
* **Tithe Farm and Ladygrove** *
* **Summer Newsletter 2011** *

Welcome to the June newsletter. June is the month when we send our intrepid newsletter deliverers round to your doors to collect your subscription, so please greet them with a friendly smile and a £1. Alternatively, they may call in September. The sub is for membership of the Residents' Association, and everyone is welcome to attend meetings, held on the second Wednesday of the month (see back page for details.)

Town and Vale Elections – Your duly elected Councillors for the Ock Meadow ward are as follows:

Town – Marilyn Badcock - 01235 201 810 e-mail marilyn.badcock@abingdon.gov.uk
Mike Badcock (the new Mayor) - 01235 201 810
e-mail mike.badcock@abingdon.gov.uk
Samantha Bowring – 07767 072095 e-mail samantha.bowring@abingdon.gov.uk

Vale – Marilyn Badcock
Mike Badcock

The Ock Meadow Councillors have received formal invitations to attend Residents' Association meetings to hear your views and answer your questions, though of course, Mike and Marilyn Badcock are entitled, as residents of Ladygrove, to attend anyway.

Thank you! – We would like to thank our retiring Councillor, Tim Oates, for his hard work over the past four years. He has attended almost every meeting of the Residents' Association and diligently followed up all the queries and issues presented to him.

T.V. Switchover to Digital

The analogue signal will be switched off and replaced with a digital signal. **The switchover will happen in two stages and you will need to retune your T.V.s at each stage.**

Oxford transmitter - Stage 1 on 14th Sept, Stage 2 on 28th Sept.

Before then, you will be sent an information booklet.

You can also call 08456 50 50 50 or visit digitaluk.co.uk/central for advice.

If you are: 75 or over, living in a care home for 6 months or more, getting certain disability benefits or registered blind or partially sighted, you can get FREE installation and retuning. Call 0800 40 85 900 or visit helpscheme.co.uk

Graffiti – Some graffiti have appeared on a wall on Wordsworth/Longfellow. I have reported the matter to Verdant but have received no reply. Someone told me that Verdant only remove graffiti when they are on public property, but I am still looking into the matter. Please report any other graffiti to the newsletter.

Injury to cat – I received a rather disturbing report in March (just after the publication of the spring newsletter) from a resident whose cat had a small lesion above its eye. When she took it to the vet, an air gun pellet was found in the wound. Fortunately there have been no further reports of injuries to pets.

FOR SALE

Metal high bed with desk beneath and chair - £60
Children's metal climbing frame with slide, net climb,
fireman's pole and acrobat swing
Suitable for age 3+ - £60 Contact 01235 526 657

South Abingdon Residents' Plan – This group has been formed to improve the facilities, amenities, services and general appearance of South Abingdon. A launch event was held at Preston Road Community Centre on 19th March, where residents were invited to give their suggestions for improvements. There are now several sub committees, comprising Transport, Environment, Youth & Education, Community, Facilities, Older People and Skate Park. If you would like to join one of these sub committees, contact the newsletter (details on back page) and you will be steered in the right direction.

Summer Swimming – The outdoor pool in the Abbey Meadows opens on Saturday 28th May and will be open until early September. For more details, go to www.soll-leisure.co.uk and click on Abingdon.

Events

Saturday 11th June – Pentecost Family Fun Day – Market Place – 11.00- 15.00

Saturday 18th June - Election of the Mayor of Ock St and Morris Dancing – Market Place and Town Centre – all day.

Saturday 25th June – Abingdon's Got Talent Auditions – Market Place – 11.00-14.00

Wednesday 6th – Saturday 9th July – All's Well that Ends Well – 7.30p.m. – Unicorn Theatre – abingdon-drama-club.com

Saturday 9th July – “Yeah Baby” live music fundraising event – Market Place 11.00-15.00

Saturday 16th July – Abingdon's Got Talent Final - Market Place – 12.00-14.00

Wednesday 20th – Saturday 23rd July – Neville's Island – Old Gaol Theatre Company – Unicorn Theatre – www.ogtc.org.uk

Saturday 23rd July - Local Excellence Market – Market Place – 9.30-14.00



Calling all Cyclists – If you enjoy cycle rides, check out the Freewheeling website – www.abingdonfreewheeling.org.uk. There are organised evening rides throughout the Summer and on most Sundays. There are even more rides during Bike Week (19th-27th June) including a gentle Historic Tour and Wildlife Site Tour.

Retiring Mayor, Duncan Brown, gives us an interesting insight into the life of a Mayor

I Sentence You to One Year as the Mayor of Abingdon

It is appropriate that Mayors wear chains of office as they are literally chained to their office. Like prisoners the world over they are subject to stringent rules and regulations. I want to tell you about those laws but first it's probably helpful if I tell you about a typical day in the civic detention centre.

You may well have heard about a little wedding that happened recently and you might have come along to try and catch a bun or two. I hope it was a special day for you but strangely it was a fairly typical day for me. I started it on BBC 6 Music discussing the differing flight paths of pastry products. A chocolate brioche has a totally different trajectory to a currant bun. I went to a street party and judged a fancy dress contest but no one was wearing fancy dress. That was a challenge. Then I lobbed around 300 buns off some scaffolding.

That proves that my life is incredibly odd but what's that go to do with the set of rules imposed upon Mayors? The first regulation is you don't get to decide what to do with your time. There is only one Mayor, they have to talk to the media, they have to attend events and sometimes they even have to throw the odd cake. Simply put, your time is not your own, your time belongs to the town.

There is only one Mayor but there are a lot of councillors and I have had the odd run in with them. Abingdon Peace Group arranged a very moving event to mark Hiroshima Day, it was pretty humbling. They also gave me a petition urging me to join the Mayors for Peace initiative. It's a scheme started by the Mayor of Hiroshima aimed at promoting world peace. Now you'd think it would be hard to argue against world peace. But politicians can disagree with anything. After a few discussions about global nuclear disarmament, the arms industry and situation in the Middle East they let me join. And there's the next rule. You no longer have the right to hold your own opinion. You can't even promote world peace without asking permission.

So there are rules governing your time and your opinion, what else could they possibly restrict? People that have known me since I was a small child haven't used my name in a year. They just say it's the Mayor but I'm not just the Mayor. I'm an individual with hopes and dreams and fears and feelings. Or at least I was before my individuality itself become subject to rules and regulations.

That's a glimpse of what life was like in the maximum security VIP enclosure. Despite my complaints it was a fantastic year. I'd like to thank everyone I've met for making it so special.

Views of the Ock – Annoying insects?

Having spent over a year as larvae, eating algae, the mayfly that have survived being eaten by fish, crayfish and dragonfly larvae emerge from the river in late spring and become adults. The transformation of adult mayfly is unique in the insect kingdom as it undergoes two stages: the subimago and imago (adult). With no mouth or stomach the lucky ones will live for only a day during which they will attract a mate, reproduce, lay eggs and die. Even in death they become food for the fish.

The unlucky ones just become part of the food chain. Having survived them as nymphs, adult mayfly are a target for adult dragonflies and damselflies, who find the males easy prey as they bounce up and down in the air trying to attract a mate. These, along with the mayfly, are prey for swifts who have returned to Abingdon after spending the winter in Africa to raise their young, making the most of this abundance of winged insects.

The swifts – along with the dragonflies and mayfly – are in turn prey to a small bird the size

of a kestrel with the flying pattern of a swift; these are hobbies that have also returned from Africa and on occasions can be seen darting above the Ock. Although when swarming in large numbers they can be an annoyance on a early summer walk, the mayfly in their larval and adult forms are probably one of the most important creatures on the river.

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The Garden in Summer

by Martin Gulliver

After a hot spring, a lot of plants will be flowering early and I hope you kept the watering up!

June is often a mixture of sunshine and showers so weeding and deadheading are important. Shrubs that flowered in spring 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.

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. Also continue sowing new seeds. 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.

As summer progresses, keep plants well watered but give priority to containers and vegetables, and any plants put in recently. Established shrubs should be fine, and lawns can be ignored – they will recover whatever happens. If we do get rain, don't assume that this will take care of the containers – it won't. Similarly a short heavy shower will just drain away so scrape away some of the top soil to check if watering is required.

There is often a gap in the garden in August so plan ahead by investing in a few young perennials to grow on, or even sow a few annuals to plug the gaps in the next couple of months. Now is also the time to plant autumn bulbs such as crocus. As in any month, visit the garden centre to see what is in bloom now and buy flowering plants to fill the gaps.

Herbs should be trimmed now to prevent them getting leggy. Use them as appropriate and any spare can be chopped and frozen in ice cubes to use later. Continue to sow salad crops – most germinate from seed better in the shade rather than the sun so put seed trays/pots in a shady corner until the seedlings show through.

In August, there are a few pruning jobs that can be got on with. Lavender that has finished flowering can be trimmed by taking off the stalks plus 1 inch of the new growth. Do not cut into any old wood as it will not produce shoots from this.

Hardy geraniums may now have finished flowering and all of the top growth can be cut back. This may produce a new flush of flowers this summer, but at the very least new foliage which will last well into the autumn, and often into the winter.

Alliums that have finished flowering can either be left to die back, as the seed heads are rather attractive, or they can be lifted and stored and the space filled with summer or autumn bedding. The bulbs can then be replanted early next year.

Talking of bulbs, now is the time to buy and plant daffodils for a good display next year.

Finally, as strawberries finish, cut back all the old foliage and clear the bed completely. If you do not wish to produce new plants, cut off any unwanted runners. However strawberry plants are best renewed every three years so if this is the third year of fruiting it is a good idea to peg the runners down into pots and root new plants for next year.

Summer Quiz – Heteropalindromes!

Or words which, when read backwards, make a different word, e.g. halt – stop, containers – pots. Answers to Eleanor, 23, Masefield by 18th August.

uncooked _____ conflict _____
 heavenly body _____ rodents _____
 light beer _____ royal _____
 works with yarn _____ bad smell _____
 run freely _____ carnivorous wild animal _____
 dry grain stalks _____ excrescences of the skin _____
 keen _____ female opera star _____
 discharged debt _____ American nappy _____
 make merry _____ bar to assist lifting _____
 Greek god of love _____ painful _____
 puddings _____ under pressure _____
 sliding box for storage _____ recompense _____
 course game _____ beat, or sell (slang) _____
 existed _____ Satan _____
 brand of mineral water _____ credulous, ingenuous _____
 vegetable of the onion family _____ underneath a ship _____
 school children _____ mistake _____
 condensed vapour _____ marry _____
 immerses in liquid again _____ arachnid _____
 around the teeth _____ self-satisfied _____
 bus on rails _____ market _____
 cosy _____ firearms _____
 backless seat _____ robs _____
 famous racehorse _____ unlawful killing _____

The spring quiz was won (after a draw) by Mrs Moore of Masefield Crescent
 Answers: 1)Grand Hotel 2)Mutiny on the Bounty 3)Going My Way 4)The Lost Weekend 5)
 All the King's Men 6)An American in Paris 7)West Side Story 8)A Man for All Seasons 9)
 In the Heat of the Night 10)The Sting 11)The Deer Hunter 12)Chariots of Fire 13)The Last
 Emperor 14)Rain Man 15) Dances with Wolves 16)Braveheart 17)Shakespeare in Love 18)
 No Country for Old Men 19)Slumdog Millionaire 20)The Hurt Locker

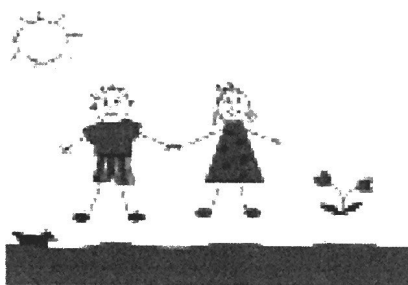
Councillors' Surgeries - at the TFLRA Committee Meeting-
Your Town and Vale Councillors have been invited to the Committee meetings.
For contact details, see front page of the newsletter.

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

Dates of the TFLRA Committee Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of each month
8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room - 9th June (A.G.M.), 13th July, no August
meeting - all welcome - check beforehand in case of change.
Contact the newsletter - items for publication: EleanorDangerfield 01235 531857 23
Masefield Crescent- eledanger@hotmail.com deadline for next - 18th August 2011

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

Children's Illustration Workshop

Saturday 9th July 3p.m. at Abingdon Library

Bestselling children's authors **Chris Mould** and **David Melling**
give a drawing and storytelling masterclass. Ages 6-12 years.

Tickets £3 from Mostly Books in Stert St. books@mostly-books.co.uk
redeemable against a purchase on the day. Booking essential.