

THE FARM & LADYGROVE NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2005

Here is the September newsletter. As we said in July, we decided to miss out the August one and have the newsletters in future coming out at the beginning of each month or even the end of the previous one. Nearly all of the subs have been collected in now, so many thanks to everyone who has paid and of course to the collectors. There were many favourable comments about the newsletter and a few unfavourable ones, but then we can't please everybody. We hope there will be something of interest to all readers in this issue. There is the relaunch of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and a new contributor with the first of a series of articles on researching a family tree. For sporty kids there is also news of two sports clubs. We always welcome new contributions, comments, useful advice and complaints as long as you don't actually libel people! Any serious problems should be referred to the police.

AbITS Reminder There will be a meeting, open to the public, of the AbITS Steering Group on **Thursday 8th September at 10a.m.** in the Guildhall.

Green waste and cardboard collections This is a pilot scheme you may have seen advertised. You can pay £29 per year to have a special wheelie bin for your green waste and cardboard, which will then be collected fortnightly and composted. Personally, I think it should be collected free, but I suppose it is a useful service for people who can't get to the Drayton dump. I also think that plastic food trays and pots should be taken in the recycling collection. South Oxfordshire already does this. What do you think? If you are interested in the green waste scheme, you can phone 01235 520 202 ext405 or email waste.team@whitehorsedc.gov.uk.

Historic Houses Open Day On Saturday September 10th, some historic buildings in Abingdon will be open to the public, with guided tours available. Some are actually open from 8th – 11th. You can find out more at Old Abbey House, Abbey Close, where the new tourist information point is.

Southern Electric Shock Tactics I feel it is important to pass this on to residents, as some of you may have been targeted in the same way. On Wednesday 24th August, a Southern Electric meter reader called at my door and asked to read my meter. I thought this a little odd as I had changed my supplier over a year ago to Good Energy (a renewable energy company) and had also just paid my bill. Having read my meter, he told me that I was paying too high a tariff, then told me that Good Energy was owned by Scottish and Southern Energy anyway, which was completely untrue. He brought out a large quantity of paperwork and it became obvious that the idea was to get me to switch back to Southern Electric. Having realised that reading the meter was simply a ploy to get into the house, I asked him to leave. He had given me a card with a customer service number on it. I immediately phoned this number and complained in the strongest possible terms. I was answered very courteously and told this should never have happened, but I intend to

write to the parent company (address given below). I was really appalled by their underhand, deceitful tactics. The salesman-disguised-as meter-reader had a list of addresses on Tithe Farm, so some of you may have received a visit. If you have access to the internet, you can find out more about energy suppliers, which company owns what and contact numbers and addresses on www.energywatch.org.uk. The number for complaints to Southern Electric is: 0800 316 2185, the address of the Scottish and Southern Energy Group (the parent company) is: PO Box 7437, Perth, PH1 3GX, Tel 0800 117 116.

Eleanor Dangerfield

Tesco and the Trolleys The thirteen trolleys have recently been removed from the Ock, though one has got back in. Apparently they are amphibious and can only breed in water. This is part of a letter I received from Tesco in July, when I complained about their lack of care for their trolleys:

"I was very sorry to learn of the abandoned Tesco trolleys you encountered in the river Ock and other locations. I would like to offer my unreserved apologies for any upset this has caused.

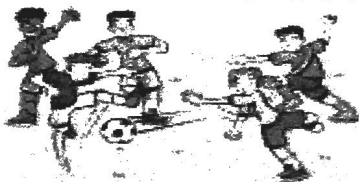
We take matters such as this very seriously and we will be retrieving the abandoned trolleys as soon as possible. We do employ a team of staff to collect our trolleys throughout the day and night, ready for immediate use outside the store and to avoid any "stray trolleys", however, we will be discussing possible ideas with our Head Office in order to reach a satisfactory outcome to this most regrettable problem. In the meantime, the collection of trolleys in the car park will be given high priority in the future and members of staff from other departments will be called to assist if required."

Well, a fulsome apology indeed, but will Tesco do anything about it? I assume the trolleys in the Ock were fished out by the Environment Agency. I phoned them to enquire and to ask whether they tried to get Tesco to take responsibility, but they are going to take between one and two weeks to reply to my query.

We hope to publish a complaint form in the next newsletter, which you can send in to Tesco, asking them to provide some means of keeping their trolleys on site.

Eleanor Dangerfield

Saxton Rovers Football Club (Youth Section) EXCITING OPPORTUNITY - NEW PLAYER TRIALS



Saxton Rovers F.C. have recently set up a Youth section and are currently holding new player trial every Thursday evening from 6.00pm at the recreation ground at Caldecott Road, Abingdon. We are looking for new players for our under 9's, 10's and under 11's age groups to play competitive football in the Oxford Mail Boys League for the coming 2005/06 football season.

Further details are available from Steve Young, Youth Section Secretary, on 01235 523930 or 07748 982629

Age qualification

Under 9 – the player must be under the age of 9 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 10 – the player must be under the age of 10 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 11 – the player must have attained the age of 10 but must be under the age of 11 by midnight 31st August in the playing season.

FAMILY TREE

I was inspired to start researching my family tree about two years ago when I was handed a large bundle of certificates together with two family bibles by an Aunt. Since then I have been able to trace my family back to 1777, and have discovered two long lost cousins, one in Australia.

This illustrates the first step in pursuing your own roots – speaking to your older relatives and then seeing if there are any documents or records held in the family.

Speak to Aunts, Uncles, Grandparents and find out all they know about their ancestors. Note all this down and also jot down any odd comments or anecdotes they might reveal. This will not only help you flesh out the bones of the tree and bring it to life but it may also help to answer queries in later researches. If possible tape your conversations – more is often revealed in a relaxed conversation than one that is continually stopping so notes can be taken.

Ask if there is a Family Bible in existence. These were often used to note down dates of all births, marriages and deaths in the family, and indeed many Bibles had pages specifically for this. Finally ask if anyone in the family has kept a store of birth, marriage and death certificates, as these are the most useful documents you will have in your researches.

Once you have these notes, draft them out in some sort of order and see how much of a tree you can put together - you might be surprised how far you get. Show it to those you have spoken to – they will be interested to see the results of your labours, and will also be able to point out any corrections before you go on to the next stage of your research.

Martin Gulliver



PLAY NETBALL YR 7&8 - GIRLS

Abingdon Centre Netball are looking for Yr 7 & 8 players so they can run an Under 13 team next season. If you enjoyed playing High Five Netball, full team netball or have never played and want to try it out, come along on Wednesday evenings to John Mason School sports hall 6.15pm to 8pm starting on 14 September. It will only cost £1.50 per session to cover the cost of the hire of the sports hall. If you or your parents want any further information, please contact Sandy Hunt (Junior Coach - Level 2 Club Coach) on 01235 523606.

**ABINGDON DRAMA CLUB
PRESENTS**

"The Memory of Water" by Shelagh Stephenson

Winner of the Olivier Award for Best Comedy 2000 at the Unicorn Theatre, Medieval Abbey Buildings, Abingdon. Wednesday 21st to Saturday 24th September at 7-30pm. Tickets : £6-50 (concessions £5-50) from Modern Music or from Ticketline 01235 524538.



What is Neighbourhood Watch?

New venture on Tithe Farm. A police surgery come along and meet your Area Beat Officer On Saturday 17th September 2005 between 10 and 12am at Jephson Flats Common Room. Also attending will be your Neighbourhood Watch team. Come along and meet them. There will be information leaflets and other goodies. Please support this new venture and protect your neighbourhood from crime .Please also note that it is free to join and most insurance companies give you discount on your home insurance if you are in a registered NHW scheme.

July Quiz Answers and Winner There were a number of entries for this quiz, but only two were totally correct, so the joint prize goes to Paul and Jane of Longfellow and Mrs S Cox of Masefield.

Here are the answers: 1)Supergrass 2)Oasis 3)REM 4)Blur 5)The Prodigy 6) Manic Street Preachers 7)Stone Roses 8)Atomic Kitten 9)Take That 10)White Stripes 11)Led Zeppelin 12)The Beatles 13)The Who 14)The Rolling Stones 15)Pet Shop Boys 16)Status Quo 17)Boomtown Rats 18)U2 19)Sister Sledge 20)Dire Straits 21)The Police 22)Genesis 23)Happy Mondays 24)The Beach Boys 25)The Kinks (though Village People was also suggested!)

September Quiz – Barking up the Right Tree

The “hidden bird” quiz was very popular, so this time you need to look for hidden trees in the following passage. There are twenty of them (unless I missed any). They are all common native or naturalised species – nothing exotic. Send your answers in to Eleanor at 23, Masfield by 18th September. Answers on a separate piece of paper are also acceptable.

The day began early for busy C. A. Moreton – Cam to his friends. He shook off the haze lingering

from last night’s drinking with a quick wash and swatted a wasp energetically flying around the

room. As a disc jockey playing pop, largely requests from listeners, on “Radio Funky”, he was a

popular chap. With discs to spin every day, they would be echoing in his head most of his waking

hours. Today, he had to do without his sidekick, Andy who was, as far as he knew, ill owing to a

soaking at Glastonbury, or was it too many bottles of alcohol lying around? Sometimes he was

really off the planet. The new boss at the helm, Geoff, held erroneous views about what should be

on the play list, and would throw Andy out if he wasn’t careful. Such behaviour made Geoff irate.

Three girl fans had been invited to the studio – Jess, Pru, Cerys – and with the new assistant, slim,

elegant Zoe, who gave him the eye whenever she met him, a pleasant day it promised to be.

- 1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____ 4) _____ 5) _____
6) _____ 7) _____ 8) _____ 9) _____ 10) _____
11) _____ 12) _____ 13) _____ 14) _____ 15) _____
16) _____ 17) _____ 18) _____ 19) _____ 20) _____

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

Mike Badcock 1st Saturday of the month at the Conservative Club.

Date of the next TFLRA Committee Meeting –
Wednesday 14th September 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room. Any resident is welcome to attend.

Deadline for items for the next newsletter – Sunday 18th September 2005

Contact us – items for publication:

Eleanor Dangerfield 01235 531 857 23 Masefield Cr

Note new Email address

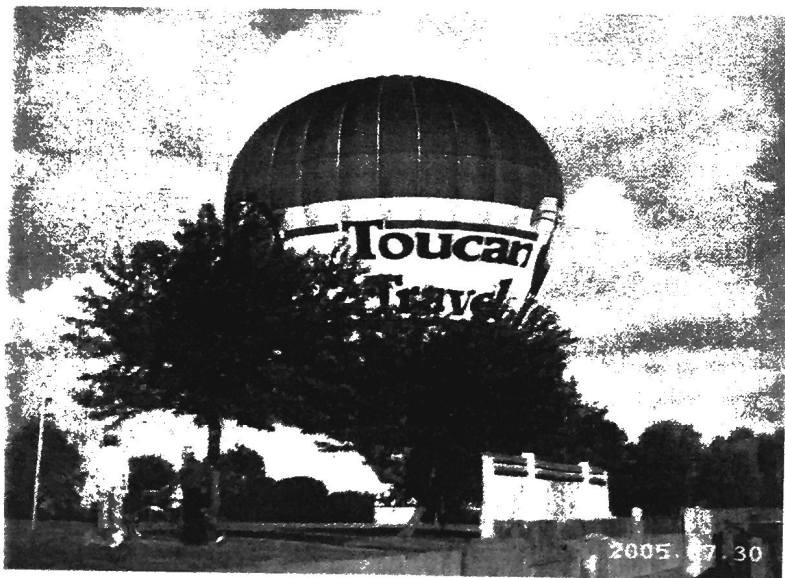
eleanor@thedangerfields.plus.com

Grenville Wells tithefarm2@yahoo.co.uk

Neighbourhood Watch -We are looking for volunteers for the relaunched scheme
For details phone 07751413402

FREE TO A GOOD HOME! LARGE YUCCA PLANT. Tel: 01235 203 491

WANTED – 1.saddleback coping stone (preferably in Yorkstone) measuring 45cms by 15 cms with 2 cms height at the side. (Alternatively, if you have any ideas where one would be available, please can you let me know.) Tel: 01235 203071



Early morning visitor to
Masefield Crescent
Playing Field on
Thursday 2nd September,
at 8.30am. He had come
all the way
from.....Oxford!!!!

FOR SALE

Tempo massage exercise cycle brand new (B H Fitness) £80 ono
Please contact Yolande Mob no. 07866 772344 after 3pm weekdays all day
weekends