
* Tithes Farm and Ladygrove Newsletter *
* Spring 2013 *

Happy February and welcome to the TFLRA newsletter. In this edition, we have more gardening advice to get you in the mood for Spring. However, the way the weather is now I think we'll have to resort to floating gardens, consisting of rafts made of water hyacinth, which I think they use in flood prone countries like Bangladesh.

Abingdon in Bloom is back this Summer. You may have read in the local paper that the Abingdon in Bloom competition has been reinstated and will be happening again this Summer. There are several categories, for front and back gardens, hanging baskets and containers as well as for wildlife friendly gardens (**See event below**). Entry forms will be available in the Spring edition of the Town Crier.

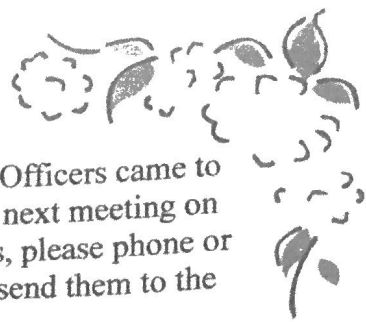
Abingdon Carbon Cutters present
HOW TO BE A WILDLIFE FRIENDLY GARDENER
A talk by Dr Steve Head, gardener, naturalist
and Chelsea gold medallist
on Thursday 7th March 7.30 p.m. in the Roysse Room, Guildhall, Abingdon

Overgrown Hedges – In the previous edition of the newsletter we mentioned the number of hedges and shrubs that are encroaching on the footpaths, in some cases almost blocking them and obscuring vision on corners and driveways. If you are the owner of one of these items of vegetation, please cut it back. If you are elderly or disabled and can't manage to do this and haven't got a family member who can do it for you, please contact the newsletter. As long as it doesn't require the use of ladders, some Committee members have expressed their willingness to come and cut back the hedge or shrub of anyone not capable of doing it themselves. If a hedge or shrub becomes a real nuisance to passers-by, the Vale Council will get it cut back and charge the owners.

Flood Forum Reminder – The annual Flood Forum will take place on Thursday 28th February at 8p.m. at Preston Road Community Centre. All residents are welcome.

Vale rejects plans for houses – The plan for 160 dwellings in the field immediately to the South of Virginia Way has been rejected by the Vale Council. Of course this isn't the end of the story as the developer has lodged an appeal and there will now be a public enquiry. If you want to be kept up to date with the Vale's Local Plan and have your say in the consultations, send an e-mail containing the word "subscribe" to localplan@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

ACF Abingdon Arts and Crafts Spring Show – Thurs 11th – Sun 14th April – Medieval Abbey Buildings, Checker Walk, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Thurs- Sat, 10a.m. – 4.30 p.m. Sunday. Adults £4, Concessions £3, Children £2..20, Family £10, under 5s free



PCSOs at next TFLRA meeting - The local Police Community Support Officers came to the Feb 13th Residents' Association meeting. They are also coming to the next meeting on 13th March. If you would like to attend the meeting and ask any questions, please phone or e-mail Eleanor (contact details on back page) with your question so I can send them to the PCSOs in advance.

Neighbourhood Action Group - The next meeting will be on Thursday 14th March at 7p.m. at the police station in Colwell Drive. All local residents are welcome at this meeting, which is attended not only by the Police but by councillors, headteachers and youth leaders. To find out more or to register, google Neighbourhood Action Groups.

Door Knockers - People who come round knocking on doors trying to sell tarmac driveways, double glazing, solar panels etc. To find out if they are on a rogue traders list, phone the police emergency number **101**.

Spring Cycle Festival – This will take place on Sunday 21st April from 9 a.m. with rides for all ages and abilities starting from the Market Place. You can also get your bike checked and fixed there. Food by the King's Head and Bell will be available. Children under 16 must be accompanied on rides by an adult.

Summer Walks – Looking further ahead, several walks are planned for Spring Bank Holiday Monday 27th May, starting from the Market Place. The walks last year on the Jubilee Bank Holiday Monday proved very popular. There will be a Radley Lakes, a Lost Abbey and an Ock Valley walk, plus others that are yet to be arranged. Look out for more details in the next newsletter.

Fun in the Park and Play Day this year will be on Saturday 1st June in the Abbey Grounds 11a.m. – 3p.m. There will be a reminder in the next newsletter but if you would like to book a stall for your club or society, fill in the form in the Winter Town Crier or pick one up at the Town Council offices, Old Abbey House, Abbey Close. On the evening of 1st June, there will again be "Music in the Park" with bands and entertainment for all the family followed by a firework display. Entry wristbands for the evening, £5 for over 18s, £2 for under 18s. Purchase from 2nd April at the Town Council offices.

EASTER BANK HOLIDAY BIN COLLECTIONS

Yes, I know it's still February, but Easter is very early this year.

Normal Collection Day:
Fri 29th March

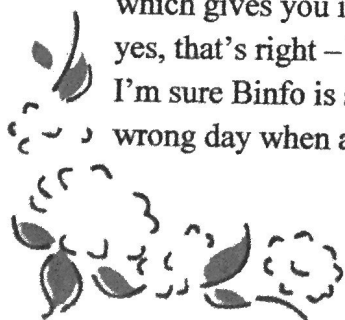
Fri 5th April

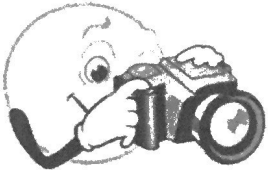
Will be collected on:
Sat 30th March (green)

Sat 6th April (black)



If you have an i phone or an android smart phone you can download an app which gives you information about bin collection days and Bank Holiday changes called, yes, that's right – Binfo. To get this, go to the Waste Collections section of the Vale website. I'm sure Binfo is smarter than I am, as at New Year I told my next door neighbours the wrong day when asking them to put out my bins for me when I was away overnight.





PHOTOGRAPHY 2

The last article on photography could be applied to any photo taking device, but this time I'm looking at cameras rather than phones. It is easy enough to set the camera to "auto" and take very acceptable photographs, but much better results can be obtained by using the other settings.

Many cameras will have a "scene" setting which allows you to specify the subject matter that you are taking. For example landscape, portrait, night time etc. and the camera will change the settings to suit the subject. However two other settings are worthy of attention.

The settings which govern the amount of light entering the camera to make a photograph are aperture and shutter speed. The aperture is the size of the opening in the lens which allows light to enter, and is measured in "f stops", typically from f2 to f22. Shutter speed is measured in seconds and can range from 1/2000 upwards.

Looking at shutter speed first, there should be a setting on the camera which will allow you to fix the speed and the camera will then automatically calculate the aperture. The most common use for this particular setting is taking photographs of fast moving action that you wish to freeze, for example, sporting events, children playing or animals. To freeze movement, set the shutter speed to 1/250 and this should be sufficient to ensure sharp photographs. Bear in mind that the faster the speed, the less time light has to enter the camera, and thus it helps to have well lit subject to ensure a good photograph.

At the opposite end of the scale, a popular technique in landscape photography is to photograph a waterfall or similar fast moving water, but use a very slow shutter speed. The speed as low as ½ second or further will give the moving water a milky look and is very effective. To avoid camera shake at such a slow speed, the camera should be put on a tripod or rested on a nearby rock.

Next time I would look at the effects of the aperture on the photograph.

Martin Gulliver

Piano for Sale



Immaculate condition, upright piano by Rogers, overstrung, 88 keys, purchased new in 1990. Looking for new owner, needs tuning.

Please phone to view, 01235 520 001, Pete or Wendy, Longfellow Drive.

Reduced to £500 o.n.o, buyer collects.



The Garden in late Spring and early Summer

A priority at this time of year is keeping weeds in check as winter fades. If they are allowed to seed, the job becomes that much harder. Now is also time to give a quick feed to any spring plants that have finished flowering, especially hellebores. Allow other bulbs to die back naturally but give them a feed to boost the bulbs for next year. Snowdrops will have finished and any large clumps can be split up and replanted to spread them around. Lavender can now be trimmed to size, but don't cut into old wood. Hebes can also be pruned lightly to retain their shape. Rosemary and sage should be trimmed to encourage new growth.

Now is also a good time to get in place any plant supports that are needed. The sooner a support is in place the better so that the plants can grow through it, rather than trying to thread growth that is already flopping about through a new support.

Permanent containers should be top-dressed; all that needs to be done is for the top inch or two of compost to be scraped away and replaced with new. It is also a good idea to knock container plants out of their pots to see what the root system is like. If the roots are starting to curl around the pot, it is time to transfer it to a larger container.

If you sowed early vegetable seeds, they may be getting big enough to pot on now. This especially applies to tomatoes, but do bear in mind that we can still get frosts so keep them protected. When potting any plant on, allow about an inch of new compost around each plant – don't go from a small pot to a much larger one.

Continue sowing vegetables, such as carrots, radish, herbs and annuals. By now potatoes should be planted in containers if you are doing this. If you haven't already potted up summer containers, these can also now be done, and it will help to incorporate water-retaining granules in the compost. Try and put as many plants as possible into the pots and baskets to ensure a good display.

Box hedges can now be given a light trim and any spring flowering perennials can also be trimmed back. Later in May is the time for the "Chelsea Chop". This involves cutting back perennials by about a third which makes them bushy and increases the flowering later in the year.

As plants already sown start to increase in size, these can be potted on. Pinch out the tips of annuals to ensure bushy plants.

Finally now is a good time to "weed and feed" the lawn. Products are available that will kill moss, kill off weeds and feed the lawn at the same time. Take care to spread evenly so as not to make the lawn patchy.

Martin Gulliver

ABINGDON DRAMA CLUB

presents

EQUUS

by Peter Shaffer

directed by Andrea Mardon

Wednesday 6th – Saturday 9th March 2013 7.30 p.m.

The Unicorn Theatre, Checker Walk, Abingdon

Tickets £8 (concessions £7) from The Bookstore, Abingdon Precinct or book online at www.abingdon-drama-club.com

Peter Shaffer's *Equus* had its premiere in London in 1973. Abingdon Drama Club's "in the round" staging brings a new dimension to the Unicorn Theatre with the audience being able to sit close to the action.

NOT SUITABLE FOR UNDER 13's (editorial note: or people of a sensitive disposition!)





Spring Quiz—Springs and Things



The theme of this months quiz is Spring and springs. All the clues are related to something that has a connection with the word 'spring.'

- 1. I wandered lonely as a cloud; so many trumpets _____
- 2. They gave 'Springtime for Hilter' _____
- 3. A South African rugby player? _____
- 4. Homeless bird you might hear, but rarely see _____
- 5. Drip drip drop little... _____
- 6. Doesn't get over wound in a modern timepiece _____
- 7. A weekend we might get egg-y over _____
- 8. A rifle, a state capital, or the home of Homer _____
- 9. He wrote the notes to this Rite. _____
- 10. A run down Cleeve Hill for a cup of gold and a celebration _____
- 11. Overheated and angry on the back of her head _____
- 12. Horse taps on the door on March 21st _____
- 13. When Dad should cook the joint _____
- 14. Scallions in the USA _____
- 15. Byron thought she was pretty tasty _____
- 16. Florence and Dougal's bouncy friend _____
- 17. Call for help _____
- 18. Vichy, Buxton, Evian for example _____
- 19. All that's left in Pandora's box springs eternal _____
- 20. Donovan's just mad about Ms Burrows _____

The Cryptic Christmas Quiz was very difficult. We received only two entries, one almost all correct and the other totally correct. So congratulations to the Domoney family of Ely Close, who win a well deserved book of Fiendish Word Puzzles.

Answers: 1)shepherd 2)cards 3)sleigh 4)cracker 5)decorations 6)angel 7)Noel 8)goodwill 9) Boxing Day 10)robin 11)paper chains 12)mistletoe 13)pantomime 14)donkey 15)crib 16) Santa Claus 17)present 18)Bethlehem 19)inn 20)Carol

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 13th March, Wed 10th April**

Contact the newsletter – items for publication: Eleanor Dangerfield 01235 531857

23 Masefield - eledanger@hotmail.com.

Deadline for next newsletter – Wed 20th March 2013

MARKET PLACE EVENTS

**Sat 9th March – Chamber of Commerce Fairtrade event – 9.30 a.m. – 2.30 p.m. –
information about Fairtrade and tasters of Fairtrade products.**

Fri 15th March – Farmers' Market – 8.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.

**Sat 30th March – Local Excellence Markets – 9a.m. – 2p.m. – taste and buy products
from local businesses and suppliers.**

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

Fri 19th April - Farmers' Market – 8.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.

Sat 20th April – Abbey Sax – 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Sun 21st April – Spring Cycle Festival – 9a.m. onwards (see main newsletter)

