

TITHE FARM & LADYGROVE NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2007

Welcome to the October newsletter. With the floods and their aftermath still very much on people's minds, it might be a good idea to talk about the Extraordinary Vale Council meeting, held at the Guildhall on Wednesday 12th September on the subject of the recent floods. For this reason, we decided to postpone the TFLRA Committee meeting until the following Wednesday.

Lucy Hutton, a Ladygrove resident who was flooded, and County Councillor Mike Badcock, spoke of their experiences. Lucy received no official warning but thanked Mike for warning her, she said how there were no sandbags, of course, until afterwards and no help from the Council, and felt she was being treated "like a criminal" in the following days. We would like to thank her very much for standing up and speaking. She voiced the views of many other flood victims. Mike also spoke of the lack of warning and the lack of communication between the various services and agencies and the length of time it took for carpets, furniture and white goods to be collected from outside houses. He also spoke about the folly of allowing more house building on the floodplain. Councillors from all parts of the Vale then spoke, mentioning similar problems and factors which exacerbated the flooding, such as blocked ditches, drains and culverts. A big problem was the lack of clarity in which agency or service was responsible for what. One councillor said that the problem had become worse since the old National Rivers Authority responsibilities passed to the Environment Agency.

The Vale Council has produced a report, which includes suggestions of how improvements in communication and emergency planning can be made for the future.

Councillor Samantha Bowring, who also spoke as a flood victim herself, and Councillor Lorraine Smith have been knocking on all the doors of everyone who was flooded in the Ock Meadow Ward, but because many people were out or had moved to temporary accommodation, they missed a lot of people.

Councillor Beth Fleming announced a **Public meeting about the Floods, with Dr Evan Harris M.P. to be held on Friday 16th November at the Guildhall.** More details to follow. **Please tell anyone you know who has temporarily moved away, about this meeting.** There will be another reminder in the next newsletter.

There is a **Flood Recovery Grant of £250,000 from Central Government.** Sorry, it isn't £250,000 each.) It has been decided that each flooded household will receive **£250** (which might buy a few necessary take-away meals while your kitchen is out of action.)

We are planning to write, on behalf of Tithe Farm and Ladygrove, a letter to the Environment Agency, asking what steps they propose to take to prevent future flooding of the Ock. Regular clearing of debris, vegetation and trolleys are obvious steps. I know there are rumours flying around about a lot of surplus water be-

ing let into the Ock to prevent flooding of the Frilford Heath golf course, and this does have a certain seductive toffs v. ordinary folk ring to it, but whatever happened, there are sluice gates all over the place to "manage" rivers, so it cannot be beyond the wit of the Environment Agency to prevent flooding of a residential area from a little river like the Ock.

Any suggestions for the content of this letter would be welcome.

FLOOD THANKS

Kirsty and Alan Hutt of Shepherd Gardens would like to thank everyone who has given them help and support since the flood, with special thanks to John and Christine and Margaret and David. They are looking forward to being home soon.

Thanks also to those people who have taken over some newsletter delivery rounds or extra rounds when regular deliverers have been evacuated, unwell or otherwise unable to do the deliveries. Your help is much appreciated.

Police presence –A resident has suggested that it would be a good thing to see more police patrols of the area since many houses are standing empty or in the process of being repaired.

Last month there was a suggestion from some residents that a second entrance to the Tithe Farm estate should be created opposite Preston Road. This did not, unsurprisingly, meet with universal approval. Here are some counter arguments: A new entrance would turn the estate into a rat run for drivers trying to beat the queue up Drayton Road. It would make it even more difficult to turn out of Mill Road in the rush hour. Many people drive much too fast through the estate anyway, without inviting extra drivers to do the same. If the emergency services need to get on to the estate quickly and it really is a matter of life and death, they can drive over the grass. Unfortunately we have no response from Councillor Badcock on our request to investigate a link road so that people can get off the estate and emergency vehicles can get on

Following June Wright's letter in the September newsletter about children and disturbance to Jephson residents, we have received this response:

To readers,

In response to June Wright's letter, I think it's fantastic that we can have a forum such as this newsletter for discussion on issues such as the children playing around the Jephson flats.

I sympathise with the issues raised by June and am personally fortunate enough to have never experienced any criminal damage or have known of any criminal damage, even though I live directly opposite the Jephson flats. Certainly if such damage exists, it should be a case for the police rather than this newsletter.

I would however be concerned at labelling all children in that area as disrespecting, harassing and worrying elderly neighbours. Individual cases should be dealt with individually rather than communally.

Children of course can be a nuisance, yet it is delightful to see so many families on a family estate coming together in the neighbourhood by their children playing with each other. It is so enjoyable to watch the children playing, learning, communicating and growing up rather than sitting indoors playing video games.

Please let individual cases be such and not "group" label our children and indeed parents.

Sarah Woods

Sarah also had a question about the traffic lights at the end of Preston Road: I have been trying to teach my children how to use traffic lights the correct way. On doing this, we have been using the traffic lights from Tithe Farm to Preston Road. Unlike other traffic lights, they do not make a noise. I have been trying to teach the children to listen to the lights as well as looking at them. This must be dangerous for people with bad eyesight. Does anyone know if the traffic lights should make a noise and what we can do about it?

I'll try and find out why those traffic lights don't beep. If anyone else knows, please contact the newsletter.

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR!

Abingdon Fair takes place on Monday and Tuesday 8th and 9th October. Ock Street will be closed to traffic and the traffic flow on the iron bridge at the end of Caldecott Road will be reversed. Traffic diversions will begin on Sunday 7th. The runaway fair will take place on Monday 15th October. The centre of town between East and West St Helen's Street will be closed and the iron bridge traffic reversed. Enjoy!

ITEMS FOR SALE

CHILD'S COT – very good condition - £25
CREAM ICE DIAMOND FRIDGE – reasonable condition - £10
Tel: 01235 528 795

**GAS BBQ – 3 ½ foot high, 2ft 2in long,
extending to 3ft8in long (as both sides extend)**
Good condition - £20
Tel: 01235 532 334

WANTED – Donations of wool (3 or 4 ply) suitable for knitting garments for the premature baby unit at the J.R.
Phone Gilly Lovegrove on 01235 201 854. She will collect if necessary.



SAVE RADLEY LAKES

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 27th October 2007 - 7.30 for 8p.m. start
at Radley Village Hall

Bar, Raffle, Prizes

Teams of 6-8 or join a team when you arrive
Tickets £10 – including delicious home-cooked supper
Tel: Eleanor – 01235 531 857 (yes, I make up the questions, so if
you enjoy newsletter quizzes, why not come along?)

Be Good Neighbours!!

If something is bothering you about a neighbouring property, or you see a problem or something unusual, I am sure that it would be appreciated if you knock on the door and speak to the householder so that they can deal with it. They may not know that there is anything wrong!! It may be trees overhanging the pathway, cars parked inconveniently or stones from a driveway causing inconvenience, but whatever it is, it is far more neighbourly to speak to the householder and give them a chance to remedy the situation, than going straight to the council or relevant Authority and complaining. Maybe your neighbour needs help, and you may be just the person to do that. Please don't judge them until you have 'Walked a mile in their shoes'



ABINGDON OPERATIC SOCIETY
present
THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL
The New Musical Adventure
22nd – 27th October 2007
Amey Theatre – Abingdon School
Tickets from £8 (child, student) to £12
www.abingdonoperatic.co.uk
Tel: 01235 834 383

The Garden in October

As I write this we are having a bit of an Indian summer so many jobs that were needed in September can also apply in this month. We should be frost-free still as the first frost over the last few years has not been until early November.

Continue to mow the lawn as necessary and clear up and compost fallen leaves. Evergreen shrubs can still be planted while the soil is comparatively warm, and new climbers and perennials can also be planted. Existing perennials can be lifted, divided and re-planted to increase the number of plants. Keep the new pieces around the edge of the plant and discard the older middle piece. As a rule of thumb a perennial left to its own devices is often past its best after three or four years, so splitting it ever few years prolongs its life.

Now is also a good time to pot up hanging baskets with winter-flowering pansies or violas. Plant them in the baskets and then cut off all the flowers, so the roots get a chance to establish. This will provide longer lasting plants and better flowering through the winter. Remember to keep an eye on watering as although the winter might be wet, winds can dry the baskets very quickly. Similarly pots for the winter can also be planted up with evergreens, heathers and bulbs.

Martin Gulliver

September Quiz Answers and October Quiz – Here are the answers to the September Quiz:

- 1)Quakers 2)Quarantine 3)Quail 4)Quorn 5)Quasimodo 6)Quart 7)Quavers 8) Queen 9)Quark 10)Quinquagesima 11)Quisling 12)Quinine 13)Quince 14)Quiver 15)Quixote 16)Quagmire 17)Quoits 18)Quidditch 19)Quartz 20)Queensberry

October Quiz – Silver and Gold - The answers to the clues all contain the word **silver or gold/golden**. Answers to Eleanor, 23 Masefield, by 20th October.

We begin with the names of three James Bond films:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) Pensioner on the internet _____
- 5) Peg-leg pirate with parrot _____
- 6) The forty-niners took part in this _____
- 7) Every cloud has one _____
- 8) Sir Francis Drake's ship _____
- 9) Book in the Narnia series _____
- 10) Woolly object won by Jason and the Argonauts _____
- 11) National celebration in 2002 _____
- 12) The price of betrayal _____
- 13) Aquila Chrysaetos (large bird of prey) _____
- 14) Second best in the Olympics _____
- 15) Colonial name for Ghana _____
- 16) She annoyed an ursine trio _____
- 17) Graceful tree with a white bark _____
- 18) Wriggly insect in damp books or plaster _____
- 19) Colourful seed-eating garden bird _____
- 20) Hyperbolic name for McDonalds logo _____
- 21) You shouldn't kill this fairytale bird _____
- 22) Joint of beef _____
- 23) Steeplechase held every March _____
- 24) It crosses Californian water _____
- 25) Mercury _____

Why not contribute your quiz to the newsletter? It should not be too specialised and have questions with, preferably, only one possible answer.

Also, if you enjoy quizzes, see the advert for the Quiz Night on 27th October.

Councillors' Surgeries

**Samantha Bowring 2nd Saturday of the month Jephson Common Room
10-30 to 11-30 am**

**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 10th October 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room.
Deadline for items for the next newsletter – Saturday 20th October 2007**

Contact us – items for publication:

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eledanger@hotmail.com

Grenville Wells tithefarm2@yahoo.co.uk

Welcome to our new PCSO

My name is Sam Agutter and I am your new PCSO for the Tithe Farm area of Abingdon.

I have been a PCSO for three months now, so I am fresh out of training and eager to help, the Abingdon South Neighbourhood Team, tackle the issues identified by the Neighbourhood Action Group.

I live relatively locally and, before becoming a PCSO, worked for the Oxfordshire County Council.

Being a PCSO gives me the opportunity to get to know the community and to assist people wherever possible.

I can be contacted by using the Police non emergency number or by e-mail. If I am not on duty, you can leave a message for me and I will contact you.

08458 505 505

DASCSA@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

