

West Ilsley News

www.westilsley.org

February 2010

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Deadline for the next publication is:

5pm on Tuesday 23rd February

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Denise Brown on 01635 281825

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DIARY

FEBRUARY

6th

Winter Warmer

Domestic Electrical Installation

Building regulation Part P Compliant
installation/inspection/testing/fault finding
and certification

Portable Appliance Testing @ 110/240 VAC

Contact Keith Pentecost

Tel: 01635-281389 (East Ilsley)

Mobile: 07985-797333

SLEDGING - A WORD OF THANKS

Liz Dray

On behalf of all the village children (and the rather overgrown children - you Dads know who you are!!) who availed themselves of the fantastic piste on the way to Hodcott Stables recently may we say a very big thank you to Mr Channon. Conditions were perfect, it really is a fantastic hill and a huge amount of fun was had by all.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH, ALL SAINTS CHURCH

In January the children enjoyed learning about "Christingle" and making their oranges. Unfortunately, we are unsure if our 24th February service will now go ahead. Please could you telephone one of us first to check. In March, David and Jane Carlisle have kindly invited us once again to see the lambing at Folly Farm on Thursday 18 March (this will replace our usual service).

Services are aimed at all ages from babies to older ones and last approximately half an hour.

TITTLE TATTLE Polly Muir

Happy 2010! Happy, cold and snowy! Did I EVER think that I could get so grumpy about snow obstructing my path to work? That I should be so dedicated, that I would worry about my exit from the village. We've been stuck before, but not for so long. It was an unprecedented stint of freezing weather, both in length and temperature. Fabulous to see all the kids out sledging and enjoying themselves, on another enforced day off from school. What a shame parents have to worry about going to work and what a lot of chaos there was. We all take for granted our journeys to work - how easy it has become to travel distances to work, to school, to shop. And what happens when we can no longer do this? The Whole World grinds to a halt. And then The Whole World descends on the wonderful hospitality of The Harrow. How splendidly Pete and Jacqui coped with the myriad of people who poured into the pub. There was a real community atmosphere to be enjoyed. We should remember that if we don't continue to frequent the pub, there is the probability that one snowy (?sunny) day, The Harrow may not be there for us. Only by using the facilities that we have, can we hope that they will be there for us when we need them. And that goes for the church, the village hall, the tennis court, the cricket pavilion....make it your New Year's resolution to use and contribute to what we still have in this village, and to become involved.

P.S. New Year's eve at The Harrow was a great affair. We enjoyed a grand meal with complimentary champagne at midnight, all accompanied by excellent company and a quiz organized by Tom.

Congratulations to Pete who has been given his 'Guinness Quality Approved' award. These are not handed out easily and it is a big compliment to be handed one of these prestigious signs. I can't testify to its excellence as I have only tasted Guinness once in Ireland, but I understand from

the connoisseurs that it is very good and solely as a result of Pete's careful keeping. Also pleased to report, that for this year (and this year only!), Pete's Xmas Poinsettia has perished. It always make me very unhappy to see Pete's Poinsettias still alive (and thriving) at Easter when mine die: overnight. This only serves to highlight my failure. It is purely green-eye talk. I am jealous as all my Poinsettias die very quickly. I have learnt, over the years, to smile and to marvel at the sight of his red plants weeks after they are seasonally finished elsewhere. But not this year!

Whilst still on the snow run....there were more than a few who got into difficulties coming back or leaving the village. I got told to leave my trusty little stead (Mini) in East Ilsley as there had been many who failed to penetrate the blizzard. There were a few cars got stuck/crumpled/abandoned that very snowy Monday night before Xmas and consequently, littered the road. There was one particular story that made me chuckle. The one about the hardy little Getz that bravely made it into the village and the very large lumpy Cayenne that couldn't climb the hill out of the village. Henceforth, the small Hyundai is to be known as the car that always 'Getz' you there, and the lumbering Porsche as the 'Cay-aren't' because it can't. (don't mention this to any of the Brown family!)

Pilates has started again in the village hall. The classes take place on Wednesday evening at 7.30. Get out your Lycra and mats and improve your core!

ALL SAINTS CHURCH
Kay and Ian Fewtrell-Smith

February Church Services in All Saints, West Ilsley

7 th	All Age Communion	9.30 am
14 th	Holy Communion	8 am
21 st	All Age Worship	11 am
28 th	* No service at West Ilsley	

* Please see the lych gate notice board for details of other services in the benefice.

As many of you will now be aware, the benefice of Beedon, Farnborough, and Peasmore with West Ilsley is now attached to the benefice of Chieveley, Winterbourne and Oare, with the addition of Boxford and Stockcross. As a whole, we will be called the East Downlands Benefice and will be led by the Rev. John Toogood, who can be contacted at the Vicarage, Chieveley on 01635 247566. However, we will still be ministered to by the Reverends Kate Stacey and Denise Brown. Hopefully, there will not be too many changes with the new regime, although as most of you will have realised, the service at All Saints on the first Sunday of the month will now be at 9.30am instead of 10am. With several

churches to cover each Sunday, this was necessary for logistical reasons.

Saturday 6th February 2010 – Winter Warmer.

Hopefully, by now you will have ordered your tickets, but do ring Alexandra (281306), Rosanne (280553) or Ian (281625) if you can come and haven't booked yet. Come in from the cold and enjoy a Narnian celebration (even White Witches will be welcome!)

WHAT'S ON AT THE HARROW
QUIZ NIGHT

Thursday 25th February
 Special Menu £9 each
 £2 each to enter (teams no bigger than 6)
 8pm onwards
 Book your tables NOW !!



VALENTINES

We all know that Valentines Day is Sunday 14th February BUT we will be serving a Valentines Evening Menu on Saturday 13th February 7pm onwards. Groups are very welcome, as well as couples of course. Book your tables NOW !!

THEMED EVENING

We will be holding a themed evening in March, probably Greek. Menu and date to be confirmed.

Please let us know your interest in this evening !

We would like to say a THANK YOU to all of you who came to The Harrow on New Years Eve. It was a fantastic evening and we hope you all enjoyed yourselves as much as we did !! Look forward to seeing you all throughout 2010 !!!!

WANTAGE CONCERT CLUB

There is a wide range of music in five concerts held between 20th February and 22nd May, all in Wantage Parish Church. Professional musicians cover classical, jazz and light music. For more details and a booking form, see the brochure inside the church.

ILSLEY UNDER 5S

Our Christmas party was a great success. Snow began to fall on arrival of which added to our festive cheer. As Christmas tunes played, the children took part in themed games including, pass the parcel, pin the red nose on Rudolph, chocolate coin treasure hunt, followed by party food, and a magical sack drop off from Santa after a very loud rendition of Jingle Bells!!!!

The Ilsley Under 5's tables, chairs and equipment are available for hire throughout the year for any occasion, all for a donation of £10. Please contact Angelique Ravion on 01635 281327 for more details.

We meet on Wednesday mornings: 10:00 am – 11:30 am in West Ilsley Village Hall. Simply pop along and join us. New members are always welcome. We look forward to seeing you.

"Happy New Year."

Caroline Rand Telephone: 01635 281921

This half term we will be trialing an Ilsley Under 7s, a club for all children under the age of 7, to be held on Wednesday 17th February, from 10.00am -11.30am, at West Ilsley Village Hall. The session will cost £2 per family. A snack and drink will be provided, including free play, activities and a sing song. We look forward to seeing you.

WANTED

Fridge Freezer for garage
Any condition but must be in working order.
07788 728404

PALS GARDEN TIDY - SATURDAY 20th FEBRUARY

As many of you know I work with a group of young disabled adults based in West Berkshire. I have arranged for a small group of them to come to the village on the above date to do some garden tidying. They are hoping to raise some funds for an outward bound visit to Calshot Outdoor Activity Centre near Southampton in June. Although they are limited physically they are keen and willing if a little slow at times. So I am taking bookings if you would like them to carry out manual tasks such as path sweeping, leaf collecting or weed pulling. If you have any other suggestions or requests then please contact me. Donations are required – we can discuss this when you make your 'booking'. Last time they came to the village to fundraise we raised over £100 which was excellent. I think that you will agree this is a rather more 'useful' fundraiser for both the group and villagers rather than asking for sponsorship or the like! They are a great bunch and at last years car wash some of the village children came to support them in their efforts - quite an eye-opener for many of the

young villagers who had not met someone with cerebral palsy before. So if you have someone in your family who would like to join us then please contact me also. We will be 'working' from 10.15 – 12.30 in the morning.

Many thanks in advance for your support!
Angela Ryan – PALS Co-ordinator 281500



The Devils challenged the Angels to a game of cricket. "But we have all the players!" exclaimed the Angels. "Yes, but we have all the umpires" said the Devils

Have you ever considered becoming a cricket umpire? Umpiring can be a fun and rewarding pastime and a great way to extend your involvement in your area. If you like being close to the action, there is no better seat in the house!

West Ilsley Cricket Club has had a successful season in 2009 and is looking forward to this year. The ground has been voted as one of the best in the Oxfordshire Cricket Association League (OCA), the club is renowned for its friendly atmosphere and sportsmanship. The youth section is extremely successful and we have a number of qualified coaches.

However, the club is in desperate need for more umpires. For each team in the OCA we need to supply an umpire for each Saturday to officiate in a neutral match. If we cannot supply an actual umpire then we usually supply one of our players which in turn weakens our team selection. If we do not supply an umpire then we get fined both money and points.

We are very lucky that we have three Umpires on our books but two of them are limited in the number of games they can officiate for us.

Although it is normally thought that umpires are ex players that is really only true for one of ours. One of ours started umpiring because his children started playing for the club and the other because he just loved the game and in fact has never played it.

So ex-players, parents or spectators, male or female why not think about it, PLEASE.

Talk to us, give it a go. It is very rewarding, training will be given, match and training expenses are paid.

You can umpire on a casual basis or get really involved and go on to officiate in higher level matches. Don't be put off thinking about it if you have not been involved in the game, there is a lot of support, it is great fun, I know.

Please contact any committee member or our chairman chairman@westilsleycricket.net
Or drop us a note via our web site www.westilsleycricket.net

COMMUNITY PLANNING

CONFERENCE 2010

6th March 2010 9.30 - 3.30pm

Chieveley Village Hall

Find out how one community is shrinking their carbon footprint. If that inspires you to go green then there's a chance to meet others who are passionate about local produce, recycling, conservation, bio-diversity and energy saving.

It's not just about the environment either, you can also enjoy a film made by youngsters from Aldworth, and learn how the arts can be used to engage with young people and the wider community.

West Berkshire Council's Chief Executive will be there to discuss tackling some of the larger challenges our communities face alongside officers from planning, community safety and community services.

Age Concern Berkshire will be explaining some great local projects that offer greater support to older people while Business Link will be counting down to the 2012 Olympics and how the games could be a big economic boost for local communities.

Finally, if you're looking for funding for a local project, then you should come along to find out more about the latest opportunities.

I really hope you can join us on the 6th March 2010. Do book soon by contacting Sarah Ward on 07966 236408 or emailing sarah.ward@ccberks.org.uk

WELCOME

To Jo, Brendan and Samuel who have moved into Fir Tree Paddock.

TENNIS COURT UPDATE: TEMPORARY COURT CLOSURE

We held our tennis committee's first AGM earlier in January, the main talking point being how to raise funds for the much needed replacement of the fence surrounding the court and also to resurface the deteriorating court surface. With that in mind, members of the committee, various members of their families and also David Carlisle and Clive Hooker assembled at the court last Sunday morning to clear the court and surrounding area of a build up of winter debris so that we could assess the court's safety. Unfortunately, it was the committee's view that we will have to **temporarily close the court** due to an accelerated build up of moss on the court surface which is making the court unplayable and dangerous under foot. In addition, sections of the fence have become dangerous and need urgent

attention. However, we hope that it will be only a matter of weeks before the the moss is treated, the fence patched and the court safe to play on again. We will e-mail all members and update WIN once we are open again.

Looking forward, we have also agreed to begin a monthly **maintenance programme** with a view to keeping the court and fence safe and open throughout the coming season while we raise funds for their replacement. Committee members will be meeting again at 3pm on Saturday, 30th January to continue our work on clearing the bank surrounding the court of brambles, branches and rubbish. Anyone wishing to join us would be extremely welcome!

In terms of **fund raising** our bijou committee (yes – there's just the four of us folks) face an uphill task. We will need to carry out a sustained period of fund raising to raise the significant sums of money required to replace the fence (our first priority @£7,000) and to resurface (@£10,000). We will of course be applying for grants but most relevant schemes require matched funding. We've had some good ideas including a discounted membership scheme, tournaments, dinners and evening events but would welcome any suggestions (or help). Both the fence and the surface are deteriorating rapidly despite our best efforts. The fence needs to be replaced this year and the surface, ideally resurfaced over Winter 2010/11. It would be such a shame to be closing the court on a permanent basis this time next year for want of a little application on our part, particularly when the court has been played on so much and by so many this past year. We are confident we can do it but would warmly welcome the village's support.

If anyone feels able to help us with fund raising or maintenance or feels able to spare some time to join our committee please do contact any one of the committee members (myself, Polly Muir, Amanda Hagen or our newest recruit, fresh from press-ganging, Liz Dray (thanks Liz!)). Lastly, many thanks to David Gardhouse who has only recently stepped down from the committee but whose excellent care of the court has allowed us to continue playing safely for so long throughout the past year. Amanda Knight

MESSAGE RECEIVED ON THE WEBSITE

I am hoping someone could tell me if there is a Jasmine Cottage in the village? While I have been researching my family tree, I came by a death certificate, which named this as the place of death. I have had a walk round the Village, but could not find it, I wonder has it been demolished or maybe renamed? I would really like to know as it all helps me get a clearer picture of my family

history. The family I am descended from is the Welch family. I am also trying to discover how far back their link with the village goes? Sent from: Mrs J Godfrey – email: robin.godfrey@virgin.net

**THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (RBL) -
COMPTON, ISLEYS & NORREYS
BRANCH**

Planned visit to the National Memorial Arboretum Sunday 18th April 2010

The Officers and members of the local branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL) – Compton, Isleys and Norreys – thank everyone who organised and donated to last year’s Poppy Appeal. The result was a record collection from our downland area of nearly £2,500 – thank you all very much. This generosity together with the large turnout at the branch’s Remembrance Sunday parade and service, held last year at Aldworth, is testimony to the presently high profile that the welfare of ex-servicemen and women has at the present time.

The RBL’s mission is to support ex servicemen and their families. In Berkshire last financial year, the RBL distributed such support to the value of more than one million pounds. Beneficiaries, previously predominantly veterans of the two world wars, now typically are those younger ex servicemen who have served in conflicts such as Aden, Borneo, the Falklands, the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan. Casualty figures being incurred in this latter campaign are, of course, getting wide publicity.

As one of its activities during 2010, the branch is planning a day coach trip to the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) near Burton on Trent in Staffordshire on Sunday 18th April and would like all who read this notice to consider joining us?

The NMA, founded in 2003, is the UK’s memorial to all those who have given their lives in the service of their country since the second world war – more than 16,000 of them – their names engraved on massive Portland stone walls. The arboretum has been set within a rich tapestry of lakes, ponds, river habitats, grassland, reed beds and wetlands on a 150 acre site. It is in the heart of the National Forest and fast maturing with recent hedge laying and building of an otter holt. Mid April should be a wonderful time to visit this beautiful place.

The cost of this day trip, depending on final numbers, will be in the region of £15 per person to cover coach travel from our villages and return. Entrance to the NMA, managed by the RBL, is free. Travellers can take a picnic lunch with them or make use of the on site canteen. You do not have to be a member of the RBL to attend – all are welcome.

If you would like to join us on what we are sure will be a happy day out, please contact one of the following by telephone or email;

David Norbury 01635 578531

davidnorbury@btinternet.com

Alex Lister 01635 281343

alexplister@btinternet.com

We look forward to hearing from you

PARISH PLAN UPDATE

Thank you everyone who responded to our mini questionnaire in the January WIN, we had a very positive response with over 25 households sending in some fantastic ideas. We will be holding another meeting with the steering committee in March to see how we should take the Parish Plan forward. Anna Sugden

SAD NEWS

We are sorry to report that Mrs Gadsby, who lived in Morland Close, and had lived in the village all her life, died on 2nd January aged 90..

WHO TO CONTACT

VILLAGE HALL

Audrey Tizzard - Treasurer and Bookings 281646
Rates: £7.50/hr Villagers £15/hr Non Villagers

CHURCHWARDENS

Alexandra Axtell .281306 Ian Fewtrell-Smith 281625

TENNIS COURT

Membership: Amanda Hagen - amandahagenuk@yahoo.co.uk
Play without joining - to book: Amanda Knight - 281609

PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk:

Alison Banks - Alison@poplars.org.uk 281705

Chairman:

Sean Ryan - Sean.ryan@sunday-times.co.uk 281336

Jo Scriven - Jo.clifton@tynan-darcy.com 281405

Dries Hagen - dries.hagen@healthpml.com 281855

Alan Bloor - Alanpeter.bloor@virgin.net 281341

John Mountford - jgmountford@btinternet.com 281703

Fred Carter - fred_kathcarter@btinternet.com 281621