

REPORTS TO THE WEST ILSLEY ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2013

CRICKET CLUB 2012/3

The cricket club is now in full swing with training every Tuesday and Friday nights. The Friday Socials have been a great success as though not blazing hot summer weather there has been no Friday afternoon rain. There is a vibrant new social events team in Tracey and Richard "Digger" Barnes who have already held a very successful race night and Cheese and Wine evening alongside the new meat and fruit and veg raffle which is a great success. We are also holding fortnightly BBQ's with the Bangers and Burgers coming from Vicars Game - you all have to try the LAMB and MINT bangers - Divine!

On the playing side the season has had a mixed start - great success for the Old Bats against Clifton Hampden, the U15 and U9's, where as the 1st have lost their first 2 games; the 2nd XI has won 1, lost 1 and one abandoned when they only needed one more wicket to win. Unfortunately the Sunday team has had to cancel a couple of fixtures so if there are any Father and Sons who want to play in a very friendly , relaxed game environment then please make themselves available. Probably the highlight of the start of the season has been the success of the girls section now with over 30 members and at least half a dozen now representing Berkshire - the Club held a very successful girls tournament on the 12th May which West Ilsley won and there is another tournament on 23rd June at the ground.

The Club is keen to further enhance its links with the village so if anybody has any suggestions to improve anything then please let us know by emailing info@westilsleycricket.net Lets hope for a great summer of weather and Cricket. Adrian Dray

WEST ILSLEY FETE 2012

With the exceptionally bad weather last summer the Fete was blessed with a dry but windy day. Attendance was up and there were many activities and stalls which filled the recreation ground. The dog show and produce show was particularly competitive.

Angela Ryan organised some competitive Olympic games for the children which created great enthusiasm even though the running lines were a little 'wiggly'. All competitors received medals (even though they were edible).

Funds raised by the Fete were distributed to, the Church, the Evergreens, the Toddlers, the Ilsleys, the Village Hall, the Cricket Club, the Tennis Club, the Air Ambulance, Fireworks, West Ilsley Trust and the West Ilsley In Need Trust Fund. A small sum of money was carried over for this year's Fete which is to be held on Sunday 7th July.

A special thanks to all who helped organise the Fete, man stalls and tidy up after the event and without their support the event would not take place.

WEST ILSLEY TENNIS COURT MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Income

So far this year we have received just over £1000 in membership subscriptions which is just above our target figure. The cost of membership is £45 per family, £25 per single or £20 for a junior. There is access to an on-line booking system once payment is received. We also have a PAY & PLAY option at £5 per hour and we are grateful to The Harrow for continuing to accept payment for us when necessary.

Use

The court has been used for an average of 10 hrs per week since April with a big surge during the holidays. It was also used for a three days of Junior tennis coaching during the Easter Holidays in which 20 children took part. We are planning to run this again in the Easter holidays next year.

Expenses

Last year our expenses amounted to £400 of which all was for spraying for either moss or weed control. We have decided that we can reduce our costs by half if we do some of the spraying ourselves (namely weed control around the perimeter of the fence, the moss control however has to be carried out by recognised contractors as stipulated in the warranty covering the court)

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Other Maintenance

The Committee members organise a twice yearly working party to clean the court and carry out any repairs to the surface. We would like to thank Mick Channon who has kindly agreed to let us use his maintenance team again this year, who trim the grass on the banks that surround the court. Keeping the grass short will prevent the grass from seeding which could otherwise potentially root into the court surface, it also makes it easier to find any stray balls!

Fundraising

Our aim is to raise £500 per year by fundraising. Last year we did the Fete 'teas' and received £300 from the Fete Committee. We are also looking to hold another event in November or early December to enable us to reach our target. Any money made from fundraising together with money from subscriptions goes into a sinking fund for future expenditure. As the life span of the court is approx 10 yrs our aim is to be able to pay for the resurfacing independently when it is due in 2021.

Thanks

Finally I would like to thank all the members of the committee: Alison Banks, Alan Bloor, Martin Briggs-Watson, Andrea Cook, Liz Dray & Amanda Knight for giving up their time and for all their hard work and enthusiasm. We would also like to welcome Katie Simpson who has recently joined our team. Louise Beaumont (acting Chair)

WEST ILSLEY NEWS

Liz Dray and Andrea Cook

Editors: We are both happy to continue for the next year, but will also be happy to relinquish the task if a new team volunteers!

"Non-players": We still contact new residents to add them to the email list and now have only a couple of homes in the village which, to our knowledge, do not receive the WIN. We try to do this fairly promptly but if you can please put any new neighbours in touch with us.

Residents only emails: usage continues to increase but we are mindful of keeping those without email in the information loop so wherever appropriate we ensure notes go in the monthly WIN.

Advertising: we now have 13 paying advertisers which brings in £312 per annum.

Printing of copies for neighbours who do not have computer access: Please can we take this opportunity to thank those in the village who kindly print out a copy of the West Ilsley news for neighbours who don't have access to a computer.

WEST ILSLEY TABLE TENNIS CLUB 2013

We have two teams:

West Ilsley A plays in Division 1 of the Newbury Table Tennis League finishing 8th, had 8 players..

West Ilsley B plays in Division 3 of the Newbury Table Tennis League finishing 6th, had 5 players. We are regular bookers of the Village hall during the season September - March, with approximately 16'ish Monday evening bookings. We've had an eventful season with several concerns about the Village Hall

- We had the Village hall committee try and put our fees up half way through the season, which caused some upset, it was agreed we could continue at the current rate until the end of the season at the old rate, but we were unhappy about the way it was initially handled. Going forward we might be able to cope with a small fair increase, but not the 25% proposed.
- Problems during winter:
 - coldness - the heating is inadequate to prevent condensation on the floor, when the storage radiators are not on, it can take an hour to heat up the room.
 - water seeping through small holes in the floor. Water and slugs coming through the fire door.
 - Twice the hall was unplayable due to slippery conditions
- Cleaning issues:
 - place found dirty
 - access to cleaning materials (cupboard often left locked), so we could clean up after ourselves.
 - only occasional access to mugs
- To encourage our A team to stay, we need a competition quality table, which we have

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been offered. We would like to store both tables in the building.

- I could consider running occasional open sessions, but will need access to the extra table.
- The cost of individual hire of the village hall is far too expensive, if just a few of us want to come round for a knock.

Steve Cobrin

REPORT ON BEHALF OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Over the last year, Revd. John Toogood continued as rector of the East Downland Benefice, supported by Revd. Lady (Denise) Brown, and Revd Douglas Dales who had joined the team in September 2012.

At our recent annual parochial church meeting, Alexandra Axtell was re-elected churchwarden with Ian Fewtrell-Smith.

Over the last few months, all the churches in our benefice, and elsewhere in the Diocese, have been looking at what the residents of our villages want from the church. To this end, a questionnaire was sent out and although the results are still being analysed, there have been some interesting responses.

There is a closer link with the other 8 churches in the benefice, with united services held in Chieveley every third Sunday in the month and in one of the other churches on fifth Sundays. Douglas Dales, having taught at Marlborough College for many years, has started a group for teenagers to "Grill a Vicar" in which difficult subjects for this age group can be aired and discussed. It is early days for this but has been received well.

The church continues to hold three Sunday services each month, two of which being specifically aimed at families and children.

As ever, the church and churchyard are looked after by a dedicated band of volunteers, whether keeping the grass cut, cleaning the church or providing flowers. The work is quietly got on with and our thanks are extended to all those who take part: it doesn't go unnoticed. In the spring and autumn of 2012, there were more focussed cleaning sessions, making the

church ready for Easter and Remembrance Sundays.

By the end of 2012, our accounts were showing in the black, but only by virtue of a cheque of £2100 for the new oil tank not being presented until 2013. Otherwise we would have had a deficit of about £700. We were extremely grateful for grants of £250 from the West Ilsley Fete and £500 from the Parish Council, as well as a donation of £400 from Christmas greetings printed in the West Ilsley News. As always we rely heavily on fund raising events to augment our income and again in 2012 held three enjoyable events, although numbers were slightly down on previous occasions. These were a Winter Warmer, Posies and Puddings flower arranging event and a Safari Supper.

All Saints' donated the whole collection of its Remembrance Day service of just under £265 to the Royal British Legion and the collection of just over £300 from our combined carol and Christingle service was sent to the Children's Society.

The church building is in a reasonable condition although an inspection off scaffolding has revealed the roof plaster requiring more repair than previously thought. With this work still outstanding, this year will remain as financially challenging as previously.

Ian Fewtrell-Smith 12th May 2013

DOWNLAND VOLUNTEER GROUP 2013

The DVG made a total of 1398 client trips for the year 2012/13 compared with 1338 for 2011/12 so an increase of just under 5%

Within that, West Ilsley continues to pull its weight – we still have 4 volunteer drivers who between them gave 94 lifts in the last year compared with 71 in 2011/12 – a 32% increase – the vast majority of the work being done by one volunteer.

In contrast, the number of trips made by clients from West Ilsley fell from 32 in 11/12 to only 4 in 12/13 - this is mostly due to one regular user having moved away from the village. I know just from chatting to other villagers that there are residents who need lifts for various appointments and I think it illustrates that there

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is a high degree of support from within the village which means that there isn't much need for our residents to call on the DVG at the moment. Andrea Cook

- Rachel Hudson (Chair)
- Natasha Tombs (Secretary)
- Flick Lucas (Treasurer)
- Juliet Ryder
- Donna Vaughan

UNDER 5s

Activities

- We are a well established baby and toddler group and meet on Wednesday mornings, 10am to 11.30am, at West Ilsley Village Hall. The session is an informal meeting, providing playtime for the children, a weekly craft activity, drink, snack and also tea/coffee and most importantly a chat for the parents or carers. The session ends with either a singsong or dance. Parents/carers stay with their children;
- During the summer holidays we meet outside and rotate between the playgrounds of West Ilsley, East Ilsley and Compton (weather dependant) and during this time the sessions are free for families who attend, with Ilsley Under Fives providing tea/coffee and a snack for all;
- Parents and carers are involved in a rota for setting up the hall each week, making teas/coffees and preparing snacks and juice for the children;
- Occasional "treats" for the children depend on the availability of funds and have previously included trips to Bucklebury Farm Park, Krazy Klub, Monkey Music, picnics and Christmas parties with presents from Father Christmas. This year we have planned a trip to Bucklebury Farm Park at the end of July;
- We also organize a meeting at The Ilsleys Primary School once a term for our Link Group. The aim of this is to introduce children over 2 to the school in the absence of an established preschool and gives them an opportunity to become familiar with the reception class teacher and surroundings.

Committee

- The current committee consists of 5 members;

Funding

- We have been in partnership with SureStart for the last 3 and a half years although from 1 April 2013 the financial support we previously received has ceased. A SureStart family support worker still attends the group once a month but they do not provide any financial support whereas previously they paid 50% of our rental costs. This means that it is very important that we attract and retain as many families as possible to cover our costs;
- There is a £2 charge per family per session (the first session is a trial and free of charge) and from this we need to cover our rental and insurance costs. Currently we need at least 9 families to attend our sessions each week in order to meet these fixed costs (based on rental cost of £7.50 per hour);
- The Sheep Fair and the WI Fete are our main fundraising activities and help us to promote our presence in the local community. We use the money raised to pay for trips out for the children or for updating our range of craft supplies and toys.

Membership

- We currently have approx 8 parents/carers attending with approx 12 children on a semi regular basis;
- Most of the children are from families in West Ilsley, East Ilsley and Compton. Whilst it is mainly parents attending we do have some child minders that attend the group regularly. This may help us renew the flow of children when they have to leave to start school or preschool;
- We always need to attract new regular attendees and currently advertise in the WIN, EI Communicator and Compilations. We have also recently started a FaceBook

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page to help increase awareness of our group in the local community.

Issues and concerns facing IU5's

- Our main issue over the past year has been the temperature in the village hall. It has been so cold over the winter that we have had to cancel some sessions. Parents/carers have also been choosing not to attend due to the temperature in the hall resulting in many sessions running at a loss;
- At our last committee meeting the possibility of moving to an alternative location was discussed if the heating situation in the village hall cannot be resolved before next winter;
- The possibility of increased rental costs for the village hall is also a concern – new charges are displayed in the WIN although we have never received notification of these. When/if our rental cost is increased we will need to attract more families or increase our charges accordingly.

Rachel Hudson

WEST ILSLEY EVERGREENS REPORT 2012

The Evergreens have approximately 60 members from East Ilsley, West Ilsley, Compton and the surrounding areas.

We do monthly trips and a Christmas lunch. We rely on fundraising from the West Ilsley Fete and the East Ilsley Sheep Fair. We also do a raffle on the coach to support the trips. The group is for all over 60 years of age but if there are spare seats on the coach the trips are also open to non-members.

PARISH COUNCIL TREASURER'S REPORT 2012/2013

Parish Council Account

The PC account opened last year with £6969 and ended with £3357.

The reason that the account has decreased so much is due to much lower income/receipts. There was no large amount of VAT to claim back (from the £20k tennis court refurbishment

project) this year so income was just from advertising and the Precept (Total £2800).

Payments out were as last year about £5k. This year we spent out on the war memorial (£2400) and also the clerk's salary came out twice this year due to a timing issue.

The annual Precept of £2515 was frozen again and remains as unchanged for the last 6 years.

We have also pledged two further Broadband instalments (£500/year) and

£2353 is ring fenced for The Play Area and £500 for WIN (from their advertising). Hence the account only has a buffer of £500. This needs to be considered when offering donations to committees.

Looking forward our expenditure next year is approximately £1850 (£500 Broadband, £500 Insurance premium and £850 Clerk). I hope to claim back another £500 of VAT this year.

West Ilsley Trust

The Trust opened the year with £891.93 and ended with £441.93. Donations were awarded to the village for their highly successful Jubilee party of £500 and to the Village Hall committee for the firework display (£150). There was a payment of £200 from the fete committee to the Trust for future good causes including the above fireworks.

Sine the Trust was launched in 2006 and charged with £500 plus £3000 from the parish Council Barn Dance in 2007, many donations to support good village cause have been made. Regular small annual payments are received from the Fete. However funds are now relatively low and will need replenishing soon if generous donations are to continue.