



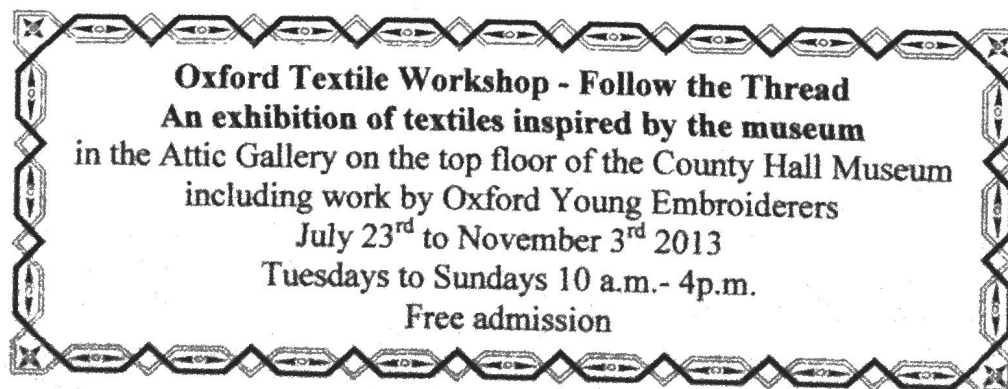
Tithe Farm and Ladygrove September Newsletter

Autumn is here and so is the September newsletter. Thank you to those residents who have paid their annual sub, especially if they expressed their appreciation of the newsletter. It is very cheering to the newsletter deliverers as they plod round ringing doorbells and asking for money.

New volunteer deliverer(s) needed! – Our newsletter deliverer for Orpwood Way and Ely Close is retiring after several years' service for which we sincerely thank him. That means that one or two new deliverers are needed. You don't have to live in either of those roads. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the newsletter (contact details on the back page).

Housing development South of Virginia Way – As you may know, the developer, Hallams, won its appeal against the Vale Council, which had originally rejected its planning application to build 160 houses behind Virginia Way. The campaign against the new houses collected signatures to ask for a judicial review. These signatures had to be collected within forty eight hours so it was impossible to ask everybody who might have wanted to sign the petition. Unfortunately, the council, having taken legal advice, decided there were no grounds to take the decision to judicial review, so the housing development will go ahead. Councillor Matthew Barber wrote to all those residents who had sent in objections to the development plan to tell them of the council's decision. However, the building cannot begin until the County Council has confirmed that highway improvements will take place. These consist of moving the pedestrian crossings on Ock Street and Marcham Road further west. The logic behind this is that it will enable more traffic to get out of Drayton Road and join the queues in Ock Street and Marcham Road.

I would like to thank everyone who helped in the campaign in any way.



Oxford Textile Workshop - Follow the Thread
An exhibition of textiles inspired by the museum
in the Attic Gallery on the top floor of the County Hall Museum
including work by Oxford Young Embroiderers
July 23rd to November 3rd 2013
Tuesdays to Sundays 10 a.m.- 4p.m.
Free admission

Biffa and Bins – In the previous newsletter we published a resident's complaint about Biffa's carelessness in collecting food waste and the difficulties in contacting the company to complain. Well, Anita of Masefield Crescent would like to give the opposite point of view. Here she recounts her experience of contacting Biffa:

"I was a bit surprised to read in the Summer newsletter (Bin complaint article) that people are finding it difficult to get hold of Biffa as I have never had any problems when I've rung or emailed Biffa in the past. I did, in fact, ring them several times over the following few weeks in case things had got worse there. Once I had got through the recorded information (about 45 seconds), the phone was always answered within three or four rings. One of the assistants at Biffa did say that they occasionally do get backed up with calls at the peak periods of lunch times and after the school run, so probably best if residents are able to avoid these times.

The one time I had food spilled outside my house, I know that it was cleared up within a few hours after I had rung through. Biffa assured me that this was still what they aim to do. The exception being if food spill is reported late in the day, then it may be cleared the following morning. And I was told that the bin men should never use residents' bins to collect food waste. They bring their own with them. A Tith Farm resident reported that this was not the case earlier in the summer when his large bin was used for other people's food waste – let's hope that he did get through to Biffa to let them know this happened as Biffa should have investigated this immediately.

As given in the Summer newsletter, the Biffa's number is 03000 610 610 and their email address is admin.vale@biffa.co.uk Or the address www.morerecycling.co.uk can be used. Do let the newsletter know if you do have a problem with your refuse collection or with Biffa themselves."

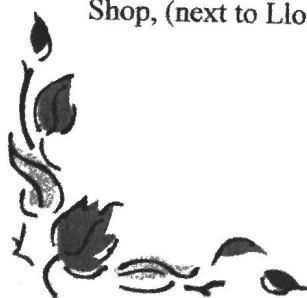
On the subject of waste and recycling, the Vale council has decided to remove the "mixed recycling" bins from car parks and other sites around the district. The reason they give is that people and businesses were using the bins for fly tipping. There are no plans to remove the charity bins.

South Abingdon Residents' Plan (SARP) questionnaire – In the previous newsletter, I trumpeted the imminent delivery of a questionnaire seeking your views on what needs improving in South Abingdon. This has been delayed, but should be ready by the end of September.

Abingdon Carbon Cutters - Apple Pressing at the Community Shop in the precinct -

Book a slot between Sept 30th & Oct 11th in our Community Shop to bring your own apples and bottles – we will show you how to make the juice and only charge 20p a bottle for the use of the kit. Email us at carbon.cutters@gmail.com giving your preferred day and time: morning (10-1) or afternoon (1-4)

It's not just apple pressing. There's lots more eco themed information at the Community Shop, (next to Lloyd's chemist) so come and have a look.



The Poets of Tithe Farm

An article by Tony Godfrey

If you look into an estate agent's window in Abingdon you will often see a property in our neighbourhood described as on the Poets' Estate. The reason for this is that every street on the Drayton side of Mill Road is named after a poet. Perhaps you have wondered who these poets were. In fact, Wordsworth, Tennyson, Masfield and Bridges had been the poet laureate in their day, appointed by the Government to write poems to celebrate great or significant events in the life of the nation. The present holder of the post is Carol Anne Duffy. The remaining poets, Coleridge and Longfellow, were distinguished, but only two of our poets, Bridges and Masfield, are what you could call local.

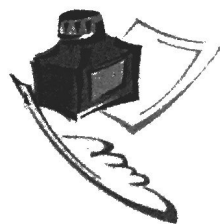
Robert Bridges was born in Kent, but ended his days in Boars Hill. His house still stands as part of the Carmelite monastery near the Youlbury scout centre in lovely scenery looking down into the Oxford valley. Bridges had trained in medicine and worked as a doctor into his 40's when he had to stop on account of failing health. He had always wanted to be a poet, but today much of what he wrote is forgotten. One piece he wrote, *The Testament of Beauty*, was greatly admired and he was awarded the O.M. (Order of Merit). When a student at Oxford, Bridges was a friend of the priest poet Gerard Manley Hopkins and was responsible for getting this Victorian poet's work published posthumously in 1918. Hopkins is now considered one of the great poets of English literature.

John Masfield like Bridges was not born near here, but set up home with his family in Boars Hill, later moving to Burcot. The house he lived in is now the Leonard Cheshire Home. Masfield did not set out to be a writer but became one almost by accident. He was packed off to sea at a very early age and travelled extensively. Some of his works are still quite popular, one is the poem *Sea Fever*:

*'I must down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by.
And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sails shaking
And a grey mist on the sea's face and a grey dawn breaking.
I must down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide
Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied' ...*

This poem was set to music and is a stirring song. Much of his work is on nautical themes. His parents forced him to go to sea as they thought he was wasting too much time reading! He wrote novels too including *The Box of Delights* specially for children. Masfield became the Poet Laureate after Bridges' death and received the O.M. He died in 1967.

Tony will tell us about the other poets in the October newsletter.



The Garden in Autumn

September often marks the start of more autumnal weather. However, most bedding will last until the first frosts in November so keep deadheading and weeding. It is very unlikely that we'll get a frost until then so tender plants can still be left outside but if you want to keep them over the winter, consider taking cuttings now so that you have a chance with several small plants rather than trying to protect one large plant and risk losing the whole thing.

This is a good time of the year to start planting new trees and shrubs, as the last few warm weeks give the plants time to settle in before the winter. You can also now start splitting overgrown perennials as they begin to die down. If the clump is big, break off the outer pieces which are fresher and discard the older centre portion.

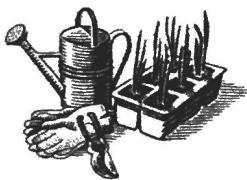
Bulb planting can start in September, particularly daffodils and crocuses although tulips can be left until November. Now is also a good time to treat the lawn by using a spring tined rake to go over the whole area, getting rid of the thatch and aerating the grass.



Think about plants for winter colour. The garden centres are full of winter-flowering pansies and violas so fill a few pots and hanging baskets,

If you have any permanent containers, raise them off the ground using special terracotta feet or pieces of wood, so as to assist drainage as the weather gets wetter.

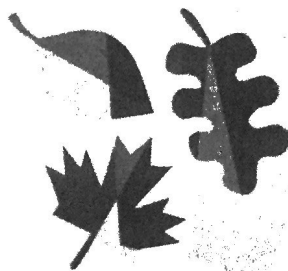
If the weather allows it, keep the grass trimmed so as to avoid the usual jungle-like hacking next spring when you'll so wish you hadn't left it to grow...



Although the garden itself will be quiet later in autumn, there is plenty of time now to clean pots and trays, and to sharpen and repair any tools. With a lot of growth out of the way, now is a good time to check fences, supports for climbing plants and structures such as greenhouses and sheds. It is also a good time to build/repair any bird nesting boxes.

Birds will often start to investigate such boxes in the winter and the earlier they are installed, the more chance there is that they will be used.

Martin Gulliver





September Quiz - Horseless carriages

Hidden in this passage are 24 cars, both vintage and modern. Bonus points if you find more than 24. No, I didn't manage to hide Volkswagen. Answers to Eleanor, 23, Masfield by 2nd October.

On Bank Holiday Monday, we decided to have a beach picnic. I was glad as the weather forecast was good. How many rolls would we need, filled with ham, organic chicken or cheese? Enough for you lot, us lot and the seagulls. Also, the rest of the apple pie we had at Sunday lunch. I looked for the chutney Jen sent me last month but someone had tipped the jar over. Never mind, after that last stuff I ate, I was in bed for days. I found some of the energy drink left over from the marathon Dave ran last April, six cans of Coke and the vital bottle of water.

"Shall we take a mat rather than sit on rocky ground", said Sue. "The mice chewed holes in it so I threw it away", I said, "but fortunately, the beach we'll be sitting on is sandy."

At the last minute Ben went to find his Swiss army knife, which has many complex uses.

We parked the car about half a mile from the beach, then as there was a steep hill, managing to get to the top was exhausting. We climbed down the cliff steps to the beach,

which was almost deserted. We swam, then had our picnic, trying to dodge the wasps.

"We'll go for a cup of tea, I hope, later." said Sue. We all felt sleepy, except Ben, who

pointed to a huge rock nearby. "I'm going to climb that," he said. "You must be daft," I said.

Can't you just relax? Oh, well, tata." Ben, who likes an audience, was disappointed, but off he went, returning triumphantly some time later to find us all asleep.

- 1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____ 4) _____
 5) _____ 6) _____ 7) _____ 8) _____
 9) _____ 10) _____ 11) _____ 12) _____
 13) _____ 14) _____ 15) _____ 16) _____
 17) _____ 18) _____ 19) _____ 20) _____
 21) _____ 22) _____ 23) _____ 24) _____

Summer Quiz Answers – The winner was Mrs Anderson of Coleridge Drive for almost 100 % correct answers. 1)Stephen Hawking 2)Saint Helen's 3)Sheila Hancock 4) seahorse 5)Stonehenge 6)Sumburgh Head 7)Stanley Holloway 8)Sherlock Holmes 9) Shire Horse 10)smoked haddock 11)St. Helena 12)Summer House 13)Space Hopper 14) Scottish Highlands 15)Sodium hydroxide 16)Sparrow Hawk 17)Seven Hills 18)Saga Holidays 19)Southern Hemisphere 20)Sledge hammer



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Councillors' Surgeries - at the TFLRA Committee Meeting
Your local Councillors have been invited to the Committee meetings.

Contact details:

Samantha Bowring(Town) samantha.bowring@abingdon.gov.uk 07767 072 095

Mike Badcock- michael.badcock@abingdon.gov.uk 01235 201 810

Marilyn Badcock – marilyn.badcock@abingdon.gov.uk 01235 201 810

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

Dates of the TFLRA meetings: usually 2nd Wednesday of each month
8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room – all residents welcome – check beforehand in
case of change of date. Next meetings, Wed 9th Oct, Wed 13th Nov 2013

Contact the newsletter – items for publication: Eleanor Dangerfield 01235 531857
23 Masefield - eledanger@hotmail.com. Deadline for next newsletter – Wed 2nd Oct 2013

MARKET PLACE AND TOWN EVENTS

Farmers' Market - Friday 20th September 8.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.

Friday 18th October 8.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.

French Market - Thur 26th – Sat 28th Sept 9a.m. – 5p.m.

Abingdon Carbon Cutters' Eco Fair – Sat 26th October – Guildhall – more about this
event in the next newsletter.

