

Tithe Farm and Ladygrove Newsletter

September 2012

Welcome to the September edition of the newsletter. Firstly we would like to thank all those residents who have paid their subscription for this year and also to the collectors who braved the wet weather to go out collecting in June and July. If you haven't paid already, your sub will be collected in September.



Friday 28th September 10.30 a.m.

Jephson Residents are holding a coffee morning in the Jephson common room in aid of Macmillan nurses

This is part of a national fund raising day, so do go along and give your support.

TFLRA meetings – These are normally held on the second Wednesday of each month. The meetings are friendly and informal and any resident is welcome to attend. We are keen to meet more residents, find out what they think and get fresh ideas so we are holding a special drop in meeting in October. See notice below:

Tithe Farm and Ladygrove Residents' Association

Special Autumn meeting with drinks and snacks

Wednesday 10th October 2012 at 8p.m. - 9.15 p.m. in the Jephson Common Room

Come and find out more about the Residents' Association. For those who don't know it, the Jephson Common Room is part of the Jephson Flats complex on Longfellow Green.

All residents welcome.

For more information, phone Eleanor on 01235 531 857 or e-mail eledanger@hotmail.com

Mrs McCarthy, champion quiz solver has sent a thank you and a complaint:

Just a note to say thank you to good neighbours Caroline and Peter of Longfellow Drive, who every week go out to cut the grass and do the weeding around the houses either side and opposite them.

Would the people who have garages at the back of Longfellow clear the weeds from their garage doors. The place looks a tip. The Council could do their bit too. Everywhere looks untidy with weeds!!

Ock Bridge at the end of Mill Lane – This has been closed for two or three months for health and safety reasons, making a circular walk via the path towards Tesco then westwards, over the bridge and down Mill Lane or through the fields, impossible. I would like to thank

the resident who took the trouble to phone the Vale Council, be passed from pillar to post and finally find out it was the responsibility of Property Services. It seems that an assessment is going to be done to see if it is an easy or a major repair job. The Residents' Association will write to the Vale to ask about the situation and press for action. However, if you use that route, do write or phone yourself. We need to emphasise the importance of the bridge and the inconvenience caused.

FREE GREENHOUSE

8x6 partially disassembled metal framed greenhouse missing a few glass panels.
FREE to a good home. Would need to be collected from Longfellow Drive with a large van or manhandled to destination.
If interested, contact the newsletter.

Richard Martin has kindly provided the newsletter with an update of the progress of the MG Garden.

During the past few weeks, my wife and I have had a few conversations with people who believe that the MG Garden on the corner of Drayton and Marcham Roads is, in its present state, the finished article. Since one of these conversations was with a couple associated with the Newsletter, I was prompted to put 'pen to paper' to provide an update.

As some will recall, this is a project between the MG Car Club and Abingdon Town Council with the Abingdon Herald of March 24th 2010 carrying news of its creation. The plans included a path around the outside of the paved MG logo already in place and story boards arranged as an MG-themed time-line alongside the path. The Car Club arranged for the MG logo to be done and also the paved picnic area in the far right-hand corner of the area. They have also produced designs and costings for the boards and these have been sent to the Council some months ago. The Car Club have very recently received a response from the Council advising that the quotes they have received for installation of the pathway have proved too costly. After meeting the costs for the block paving MG logo and the picnic area plus the shrubbery, there is not a great deal left from the original budget. However, the Council seeks to assure us that they remain committed to seeing the project through. The current situation is therefore *"that a pathway round the garden would not be installed due to costs. However, a hard standing for MG Cars to park on would be installed, new shrubs around the centre tree would be planted, trees cut back near the picnic area and furniture installed. Once funding has been exhausted against this financial year's budget the Committee would consider further expenditure in next year's budget to ensure the project was completed"* (extract from Amenities and Recreation Committee meeting)

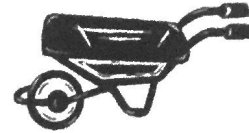
We are advised that work on the main park/garden itself should be completed in the next few months, but it is unlikely that any furniture will be installed, finance permitting, before the second half of next year. The Car Club are actively seeking a meeting with our project contact at the Council to discuss the best way forward.

Richard Martin

Vice-Chairman,

Abingdon Works Centre of MG Car Club

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 of 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

Estates these days are often named after the building or work place that once stood there. Thus we have "Tannery Court", "The Maltings" and so on. I've been told on good authority that there is an elderly persons' residential complex in Dorset called "The Granary"! Resident Tony Godfrey has been finding out why Tithe Farm is so named.

Rambling about Tithe Farm

You are unlikely to see many happy wanderers with muddy boots or trekking sticks striding about the streets of our estate. Our roads lined with neat houses do not seem very promising to the rambler, although there are quite a few dog walkers and joggers around. However, I have a different sort of wandering in mind, where the mind goes off on a ramble about people and places in the area.

You will not find that Tithe Farm features in many guide books but that does not make it any less fascinating. There is always something interesting to discover if you choose to look about you. Perhaps you would like to join me on a journey of discovery.

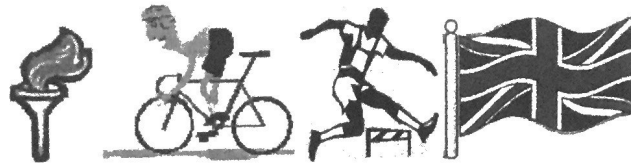
My first "Ramble" is to find out about the name of the place where we live. Was there ever a Tithe Farm around here? If anyone has information as to the precise location, I would be pleased to know it. However, bearing in mind that the remains of Abingdon Abbey are nearby makes it very likely that there were many farms around here and these farms would supply the needs of the abbey, the big landowner of the time. This brings us to Tithes and paying tithes. So what are they? Briefly, they were a sort of church tax where tenant farmers would pay a tenth of their produce to the upkeep of the church or monastery. The result was that the church became extremely rich and powerful and we still have many beautiful church buildings to prove it. Abingdon Abbey was one of the greatest abbeys in England until its lands were confiscated at the Reformation. Today little of that glory remains except for a few outbuildings and the ground markings of the church in the Abbey Meadow near Waitrose. Later Cromwell tried to stop payment of tithes and there were many objections over the years, but it was not until the late 20th century that they were phased out altogether.

The produce (grain, wool and so on) of those paying tithes was stored in large barns or granges. We have a magnificent example of one of those granges at Great Coxwell just outside Faringdon, about half an hour's drive from Abingdon. The barn is now National Trust property and is free to view. It is well worth a visit, especially if you are interested in seeing how skilfully the medieval carpenters constructed. The roof timbers are amazing. Nearer to home there is another barn now adapted to other purposes in Northcourt Road. In fact there are many fine barns scattered around Britain.

So here ends this month's ramble. I trust you have found something of interest and that you will join me again soon when we could discover other things which might surprise you.

Tony Godfrey

September Quiz - Olympagrams



The following clues are anagrams of London 2012 British Olympic medallists. Answers to Eleanor, 23 Masefield by 30th September.

- 1) JEANS ICINESS _____
- 2) TARTAR LOUT _____
- 3) CHOIR SHY _____
- 4) EEL IN BASIN _____
- 5) OH, A FARM _____
- 6) REBEL IS A TRIAL NOW _____
- 7) RABIDLY WINS EGG _____
- 8) A MAY DRY RUN _____
- 9) NANNY JOKES _____
- 10) MANIACS LOAD _____
- 11) FURTHER RED GROG _____
- 12) THE LEWD DEBT _____
- 13) AH SUNTAN, OH JOY _____
- 14) TOY MEDAL _____
- 15) JOCULAR AND THE DIRT _____

Summer Quiz Answers - Congratulations to Mrs McCarthy, who got all the answers correct.

1) the living is easy 2) Donna Summer 3) swallow 4) a Summer Holiday 5) Summer Pudding 6) Ann Summers 7) Summertown 8) a Summer's Day 9) Barbecue Summer 10) Summer of Love 11) Midsummer's Day 12) British Summertime 13) Summer Nights 14) Last of the Summer Wine 15) Indian Summer 16) Women 17) all on a Summer's Day 18) Summer Bay 19) summerhouse 20) the Summertime Blues

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 12th September, 10th October (see front page)
Contact the newsletter – items for publication: Eleanor Dangerfield 01235 531857
23 Masefield - eledanger@hotmail.com. Deadline for next newsletter – 30th Sept 2012

Market Place Events

Sat 8th Sept - 10.30 a.m.- 4 p.m. - Heritage Open Weekend information stall, open buildings and events.

Sun 9th Sept - 10.30 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Heritage Open Weekend information stall, open buildings and walks.

Sat 15th Sept - 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. - Chamber of Commerce Health and Beauty showcase.

Fri 21st Sept - 8.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m. - Farmers' Market

Sat 22nd Sept - 11 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. - Abingdon Town Band
9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. - Friends of Radley Lakes Tombola Stall

Sat 29th Sept - 9a.m. – 2p.m. - Local Excellence Market

Thur 11th, Fri 12th, Sat 13th Oct - 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. - French Market

