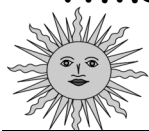


# Tithe Farm & Ladygrove Residents Association (TFLRA)



## Summer 2018



**WELCOME** – Well the beautiful warm weather has finally arrived, though the thunder and downpours that followed are true to our typical crazy British weather. More about this in our first article below. Welcome to all new residents and hope you enjoy reading this newsletter - this is produced 4 times a year, all for the grand sum of £1. Thank you for helping keep this newsletter running.

**FLOODS ON THE ESTATES** - The torrential downpour on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May brought flash floods to many areas and unfortunately many people on the corner of Mill Road / Wordsworth Road saw water flooding into their garages and rooms of some houses, and parts of Francis Little Drive and Burton Close were also badly affected.



The two drains in Wordsworth simply didn't do their job - a considerable amount of water often collects in a dip in the road there if the drains don't dispose of it. Some driveways slope back towards the house so as soon as the water breaches the top of the driveways its a fight to keep it out of homes. Once the rain stopped the drains took approximately 45 minutes to get rid of the sitting water in the street, then it had to be brushed out of the garages. Neighbours helped each other remove the water from their garages and to restore the electric back on in some properties. Thanks to the kindly gentleman who stood on the corner diverting traffic away from the flood which was extremely helpful to those affected.

**Please remember its imperative to drive very slowly through floodwater to avoid making a tidal wash sweeping the water into properties, which happened on 31<sup>st</sup> May and back in 2007. PLEASE DRIVE SLOW!**

We understand that Thames Water have now inspected the sewer/surface water lines in this area and have said that there is no problems with these. Residents are now approaching Oxfordshire County Council to ask that they clear the gullies as a matter of urgency.



**ZEBRA CROSSING ON THE FARINGDON ROAD** - About two years ago we heard that a crossing on the Faringdon Road was planned which could have been used by our children who go to Fitzharries and John Mason schools. Nothing seemed to come of this idea but we

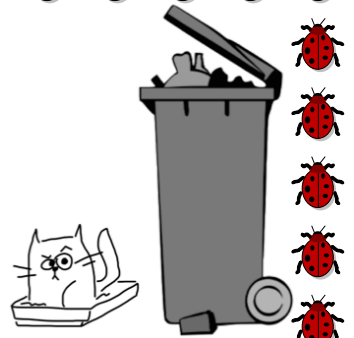
have now been told by the County Council that they are hopeful that it will be installed later this year. This is apparently to be funded by Abingdon School, whose playing field is across the Faringdon Road from the school. We were very glad to hear this news as there was anxiety about the numbers of our children who would have to cross a busy road unaided. We hope that nothing happens to prevent the work going ahead.

**PARKING PROBLEMS** - We have been made aware of various parking issues over the last few months – residents being concerned about cars being parked on pavements and on places like the greens. These sort of problems are happening all over Abingdon – just look at complaints on places like FixMyStreet. There is very little that the Residents' Association can say or do here. We just ask that you do be aware of dangers caused by cars in unexpected places. And not always easy, but also perhaps talk to your neighbours about any concerns you have.





**CALLING ALL LITTER PICKERS** (*Helen writes*) - At the beginning of this year I decided to form a litter-picking group in Abingdon and registered Abingdon Against Litter with Litter Action. So far we have litter picked as a group in three problem areas around Abingdon and I am currently finalising a schedule for the rest of the year. To join Abingdon Against Litter please go to [www.litteraction.org.uk](http://www.litteraction.org.uk) or alternatively contact Helen at [heharwood@yahoo.com](mailto:heharwood@yahoo.com).



**PAPER OR EMAIL NEWSLETTER?** - A couple of years ago we asked if you were interested in receiving the newsletter by email, rather than paper. Only

a couple of residents contacted us to say that they would like this, so we did not pursue the idea. The idea has come up again, especially as people are concerned about unnecessary use of paper. We had another think about this at a recent Residents' Association meeting. We could see complications including whether or not we charge the usual £1, and most importantly, we would have to maintain an on-line database and be responsible for keeping to the new General Data Protection Regulations. So we decided to stay with paper copies only, for the time being anyway. Perhaps in a few years time, the Tithe Farm and Ladygrove



Residents' Association newsletter will change yet again.

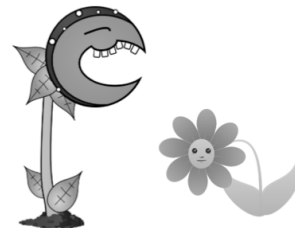
**ABANDONED COOKED CHICKEN!!** - We heard at a TFLRA meeting that, earlier this year, a resident had found a whole cooked chicken on the field track that runs behind Masefield Crescent. We had a lot of fun making suggestions about how and why it had got there- dropped by a bird of prey, just not cooked to someone's satisfaction, fell out of a shopping bag?? ... we even thought of offering a prize for the best suggestion. But jokes apart, please, please do be aware that cooked chicken bones can be fatal to both cats and dogs, many of whom use this track. We were pleased to hear that the resident took it away and disposed of it safely.



**RIVER PATH** - It is pleasing that the Ock path from the Drayton Road into town has now re-opened, following the installation of a new bridge. This work did take the Town Council some time to do, mainly because of necessary negotiations beforehand with the Environment Agency about their own plans for the area. But we must thank the Town Council for their vigilance on their regular inspections by

spotting the dangerous defects on the old bridge. They also had to regularly replace the 'Closed' signs at our end of the path, as these were frequently removed by those persons who thought it amusing that local residents might walk almost the full length of the path before finding out they could go no further. We hope we can now safely enjoy our walks into town by this very attractive route.

**PLANT SWAP** - Regretfully, this did not happen this year. Although planned for 12th May, it was postponed as the gardening weather had been so poor until a couple of weeks before the date. It was not possible to find another convenient date in June. Apologies for any disappointment and hopefully the weather will be more obliging next year.



**ANNOUNCEMENT** - We were very sorry to learn of the recent death of David Brown of Masefield Crescent. Our condolences to his widow Joyce, and to his family. The funeral took place in early June. Joyce would like to say a big thank you to all her friends and neighbours who have supported her over the last, difficult months.





## FAMILY DISCOVERY WALK IN SUTTON WICK



Length of walk: about an hour. Suitable for pushchairs - though a little bumpy in places. Please take special care by water and when crossing lanes. You will need a pencil - adults, please award a point for every correct answer.



Drive or walk to Sutton Wick Lane (480948) - as you approach Drayton village the lane is on the left. Park in the lane and start the walk at the duck pond. (1) Whose house is in the pond? (2) Count the dragonflies. (3) What is 'weeping'?



By the post box is an oak plaque. A detailed description of this plane crash is on the internet - 1 civilian, 3 crew, 15 passengers and a number of RAF police dogs were killed. (4) What is in the picture carved below 'Now Amongst the Stars'? (5) In what year did it crash?



Fork right by the post box along the lane. (6) In what year was No. 18 built?



Go through the gap in the wall at the end of the lane. This meadow is a lovely place to have a picnic. It has a circle of walnut trees, as a reminder of former walnut orchards, and a community orchard of different apple trees. Fork right and follow the sandy path round the Millennium Green. (7) Spot the gnomon. What is it? (8) If it is sunny, what time is it?



Pass the gnomon and fork left on the path, then fork right and walk around the pond, keeping behind the fence when you can. (9) What creatures can you see? A water boatman / a dragonfly / bees / tadpoles / frogs? Any others? 1 point for every different creature.



Amongst the grasses on the shady side of the pond are different butterflies and flowers. 1 point for every different butterfly you see and 1 point for every different flower. Draw one of the flowers. After circling the pond, follow the path onwards past the pond into the copse at the end. At the path crossroads turn right and follow the wooden fence on the right hand side. Come out on Church Lane. Go left along the lane to near the end. (10) What is on top of the Church tower?



Go through the first Church gate. (11) What did F.E. Robinson do?



Continue along Church Lane past the lynch gate. (12) What is lucky above the last gate on the left of the lane?



Come out on to the High Street and turn right. (13) There is an animal at no. 27. What is it?



Find the secret path on the right after the Grange. Go up the step and along the dark path to the kissing gate. Cross the small field to another kissing gate. Walk right along the lane for a few metres and then straight on along another footpath (by no 13). Follow this path (Gravel Lane) to Church Lane again. (14) How many pillars are on the right at the end of the footpath?



Turn left up Church Lane past Lime Close and Old Lodge to the corner of the lane. Turn right on the footpath along the edge of the paddocks. (15) How many horses/ponies can you see?



Go along the path back to Millennium Green. Retrace your steps to your car.





**OUR SUMMER TOURISTS** - *(by Max the Wildlife watcher)* - Hopefully when you are reading this our summer migrants will be back - the house martins, swallows and swifts. There are lots of quieter ones and the infamous cuckoo will have laid their eggs back in May. By August the tourists and their fledglings will think about returning to their winter feeding grounds.



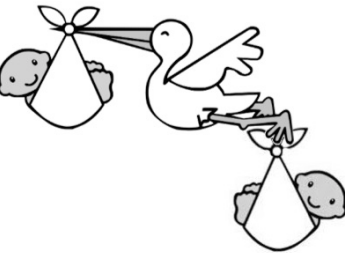
Last summer I was very excited to see a swift family soaring over our neighbourhood. Whilst walking around the neighbourhood I spotted some nest boxes on someone's house and heard the sound system of the birds cries to entice them into the nest. I decided I would try and give it a go this year and contacted Gavin Bennett at [abingdonswifts@gmail.com](mailto:abingdonswifts@gmail.com). At a small cost he installed two boxes and set up my own sound system. I am hoping that my nest boxes will eventually add to the number of swifts in the area. However I will have to be patient.



The swift is one of the last summer migrants to arrive in the UK and the first to leave. 'Screaming' calls reveal the presence of parties of swifts flying above towns. It's estimated that swifts fly an average daily total of 800km - nearly 500 miles. That's about 2 million km (more than 1.24 million miles) in a lifetime. Swifts spend their life almost entirely on the wing and even feed, sleep and mate in flight. They feed exclusively on insects and only come to land when nesting. An abundant supply of insects is critical for their survival. Parent swifts collect lots of insects to take back to their chicks - up to 1,000 at once, which make a big bulge in their throat. 'Our' swifts fly across the Sahara desert in autumn and some even go as far south as South Africa. It's a long journey but they don't hang around: one young bird left its nest in Oxford and flew all the way to Madrid in just three days.



Why are their numbers declining? The RSPB believe loss of nest sites is at least partly responsible. These migrant birds return from their wintering grounds in Africa to the same spot each year to breed - usually in buildings, in gaps under roof tiles and eaves. Due to our tendency to seal up buildings during renovation or knock them down, swifts are returning to discover their nest site has gone or access is blocked. It would be great to think we could be part of the solution as well; with a little bit of thought around our own homes or environmentally friendly planning with new housing developments. We could all spread the word that small positive changes, could have a huge local impact, such as putting up a nest boxes or building a pond. Over our summer barbeques may the cries and the soaring flights of our tourists fill the air for many years to come. That's worth raising a glass or two.



**YOUNGEST RESIDENTS - CONGRATULATIONS!** - Many congratulations to the new parents of George and Millie, who were born in March, and live in Tennyson Drive. We hope all are doing well. Unusually, George and Millie were born on separate days – George just before midnight and Millie just afterwards. So will they have to have different birthday parties in future?



**OLDEST RESIDENTS** - We have been writing about our 'oldest' residents, or rather, the residents who have been here the longest. A little way outside of our estates, but our area has shown evidence of residents who lived around here some 1500 years ago. When Saxton Road was being built in 1934/5, a large Saxon cemetery was found. The remains of about 200 men, women and children were discovered, some cremated, some buried, along with relics interred with them (called grave goods). There is more about this part of our history in Abingdon Museum. Incidentally, Saxton Road's name is nothing to do with its first occupants – it was apparently named instead after a Sir Charles Saxton.



**WHY PLASTIC BAGS?** (by Councillor Chris Palmer) - When I first heard that we could collect our food waste in plastic bags I was a bit surprised, and my first thought was for the person having to empty them. Like many of you, I have used the cellulose bags in my food caddy as liners, then thrown on my compost bin and have been surprised when they come out virtually intact - I assumed the higher temperatures would digest them. So having heard they'd be ok for disposal, to me it seemed a contradiction. The following response from Cllr Charlotte Dickson put my mind at rest and also as a scientist, it reminded me that the technology exists for recycling - energy is generated from the fermentation process, fertilizer is created to enhance crop production.

Food waste collected in Vale of White Horse is sent to an anaerobic digestion facility. Previously the advice was to use biodegradable bags - however Agrivert (who run the facility) have found that the biodegradable bags were not breaking down in the process and were having to be removed, which involves a machine that pulverises the bags using metal plates that rotate incredibly fast, leaving only food behind. As they were having to remove the biodegradable bags there was no reason for residents not to be allowed to use ordinary plastic bags if they wished to. The plastic bags along with the biodegradable bags are taken to an energy recovery facility, where they are incinerated to produce electricity

The plastic-free food is then digested by bacteria, which produces methane biogas used to create electricity. The leftover liquid is a high quality fertiliser, which is spread on local farmland to grow crops. Biodegradable bags can still be used, along with newspaper, or no liner at all. Plastic bags are much cheaper and stronger than biodegradable ones therefore we hope that by allowing residents to use plastic bags to recycle their food it may encourage people to recycle more food waste.

As a chemist I will be keeping an eye on the research regarding plastic degradation - over 30 years ago an enzyme was discovered that metabolised benzene and related compounds into less toxic compounds - it may not have come to anything commercially but it did lead to a lot of fruitful research. Lets hope this delivers a sustainable technology.

**GARDENING - PESTS AND DISEASES** (Martin Gulliver writes) - These can be the bane of any gardeners life and treatment can be either with chemicals or organic. I have found both to be useful but I tend towards organic for pests.

**Slugs** - slug pellets are effective. Scatter around plant but not in piles. Nematodes can be watered on to the affected area but may need re-application. Physical barriers include grit and copper tape. I have found the latter to be useful on pots ... (interesting fact – snails can climb, not so slugs!)



**Greenfly** – soapy water can disturb these, or if not squeamish, use fingers. Also try shaking the stem to scatter them ... (interesting fact number 2 - Greenfly once shaken off will not fly back!)

Small round holes, especially in roses can indicate **Leafcutter Bees** or **Caterpillars** - keep an eye out and pick off by hand.

**Downy Mildew** - fungicide is the best answer - catch it early. **Rose Blackspot** - fungicide again and make sure you clear up all leaves and dispose of them.

**Cats** - I've tried cat scarers with limited effect and liquids and powders don't seem to work, but I have found chicken wire, a physical deterrent, to be the best answer. Cats favour freshly dug ground, so cover with pieces of the wire - it hardly notices (having often inadvertently trodden or kicked the wire myself on occasions!)





**QUIZ** - The answers (or questions) all contain a version of June or July. Closing date 14th July - drop entries into 18 Mill Road or email to [tfl\\_ra@zoho.com](mailto:tfl_ra@zoho.com) - a small prize for the winner!

1	Dot Cotton of Albert Square	
2	He came, he saw, he conquered	
3	Capital of Alaska	
4	Half of the star crossed lovers	
5	Medieval female mystic from East Anglia	
6	Long serving Peggy of 'The Archers'	
7	Roman Goddess, wife of Jupiter	
8	Start of Notting Hill, Pretty Woman, Erin Brockovich	
9	He wrote '20,000 Leagues Under the Sea'	
10	Mysterious Confectioner in 'Chocolat'	
11	In which musical was June busting out all over?	
12	Liz in Billy Liar, Lara in Dr Zhivago	

**SPRING QUIZ ANSWERS - HIDDEN RIVERS** - (1) Ouse, (2) Lune, (3) Cam, (4) Tweed, (5) Don, (6) Medway, (7) Dee, (8) Ock, (9) Tyne, (10) Mole, (11) Dart, (12) Lee(a), (13) Wey, (14) Trent, (15) Tay, (16) Cherwell, (17) Derwent, (18) Tees, (19) Taw(e), (20) Exe and extra (21) Ant.

In addition to the 20 river names set by our quizzer, the river ANT was identified! The most rivers were found by residents of Orpwood Way, who described themselves as 'The River Monsters'! They identified 19 rivers – congratulations to them and we hope they enjoy their small prize.

**ADVERTS** - You can advertise your business. A full advert can go on the Blog with a short summary in the paper newsletters. £10 for residents for a year. We look forward to hearing from you!



- **Window Wise** - Supply and fit double glazed windows, doors and conservatories – Repairs undertaken on all double glazing – No pressured sales – Friendly service. Ring Martin for a free quotation on 07885571778 or 01235-559334.
- **Milk and More** - delivered to your door! To arrange home deliveries of milk and other goods, contact Steve Enock Dairies Ltd of Milk and More. Deliveries on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Tel 0345 606 3606 or email [steveenock@hotmail.com](mailto:steveenock@hotmail.com).
- **Simon's News** - Newspaper home delivery, 7 days a week – telephone 01235-553001.

**NEXT MEETING AND CONTACT** – Please see Blog at <https://tflra.blogspot.co.uk> for the next meeting. For article contributions, announcements, advertising or if you'd like to come along to a meeting, email at [tfl\\_ra@zoho.com](mailto:tfl_ra@zoho.com) or phone / text on our new number **07547419545** to leave a message.



Chair: Anita 39 Masefield Crescent / Treasurer: Val 17 Nash Drive / Editor: Kay 36 Masefield Crescent