



TFLRA Spring 2010 Newsletter

Welcome to the Spring newsletter. We hope you'll find enough information in it to keep you going until the Summer one. Nobody has complained yet about not getting a January or February edition and it's hard to decide whether that's a good or a bad sign. We've decided to reduce this year's sub to £1, which will be collected in June. Of course, the sub is for membership of the Residents' Association and everyone is welcome to come to the meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. The A.G.M. will be held at the June meeting.

News letter deliverers – There was a good response to the appeal for deliverers and there are now two reserves, so many thanks to the volunteers.

Easter Waste and Recycling Collections

Yes, I know that the Christmas/New Year collections went totally pear shaped owing to the inclement weather, but let's hope we won't have a repeat of the snow and ice in April!

Normal Collection Day

Mon 5th April
 Thur 8th April
 Mon 12th April
 Thur 15th April

May Bank Holiday

Mon 3rd May
 Thur 6th May

Spring Bank Holiday

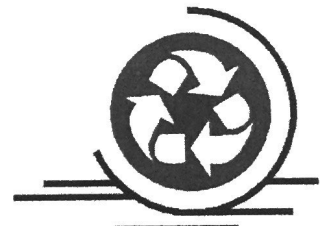
Mon 31st May
 Thur 3rd June

Will be collected on:

Wed 7th April
 Sat 10th April
 Tue 13th April
 Fri 16th April

Tue 4th May
 Fri 7th May

Tue 1st June
 Fri 4th June



Events in brief

Abingdon Arts Festival 2010 – Thur 11th- Sun 28th March – Music, Literature, Dance, Exhibitions, Film, Theatre, Children's Events and more. Brochures available from Abingdon Library and Abingdon Information point or visit www.abingdonartsfestival.org.uk

Clubs and Societies Fair – Sat 10th April 10.30a.m. – 4p.m. Guildhall. Come along and find fellow enthusiasts or be inspired to try new things.

Free Children's Easter Holiday Activities at the Museum 6th-9th and 12th-16th April 10.30a.m.-12.30p.m. Colouring, drawing, making things. Adults must stay with children at all times.

Dragon Boat Racing – Sun 9th



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10.30 a.
Thames



Flood Action Group – The Ock Valley Flood Group Open Forum on Friday 5th January at Preston Road Community Centre was very well attended. Many people volunteered to be on the committee, undertake practical work and deliver flood action newsletters in their street. We are very grateful to Councillor Richard Webber for getting the show on the road and acting as chairman, to Jim King, Treasurer, to Chris Hambrook, Chief Mapper and Works Manager and to Marilyn Corbett, who volunteered to replace me as Secretary. The area covered by the Flood Group also includes Ock Street, Meadowside, the Hermitage Road area, in fact all the at risk areas in the Abingdon Ock Valley. If you would like to find out more, you can contact the TFL newsletter for the time being until the group gets properly under way.

Found!


Ring found in Burton Close during the snow.
If you think it may belong to you, phone 01235 202 804



Potholes – The snow and ice this winter have caused many new potholes to appear. You can, of course, report these to Oxfordshire County Council www.oxfordshire.gov.uk but there is a website called FixMyStreet – www.fixmystreet.com which enables you to report problems by putting in your postcode. The message is then passed on to the local authority. It can be used for broken pavements, street lights etc .as well, so why not try it and see if it works?

Trees and Hedges – If your front garden shrubbery overhangs the footpath, please cut it back. If vegetation obstructs vehicles or pedestrians, the local authority can serve a notice on the owner requiring it to be cut back within 14 days. Otherwise they can do the work themselves and recover the costs.



New Charity Shop – A new charity shop has opened on the industrial estate in Suffolk Way in aid of “Help for Heroes”. It is open from 10a.m. to 3p.m. and has a good range of clothes ornaments, books and furniture, all very well presented. There are plenty of good quality children’s clothes and toys. They will also take electrical goods and can collect or deliver large furniture. They are planning to do house clearances as well. The shop has the distinct advantage of having plenty of free parking space. Do go and take a look.




ABINGDON DRAMA CLUB


presents
Thérèse Raquin
 (a stage adaptation by Leslie Sands of Emile Zola’s novel)

Wed 24th-Sat 27th March at 7.30 p.m.
At the Unicorn Theatre, Thames St, Abingdon
Tickets £7 (£6 concessions) from The Bookstore, Abingdon Precinct
or from Ticketline, 01235 524 538
 This is a gripping tale of adultery and murder set in 19th century Paris.
 It is definitely to be recommended.

CYCLING EVENT – Sunday 11th April Abingdon Market Place

At the Market Place there will be an opportunity to **get your bike mended or spruced up or to borrow a bike for free**. There will also be information, inspiration and support from local cycling groups and enthusiasts

There will be supported cycle rides of around **4 miles, 11 miles and 25 miles** leaving at 30 minute intervals **between 10am and 12 noon** to welcome people from beginners to keenies to come out and sample the pleasures of cycling around Abingdon. This event aims to be fun, healthy, and inspire people to get on a bike going into the summer. There will be a **free cake stop** on every ride and music to bring a smile to all.

The event is **free to enter** and suitable for all the family, although **under 16s should be accompanied by an adult**.

www.abingdonfreewheeling.org.uk N.B. Website ready by the beginning of April.
Phone Number 01235524960 / 07866720200



Learn How to Grow Your Own Vegetables

Contact: 01865 735078 gyoveg@hotmail.com

Classes run throughout the spring and early summer. A series of 8 sessions introduces the basic techniques of vegetable growing using theory and demonstration. In addition group members are able to develop their own skills because a different practical task is organised each week.

As the season progresses and formal teaching comes to an end, there is an opportunity for members to stay on, if they choose to, and tend the plot as a shared garden.

Place: Peachcroft Farm. It has the convenience of a cafe and toilet! There is also a plant stall and 'pick your own' to try the vegetables we do not grow.

Cost: £6.00 per weekly teaching session.

Equipment: Sessions are held outside and are weather dependent. Please bring warm clothes, wellies and gloves. All gardening equipment is provided.

Time: Thursday morning class: 9.30-11.00 am

Thursday evening class: 6.00-7.30 pm

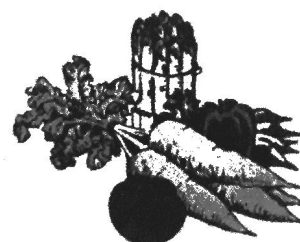
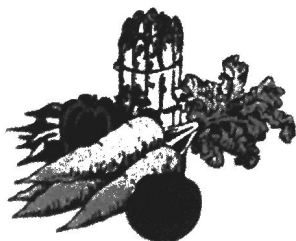
Saturday afternoon class: 2-3.30 pm

Provisional start dates (weather permitting): Thursday am class, 18 March; Saturday pm class, 20 March; Thursday evening class, 25 March (i.e. 1 week later).

Please give me your contact details (preferably email) so that I can keep you informed each week by confirming class times and class content.

Looking forward to meeting you,

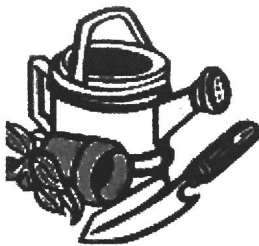
Bridget Thurley.



The Garden in March

March has traditionally been seen as the start of the gardening year although climate change has meant that the seasons vary. However this is the time of year when the garden is generally dragged kicking and screaming from winter into spring.

There are several pruning jobs that can be done now, if they haven't already been done, including pruning buddleia hard. It should be cut back to a couple of buds from the ground, normally about 6 inches, and although this looks hard you will be rewarded by plenty of flowers later in the summer. Also cut dogwoods down hard so as to provide strong coloured stems for next winter.



Old fern fronds can also be cut off now so that the new growth is revealed, and similarly cut off old leaves of hellebores. As winter flowering heathers fade these can also be trimmed to ensure bushy growth and good flowers next winter. Roses should be pruned now; firstly cutting out any dead or diseased wood, then cutting back any stems that face in to the middle of the bush, and finally trimming the outer stems by about two thirds. The idea is to open out the middle of the bush, and make sure any cuts are just above a bud and sloping away from that bud.

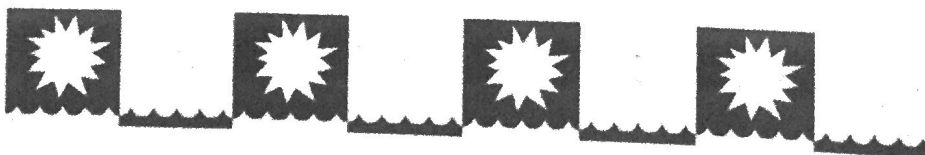
If you chitted seed potatoes last month these can now be planted in bags, on a layer of 4-6" of compost, two or three potatoes to a bag. Keep them well watered and in good sunlight. Now is also the time to start sowing hardy annuals outside, as well as salad onions, carrots, spinach, lettuce, peas, rocket and cauliflower. Indoors you can sow herbs and half-hardy annuals.

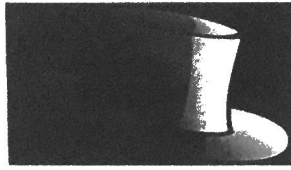


It is a good idea to have a general potter round the garden to tidy up where new growth is showing, keep on top of weeds and also pot up any seedlings that may have sprung up – plants for free! Give the garden a general feed – use garden compost or fertilizer and fork it into the ground - to encourage new growth. This especially applies to newly-pruned shrubs.

Finally, I'm sorry to say, the lawn can be cut in fine weather...but not too short.

Martin Gulliver





Spring Quiz

Dressed for the Occasion



The answers to the clues are all items of clothing. Answers to Eleanor, 23, Masefield by 30th April.

- Leaping knitwear _____
- Elephants wear them for swimming _____
- Two piece for clams or mussels _____
- Knitwear to perspire in _____
- Atomic swimwear _____
- Belongs to Miss Brodie _____
- Harmonious strings _____
- Not loose _____
- Three little kittens lost them _____
- Not safe to wear in icy weather _____
- Chemist chain _____
- Fiery jacket _____
- Swap t for p for a spotted cat _____
- Worn by the Iron Duke _____
- Wear for scones and jam at four o'clock _____
- Pugilists _____
- Welsh county _____
- Stereotypical French headgear _____
- Steal from a sheep _____
- For trousers or crooked teeth _____



Answers to the Christmas Quiz – 1) reindeer 2) mince pies 3) stockings 4) crackers 5) mistletoe 6) advent 7) cards 8) mulled wine 9) chestnuts 10) shepherds 11) stable 12) Three wise men 13) angel 14) holly 15) Christmas pudding 16) Boxing Day 17) chimney 18) White Christmas 19) pantomime 20) Twelve Days

Councillors' Surgeries
Tim Oates at the TFLRA Committee Meeting

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

Date of the next TFLRA Committee Meetings:

Wednesday 10th March 2010 - 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room

Wednesday 14th April 2010 - " " " "

Wednesday 12th May 2010 " " " "

Deadline for items for the next newsletter: Sunday 16th May 2010

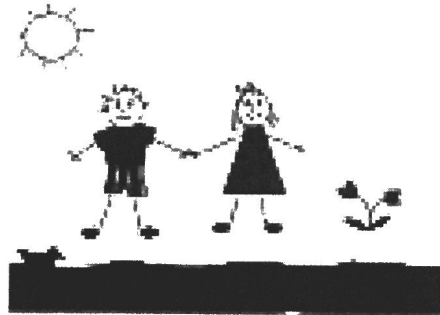
Contact the newsletter – items for publication:

Eleanor Dangerfield 01235 531 857- 23 Masefield Crescent- eledanger@hotmail.com

New website! – www.tithefarmladygrove.org.uk

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