

## **Tithe Farm & Ladygrove Newsletter October 2008**

**Welcome** to the October newsletter. This month brings Abingdon Fair (6th & 7th), Ock Street closed, iron bridge traffic flow reversed and the Runaway Fair (13th), High Street closed – fun for some with rides, candyfloss and huge, unmanageable soft toy prizes but irritation for others. Sorry we couldn't warn you about the traffic chaos in early September, but the hole in West St. Helen's Street appeared rather suddenly.

**Residents' Association Meetings** – we need more people at these meetings! It is not a formal committee meeting and you don't have to come every time. A local Councillor attends whenever possible, so if you have concerns or questions, come along and voice them, otherwise it looks as if nobody really cares. The newsletter gets e-mails complaining about all sorts of things, so why not come along and have your say?

**Any good news?** – The newsletter publishes so many complaints and grumbles, and while all of these are perfectly reasonable, we would like some good news! Send in any success stories, congratulations, anniversaries, 100th birthdays, news of awards or medals and we will be delighted to publish them and cheer everybody up!

### **POLICE SURGERY**

**Come and meet your local Police Community Support Officers**

**Monday 20th October 5p.m.-7p.m. in the Jephson Common Room**

**This is a great opportunity to meet your local officers  
and express any concerns you may have.**

**If you have any questions or enquiries, contact PCSO Chris Cochrane  
or PCSO Emma Chavagnon on 0845 8 505 505**

**Playground Equipment** – I'm sure many readers will have noticed that the playground equipment, which was taken away from the playground behind Chaunterell Way has not yet been replaced. This was the statement made on behalf of the Council's Amenities and Recreation Committee:

“The Amenities and Recreation Committee took the decision to refurbish the whole of the Chaunterell Way play area. It was hoped that the equipment would be in place by the beginning of September. However, there have been some hold ups. Notices were placed all around the area, but these have been ripped down and destroyed by vandals. The play area equipment should be with us soon.”

Back in February, Councillor Samantha Bowring asked for ideas for play equipment from young children and their parents. Three replies were received by the newsletter and these were forwarded to Councillor Bowring. I had thought there would be some further consultations but there haven't been any, so let's hope respondents' ideas were taken into account when choosing the new equipment.

**Masefield Playing Field Equipment** – The newsletter received a note from two lads about the surface under the metal football kicking wall with basketball hoop attachment.

The grass grows through the "safe" surface and means that basketballs don't bounce properly. I must say the players have a point. It may sound ungrateful, but it would have been far cheaper and simpler to have installed a new basketball post where the old one was and resurfaced the surround.

**Illegal Short Cuts** – A Coleridge resident has complained about drivers who take short cuts across the grass to avoid traffic queues in Drayton Road. The newsletter has been contacted several times in the past about this. Apart from messing up the grass, it is **illegal, selfish and dangerous**. If you see anyone doing this, take the vehicle's registration number and phone the police (08458 505 505). If the driver is big, scary and your next door neighbour, phone the newsletter.

**Damaged Bridge** – The bridge over the Ock at the end of Mill Lane has been closed for over a month due to damage by vandals. A resident phoned the Vale's emergency number over the bank holiday weekend to report the damage, but nothing could be done at that time. She also complained about the state of the path. This was the letter she received from the Vale:

"Regrettably, there has been a spate of malicious damage to a number of properties in Abingdon during the past week. We are aware of the damage to this bridge and urgent repairs have been organised. Your letter also mentions the condition of the path and we will look into this as a separate matter."

A notice had evidently been placed at the beginning of Mill Lane warning that the bridge was closed but it had been torn down and the notice on the bridge said that it was closed so the slippery surface could be made safe.

**Dog Poo** – A lady taking her children blackberry picking along Mill Lane had to abandon the expedition because of the amount of dog poo along the lane and lurking in the grass at the side.

After a period when the situation seemed to be improving, it now seems to be deteriorating again. As the likelihood of a dog warden actually catching an offending owner and fining them £1000 is practically zero, I think we all need to take the matter into our own hands (sorry!) and challenge dog owners if we see them not picking up their pets' deposits.

**Mobile Library** – This is your last chance to ask the mobile library to stop at Tithe Farm/Ladygrove. Contact the newsletter by phone or e-mail if you are interested.

**Flood Prevention** – News from SAFAG (South Abingdon Floodplain Protection Group) –

The Environment Agency may still be able to get funding from DEFRA for local flood relief schemes, but will also be pursuing an alternative funding route called the Local Levy.

If you would like to find out more about SAFAG, contact Malcolm Moor at malcolm-moor@aol.com or on 01235 550 122.

**Fed up with Litter?** – Don't just moan or wait for the council to pick it up. Join Abingdon Green Gym for a Litter Pick along the path to Tesco on **Saturday 8th November**. Meet 9.30 a.m. by the playground at the back of Chaunterell Way or join the other volunteers along the path. Gloves, bags and refreshments provided. We may even rescue some trolleys and return them to their rightful owner, namely Tesco.

Found in Mill Road, key, silver, Yale-type with interesting key fob. To claim, call at 23 Masefield or phone 01235 531 857.

## **FUNGUS FORAYS**

At Dry Sandford Pit on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th October 2p.m.-4p.m.

Join Peter Creed searching for fungi at this interesting and varied reserve.

All welcome. Please wear suitable footwear as paths can be slippery.

Admission free but donations to BBOWT appreciated.

Meet at reserve in Cothill Village, 100m left of Honeybottom Lane/Church Lane junction.

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

Contact Anita on 07711 656 945 for more details. **NO DOGS PLEASE**

## **OXFORD WELSH MALE VOICE CHOIR**

Present a

### **FESTIVAL of MASSED MALE VOICES**

**WITH GUEST SOLOISTS**

Compered by Hannah Shellswell of ITV Thames Valley  
**A COMBINED CHOIR OF MORE THAN 100 VOICES  
FROM THE PORTHCAWL, RHAYADER AND  
OXFORD WELSH MALE VOICE CHOIRS.**

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**SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2008 at 7-30pm  
OXFORD TOWN HALL St Aldates**

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**Tickets: £15 available from:**

**Blackwells Book Shop Broad St Oxford  
Wells Store Peachcroft Farm Abingdon  
DCS Joncare Radley Rd Ind Est Abingdon  
via: web [oxfordwelshmvc.org.uk](http://oxfordwelshmvc.org.uk)**

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**Ron Salter 01869 331245**

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**Benefiting Oxford SAMARITANS**

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## *Local Roots*

Does it worry you to see imported supermarket apples in the middle of the English apple season, asparagus from Thailand when it's growing on a farm 5 miles away or veg trucked from Newcastle to Portsmouth for packing, then driven to shops all over the country? Chris Jones' shop, "Local Roots" in East St. Helen's St. guarantees that, apart from the tea and coffee served there, everything sold is produced or made within a 30 mile radius.

Opened last April by Sophie Grigson, the philosophy of "Local Roots" is to reconnect with local produce and crafts, to promote food in season and to reduce the carbon footprint of the purchases we make. Besides local vegetables and fruit, there are eggs and dairy produce, as well as a range of cakes, biscuits, bread, pickles and sauces and frozen gourmet meals. Veg/grocery boxes, sausages and organic meat are also available to order and deliveries can be made within a 1.5 mile radius on the shop's Pashley delivery bicycle. Turkeys can be delivered until the day before Christmas Eve. There is a 10% discount on all box orders up to the end of October.

Craft items include colourful handmade bags, scarves, baby clothes, jewellery and cards. As the shop is continually looking for new suppliers, there is always something new to see.

You can enjoy a hot or cold drink and a delicious homemade cake while reading the newspaper and, as autumn sets in, the wood burning stove will make the shop cosy. As a Sunday morning bonus, you can buy your French pastries across the road at Pascal's and enjoy them with a cup of coffee at "Local Roots".

### **Vegetables in October**

We are getting to the stage now where the end of the vegetable growing season is in sight for most of us. Last year the first frost occurred in October so unless you are able to provide cover for vegetables, you will be winding down any sowing or planting.

All is not lost however and you are still able to make a few sowings of some salad leaves and small greens either in the greenhouse or indoors. If the greenhouse is not frost free, some horticultural fleece can be bought quite cheaply and this can be used to cover seedlings whenever a frost threatens. As far as sowing seed in the house is concerned, small pots on the windowsill will normally do very well. This is where you can sow micro greens as explained earlier in the year, and oriental leaves, rocket and spinach should all do well.

If you have been growing parsnips or leeks outside, these can be left in their containers quite safely as the vegetables themselves should not be affected by frost. However it would be wise not to let the containers remain frozen for any length of time, and they could perhaps be put in the shelter of a wall or the containers themselves could be wrapped to protect them. However parsnips are always thought to be far tastier after the first frost. (something to do with sugars apparently...)

Finally this will be the last article relating purely to vegetables, and from November onwards I shall be broadening my horizons to cover all aspects of gardening. It is becoming increasingly difficult to fill 250 words purely on container vegetables, but I promise not to churn out copies of last year's articles!

*Martin Gulliver*

**September Quiz answers and October Quiz** – The September quiz was won by Paul McCarthy of Tennyson Drive. Here are the answers: 1)pentathlon 2)dressage 3)marathon 4)freestyle 5)individual medley 6)beach volley ball 7)double sculls 8)coxless pair 9) hurdles 10)high jump 11)triple jump 12)javelin 13)team sprint 14) pole vault 15) badminton 16)synchronised swimming 17)table tennis 18)pommel horse 19)trampoline 20)show jumping

**October Quiz - Cryptic film titles** Answers to Eleanor, 23 Masefield by 22nd October

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| 1) Departed together breezily                              | _____ |
| 2) Master of Circles: Rex came back                        | _____ |
| 3) Quiet from young mutton                                 | _____ |
| 4) Direction finder after the colour of silence            | _____ |
| 5) Vocal exercises during precipitation                    | _____ |
| 6) Crush make-believe                                      | _____ |
| 7) Snap quickly at Grant Mitchell's wife                   | _____ |
| 8) West Indian Privateers: Hex on the sable<br>oyster grit | _____ |
| 9) Boogies with West Midland wanderers                     | _____ |
| 10) Scorching horse seats                                  | _____ |
| 11) Rattle Assegai in ardour                               | _____ |
| 12) Value of the question, little one                      | _____ |
| 13) Dawn's Link  | _____ |
| 14) No one speaking on the Occidental face                 | _____ |
| 15) Reverberation of notes                                 | _____ |
| 16) L'azzure Employment                                    | _____ |
| 17) Yankee Belle   | _____ |
| 18) Solo winged over bird clocks home                      | _____ |
| 19) Transporting Senorita Ox-Eye                           | _____ |
| 20) Exit the dark continent                                | _____ |

Did you know that...

**Ely** is of early medieval English origins. It derives either from the place called Ely in Cambridgeshire, or it is a short form of the ancient Hebrew 'Elijah'. In the first case the development is from the Old English pre 7th Century 'oel' meaning 'eel' plus 'ge', a region or district. It is said that Ely received its name from the large number of eels caught in the nearby fens

**Drayton** is derived from the Old English word 'droeg', which is related to the verb 'dragan', to drag or to draw. 'Ton' means 'farm'. Consequently, Drayton meant 'farm by a track along which heavy goods were dragged'.

...and finally....

**Philip Francis Little** was born in 1824 and was the first Premier of Newfoundland between 1855 and 1858. He resigned in 1858 and later moved to Ireland where he died at the age of 73 in 1897.

*Martin Gulliver*

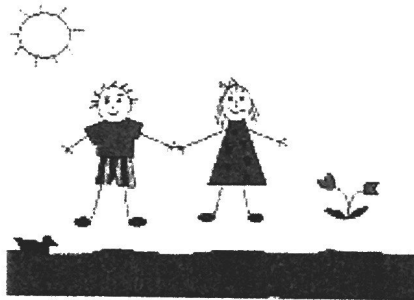
**Councillors' Surgeries**  
**Tim Oates or Samantha Bowring at the TFLRA Committee Meeting**

**Mike and Marilyn Badcock 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month in the Family Room,**  
**Abingdon Conservative Club, Ock St**

**Date of the next TFLRA Committee Meeting:**  
**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2008 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room**  
**Deadline for items for the next newsletter: Wednesday 22nd October 2008**  
**Contact the newsletter – items for publication:**  
Eleanor Dangerfield 01235 531 857- 23 Masefield Crescent- [eledanger@hotmail.com](mailto: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