

# TITHE FARM & LADYGROVE NEWSLETTER

## FLOOD SPECIAL EDITION – 26/7/07

This is an unusual edition of the newsletter in unusual times. We don't normally publish a newsletter again until the end of August/beginning of September, but after the disaster of the early hours of last Sunday morning which hit the residents of most of Ladygrove and parts of Tithe Farm, we thought the "dryside" people would like to offer their support to the "wetside" people.

We've heard many stories of the immediate help given by neighbours in moving furniture and cars and making sure everyone was safe and helping to bale out when the waters receded. It seems the community really pulled together.

However, drying out is a long, slow and expensive process which carries on well after the reporters and cameras have gone away.

Many people have already got all the help they need from neighbours, family and friends, but if people still need help, please get in touch.

**WARNING – Beware of bogus Callers!** This warning was broadcast on Radio Oxford and there is a similar warning on the Thames Water website. It has been reported that people have been posing as employees of Thames Water, the Environment Agency, utilities companies, the Council etc. and gaining access to people's properties. A luminous jacket and a clipboard and they're in! Check identities and if necessary, shut them out until you've phoned the relevant organisation to check. If you are suspicious, phone the police. You can actually arrange a password with Thames Water and perhaps some other companies do the same. Keep a copy of useful numbers handy, including your insurance company's. A list of numbers and websites appears at the end of this newsletter.

**OFFERS OF HELP** – If any residents would like to offer help with the following, please phone or e-mail Eleanor on 01235 531 857 or [eledanger@hotmail.com](mailto:eledanger@hotmail.com)

**Loans or donations of furniture or equipment, boxes, crates or other storage,** (for example, I have a Z-bed, some spare chairs and an old fridge/freezer in my garage, which needs scrubbing out but works perfectly well).

**Help with clearing things out, cleaning, moving and transporting stuff.**

**Access to washing machines/dryers.**

Perhaps you have some ideas I haven't thought of.

**REQUESTS FOR HELP** – If your house was flooded and you need some help, contact the above number and we will try to put you in touch with somebody who has offered help.

**FLOOD HEROES** – If there is anybody you would particularly like to thank for their efforts during or after the flood, let us know and we will thank them in the next newsletter.

**FLOOD THUMBS DOWN** – Many people say they received no warning of the flooding and were taken completely by surprise, especially as it happened during the night. The Environment Agency didn't do a very good job there. If you have complaints about them or

any of the other public bodies, let us hear what you have to say. Do you feel this area of Abingdon has been neglected or ignored? Please give us your views.  
Have you any ideas about how the flood could have been prevented or minimised? What steps should be taken to prevent future flooding?  
If you can't wait for the next newsletter, why not have your say on Radio Oxford? Phone 08459 311 111 or text 07786 200 952.

**Useful Contacts – Environment Agency** – [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)  
**Floodline** – 0845 988 1188 (24 hour) **General Enquiries** – 08708 506 506 – Mon-Fri 8-6  
**Vale Council** – [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk) – Tel: 01235 520 202  
**Thames Water** – 0845 920 0800  
**Southern Electric** – Power Cut – 0845 770 8090, General Enquiries – 0845 744 4555  
**Gas Emergency** – 0800 111 999, General Enquiries – 0845 605 6677  
**Thames Valley Police** (non-emergency) 0845 8505 505

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