn Badcock

County Councillor for Abingdon West Division

E-Mail marilyn.badcock@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Tel 01235 201810

Riverside Pre-School

Is your child two or approaching their second birthday? Are you thinking about sending him or her to pre-school? Then look no further than Riverside Pre-School, which has been working with pre-school children in Abingdon for nearly forty years!

Riverside was founded in Sept 1968 and has been running for 37 years. The pre-school is independently managed by a voluntary committee and run by a team of qualified staff who have been working with young children for a number of years. It is the only pre-school in South Abingdon and surrounding area that accepts children from their second birthday. Situated on the site of Thameside School in Cotman Close, it is within easy walking distance of the Tithe Farm and Ladygrove Estates. Those who attend can remain there until the term before their fifth birthday when they start full time education at school.

Everyone follows the Foundation level curriculum as set down by the Government. Topics include My Family and Minibeasts and also absorb seasonal events such as Christmas, Easter and Valentine's Day. Your child can benefit from the stimulus of being with children in their age range in a secure environment. Basic and social skills are subtly taught through play, a variety of craft activities, cooking and sessions playing with outdoor toys in the garden.

There is a high staff to child ratio. This ensures that a lot of one to one attention can be given and that individual needs can be met, especially when children are younger. We have a qualified Special Educational Needs Coordinator in attendance at every session. Riverside is open to all children in accordance with our Equal Opportunities policy. Individuals quickly become accustomed to routines including finding their name when they arrive, register, sitting down for a healthy snack mid session and story time before going home. All of these skills help them to adapt easily when they start school later on. All staff are very friendly and constantly liaise with parents to keep them informed of how their child is progressing and helping out with personal issues that may arise, such as potty training. At present, places for children at pre-school are funded by the government from the term after the child's third birthday. However, places for two and a half-year-olds are likely to be funded from April 2006.

Sessions at Riverside are run during term time in the morning, 915-1145, and afternoon, 1215-245. There is also a lunch club which enables children to stay all day if parents chose. There is a short waiting list which, in accordance with our admissions policy, is arranged in date of birth order. For more information about Riverside Pre-School, session availability, costs or an application form, please contact the Supervisor, Lesley Powell, on 01235 531670, or the Administrator, Gail Springate, on 01235 201367, gail.springate@ntlworld.com **Jane Nye**

Paintballing Have you tried paintballing?

If you like a fairly active sport that involves some short runs, ducking and diving then this is a pastime you might like to try. It is somewhat similar to laser quest but gives a bit more of an adrenaline rush. It is suitable for anyone above the age of 12 who is fairly mobile. I tried it at Centre Parc a couple of weeks ago and was sufficiently enthusiastic to try it again at one of the local venues (Hotshots at Newbury).

Is any one else already keen on this sport or interested in trying it out some time?

Please give me a ring if you would like to follow up on this.

Arthur (Tel : Abingdon 203071)

October Quiz answers and winner – The October Quiz was won by Jill Jones of Masefield Crescent. Here are the answers:

- 1)Big Ben 2)Brighton Beach 3)Billy Bunter 4)Black Beauty 5)Bed & Breakfast 6)Blue Blood 7)Bumble Bee 8)Bread & Butter 9)Bilbo Baggins 10)Boo Boo 11)Beri Beri 12)Black & Blue
13)Bouncing Bomb 14)Betty Boothroyd 15)Bull's Blood 16)Bartered Bride 17)Basil Brush
18)Barclays Bank 19)Ball Bearings 20)Blackboard

November Quiz – Four Letter Words The answers to these cryptic clues all consist of four letter words. The last letter of number one is the first letter of number two, and so on. I tried to make a clever grid, but couldn't manage it. Answers to Eleanor at 23 Masefield by 20th November. Here is a clue to start you off: Jump over 4th year. Answer: **LEAP** So the first letter of clue no.1 is **P**

- 1) Long for evergreen tree. _____ 2) Cheese that's always made backwards. _____
3) Gospel maker leaves a trace. _____
4) Enterprising captain goes to church over the border. _____
5) Retain possession of part of the castle. _____
6) Pop the humblest playing piece. _____
7) Crazy about hard shelled fruits. _____
8) Gaze endlessly at the celebrity. _____ 9) Flower came up with the sun. _____
10) Headless animal from the Orient. _____ 11) Adjust this part to catch it. _____
12) You have to earn a mint to play this. _____
13) Zero chaps foretell the future. _____
14) Abbreviated 1066 invader is just average. _____ 15) Only a lake. _____
16) Encourages a hen to lay. _____
17) Mythical tree men sorted and dispatched. _____
18) There's no beginning to this politician's tale. _____
19) Employ these churchyard trees. _____
20) Careful! The children may slide around _____

Have you seen my cat?

His name is Alfie and he is a cream colour, with brown markings and a dark tail. He is 3½ years old and is very sociable. He is often seen around the Tesco's car park area. He has specific dietary requirements so do not feed him. If you see him, or know where he is please contact me on

Abingdon 525919 or 07766 302204.
There is a reward for his safe return _____

Family tree 3

As mentioned in my last article, birth certificates are invaluable, but of course you can only go backwards to trace antecedents. How useful it would be to be able to go sideways and forwards to find spouses, brothers and sisters!

In fact this can be done through Census reports. A full census has been taken every ten years since 1801 and no doubt you will all recall sending off your family details in 2001. The most useful of the early censuses is that taken in 1881 and this is freely available. Oxford Library have it on CD ROMs which you can access there, but those with internet access can search it online free of charge at "www.familysearch.org" This site has several other ancestry sources, but for the moment I shall just cover the 1881 census.

The search page is very straightforward and once you type in the name of your ancestor this will bring up a list of appearances of this name, or variations thereof, and where it was found. Look for your ancestor under the sub-heading "Census - 1881 British Census" and click on the name to bring up brief details. If this looks like your subject, click on "Household" in the top right corner to bring up the full census report. This will show who was at the property on the night of the census, their relationship to the "Head" of the house, where they were born and their age and profession.

This is invaluable in filling out details of your family - I discovered that my great grandfather was a farmer's son and had eight brothers and sisters! Be warned however that in those days census were collected verbally at the door and handwritten in a large book, so misheard names and doubtful handwriting can lead to mistakes in the reported details. Census for later years up to 1901 are also available, the last one being at "www.census.pro.gov.uk" although it is pay to view
MartinGulliver

Poor TV reception

Wonder if any other residents are having poor reception from their televisions. We live in Chauntrell Way and have noticed this happening more regularly and to be perfectly honest has now become very annoying and a real problem. My husband has tried everything concerning the aerial but as it only seems to happen at certain times we feel sure that this is some sort of radio transmission interference or something similar. On looking around the estate a lot of our neighbours either have a dish or aerials on long poles contacted to the outside of the house quite high up. If anyone can throw any light on this issue then please email me on fraz251261@aol.com. **Karen Fraser**

Councillors' Surgeries
Peter and/or Hilary Green – 2nd Saturday of the month 10 – 11.15a.m. Jephson Common Room.

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

**Date of the next TFLRA Committee Meeting –
Wednesday 9th November 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room.
Deadline for items for the next newsletter – Sunday 20th November 2005**

Contact us – items for publication:
Eleanor Dangerfield 01235 531 857 23 Masefield Cr
eleanor@thedangerfields.plus.com
Grenville Wells tithefarm2@yahoo.co.uk

Potholes in the roads and uneven pavements – reported early this year.

As these are the responsibility of the County Council, reports to the relevant departments were made. Officers came to survey the estate's roads and paving and it was agreed that there is a problem. The officers advised that these would be noted for future work. As no more has been heard, the matter is being raised again with the officers!! Watch this space

Bus services to South Abingdon

The Town Council has appointed a working group to meet with representatives of the bus company and local public transport users. Dates of meetings are yet to be confirmed.

Trolleys in the Ock – several reports have been made to the Vale of White Horse District Council on this one! However, it has recently come to our notice that guidance from DEFRA on new legislation is being circulated for consultation.

The 'Clean neighbourhoods and Environment Act' received Royal Assent in April 2005. A number of measures came into force in June, with further measures brought into force in Oct. The rest of the measures are intended to come into force in April 2006. Before they do, the government will issue guidance to assist local authorities and others to understand the legislation.

A document containing the guidance in draft form, along with draft regulations about provision for fixed penalty notices and dog control orders is in circulation for consultation. The consultation paper is to be found at the DEFRA website - www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/default.asp

Part 12 of the document deals with abandoned trolleys.

The guidance encourages partnership work between retailers, businesses, local authorities, the Environment Agency and other local organisations. The intention would be to put measures 'in place to avoid trolley losses in the first place.'

Watercourses are specifically mentioned in the guidance. 'Subsection (3) allows the Agency (Environment Agency) to recover reasonable expenses for works, operations or investigations from any person who has 'caused or knowingly permitted' the matter (trolley) to enter the water.....

It will be interesting to note future correspondence from Tesco on this matter! **Councillors Peter & Hilary Green**

Girls Wanted!

Do you want to have a great time playing games,
having fun, learning new skills, camping,
making new friends?

Want to do all this and more?

Are you aged 7-10 or 10-14?

If yes give us and call and join

Abingdon Brownies and Guides

01235 553645 - Brownies

01235 525614 - Guides

<http://uk.geocities.com/sthelensguides/>

