

TITHE FARM & LADYGROVE NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2006

November is the month of the Drayton Road traffic survey, so read about how you can fill in our double-sided sheet and give your views and suggestions of how to improve the traffic situation.

An apology for the lateness of the October newsletter. This was because of a problem with the copier, which needed replacement parts before the newsletters could be printed.

Bin Complaint – The temptation to say that there has been a complaint has proved irresistible, but I must be serious. A resident has written to the TFLRA about bins left where they shouldn't be:

“For some time I have noticed that the refuse collectors can be very slack in where they deposit the empty dustbins. I have seen dustbins left in the middle of the footpath and not removed by the resident for up to three days: this can be especially dangerous during the winter months when they can blow around in the road. I wonder if residents realise that, under certain circumstances, they can be personally liable for any injury caused by a dustbin left in the road or on the footpath.”

The matter of where the refuse collectors leave the bins has been passed on to the District Council.

However, please collect your emptied bin from outside your house as soon as possible. Obviously, if you have gone off to work before the collection, you can't collect your bin until you get home, but if you are away, ask a neighbour to take it in or leave bags.

Please wrap up meat scraps securely so animals can't get at them.

Please recycle as much as possible. There are now facilities for recycling most things.

There is a recycling point in Tesco car park for cardboard.

If you see a bin rolling around in the road, please be public spirited, pick it up, put it behind a wall, the right one if it's got a house number on it or anywhere visible out of harm's way.

Serious assault on the Ock Meadow footpath. Early on the morning of Saturday 7th October (at about 1a.m.) a young man was attacked as he was walking home, on the footpath which goes alongside the Ock Meadow behind the Chaunterell Way houses. He remembers being hit hard on both sides of the head so he thinks there must have been at least two assailants. As a result of the attack, he suffered a broken jaw and had to have an operation to repair it. The police were informed and have been to speak to him. The motive cannot have been robbery as neither his money nor his mobile phone were taken. Please beware if you plan to come this way at night and if you have any suspicions, inform the police.

Good bus news! The 35A route will run every half hour during peak periods, starting in December.

Also the X3 will start running to the JR Hospital.

As with all bus services, **USE THEM OR LOSE THEM!**

Events - Friday 24th November – Charter Day – Merry Tudor Christmas Extravaganza
Roads close 5p.m. – Parade 6.45 p.m. – Christmas lights switched on 7p.m. – Fireworks 8.15 p.m.

Saturday 25th November – Mayor's Charity Dinner and Dance – 7.30p.m. Guildhall
For tickets contact the Information Centre.

Tuesday 12th December – Mayor's Over 70's Christmas Party – 2p.m. Guildhall

Free tickets available from the Information Centre from 27th November

The telephone number of the town's Information Centre is 01235 522 771

Abingdon Drama Club

presents

The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams

Wednesday 15th - Saturday 18th November at 7.30 p.m.

Unicorn Theatre

Tickets: £7, concessions £6, Dawson's Music, High St. or Ticketline 01235 524 538

Drayton Road Traffic Survey

Most people agree that the Drayton Road traffic jams have been getting steadily worse and the opening of the first phase of the AbITS scheme has not improved matters. The idea of the scheme is to ease congestion in the town centre, but this pushes traffic out to the periphery. We hope, therefore, that you will take the time to fill in the survey in this newsletter. It is a pilot survey and not scientifically based. We are asking you to do three things: a) to tell us about your use of the Drayton Road by car or bus b) to time one typical journey and c) to give us your ideas on how the situation could be improved. If enough people take part, we can present the findings to the Vale Council and start a campaign. By the time you receive this newsletter, an article on this subject will have appeared in the **Abingdon Herald**. As many households have more than one vehicle and we also want to include bus users, we have allowed space for up to 3 cars per household and a bus user, so more than one family member can fill in the survey. We are only able this time to concentrate on the stretch of road between Mill Road and the Ock St./Marcham Road double roundabout. If you run out of space, please feel free to use extra sheets. For "car" also read "van. We don't want van drivers to be left out!

Wedding Congratulations

Matthew and Helen Lawson (nee Corner) of Masefield Crescent
were married on 22nd September 2006.

We wish them all the best for the future.

FOR SALE

Double oven/grill built under Gas Stoves Heritage range, white/brass.
£99 o.n.o Tel: 01235 200 822

Drayton Road Traffic Survey

Name _____ (optional) Address _____ (optional)

You don't have to give us your name or address but if you do, you will be entered for our free prize draw, to thank you for taking the trouble to complete the survey.
Please circle the answer that applies to you.

Part 1

Do you travel regularly on the Drayton Road northwards, towards the Ock Street/ Marcham Road double roundabout? a) by car b) by bus

How many cars are there in your household? None 1 2 3 more

How often do you make this journey in a typical week? Car 1 Car 2
Car 3 Bus

For what purposes do you travel on the Drayton Road northwards? (you may circle more than one.)

Car 1	Work/college	School run	shopping	leisure
Car 2	Work/college	School run	shopping	leisure
Car 3	Work/college	School run	shopping	leisure
Bus	Work/college	School run	shopping	leisure

Would you leave your car at home if there were a frequent, regular, cheap bus service?
Yes Car 1 Car 2 Car 3

No, my car is essential. Car 1 Car 2 Car 3

Space to comment on the above question.

Briefly describe your worst Drayton Road journey since 1/10/06, giving, if possible, date and approximate time of day.

Part 2

In this part we would like you to time a typical journey from the junction of Mill Road/ Drayton Road (including queuing time to get out of Mill Road), to the Ock St/Marcham Road double roundabout. Please give day, date and time taken.

Car 1

Day _____ Date _____ Time of day _____ Time taken _____ min

Car 2

Day _____ Date _____ Time of day _____ Time taken _____ min

Car 3

Day _____ Date _____ Time of day _____ Time taken _____ min

Bus (From bus stop in front of Coleridge Drive)

Day _____ Date _____ Time of day _____ Time taken _____ min

Any comments (e.g. transporters blocking road)

Part 3

In this part there are suggestions as to how the traffic situation could be improved. Please tick if you agree and leave blank if you don't. There is space for more than one car user or a bus user in your household to tick.

Reopen the old slip roads on to the A34 between Steventon and Drayton.

Car 1 _____ Car 2 _____ Car 3 _____ Bus _____

Have a proper interchange on to and off the A34 at North Abingdon.

Car 1 _____ Car 2 _____ Car 3 _____ Bus _____

Traffic lights at the double roundabout.

Car 1 _____ Car 2 _____ Car 3 _____ Bus _____

A more frequent, regular bus service which serves more destinations, cheaper (or even free)

Car 1 _____ Car 2 _____ Car 3 _____ Bus _____

"Safe Routes to Schools", a "walking bus" for younger children (this would need dedication and volunteers, but has been successful in some areas.)

Car 1 _____ Car 2 _____ Car 3 _____ Bus _____

Now we would like your suggestions. Attach another sheet if necessary.

This is a pilot survey. Is there any way in which it could be improved?

THANK YOU! Please drop your completed survey in to 23 Masefield or 9 Ely Cl by 19th Nov.

October Quiz answers The joint winners of the October quiz were Sandra Cox and John and Karen Miller of Masefield Crescent. Here are the answers: Seven up, Sunny D, tea, port, water, Teachers, cider, Dr Pepper, Tango, rum, Bloody Mary, Bells, squash, Screwdriver, mild, shandy, wine, Carlsberg, tonic, soda.

November Quiz - Round Britain Quiz- The answers are all seaside towns or ports. Begin in Kent and proceed clockwise round the coast of Britain. Answers to Eleanor, 23 Masefield by 19th November. You may write them on a separate sheet if you wish.

- 1) Access for male sheep _____
- 2) People's rock _____
- 3) Hurrying to the great battle _____
- 4) Moo across the Solent _____
- 5) Aquatic snooker _____
- 6) King's citrus drink _____
- 7) Former gob _____
- 8) Pirates' domain _____
- 9) Opens modern locks? _____
- 10) Top of the pit _____
- 11) Home of a wonder horse? _____
- 12) Long necked marine bird? _____
- 13) Piscatorial protector _____
- 14) Prickly topknot _____
- 15) Dark pond _____
- 16) Opposite of Wise _____
- 17) Pale refuge _____
- 18) One of the four elements _____
- 19) After Wedo and before Frio _____
- 20) A candle needs one _____
- 21) Patron saint of golf? _____
- 22) Defensive armour opposite North _____
- 23) Home of Captain Cook _____
- 24) Body of a ship _____
- 25) Cartoon moggy's foot digit _____

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 15th November 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room.
Deadline for items for the next newsletter – Sunday 19th November 2006**

Contact us – items for publication:

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eledanger@hotmail.com
Grenville Wells tithefarm2@yahoo.co.uk

PROTECT YOUR HOME THIS AUTUMN

With the autumn evenings approaching, it is time to focus on keeping your home secure. Leaving your home during hours of darkness, without putting on lights or drawing the curtains, indicates to the opportunist criminal that there is no-one at home. Unfortunately, every year sees a spate of early evening burglaries associated with the clocks going back. Please help us to help you by taking the steps outlined below:

- use an automatic timer switch on an indoor light, either in a room that cannot be peered into from the road, or upstairs. Regularly change the time settings
- put a timer switch on a radio that has been tuned to a chat station, this will give the impression that the house is occupied.
- fit security lighting, either dusk or dawn energy efficient lighting that will come on automatically as dusk sets in
- ensure gates and access to the rear of your home are locked and secure. Don't forget to lock your shed, your tools can be used to break in. Trim overgrown plants, don't give burglars a hiding place.
- secure windows, paying particular attention to those on the ground floor and above flat roof areas. Use locks and bolts and keep your keys, including your car keys, out of sight and out of reach.
- Property mark your valuables by using your postcode and house name or number. Contact your local crime reduction adviser for alternative types of property marking. Intruder alarms are an effective deterrent. Before choosing a system ensure it is the most suitable one for your needs, and if you want free independent advice, please call your local crime reduction adviser on 08458 505 505

