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Tithe Farm and Ladygrove Summer
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Newsletter 2010
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Welcome to the Summer newsletter - Summer is the time for paying the annual subscription and the deliverer for your road will be calling soon. While the money is used mainly for printing the newsletter, the sub in fact entitles you to membership of the Residents' Association. This year you only need to pay £1 as the newsletter is only being published quarterly.

Changes to Waste and Recycling collections – Most people will have received information about this through the post. However, if you have signed up for the Royal Mail's Mailing Preference service, which ensures you don't get "junk" mail, you will not receive it and must request it or collect it from the Vale offices.

Main points:

New bins will be delivered in Abingdon between 20th Sept – 1st Oct.

New collections will be on Fridays, commencing 8th October.

You will get a green wheelie bin for recyclables, a grey one for rubbish,
a 7 litre kitchen caddy and a 23 litre outside bin for food waste.

The rubbish bin and the recycling bin will be emptied on alternate weeks, starting with rubbish on 8th Oct. The food bin will be emptied every week.

In addition to current recycling, you can put in cardboard, tetrapacks and all plastics **except** clingfilm or polystyrene. Remove bottle caps and put them in.

Not accepted: clothing, textiles, batteries and mobile phones.

You must put cardboard in the recycling wheelie bin not the brown garden waste bin.

Sacks of rubbish will **not** be collected any more.

If you can't manage to move the bins and have no one in your house to do it, phone the Waste Management team on 01235 520 202.

You can get rid of your old recycling box and plastic dustbins with the recycling collections. Metal bins will **not** be taken away.

There'll be another newsletter before the new scheme begins so why not write in to the newsletter and tell us what you think?

Events – Sat 12th June – Environmental Awareness Day – 11a.m.- 2p.m. Market Place

Sat 19th June – Election of the Mayor of Ock St and Morris Dancing

Sat 26th June – Abingdon's Got Talent Auditions – 11a.m. – 2p.m. – Market Place

Sat 3rd July – Community Fun Day – 11a.m. – Dalton Barracks

Sat 10th July – Yeah Baby – Free Music Festival – 10 a.m.-5p.m. – Market Place

Sat 17th July – Abingdon's Got Talent Finals – Market Place

Outdoor Swimming Pool and Water Feature – Abbey Meadows – open from 29th May to 5th September – for prices and times go to www.soll-leisure.co.uk , Tel: 01235 530 678

Save Radley Lakes to Friends of Radley Lakes- For those who took an interest in the campaign and would like to be involved in the new group or take part in the work parties run by Northmoor Trust, which now manages the site, go to www.saveradleylakes.org .uk or contact Eleanor at the newsletter.

Next event – Dog show and fete at Radley Village Hall and playing fields, Saturday 3rd July.

Freewheeling – This new cycling group in Abingdon holds rides on Thursday evenings and on the first Sunday of every month in Summer starting from the Market Place. A “Nature Reserves Ride” to mark Bike Week will be held on Wednesday 23rd June. Go to www.freewheeling.org.uk or contact the newsletter as above.

Non- Computer Users – I realise I keep on giving website addresses and this must be really annoying for those who do not use a computer. I do try to give a phone number wherever possible, but this is getting increasingly difficult so if there is no phone number, contact me (see above) and I’ll try and put you in contact with the appropriate person.

Your Town and Vale Councillors

Tim Oates (Town) – tim.oates@abingdon.gov.uk, Tel: 01235 535 807

Samantha Bowring (Town & Vale) samantha.bowring@abingdon.gov.uk Mob:07767072095

Beth Fleming (Vale) beth.fleming@whitehorsedc.gov.uk Mob: 07841411166

Lorraine Smith (Town) lorraine.smith@abingdon.gov.uk Tel: 01235 201219

Summer Holiday Activities for Kids

Northmoor Trust – Clumps Club, 8-12 year olds, 26th-29th July, 10a.m.-3p.m.- £20 per child per day, booking essential. www.northmoortrust.co.uk , Tel: 01865 407792

Sports Activities – at the White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre Tel: 01235 540 700 – Swimming Courses, Tennis Lessons, Active Kidz full and half day sessions, www.activenation.org.uk

Museum – Cutting, sticking, colouring, making things – sessions 10.30-12-30 – free – children must be accompanied by an adult. 26th-30th July – Archaeology theme.

2nd-6th Aug – Mixed Craft Theme – www.abingdonmuseum.org.uk - 01235 523703

Roof visits Saturdays until end of Sept (weather permitting) – Adults £2, children 50p

Creation Theatre, Oxford – Summer Holiday workshops – 26th July-27th August – ages 6-16 – www.creationtheatre.co.uk , Tel: 01865 766 266 or to book tickets for **Romeo and Juliet**, running from 9th July – 4th September.

Traffic Consultation – Everybody grumbles about traffic, whether they’re drivers, cyclists, pedestrians or public transport users, so why not have your say in the consultation for LTP (Local Transport Plan 3)? The current consultation runs until June 20th, so you still have time.

Go to www.myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk or follow the links on the Oxfordshire County Council website www.oxfordshire.gov.uk , or phone 01865 815 093 and ask for the Transport Team.

FOR SALE
Z Bed and mattress £10
Buyer collects
Phone 01235 531 857

Ock Meadow Town Councillor Tim Oates is a man of many talents. Read about his experiences flying helicopters in the Sudan.

With the UN in Sudan 2005. Or 'Why you shouldn't respond to the Christmas job adverts!'

Christmas 2004, whilst contemplating the fag-end of my career and enjoying the winter furlough, a small box no. advert in Flight caught my eye: 'Wanted "Puma-rated pilots for UN contract in Sudan, ex-military preferred".' Ignoring the danger signals and not being Puma rated, I duly applied. The rest, as they say, is history.

Early January 2005 saw me in a lecture room in Salzburg along with a British Chief Pilot (ex RAF), a Southern Irish tyro, a former Finnish Border Guard and a whole gaggle of Armée de l'Air in the room. Our Brit Chief opened the proceedings with: "People who speak three languages are tri-lingual, people who speak two" etc, followed by "and people who speak one are British, I'm British and this course will be conducted in English". Naturally, this went down like a lead balloon with the French but the 'entente cordiale' was still reasonably intact by the end of the initial week. Concurrent with the ground school the company engineers were readying the first of two former low-time Bundes-Grenshutz SA330J Pumas for their aeromedical contract with the African Union peacekeeping force in Sudan. Sufficient "newbies" were converted onto the Puma for the ferry flight to Khartoum whilst the rest were sent home to await the call to arms.

By mid-January the intrepid aviators were winging their way over the Alps en-route to Khartoum, whilst the lesser fry, including the author, were on a Royal Jordanian jet to Amman. Arrival in Amman should have been a brief affair: go to transit, collect visas, get on plane to Khartoum. Yeah, right! Five days later we were allowed to collect our visas, in the meantime what to do? Well that was quickly sorted with trips to the Roman amphitheatre, the Dead Sea and the lost city of Petra for a fascinating insight into one of the ancient kingdoms of the Middle East. Whilst on our way to Petra it was sobering to pass a signpost pointing to Iraq and Saudi Arabia, not that far from the action, but far enough fortunately!

Arrived in Khartoum and greeted with studied politeness before transit in battered taxi to the 'Meridian' hotel (not part of the French chain!). The following three weeks were spent paying innumerable visits to the Sudanese equivalent of the CAA whilst our paperwork was checked, checked and checked again. It was with some relief after about three weeks in Khartoum that we found ourselves hitting the road for El-Obeid, a largish town some 250NM south-west of Khartoum in the Kordofan desert and noteworthy for possessing the largest Christian church in Africa. Here at last we were able to commence further type conversion training and line training whilst our manager, a former big game hunter in the Congo, sought out accommodation in West and North Darfur. We found ourselves sharing the airfield with Ilyushin Il-76 and C130 freighters engaged by the World Food programme for aid drops as well as Sudanese military operating AN-26 freighters. We were ostensibly operating an eight week on, four week off schedule, but approaching the eight week point and we had still not reached the proposed operating bases of Nyala (West Darfur) and El-Fasher (North Darfur). But behind the scenes our big game hunter/manager had striven mightily on our behalf and after some ten days in El-Obeid we found ourselves on the move to Nyala with both Pumas as the El-Fasher accommodation was not ready. Like all airfields in Sudan, Nyala was run by the military and proved to be home to MIL-24 Hind attack helis and, again, AN-26 freighters as well as numerous UN sponsored Mil-8s, Let 410 transports and Sudan Airways venerable but pristine Boeing 737s to name but a few.

On 12th May, Cllr Patricia Hobby's year in office as Mayor came to an end. Here is her farewell speech:

A year ago I said what an honour it was to become Mayor of Abingdon and it has been.

The whole year has been full of different and exciting experiences far too numerous to mention, from having a snake crawl up my arm, listening to children read, waving off the MG cars and to welcoming back our troops from Afghanistan. The number of activities and events that go on in our town has been amazing.

Due to the amazing generosity of clubs and societies over £2,000 will be given to my charities.

I thank everyone, officers, councillors and the public for the support they have given me during this most memorable year in my life. I give my best wishes to the new Mayor and hope he has as interesting a year as I have.

The new mayor is Duncan Brown

The Garden in June

After a bizarre spring of heat waves and frosts, June should be summery but you may be sorting out the carnage of last month!

If anything was frost damaged, cut off the damaged bits and the plants may recover. I had a tray of busy lizzies that got frosted but have now recovered.

This month is often a mixture of sunshine and showers so weeding and deadheading are important. Deadheading ensures that the plants continued to flower although some seed heads, especially those of nigella for example, look very attractive. The latter is very good for seeding itself around the garden.

Shrubs that flowered in May he can now be pruned. As a general rule, cut back some of the stems that flowered this year – about a third - which will encourage new growth. Similarly, spring-flowering perennials can also be trimmed to keep into shape. Spring bulbs will now have finished and as the foliage dies down it can be removed and the bulbs lifted and divided as necessary.

I think we should be safe from frosts now so tender annuals and hanging baskets can be planted out. Now is also a good time to sow plants for winter and spring colour, such as pansies and primulas, and also continue sowing quick-maturing salad and vegetable crops to keep a succession of produce throughout the summer. Pinch out the side shoots of tomatoes (unless they are bush varieties) until they reach the right height and keep picking salad crops before they start to bolt.

If you have a greenhouse, the shading should be put on now to help reduce temperatures and the house should be well ventilated during particularly hot days. In the morning water the floor to create a humid atmosphere which will help.

Continue to mow the lawns - little and often is better than a monthly hack!

Many thanks to a local naturalist for this fascinating account of wildlife on the river Ock.

Views of the Ock

We all know the river Ock, whether through crossing it as a short cut to Tesco's, as a place to walk the dog or through fear of it flooding our homes again. But it is also wonderful place for wildlife, and hopefully over the next few newsletters I hope to share with you some of the delights that live right by our homes. From the rare pea mussel, the occasional otter, or the murdering deceit of a cuckoo bumblebee, this nearby small chalk river is a delight.

As spring turns to summer, watching the water voles offers the best in the way of a riverside spectator sport. Now very rare across the nation, water voles are threatened by pollution, changes to river management and predation by American mink (escaped or released from fur farms that were made illegal in 2000), the population has declined by 90% since the 1960's. But Abingdon is a hot spot for water voles and they can be found on several water courses, including the Ock.

An evening stroll along the river from Tesco's weir to the footbridge by New Cut Mill, from around 6.30 PM, is the best time to see a water vole; they can often be seen swimming across the river or heard munching on grasses on the bank, and sometimes the females can be seen fighting over territories. Water voles are not the only highlight: there are several pairs of nesting kingfishers along the river, and a blue flash as they dash past is the best indicator. But with a careful eye they can also be seen sitting on an overhanging branch waiting for a suitable fish to swing past. If you're lucky, you could even see a male feeding a female as part of their mating ritual, or an adult feeding a juvenile.

But things can also turn nasty on the river; both water voles and kingfishers are known to turn on their young, and even kill them, if the juveniles do not leave home.

There are plenty of other things to see along the river and I would be pleased to hear what other sightings people have had.

e-mail: Ockviewer@gmail.com

Summer Quiz – Total Idiomania

The clues are initials of common idioms

Example: **PYNI** - to interfere - poke your nose in

Answers to Eleanor, 23, Masefield by 25th July

- 1) **POC** - especially easy task _____
- 2) **LC** - unpredictable person who may cause problems _____
- 3) **TBL** - the end result _____
- 4) **TIC** - pretending to be serious when joking _____
- 5) **HC** - no option, take it or leave it _____
- 6) **SD** - period of youthful inexperience _____
- 7) **KD** - to apply oneself to a task _____
- 8) **STL** - lazy behaviour _____
- 9) **BGB** - wimp _____
- 10) **CAW** - difficult, tricky situation _____
- 11) **CCL** - state of fantasy _____
- 12) **DS** - anti climax _____
- 13) **TARC** - to postpone (American) _____
- 14) **BYB** - to make an irrevocable decision _____
- 15) **HF** - gesture of triumph with partner _____
- 16) **BYT** - explode with anger _____
- 17) **GEM** - jealousy _____
- 18) **ATEH** - at the last minute _____
- 19) **JOAT** - person who can do many jobs _____
- 20) **SPIARH** - person who does not fit in _____



The winner of the spring quiz (Dressed for the Occasion) was the Miller family of Orpwood Way. Answers to the spring quiz: 1)jumper 2)trunks 3)shell suit 4)sweater 5)bikini 6)jeans 7)cords/G-string 8)tights9)mittens 10)slippers 11)boots 12)blazer13)leotard 14)wellingtons 15)T-shirt 16)boxers 17)cardigan 18)beret 19)fleece 20)braces

Councillors' Surgeries
Tim Oates or Samantha Bowring at the TFLR
See the main newsletter for contact details of your Town and Vale Councillors

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 9th June 2010 - 8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room -A.G.M.

Wednesday 14th July 2010 “ “ “

Deadline for items for the next newsletter: Wednesday 18th August 2010

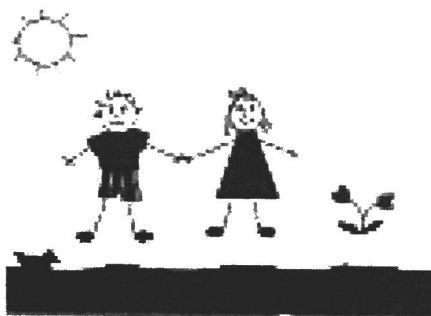
Contact the newsletter – items for publication:

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 free 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**