

WEST ILSLEY NEWS

1 July 1999

(Editor - Alan Muir Tel - 281647 Fax - 281138)

THE PARISH PUMP

The Parish Council (PC) met first as trustees of the West Ilsley Recreation and Social Association and approved its accounts for the year ended 21 October 1998 which show a commendable balance. The trustees thanked the treasurer Mrs Tizzard for her work. The parish is very fortunate to have the village hall and the recreation field leased to them by the Lockinge estate. The PC then held its annual meeting. Baz Pease and Richard Gore were elected chair and vice-chair respectively. The accounts for the year (precept £1450, expenditure £1412) were accepted and the dates for the forthcoming meetings scheduled as 2nd or 3rd Monday every second month. An estimate of £50,000 has been provided by West Berkshire Council (WBC) to bring Church Way up to standard for adoption by the Highways Authority. To improve the drainage and surface only would cost £10,000; but Church Way would then remain the responsibility of the adjacent property owners. Any action on these alternatives can be taken jointly by these property owners but not by the Parish Council.

A disappointing reply has been received from the Keeper of the Privy Purse about the possibility of leasing a ¼ acre plot near the pond for a car park and playground. The council decided that the views of Lady Huntingdon should be sought before responding to The Keeper.

As a pilot project the parish council has undertaken a formal role in monitoring the WBC performance in maintaining and cleansing the streets. Richard Gore is the contact for this work.

No one from West Ilsley has yet offered to be Parish Clerk but Mrs Linda Dobson from Hermitage has been appointed – Jean Pease kindly took the minutes of the present meeting.

The next parish council meeting is on 12th July. The agenda to include a discussion of concessionary bus fares and a proposal for a millennium bonfire/beacon in addition to the millennium committee proposals (see below).

The councillors and eight parishioners attended the Annual Parish Assembly to hear annual reports of village organisations and guest speaker Simon Barnett Parish Paths Liaison Officer from WBC and other local authorities.

The Chairman of the PC paid tribute to the work of retiring clerk Gail Wilson-North and noted with great sadness the death of Michael Brown, chair of the millennium committee. The pond improvement scheme had been completed during the year as had the undergrounding of some of Southern Electric overhead 220V cables. In discussion Alan Bloor deprecated the nuisance of debris from straw lorries and urged that straw loads should be covered; Norman Carlisle stressed (again) the importance of removing overhanging branches.

The Recreation and Social Association reported by secretary Peter Bartaby had sponsored several events and fund-raising activities including a Barn Dance. The village hall has been redecorated and is now very smart. A further £5000 is needed for roof repairs and a clay-pigeon shoot is planned for November.

The Evergreens reported by Ann Carlisle had organised trips to the Cotswolds, Weymouth, Chichester, Cardiff, Moreton-in-Marsh and to "Me and My Girl" in Newbury. The fund-raising bazaar was in

November and an excellent Christmas lunch was held at the Star, East Ilsley. A full programme has been arranged for 1999. Join up, you oldies!

The Ilsleys Primary School reported by Richard Gore had a successful year with rising numbers and debt pay-off thanks to the financial assistance from the Friends Association, the East Ilsley PC and the East Ilsley Trust Fund. Current staffing levels are maintained in the 1999-2000 budget. More children are needed! The termly newsletter was commended.

Tracey Allan-Jones reported a successful year for the Under 5's and Mothers and Toddlers groups. The increasing numbers include children from adjacent villages. The Toddlers meet at the Village Hall on Wednesdays and the successful under 5's play group meet at Ilsleys School on Wednesday and Thursday.

Ian Fewtrell-Smith for the Parochial Church Council said that services are held at All Saints Church on every Sunday of the year by the Revd Antonia Cretney, helped by Denise Brown from Beedon. Congregations continue to be small, but fill the Church at major festivals and on the sad occasions of funerals. Local people provide flowers and keep the church and its surroundings neat and clean but the roof needs repairs and the church finances are on a knife-edge.

Polly Muir said that the West Ilsley News would welcome more contributors writing regularly. She thanked all who help prepare and distribute the News.

Alan Bloor reported that the Cricket Club enjoyed a good season in 1998: the 1st XI were runners up in the Premier Division and 2nd XI were similarly runners up in Division 1. More players are wanted.

Gail Wilson-North reporting for the Downland Volunteers Group said that there had been 1008 requests in the last year for transport to the surgery and to local hospitals, met by 55 volunteers, compared with 745 request and 47 volunteers in the previous year. The average need is about twenty journeys each week throughout the area covered (the Ilsleys, Compton, Hampstead Norreys, Hermitage, Chieveley and other Downland villages). If there are queries, Avice Morris should be contacted.

Tracey Weaver reported that the administration of the Downlands Sports Centre at Compton had been merged with the Lambourn Centre from 1 April 1999. The following improvements had been introduced: a computerised booking system; a phone link to enable all calls to be personally answered; five duty managers each with different responsibilities; a more varied programme to include classes for all age groups, and a full summer holiday programme. New and improved gym equipment has been purchased.

PC D Morris reported that the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is operating successfully in West Ilsley. Better communications had been introduced for the cascade systems of alerting.

Jo Gore said that the 1999 Village Show will be held on 11th July with a format similar to last year. More volunteers are needed to man the various stalls please!

Avice Morris reporting on the plans and progress of the Millennium Committee said that the death of Mick Brown had been a severe loss. The committee had run four fund-raising evens: a pre-show dance, a Halloween party, a shoot and an East/West Ilsley run. The sum raised so far is £1904.92 plus £100 from the Parish Council. There had been a good response with recipes for the cookery book which it was hoped to publish shortly. Future events planned were a treasure hunt, a cricket match, a further pre-show dance on 10th July and events in November and December. The proposed Millennium Celebrations are: New Years Eve Norman Carlisle had kindly made available barns which would be decorated to house a disco and it was proposed that people bring their own hampers; a children's party in the summer on the recreation ground. An application has been made to the Millennium Festival Fund for a grant to the Millennium Gazebo next to the pond.

The work of the Playground Management Committee is on hold until a site has been secured.

Dennis Gilmour reported on the work of the Tennis Management Committee. The charges for the use of the court were to be increased from May 1999. The cost would be £1.50 an hour for adults and 75p for children under 16. Income for the previous year had been £200 that was down compared with previous years. It was hoped to arrange tennis coaching for children. There were problems on the court with needles falling from surrounding trees and moss and dampness. The trees had been lopped to 8ft and the perimeter wire needed repair. In the discussion, it was felt that the key to the court being held at the Veterinary Surgery was less convenient than its previous location at the Harrow. The booking arrangements had then worked better. A notice on the court, saying where the key was held would be helpful to the public wishing to use it.

Simon Barnet, guest speaker described the parish paths initiative scheme to improve footpaths, bridleways and byways. He has funds to implement suggested improvements. The parish council will be please to consider proposals for improvements that may be suggested.

Bas Pease

EVERGREENS

At the West Ilsley Show on 11th July we have a Cake Stall - cakes, jams, chutneys, wine and anything edible. Any offers from the village gratefully accepted.

On Tuesday 20th July at 1.30 p.m. We will leave for a visit to Millets Farm to pick or buy fruit etc. Names to D Wells, S Gore or A Carlisle.

Anne Carlisle

COAST TO COAST CHALLENGE

Seven other mountain bikers and I managed, over three days, to cycle from Whitehaven (Cumbria) to Tynemouth (Newcastle upon Tyne). We did the journey in three stages staying in Bed and Breakfast accommodation in Greystoke (near Penrith) and Allenheads (in the middle of nowhere!). The scenery and biking were both breathtaking and some of the pain was eased with frequent visits to various hostelrys en route! We have raised approximately £11,000 for the Royal Hospital for Neuro-Disability in London. This hospital is a national charity, which provides treatment and help for people with profound physical disabilities resulting from damage to the brain and nervous system. These disabilities include conditions such as multiple sclerosis, Huntingdon's disease and serious head injuries. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people in the village who very kindly sponsored me.

Pete Carlisle

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Church Services for July:- 11.00 am

4th July:-

All Age Service

11th July:- 8.00 am

Holy Communion

18th July:-

9.30 am

Family Communion

MORNING PRAYER

What has happened to the fourth Sunday Service? Sadly, the Church will not be holding this Sunday service in West Ilsley for the foreseeable future – there is insufficient interest in the church to make it viable to hold a service every Sunday. Of course, there are services elsewhere in the benefice. I am told often that we are fortunate to have the church in the village, but a weekly average congregation of around 8 suggests otherwise. How long will it be before the decision is taken to have only two services a month, or one? Or... The church will remain within the village, but will it become empty and dilapidated, unable to remain open at all times and to provide the services for weddings, funerals and baptisms? If the building is to remain, it needs your full support regularly, not just at Christmas.

Ian Fewtrell-Smith

RED CROSS

£141.11 was collected from the village in May. Grateful thanks to those who collected and donated.

PRAM SERVICE

At the June service the children heard the story of the Fishermen and their nets and sang a fish song. The July service will be on Tuesday 13th July at 11.00 am and will be the last one until September. The services are for 0-5 year olds plus carer and last for approximately half an hour, followed by refreshments for the children.

Liz Dray – 281704

MISSING

Have you seen our female cat "Trixie"? She has long black hair and a bushy tail she holds erect. She has not been home since 23rd May. As she would often go off for three or four days, we are hoping she might just have adopted another family. *Please* contact us (281625) if you have seen her – we would just like to know her fate, whatever has happened to her.

Kay and Ian Fewtrell-Smith

TITTLE – TATTLE

...in only 6 lines....Welcome to little Lucy Charlotte who is keeping Mum and Dad Paterson busy! She weighed in at 7lb 6oz on the 15/6/99 - congratulations to Cathy and Neil.

Hello to Family Stannard - Ruth, John, Ashley and Alex who are moving into Land's End this month.

Don't forget the Village Show on Sunday 11th July.

P.S. Thank you to my gossip sources. Keep me informed.