



Tithe Farm and Ladygrove Winter Newsletter

2010-2011

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers! – This month, there have been so many contributions that there is no need for much of an editorial. You will find articles on the waste collection scheme, including the Bank Holiday collection dates, and the Choose Abingdon loyalty card. Many thanks to all our contributors.

Events – You should already receive a quarterly “What’s on in Abingdon” with your copy of Round and About. These leaflets are also available from many public and commercial buildings in town. For a fuller list of events, go to www.abingdondiary.org.uk

Gazebos – Choose Abingdon partnership has bought 10 gazebos for events in the Market Place and elsewhere. These can be hired for a nominal charge of £5 each. Contact Heather Brown heather.brown@chooseabingdon.co.uk or on the Vale phone number.

Some reminders – Please pick up dog mess and dispose of it in the appropriate bins.

Children – Please do not break off branches and throw them in the river (or on the river in this weather). It harms the trees and increases flood risk.

Waste matters – A resident on Ladygrove had her food bin nicked by some teenagers (she spotted them). I believe it was found next day further along the road. Let’s hope this sort of thing doesn’t happen too often.

Bulky Waste Collection – If you phone the Vale, the recorded message refers you to the new contractors for waste collection enquiries. Confusingly though, if you want bulky waste collected (e.g. washing machines, sofas) you still apply to the Vale. Don’t necessarily expect it to be collected on the Friday, however. It may well adorn the kerbside for several days.

101 Uses for a Green Recycling Box?

When we said goodbye to the green boxes for recycling in October, there was the question of whether to put it out for Council collection (recycling the recycling box!) or to use it ourselves. I am now the owner of several green boxes – intended for tomatoes next year.

Many thanks to the Tithe Farm residents who let me have their unwanted boxes. What was so interesting was the variety of uses planned by people who wanted to keep theirs – for the garden, for the greenhouse, for the allotment, for work tools, for storage, for overflow recycling. I liked the idea of the resident who found it handy for sitting on while doing the weeding but my favourite reason is use as a windbreak for the camping stove on the allotment! Any other ideas?

Anita, Masfield Crescent

OCK VALLEY FLOOD GROUP

Public meeting to be held on Friday 18th February 2011 in the Preston Road Community Centre from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m.. We will be talking about the work that has been achieved and our plans for future work. Everyone is welcome.

Big rise in recycling

The new waste collection service has led to a massive increase in the amount of waste that is being recycled. In the first two weeks 83% of waste was recycled (200 tonnes of food waste was collected, which will be converted into fertiliser for farmland or used to produce electricity. 587 tonnes of recycling was also collected together with 308 tonnes of garden waste from residents who pay for a brown bin).

This is really good news as we reduce the amount of waste we need to send to landfill to be buried and the associated cost.

There have been a few concerns raised as residents get used to the new scheme, the main issue councillors have had feedback on is that the green bins for recyclables are not big enough for many households.

If you cannot fit all of the recycling into the green bin, please put the excess into see-through plastic bags or cardboard boxes (which will also be recycled) or use the green box from the old scheme.

Councillors are listening to all the feedback given and are already planning to offer larger green bins for bigger households after Christmas. Please email admin.vale@verdant-group.co.uk or call 03000 610610 for more information.

Do let your district councillors **Samantha Bowring** and **Beth Fleming** know if you are having any problems or if you need more information.

Everything in the green bin is being recycled in the UK and the food waste is used in Oxfordshire. The District Council chose to work with Verdant who are part of the Greenstar Group because of their commitment to recycling. If you have internet access you can watch a clip from Blue Peter of nearby Stratford on Avon's waste being recycled by Verdant: www.greenstar.co.uk/blue_peter_recycling_collection.aspx

The green bin is for: paper and card including magazines and telephone directories, steel and aluminium food and drink cans, aluminium foil including food trays, household plastics packaging, including plastic bottles, food trays, yoghurt pots and margarine tubs Glass bottles and jars (any colour) Aerosols Food and drink cartons (Tetra Paks) plastic bags, cardboard.

As a result of an earlier public consultation the council is collecting food waste every week with either the recycling or the landfill waste collection.

Everything else can go in the dark grey bin, including:

polystyrene, cling film, crisp packets, confectionery wrappers, nappies and sanitary products, cold ash, animal litter and straw, used tissues and kitchen roll, cat food pouches

Bank holiday date changes

Friday 31st December's collection will be on Wednesday 5th January

Friday 7th January on Tuesday 11th January

Friday 14th January on Monday 17th January

Friday 21st January on Saturday 22nd January

Then back to normal

The Vale District Council is offering a free reminder about when to put your bins out when collections change.

Anyone who signs up for this free service will receive a text the day before their collection whenever this changes due to Bank Holidays or bad weather.

To register send a text message with the word waste and your collection day (so for Tithe Farm and Ladygrove text 'waste Friday') to 07797 870371 you will then receive a text reminding you to put out your bins the day before your revised collection day.

Choose Abingdon Loyalty Card

A new loyalty card offering discounts and rewards at a range of shops and services in and near Abingdon has been launched by the Choose Abingdon Partnership.

More than 500 cards were issued in the first week.

You can use your 'Choose Abingdon Card' in 24 participating outlets all around the town.

Participating shops, pubs and restaurants will reward their loyal customers with vouchers and gifts when you have collected enough points on your card.

Show them that local people do care. Get a card, use your card, and do your bit to keep your local town centre alive and interesting with flourishing independent businesses.

Cards cost £3 from any of the places taking part.

So far the following shops and services have already signed up are:

Abode, Added Ingredients, The Bookstore, The Brewery Tap, The Broad Face, Centre Stage, Coffee Republic, The Cross Keys, The Crown and Thistle Carvery, F. Knight and Sons, Fabulous Flowers, Frennd and Co, The Gift Centre and Abingdon Gallery, The Lounge Café, Mod 31 Hair Boutique, Natural Health Care, Old Farmhouse Bakery, Rosie's Tea Room. Scuffs, The Shoe Shop, Spring-a-lings. Stroll In, Surroundings Framers and Recycloanalyst, Tiffins Tandori

For information on other shops in Abingdon the website www.abingdonshoppingguide.co.uk is very useful, especially for keeping up with the large number of new shops that are opening in the town.

Samantha Bowring

I've been told that the best places to obtain a loyalty card are Added Ingredients or Frennd Jewellers - **Eleanor**

Former Tithe Farm residents, Bob and Lyn Toms, write about their new home in France. It includes a gite, which is now available for rent.

In 2001 Bob and I moved to Tithe Farm, thinking that it would be our last move. Definitely time to settle. However, our dream had always been to own a place in France. In 2005 we found our 'dream' and in 2007 decided to settle in our farmhouse.

It is close to Chantonay a lively town with all facilities in the heart of the Vendee countryside. A region famed for its sunshine and sandy beaches, an ideal base for the next period in our life. It is a lovely place for walking, cycling and exploring the Vendee. The beaches of the southern Vendée are only a 50 minute drive away. There are many other attractions on the doorstep: historic towns, castles, lakes with their own beaches, beautiful forests, the Marais Poitevin with its canals and shady walks only 30 minutes away.

However, since our move most of our time has been spent renovating and making our new home a comfortable place to live. Setting up a gite has been part of the renovations. This is now ready to rent. Lovely views across the countryside, exposed beams and its own outside space. It has one bedroom, with a double bed, large open plan living area and shower room. Comfortably it sleeps 2, but it is equipped for 4 if required. Prices are £200 - £250 per week, depending on season, also available for short breaks of 3 nights. For full details please see our website <http://lovelygite@webs.com> or contact us by telephone 00 33 (0)2 51 62 56 13 or email tomsduckham@yahoo.com.

A bientot, Bob and Lyn Toms



The Garden in December

Look out of window.

Admire garden - take a glass of red wine

Make note to tidy greenhouse, take another glass

Plan vegetables for next year - more wine

Decide to get rid of the patio and turf over the lawn

Another bottle? don't do it if I mind...

Cut back the fence and plant a washing line

Fill in green pond and sow more fence over...there....

Sow bruse bussel...brusshh ...parsnips next year

Dig over the patio and sow more greenhouses...

(gosh this wine is good)

Move that bush thing to where that other bush thing was...you know the green thing...with the leaves...you know....

Fall over

(Merry Christmas!)



Martin Gulliver

**WANTED – Garage to rent in Tithes Farm Ladygrove estates for storage.
Please contact M.Hutt on 01235 539 934 or e-mail huttk@hotmail.co.uk**

The Ock in Winter

As the days get colder and the shorter there is less wildlife along the river: the water voles have retreated to their burrows and are seldom seen; the kingfishers have possibly moved to the coast and the flowers in the meadows are long gone.

In fact the best place to see wildlife in winter is in our own gardens. Hungry residents and migrating birds can flock into gardens looking for food to get them through these cold days, especially as more people than ever are feeding their birds - the RSPB suggest that feeding garden birds probably saves the lives of one million of them each year.

Charms of up to 30 goldfinches (the collective name for goldfinches) are frequent visitors. These attractive but quarrelsome birds feed on nyger seed and sunflower hearts (both requiring specialised feeders). The popularity of these feeders (and the birds themselves) has resulted in their numbers increasing since the 1970's, when they were adversely affected by changes in land use. Also making use of sunflower hearts (and peanuts) are blue tits, who are often very exposed to harsh winters, when their population can drop drastically.

Blackbirds, robins and starlings are also regular visitors to our gardens, preferring food to be on the ground or tables. Robins and blackbirds are territorial, seldom sharing and often scaring off other birds, whilst starlings gather in large groups (called murmurations), which reach quite staggering sizes; for truly impressive murmurations head to Otmoor, just north of Oxford, where flocks of several hundred thousand birds can be seen in awe-inspiring displays. These are now proving to be so popular that the RSPB are offering special walks to see them.

If you are feeding birds in the winter, remember to clean the feeders regularly, at least once a month, more so if droppings are being mixed with the food, using boiling water and suitable disinfectant. The recent decline in the greenfinch population has been linked to trichomoniasis and salmonella passed through dirty birdfeeders

Finally, all these small birds flocking into our gardens mean that we can also get glimpses of their predators, especially sparrowhawks, which may be seen flying overhead or watching for prey from our trees and roofs.

e-mail: Ockviewer@gmail.com

Winter Quiz - Shopping List

The answers to the clues are all items of food or drink (sometimes with a change of spelling!) e.g. Freezing conditions may cause these - Leeks

Answers to Eleanor, 23, Masefield Crescent by 13th February

Wise one

A shade of pink

Eastern rulers' wives

Fiction in episodes

A colour prefixed by B

Letter of the alphabet

All over the calendar

Couples

Traffic congestion

Sybil's long suffering spouse

Old fashioned winter fuel

Complain

Geldof's fruity offspring

Winnie the Pooh's favourite

Said while smiling for snappers

Noah's son was a bad actor

How you feel when the temperature drops

Cowardly

Elite car

Pa won't but.....

Prickly dance studio?

Teatime favourite used in the bath

Do this to avoid getting hit

Alan dismisses you abruptly

Crazy at Christmas

Answers to the Autumn quiz - Simply Red - 1)Red Square 2)Red October 3)Red Rum 4)Reds under the bed 5) infra red 6)Red Riding Hood 7)red sky at night 8)Red Dwarf 9)Red Book 10)red,red rose 11)red herring 12)red top 13)red deer 14)redwing 15)Red Arrows 16)red barn 17)in the red 18)red handed 19)Eric the Red 20)red dragon 21)red planet 22)red cross/crescent 23)red tape 24)redwood 25)The Red Flag

Councillors' Surgeries - at the TFLRA Committee Meeting

Your Town and Vale Councillors -

Tim Oates (Town) tim.oates@abingdon.gov.uk 01235 535 807
Samantha Bowring (Town&Vale)samantha.bowring@abingdon.gov.uk 07767072095
Beth Fleming(Vale) beth.fleming@whitehorsedc.gov.uk 07841411166
Lorraine Smith (Town) lorraine.smith@abingdon.gov.uk 01235 201 219

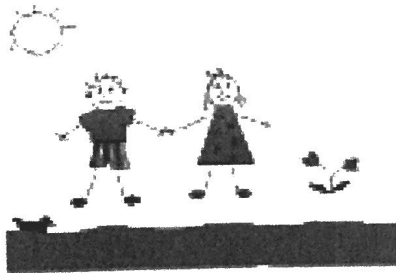
**Mike and Marilyn Badcock 1st Saturday of the month in the Family Room,
Abingdon Conservative Club, Ock St**

**Dates of the TFLRA Committee Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of each month
8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room. 12th Jan, 9th Feb, 9th Mar – all welcome – check
beforehand in case of change.**

**Contact the newsletter – items for publication: EleanorDangerfield 01235 531 857- 23
Masefield Crescent- eledanger@hotmail.com deadline for next – 13th Feb 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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

