



Tithe Farm and Ladygrove Estate Newsletter Winter 2013

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the newsletter. In this edition we have the final part of Tony Godfrey's article on the poets of Tithe Farm and a light hearted look at festive season gardening. Dates of Christmas/New Year waste collections are on the back page.

Longfellow Green – A few months ago the bench disappeared from Longfellow Green. I have been told that a new one is on order so it will soon be replaced. A dead cherry tree has been removed. The shrubs in the shrub beds, which were, admittedly, rather manky looking, have been removed and will, sadly, not be replaced. The areas have now been sown with grass seed.

The speed bump question - In the previous newsletter we mentioned a suggestion from a Mill Road resident that there should be a speed bump in Mill Road near the junction with Drayton Road and we asked for your thoughts on speed bumps and whether they were necessary in Mill Road or any other roads on the estates. There were three emails, one, pro speed bumps and two, anti. So, counting the original suggestion, that makes it a score draw. First, a summary of the pro speed bump email: This resident saw a van belonging to a certain company go along Mill Road doing "at least 60 miles an hour". He has six grandchildren and is terrified that one of them will step out on to the road and get knocked down. He would like to see speed bumps all along Mill Road and fears someone is going to be seriously hurt if we don't get them.

Now for the anti speed bump emails: Another resident thinks speed bumps are unnecessary. He doesn't think there is an issue with speeding and finds most drivers both sensible and courteous. Speed bumps and chicanes, he says, are a nuisance to negotiate every day. He also feels that speed bumps give out a signal that there is something wrong with the drivers on the estate and that there is a problem with speeding.

The third respondent says that "the idea of speed bumps is awful". He also finds drivers on Mill Road generally courteous and considerate. He points out that speed bumps cause stress on a car's suspension and that older residents like himself dislike being bumped about when going over speed bumps.

Both the latter respondents say that there is a problem with restricted views caused by cars and vans parked on or too close to corners.

It is interesting to note that neither of the anti speed bump people actually lives on Mill Road.

I would like to thank the above residents for their interest and for taking the trouble to reply.

Tithe Farm archives – I have three boxes of TFRA archives dating back to the early 1970s, long before I moved here. I'm not really into archives and have elusive dreams of an uncluttered house. If anyone would like to take them off my hands, I would be most grateful. I hear the siren call of the Drayton Road dump (sorry, waste and recycling centre). If interested, contact Eleanor (contact details on back page).

Litter Picking - If you were crossing the Masfield Crescent playing field area one afternoon in October, you may have seen a group of intrepid ladies armed with heavy gloves, litter pickers and rubbish bags. The Residents' Association had been told about rubbish thrown away around the edges of the field, both in the field and round the outside perimeter. We found that one kind resident had already tackled part of the problem earlier in the week and had picked up several bags of cans. We tackled the rest which hopefully made it safer and more pleasant for a week or so at least. We realise that the problems do not come from local dog walkers etc. - so let's hope that the colder weather will keep away the groups who gather to socialise and drink cans.

Creation Theatre – The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
 The North Wall Arts Centre, Summertown – 6th December until 4th January.
 The Creation Christmas productions are really worth seeing. They put an original spin on old favourites and you are close enough to the action really to feel part of it. You can also fortify yourself with delicious crepes, both sweet and savoury before the show or during the interval.
 Find out more at www.creationtheatre.co.uk or phone 01865 766266.

Thames Travel Improved bus service!

At last there is a new, improved bus service between Didcot and Oxford via Drayton Road. The X2 will run in the evenings and also goes on to Wallingford. There is also a new X1 service, which continues from Didcot to Harwell campus and Wantage. It's a bit complicated to explain here so go to www.thames-travel.co.uk The phone number is 01491 837 988 . The new timetable is displayed at the bus stops or you can pick one up on the bus.

FESTIVAL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - ADVANCE NOTICE

7th - 23rd March 2014. More than 100 events will be taking place all over Oxfordshire. The closing events from 20th – 22nd March will be especially exciting for Abingdon as celebrity scientists such as Jim Al-Khalili and Frank Close will be coming to the Guildhall and there will be hands-on events in the Market Place on Saturday 22nd March. Check out www.oxscifest.com for more information.



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Poets of Tithe Farm

Part 3

Wordsworth, Coleridge, Masfield, Bridges... We are now coming to the end of our survey of the poets of Tithe Farm. Now only two remain. They are Tennyson and Longfellow. Neither, as far as I know, have any connections with Abingdon or this part of the world but their names were well known during the reign of Queen Victoria and their work was very popular.

Alfred Lord Tennyson's family came from Lincolnshire. You can see his rather imposing statue in the grounds of Lincoln cathedral. However, when he became rich and famous as a result of his success as a poet, he set up home on the Isle of Wight quite near to Osborne House where Victoria and Albert had built a large mansion. Victoria was a big fan of Tennyson's poetry as were many of her subjects. Time has not been too kind to his reputation but some of his poems are still popular. Some of you may remember "The Charge of the Light Brigade" which describes an incident in the Battle of Balaclava during the Crimean War:

*Half a league, half a league
Half a league onward
All in the Valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.
"Forward the light brigade
Charge for the guns!" he said.
Into the Valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.*



This is thrilling stuff. With its pounding rhythm and repetition of words and phrases, you can easily imagine the cavalry galloping down the valley. The terse orders to the cavalry also serve to build up the excitement and determination. Tennyson wrote this poem six weeks after the actual incident and it would no doubt have fuelled nationalistic fervour. However the truth behind all this was slightly different because, as a result of a military blunder, the cavalry who had been sent to pursue retreating soldiers had found themselves sent into the direct firing line of the Russian artillery. There were massive casualties. Tennyson turns the event to a hymn of bravery.

Tennyson was a good storyteller and produced a huge volume of work. An ambitious work composed over a long period was the "Idylls of the King" which dealt with the legend of King Arthur and his knights of the Round Table.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow is the odd man out of our poets in that he was an American. He was popular in England particularly for his poem about a North American Indian chief called "The Song of Hiawatha:"



*By the shores of Gitchee Gumee
By the shining Big Sea Water
At the doorway of his wigwam
In the pleasant summer morning
Hiawatha stood and waited*

Unusually, Longfellow wrote about the original inhabitants sympathetically. I hope you have found this poets' tour has given you some interesting facts. I wish you all a pleasant Christmas get-together and hope you receive some excellent poems on your Christmas cards.

Tony Godfrey

THE GARDEN AT CHRISTMAS

December can be quiet in the garden – with a bit of luck. A few tasks need doing though:-
Take a pair of secateurs with you as you walk around the estate at night – someone must have holly with berries on surely??

Bring your Christmas tree in early and keep it in a heated room – with a bit of luck all the needles will have fallen off by mid December and that saves the bother of having to decorate it!

Don't forget to buy more Christmas cards than you need so you can save some for next year. Put them in a cupboard where you will find the extra cards you bought last year and forgot about. And so it continues...

When carol singers burst forth with two lines of *We Wish you a Merry Christmas* and stick their hands out, invite them in and ask for two verses of *Once in Royal David's City* - this will scare them off.

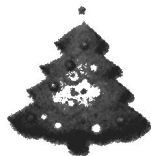
Don't serve Brussels sprouts – they are the work of the devil and will turn your children bald...fact.

Leaving a half eaten turkey carcass outside may annoy the neighbours. Another good way to annoy them is to play Christmas music very loud.

And finally....

What goes Oh Oh Oh? Santa Claus walking backwards.

What goes Ho, Ho, Swoosh, Ho, Ho, Swoosh? Santa Claus caught in a revolving door
Merry Christmas!



Martin Gulliver

Cinderella A Treat for the New Year

Abingdon Drama Club gives a 21st century feel to this favourite fairy tale. At the Unicorn Theatre from Friday 17th January until Saturday 25th January. Evening performances 7.30 on Fri 17th, Sat 18th, Thur 23rd, Fri 24th and Sat 25th Jan. Matinees at 2.30 on Sat 18th, Sun 19th and Sat 25th Jan. Tickets £10 (£7 concessions, 12 and under, 60 and over. Family ticket 2 adults and 2 children or 1 adult and 3 children £30)

Tickets from The Bookstore, Abingdon Precinct. For more information, contact tickets@unicombboxoffice.org.uk. Phone 0845 4636638, website www.abingdon-drama-club.com.



DECEMBER QUIZ . SNOW, SNOW, THICK, THICK SNOW

I'm afraid this is a rather chilly quiz. The answers are winter, snow, ice or frost. Answers to Eleanor, 23 Masefield, by 26th January.

- 1) Author, 1905-1980 of The Masters, Corridors of Power, The Affair C. P. Snow
- 2) Hello, Good evening and.....Goodbye Goodnight
- 3) Book series by George R.R. Martin of which "A Game of Thrones" is the first A Song of Ice and Fire
- 4) Fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen The Snow Queen
- 5) Play by Shakespeare A Winter's Tale
- 6) In the bleak..... Midwinter
- 7) Flower "galanthus nivalis" Snowdrop
- 8) 2002 computer animated film for children Souba v-1141 the Snowman
- 9) Illustrated story by Raymond Briggs, set to music The Snowman
- 10) Weapon used to assassinate Trotsky Ice pick
- 11) 1968 film about Henry II starring Peter O'Toole and Katharine Hepburn Lion in Winter
- 12) American poet, 1874 – 1963, "The Road not Taken" Robert Frost
- 13) Where you can buy your plants and much else besides Frost's
- 14) Bird, "plectrophenax nivalis" Snow bunting
- 15) Mirror, mirror on the wall Snowwhite
- 16) Song cycle by Franz Schubert Winter Journey
- 17) Northern Irish/Scottish alternative rock band Snowcrake
- 18) Tall, lanky TV presenter of current affairs and history programmes Dan (more)
- 19) Novella by Paul Gallico Snowgoose
- 20) To take place in Sochi, Russia in 2014 Winter Olympics

Answers to the October Quiz – The winning entry was from Laurie Varley of Masefield Crescent. 1)Anglesey 2)Skye 3)Cyprus 4)Bermuda 5)Scilly Isles 6)Sicily 7)Mauritius 8)Kos 9)Shetland 10)Isle of Man 11)Iceland 12)Newfoundland 13)Isle of Wight 14)Galapagos Islands 15)Easter Island 16)Sardinia (or Bass Rock, didn't think of that one!) 17)Christmas Island 19)Madeira 20)Jersey
Apologies for missing out number 18. That's the trouble with not having an editorial team to point out my mistakes!

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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 meeting Wed 12th February 2014

Contact the newsletter – items for publication: Eleanor Dangerfield 01235 531857
23 Masefield - eledanger@hotmail.com. Deadline for next newsletter – Sun 26th Jan 2014
Treasurer: Anita Wickens, 39 Masefield Crescent

Christmas/New Year waste collections

Normal collection day	Will be collected on
Fri 27th Dec	Mon 30th Dec (black)
Fri 3rd Jan	Mon 6th Jan (green, no garden waste)
Fri 10th Jan	Sat 11th Jan (black)

MARKET PLACE EVENTS

Saturday 21st December – Christmas present wrapping service in the Market Place 11 a.m.
– 4 p.m.

Saturday 11th January – Christmas tree recycling in the Market Place 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (real
trees, I suppose. Mine just goes back into the loft.)

Merry
Christmas &

Happy New
Year

From the Tithe Farm and Ladygrove Newsletter

