



Tithe Farm and Ladygrove Winter Newsletter 2011

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the newsletter. We hope everyone enjoyed the colour edition and won't be too disappointed at going back to black and white. The newsletter has been quarterly for the past two years but four times a year isn't really enough so the next newsletter will, hopefully, be published in early February and the next one in late March/early April.

More newsletter deliverers needed! – If you feel you would be able to take on the deliveries for a road (or half a road if it's a long one) and knock on doors to collect the subs in the Summer, please contact Eleanor on 01235 531 857 or e-mail eledanger@hotmail.com. It could be any road on Tithe Farm/Ladygrove, not necessarily the one you live in.

TFLRA meetings – remember, any resident is welcome to attend the monthly meetings (normally 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Jephson Common Room). The meetings are very informal. You don't have to come to all of them or stay for the whole meeting and you won't be press ganged into being treasurer or secretary or anything.

Lilian Barry 1917 – 2011

Many of you will have known Lilian, who died in October, aged 94 . Her son James has written the following tribute:



Lilian was educated in Warwickshire and Hampshire. She left home in the mid 1930s to become a nursery governess in London. She joined the WAAF the day after war broke out and served until 1946. She then married and raised 3 children, June, Nora and James. She moved to Abingdon in 1972 and became warden of the Jephson flats for the next 17 ½ years. Forced by Jephsons to retire aged 72, she then took on three part time, unpaid jobs at

Red Cross, Oxfam and Cancer research shops until advised by her G.P. to give up, aged 84 because of high blood pressure.

Lilian was on the Tithe Farm Residents' Committee, where she wrote and edited the newsletter for 15 years on a small manual typewriter. She was also an active member of the W.I. for all of her adult life, serving on the committee for several years. How did she manage it all? You may well ask. If I hadn't witnessed it at first hand, I would never have believed it. She never complained about her own problems but just got on with life in her own unique way, always helping other people and usually with a cheery smile. She touched the lives of many and will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Her motto was always to see the good in people and always to look for the comic element of any situation, but most of all, never to bear a grudge because life's too short for bitterness. She was, in short, a very remarkable woman, unique even.

James Barry

Lilian was also a talented poet and her poems often appeared in the newsletter. On the back page we have printed one which is sure to make you smile.

Digital Switchover Complaint – Our colour newsletter was funded by a Digital Switchover Outreach Grant, and for that I am certainly grateful. These grants were intended to publicise free switchover help for the elderly and disabled. The leaflet gave the impression that there would be help with the actual retuning, but this was not the case. Here is a summary of what a resident told us after she called the helpline on behalf of her 80 year old, visually impaired brother: “The help consists of coming to the house bringing a new digital recording box for which you have to pay £50. If you already have one of these, you get no help at all. These boxes only cost £30 at Curry’s or Comet and even less at Argos!” Nobody comes to help with retuning. Of course many could do it themselves and did, but if those who could not had no family or friends available to help, they would be stuck with no T.V.

Another resident said the engineers who came to install digital wanted to put wires through all sorts of places he didn’t want them.

Let the newsletter know about your experiences, good or bad.

Interim Housing Supply Policy Workshop – This was the alluring title of a meeting in Wantage Civic Hall which I attended, by invitation, on 17th November. The other people at the meeting were mostly parish councillors and representatives of village residents’ associations as well as architects and planners.

Basically, the district will be about 1,200 dwellings short of the 2011-2016 central government imposed housing target and must provide sites for this number of homes in the short term. The proposal is to spread the required number throughout the Vale by making land on the edges of towns and villages available for between 11 and 50 extra dwellings, depending on the size of the settlement. The planning system is being reformed by central government and a new “presumption in favour of sustainable development” is being introduced. i.e. it will be easier for developers to get planning permission.

It isn’t the nightmare scenario of 1,500 houses between us and the A34 that we faced a couple of years ago but we need to keep our eye on things.

Street Cleaning - The Committee has been talking about street cleaning on our estates. We’ve been in touch with the Vale to ask what their contractors should be doing. The Vale replied (very promptly) saying in answer to our questions:

Most residential areas should be checked and swept/litter picked, if necessary, on a fortnightly basis. (We note that this does not mean the roads WILL be swept every fortnight!)

Removal of weeds in the gutters is the responsibility of the County Council Highways Department. However, as the newsletter has reported before, the County Council has no budget for doing this at the moment.

The alley ways on the estates are almost 100% adopted public highways so are also swept/litter-picked by the Vale’s contractors. If residents think any area needs to be swept or litter picked, this can be reported on 03000 610610.

However, if the alley ways or pathways are obstructed by bushes, ivy, trees or similar, this should be reported to the County Council Highways Dept.

We followed this up by contacting the Highways Department to check what they would do about reports of overhanging vegetation that obstructs pathways. We had to chase them for a reply but they have now confirmed that if public pathways and alley ways on the estate are obstructed, for instance by overgrown vegetation, the Oxfordshire Highways Department can be contacted on 0845 310 1111 or highwayenquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk They will inspect and take action if necessary.



Views of the Ock: The Year Ahead.

As the year draws to a close, it's an ideal opportunity to look ahead to see what the year ahead can have in store the wildlife enthusiast.

Winter: With seemingly endless dark days ahead, the best place to head is inside and the nearby museums are a great opportunity to see close the wildlife which we often just get a fleeting glimpse of.

The nearby Oxford University Museum of Natural History not only contains examples of badgers and otters, but has interesting displays on local geology as well as several collections of live insects – cockroaches, stick insects and a tarantula. Although perhaps the most fascinating is the collection of honey bees which fly in and out of the museum on the top floor. However, it is the display of dinosaur remains (many found locally) which will enthral younger (and many older) visitors.

Slightly further afield is the Natural History Museum at Tring, containing the collection of eccentric Victorian, Walter Rothschild, who used his family's wealth to collect a vast number of dead animals, including 2000 mammals, 2000 birds and 2,000,000 butterflies and moths.

Spring: As the dark winter nights are replaced by brighter evenings, the water voles on the Ock become more visible (the river is a hot spot for this nationally declining mammal). Although they don't hibernate, they are at their most obvious in spring as the females seek out breeding territories. The best time to see them is in the morning and evening, where they can often be seen feeding and sometimes fighting – occasionally to the death.

Summer: Having spent the winter and spring (and the previous year) in larval form, the water borne insects – dragonflies, mayfly and damselflies emerge. With these come the summer migrants – warblers (reed, sedge) who nest in the reeds in the river, as well as swallows and swifts who make the full use of this insect bonanza to feed their young before heading back to Africa in Autumn.

At the nearby Cothill fens, botanical bling is on show as hundreds of orchids (common spotted orchid, fragment orchid and marsh helleborine) flower and at the Lashford Lane nature reserve the occasional bee orchid can be found.

Ock Viewer

Eggs For Sale

£1.50 per half dozen. Please knock at 9 Masefield Crescent, or call Jakki on 07917 107001.
I would appreciate the return of empty egg boxes



Abingdon Drama Club presents ALICE IN WONDERLAND



the all singing, all dancing pantomime at the Unicorn Theatre
Fri 13th, Sat 14th, Thur 19th, Fri 20th, Sat 21st Jan – 7.30p.m.

Sat 14th, Sun 15th, Sat 21st Jan at 2.30p.m.

Tickets: £8, £7 (concessions), £6 (under 12s)

From The Bookstore, Abingdon Precinct
Or online at www.abingdon-drama-club.com



WINTER QUIZ

The answers to the clues all begin with the letters **M C**. Only the first clue is seasonal (and easy!) Answers to Eleanor, 23 Masefield by 22nd January.

- 1) This month you'll keep meeting this seasonal greeting. _____
- 2) A famed association of prestidigitation. _____
- 3) Maurice Micklewhite's name after he rose to fame. _____
- 4) This dark red fruit's handy for pies, jam or brandy. _____
- 5) This babe's birth **day**, not **date** seals its "fair of face" fate. _____
- 6) This football club labours to beat its red neighbours. _____
- 7) A Cadbury's treat is this purple wrapped sweet. _____
- 8) A funny-voiced Yank for this programme we thank. _____
- 9) At the feast, this man hosts awards, speeches and toasts. _____
- 10) Without tail, it does fine, this island feline. _____
- 11) You'll find it in Dorset, this Iron Age fortress. _____
- 12) This medal we gave to soldiers so brave. _____
- 13) Some folk have forgot this was Edward Heath's yacht _____
- 14) This neat little car, since its launch has gone far. _____
- 15) This well known sweet pickle your taste buds will tickle. _____
- 16) Frank Spencer or Phantom, he was paid a king's ransom. _____
- 17) '68 in this year the Olympics were here. _____
- 18) From Earth, day or night, it directs the space flight. _____
- 19) Man badly behaving, then lives he was saving. _____
- 20) This high, holy place sacred to the Hebrew race. _____



Answers to Autumn Quiz: The winner was Laurie Varley of Masefield Crescent 1) apple of your eye 2) Adam's apple 3) Isaac Newton 4) Big Apple 5) apple pie order 6) William Tell 7) apple bobbing or ducking 8) apples and pears 9) bad apple 10) pineapple 11) oak apple 12) apple a day 13) apple pie bed 14) Appleford 15) crab apple 16) upset the apple cart 17) silver apples, golden apples 18) love apple 19) Appleby 20) Apple Corps

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: 2nd Wednesday of each month
8p.m. in the Jephson Common Room – 11th January, 8th February– all residents
welcome – check beforehand in case of change of date.

Contact the newsletter – items for publication: Eleanor Dangerfield 01235 531857
23 Masefield Cres.- eledanger@hotmail.com. Deadline for next newsletter – 22 January 2012

Police non emergency number: The police non emergency number is now 101.

FOUND!

On Longfellow Drive, mid September, lady's watch. If it is yours, Phone 01235 527 621 giving a brief description.

A poem by the late Lilian Barry

Dominant Male

Sexually active

Very attractive

Cuddly and soft to the touch!

Graceful and slinky....

Never been kinky,

Oh, how I love him so much.

Always possessive,

Sometimes aggressive,

He's jealous, and friendly, not fat!

A monster, a rebel,

A lovable devil!

He's mine.... he's my Siamese cat.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year