

West Ilsley News

May 2003

Thank you to the three households who have given us their feedback on the WIN content - we look forward to hearing from everyone else - use this edition if you've chucked the last one, and please mark it up: "yes" - I always want this type of item, "no" - I have no interest in this or "???" - please include this type of thing if you have time/space. Then put your name and phone number on it (in case we want to ask for further opinions) and post it through one of our doors. If you have any suggestions for things you feel are missing, please note them somewhere too.

The Editors

EVERGREENS

Anne Carlisle

On Thursday 15th May there will be an outing by coach to Guildford. The coach will leave from outside West Ilsley Church at 9.00am.

Members £6, non-members £8. Tokens can be used. Names to J Collier on 281283.

A whist drive will be held at the Star East Ilsley on May 8th at 7.15 pm.

COUNTRY WAYS

The film of West Ilsley which includes Phil Tizzard, can be seen on television on Thursday 22nd May at 7.30 on ITV Meridian. It was filmed in the Spring of 2002. This is subject to schedule changes, so if you want to be sure, phone the Duty Office at Meridian on 01635 522322 to check. Thanks to Anne Carlisle for this information.

PARISH COUNCIL Linda Gibson

Clerk - Tel 200242

The next Meeting of West Ilsley Parish Council will be held on Thursday May 15th 2003 at 7.00p.m. in The Village Hall. This will be closely followed by The Annual Parish Assembly at approximately 8.00p.m. Please note this is a change of date from that published in last months W.I.News.

The guest speaker this year will be Abby Thomas from The Community Council for Berkshire and the subject will be 'A Parish Plan for West Ilsley'.

As always, all residents of West Ilsley are welcome to attend these meetings, and hopefully there will be a good turnout on the evening.

Extracts from the minutes of West Ilsley Parish Council Tuesday 25th March, 2003 at 7.00p.m. (please see notice boards for a full copy).

Flooding. Nick Carter reported that W.B.D.C. Highways Department had informed him that necessary works to the drainage system did not appear on the schedule for 2003/2004 but should appear on the program of works within the next three years. Several villagers expressed concern that the necessary works are constantly being postponed due to a lack of funding. Nick Carter promised to again talk to the Highways Department.

Gritting of Bury Lane. Following discussions with the Highways Department, Nick Carter reported that Bury Lane did not meet the criteria to become a primary gritting route. Nick Carter to bring a copy of the criteria for gritting to the next meeting.

West Ilsley Tennis Club. The Chairman of the Tennis Management Committee, John Clemenger had written detailing essential work that was required to the surface and surrounding fencing. The total cost of the work being £2090.00 plus v.a.t. The Committee appealed to the Parish Council for a donation of £350 to make up the shortfall in their funds. After some discussion, Nick Carter proposed support for the Tennis Club appeal, Andy Day seconded. David Holling abstained. Motion carried. It was then agreed that a procedure should be put in place to be followed in future by any organisations applying for grants. Andy Day to create a draft.

Bury Lane Sign. Further to requests from villagers to have the sign at the end of Bury Lane reinstated, W.B.D.C. now have the matter in hand.

Formal Naming of 'Main Street'

Following consultation with the Emergency Services and the Royal Mail, all residents of the road known as Main Street have been consulted regarding the formal naming of the road. The clerk received one letter of objection and one letter of support. It was unanimously agreed that the procedure to formally name the street should be put in place. Clerk to write to Teresa Cambell at W.B.D.C. Highways asking her to proceed.

W.I. Recreation Ground - Proposal from W.I. Cricket club to create an Artificial Surface.

The Chairman of the Cricket Club, Richard Beech, outlined the above proposal and asked the Parish Council if there would be any objection from the Parish Council to the proposal as approximately 1.5metres of the practice area will fall on land leased by the Parish Council from Lockinge Estate. He explained that separate arrangements were being made to seek permission from Lockinge Estate. He also stated that the surface would be open for village use at no charge. The Parish Council unanimously agreed that permission be given.

A WEST ILSLEY PARISH PLAN?

Local people know their community best and have a vested interest in shaping its future. Parish Plans present an excellent opportunity for local people to come together, explore the local issues and sign up to a shared vision for the parish. They can then develop an action plan which will map out a route for how they can get there.

A Parish Plan is also a powerful statement of local people's views and, as such, will be a tool for ensuring that service planners use locally identified needs and ideas as a starting point when making decisions. For example, influencing Supplementary Planning Guidance (working with the Local Authority) or influencing community services and facilities (such as childcare, neighbourhood watch etc).

There are some grants available through the Countryside Agency to assist in this process – £5000 for undertaking the parish plan and then other grants for funding community based projects which are in the action plan.

Community based projects will mean a better quality of life for local people with the added benefit of more community spirit through local people being involved. For further information, please contact Abby Thomas at the Community Council for Berkshire on 0118 961 2000 and abbyccb@aol.com.

PRAM SERVICE AND AFTERSCHOOL SERVICE, ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Several children had a lovely morning at the Easter Activity workshop in April. They heard the story of Easter and made bread, plate gardens, palm trees and decorated eggs. The weather was kind to us so we were able to finish with a picnic at the cricket pitch.

Dates for services during the summer term will be:

Afterschool Service
4pm Thursdays

Pram Service
11am Mondays

15 May
12 June
10 July

19 May
16 June
14 July

The Pram Service is aimed at 0-5 year olds and the Afterschool Service for the slightly older ones as well as the babies. The services are well supported but we would love to see new faces or friends from outside the village. Each service lasts approximately half an hour followed by drinks for the children. If you would like more information please contact Denise Brown on 01635 281825, Antonia Cretney on 01635 248925 or Liz Dray on 01488 638749.

APPRECIATION FOR A JOB WELL DONE

Andrea Cook

Thanks to everyone who contributed, we raised £110 for Bruce. The cheque was delivered to him on 7th April.

TENNIS

John Clemenger (Chairman)

The court is officially open from 1st May. Fees for 2003 are £2 per hour for adults and £1 per hour for children up to the age of 16 (if you don't have tennis balls or a racket we can lend you some). Early users are delighted with the recent improvements to the court surface and say I play accurately and well – so have an enjoyable year!

The management committee will meet at the court on Monday 28th April at 1 pm.

ALL SAINTS

WEST ILSLEY

Ian Fewtrell-Smith

Church Services for May:

4 th May	All Age Service	11.00 am
11 th May	Holy Communion	8.00 am
18 th May	Family Communion	9.30 am

PLANT AND CAKE SALE

Please come to our sale of plants, bric-a-brac, cakes and other goodies in the churchyard. Relax with a cup of tea or coffee. There will also be a children's stall.

Saturday, 17TH MAY at 10.30 am

Stalls will be in the church if it's raining

PRE-SHOW DANCE – 12TH JULY

The dance is being organised to raise money for All Saints this year. Make a note in your diaries. Tickets and more details nearer the time, so continue to watch this space.

ILSLEY UNDER FIVES

Our fundraising efforts this term will include a stall at the Sheep Fayre which will be on Sunday 8 June from 1-5.30pm and teas at the West Ilsley Fete on Sunday 13 July. There will be several positions vacant on the committee for the Under Fives from July, if you would be interested in helping out we would love to hear from you. Please contact Jess Logan, number below.

Baby and Toddler Group

The Baby and Toddler Group meets on a Wednesday morning, 10.00am – 11.30am in the village hall. There are lots of toys plus a climbing frame, playhouse, slide etc for the children and coffee and a chance to chat for the Mums. If you are interested in coming along please contact Jess Logan on 281670 for more details.

Playgroup

The playgroup is held in the Main Hall at the Ilsleys Primary School on a Wednesday and Thursday afternoon from 1.25pm to 3.30pm during the school terms. The numbers at the playgroup have risen

suddenly and we are currently only accepting 3 year olds if a place is available. If you are interested in your child attending the playgroup please call Tracy Gregory on 281650 for an application form to register your child or if you would like to arrange a visit.

MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS

Morland Close between 2.25 pm and 2.55 pm

May	20 th	
June	10 th	
July	1st	22 nd
August	12 th	
September	2nd	23rd

MOBILE POLICE STATION WEST BERKSHIRE

7th May 2003

WEST ILSLEY 09.00-10.30

EAST ILSLEY 10.30-12.00

COMPTON 12.30-15.30

THIS IS ALL SUBJECT TO UNFORESEEN MAJOR OPERATIONAL COMMITMENTS

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(more designs coming to the web-site soon)

The editors have accepted a donation towards running costs of the WIN in return for running this advertisement.

BALLROOM BLITZ

Steve Price

On Sunday 13th April, about half the members of the West Ilsley Ballroom Dancing (Close-Formation) Team took the opportunity to meet Pat, our instructor, at the Southern England Ballroom Dancing Championships

in Reading. The visit was intended to illustrate the heady heights to which we aspire in our regular Wednesday evening Ballroom Dance classes in the Village Hall.

Well - what can I say?! We arrived to find that the Children's Competition had recently finished and the prize-giving had commenced. Over the next twenty minutes, a selection of well-behaved, well-mannered and beautifully-presented children waltzed, tangoed, spun and pirouetted their way up the Trophy table and collected Silverware that would not have looked out of place in the trophy room at Manchester United; some of the dancers were smaller than the Cups but clearly all were quite astonishingly adept with their feet! Prizes were awarded right down to sixth place - an echo of the adult tournament - and clearly they all enjoyed it, even when they had to kiss each other in congratulation!

So - on to the adult classes. These were essentially split between two - the "young adults" and the "wrinklies" - suffice to say your correspondent falls into the latter category. Now this was much more like it - and we all sat back avidly to watch the gentle "spin, spin, spin" of the turns or the "rock, rock, step, step" of the jive; we anticipated a sort of "line-dance" rhythm as each "cha-cha" reverberated round the hall and sixty or seventy feet hit the floor at once. Oh, how wrong we were!

To start, the "wrinklies" performed the more routine Ballroom stuff but on only a few occasions could you point to a series of steps and say "hey - that's just like us!" or "ooooh, no, mate, your rhumba needs work", or "bit sloppy on the chasséz, chum", or "call that a quickstep?" - they moved gracefully round the room in the main, all apparently dancing in their own particular way but in all cases completely at odds with how we do it! - though perversely (and injecting a firm note of familiarity) we were pleased to note that on occasion they actually crashed into each other in their bid to catch the judge's eyes! By the end of it all, it was clear that we've a long way to go before we could join them in what Pat described as "Exhibition" mode.

And then - the "young adults" - well, NEVER has the term "whirling dervish" been more appropriate than here (unless of course you happen to own a dervish?). About 30 couples competed and now we were treated to a terrific display of what it is to be young, energetic and well-practiced in such an exhausting business as semi-professional dancing. Never have I seen more makeup in one place; similarly, never have I seen less material made into a dress. The boys - mostly tall, Latin types, impossibly slim, and with half a pound of brylcreem per coal-black haired head - pushed, pulled and lifted their partners around the floor with consummate skill - the girls, meanwhile, shook, shimmied, and spun in impossibly fast combinations that left the spectators amazed...and here's the rub - I don't think any one of us recognised a single step! Crikey, though.... they were good to watch.

Incidentally, Pat tells us that our next session (starting this week) will be largely concerned with the Ballroom Jive - and we're all looking forward to the weight loss. The event was over at 10.00pm - by which time we'd discovered that the competitors had come from as far

afield as South Africa, Australia, and - the eventual winners - Poland!

An enjoyable evening all round, rather surprisingly - we'll let you know when one of us enters!

THE RIDGEWAY & THAMES PATH NATIONAL TRAILS

A copy of the March-September events list is on the noticeboard by the Church – there are lots of things on offer so do take a look.

BOOKS WANTED!

For the fete bookstall



As new as possible please
Bring on the day, deliver to me or phone and I will collect.
Andrea 281224

WEST ILSLEY CRICKET CLUB

John Verney

Fixtures for May

Sat	3	2 nd XI Crown Wood	2 pm
Sun	4	Woodland St Mary	2.30 pm
Tue	6	Ladies Darts	7.30 pm
Sat	10	1 st XI Swindon NALGO	2 pm
Sat	17	2 nd XI Purley	2 pm
Sat	24	1 st XI Nettlebed & Swyncome	2 pm
Sun	25	Caddleshorn	2.30 pm
Tue	27	Ladies Darts	7.30 pm
Sat	31	1 st XI Cavaliers	2 pm
Sun	1	Peasemore	2.30 pm

PANG & KENNET VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE PROJECTS

Friends diary

**Tues 17th June Meadow Management
Leyfield Meadow**

Spend the day cutting back invasive bracken to maintain a wildflower meadow. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10.00am or phone the project office for details of meeting on site. Phone 0118 9305336 for details.

Sun 15th June 10am River Work Eling

This is an opportunity to help to pull invasive thistles at Eling Meadows as part of the Pang Restoration Project and a chance to see what effect the demonstration fence is having. Meet at the Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm * at 10.00 am. Phone 0118 930 5336 for details.

Tues 24th June Footpath Work Bucklebury
Improve access in the parish by helping to clear encroaching vegetation on its 45 miles of off-road rights of way – but not all of them! Meet at the Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm * at 10.00 am. Phone 0118 930 5336 for details.

* The Black Barn is situated off Back Lane between Stanford Dingley and Bradfield, to the west of Scratchface Lane (Grid ref. SU 583723).

Walks and Events

**Tue 17th June 6pm approx 1.5 hrs Beenham
Waste not Want not**

Come and discover what happens to your recycled household waste and join Toni Robinson and Steve Fisher on an informative walk/talk and see how this landfill site is managed and take a look at the material recovery unit and composting trials. Meet at Grundons Waste Management Site, Grange Lane, Beenham . Phone 0118 930 5336 for details.

**Thu 26th June 6pm approx 2 hrs Hungerford
Wildflower Walk**

Come for an evening walk and see the wildflower meadows at Bill Acworth's Little Hidden Farm. Wildflower meadows have been planted here with great success, fields having over 40 species of flower! Meet at the Farm off the A338 between J14 (M4) and Hungerford. Grid ref SU 353713. Phone 0118 930 5336 for details.

**Saturday 14th June Brockhurst School Frilsham
Clay Pigeon Shoot and Hog Roast**

Further details available soon from the Project Office
Tel. 0118 930 5336

Since our programme of tasks, walks and other events for the current quarter was published, we have managed to fit in a repeat of a walk that proved very popular last year. The new details are as follows:

Guided Walks

Sun. 8th June Blue Pool 11am- 3pm Bradfield

Visit this natural phenomenon and enjoy a 4 1/2 mile walk down the River Pang with local experts Dorcas Ward and Dick Greenaway. Please bring a packed lunch. Note that dogs will be permitted providing that they are kept on a lead. Numbers are limited so please contact the office on 0118 9305336 to book a place. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm, Stanford Dingley at 11.00am

EVEREST EXPEDITION

The following article by Toby Garland was provided by Janice Sheperd – Toby is their son-in-law. The article was written for NZ Ski and Snowboard magazines. They leave for Tibet on 5th May.

March 23rd 2003. Ever since I first came to the Chamonix Valley at the age of 21, the lifestyle and energy of the people here excited me. People from as far afield as New Zealand and Australia, to Hawaii, the USA and Scandinavia all shared a common reason for packing their bags each winter and heading to Chamonix to live in the semi-squalour of a dog box sized apartment with little more sleeping space than one bed and a couple of lumpy sofas. The reason for this.... the blurry and bloodshot eyes met every morning as the curtains were drawn and the sun struck the splendour of the surrounding mountains and the adventures to be had within. This is where the story of the North Col Snow Riders begins....

For five years I lived this lifestyle interspersed with time back in the so called real world to earn enough money so I could return to buy a season pass and pay a quarter share of the exorbitant dog box rent in order

to spend another 100 days or thereabouts sliding about up in the mountains. These foundation seasons also introduced me to some wonderfully humble, yet legendary mountain guides, skiers and snowboarders alike who are nothing short of the modern heroes in the realm of mountain sports. I have had the pleasure and honour of following some of these people to places in the mountains that otherwise I would not have dreamed existed. Steep glaciers with powder snow that most folk would only see pictures of in magazines and movies. Scenery as striking and emotive as perhaps of that in a fantasy... and alongside all of this, endless hours of fun both alone and with friends, riding the snow with screaming legs and inane grins beaming from somewhere between absolute agony and sheer pleasure.

Now, another six years on having found a career niche to fill, I sit here in the Chamonix Valley, with my wife Louise watching my two year old son Alistair and eight month old daughter Phoebe play contentedly in this place that we have made our home. About to embark on a journey and an adventure with a small group of friends, the North Col Snow Riders, who will no doubt over the next two months become more like brothers and sisters. Jonny Hughes, a carpenter and surfer from New Zealand who out of the blue, arrived on our doorstep three years ago just when we desperately needed help with the initial stages of renovating the almost derelict chalet that we had invested our every cent in. Zoe Smalley, a young English girl who moved to Chamonix as a sixteen year old and who we will no doubt be seeing lots more of over the next few years as her competitive career as a freeride snowboarder develops. Abi Pickett, another young English girl with an endless amount of energy and is devotedly training to become a ski instructor. Antony Beckett, godfather to my daughter and one of my oldest friends here with who I shared a couple of winter seasons in the dogbox years, and Glenn Blackwood, an Aussie mate of many seasons, godfather to my son and a man who represents the eternal ski bum spirit of Chamonix. These are my friends and this is an expedition concept that has been quietly evolving in my head for a few years now, and in more recent months, become an all consuming ambition.

Fifty years after Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing returned safely from climbing Mt Everest for the first time in history, we are heading off to the forbidden lands of Tibet to undertake the most mentally and physically challenging ski and snowboard descent that any of us will have ever encountered. The plan is to trek to, climb, then descend from the North Col, a wind-scoured shoulder at 7030m on the most famous mountain in the world, Mt Everest. Why?... because I believe two things... one, that it is within the reach of any person who aspires to one day realize a goal that outwardly appears to border the impossible and secondly that unified adventure is a healthy experience to be had in this modern world of division. The Stones and the Beatles, the rough and the smooth, the whiskey and the wine. All very clichéd polarities and all reflected in the all to often wrongly perceived conservative and old school nature of skiing and the wildly outrageous image of grunge and rebellion that is snowboarding. Two sports with their

own sub cultures that have traditionally been dictated and hewn by the forces of fashion and cool, skiing and snowboarding are closer than they have ever been before, and with this in mind the North Col Snow Riders will soon be getting on a plane to the Himalayas after many weeks preparation and training to lay down the first ever combined sets of ski and snowboard tracks on the highest mountain in the world.

Ahead lies unknown trepidation for each of us as we will undoubtedly confront our own personal limits of physical and mental endurance. An environment not yet encountered by any of us, interminably waits at 7000 meters above sea level and our performance as a unified team on this journey will encounter testing times. The stability in our undertaking is the integration of friendships and the articulated passion for snow riding. The monumental journey ahead and untold adventures to be had in Kathmandu, through the forgotten city of Lhasa, across the Tibetan plateau and ultimately onto to Mt Everest, lie just around the corner. The excitement is building and the team are psyched. The training is going well and only time will reveal how the story progresses from here.....

Check out our expedition website with regular updates on www.northcol-snowriders.com

FINDING 'HIDDEN' CARERS - DROP IN DAY

Over 6 million people in Britain are **CARERS** - that is they provide help and support to enable a relative, friend or neighbour to remain in their own homes. Very many of these people **DO NOT RECOGNISE** that they are a 'carer' and so do not know that help might be available for them.

As part of National Carers Week, June 9-15th, we are holding a **Drop-In Day** to attract these 'hidden' carers. We will be at **Newbury Town Hall, Market Place**, in the centre of Newbury between **10 am and 2.30 pm** on **Thursday 12th June**. Drinks and biscuits will be provided all day. Local organisations which support and advise carers will be there with information leaflets and displays about their services. Princess Royal Trust staff for the new West Berkshire Carers Support Service will be there to meet people and direct them to helpful sources.

As you can imagine getting hold of 'hidden carers' is very difficult so we would be very grateful for any help you could give us. We are enclosing some **fliers and posters** for display in any premises you use, for sending to members of your organisation or mentioning in newsletters. Please feel free to photocopy if there are not enough, or ring 01635 519040 for more copies.

For further information contact:

Carer Liaison Officer - Christine Eeley 01635 523861
PRINCESS ROYAL TRUST CARERS SUPPORT SERVICE IN WEST BERKSHIRE *in partnership with* West Berkshire Social Care Services, Newbury and Community Primary Care Trust, West Berkshire Council for Voluntary Service, Crossroads Care Attendant Service, Citizens Advice Bureau

And finally: contributions to the WIN can be made by conversation, phone, email, handwritten or typed copy, "word" file (via email or disk) or fax, but most importantly, **please do contribute**. The **latest deadline** for the next publication is **5pm** on Thursday 29th May but the editors would appreciate receiving your contributions as you get them ready during the month, to save a rush of work at the last minute.

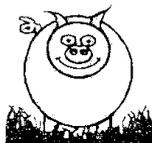
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Website: www.westilsley.org.uk

**" A FUN DAY OUT FOR
ALL WALKS OF LIFE "**
BERKSHIRE COUNTRY FAYRE



SUNDAY 18TH MAY 2003

ENGLEFIELD, A4, THEALE, Nr READING

BOZO AND ZIZI – with Freddie the Fire Engine

Shetland Pony Grand National	Food Fayre
Kennett Gun Dog Display	Licensed Bar
Children's Farmyard	Exhibition Tent
Countryside Area	YFC Competitions
Craft Exhibition	Birds of Prey
Trade Stands	Exemption Dog Show
Fun Fair	Helicopter Rides
Archery	Vintage Machinery

9.00am until 5pm, Sunday 18th May 2003

FREE Car Parking and Dogs on leads are welcome!

Adults £4, Children (3-12yrs) & OAP's £2, Family Ticket £10

**For further information please call
07939 504145 or 0118 9744822**

Organisers: BERKSHIRE FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS CLUBS.
Charity Number 300104.