

West Ilsley News

August 2000

Enthusiastic feedback and actual support with items for the WIN are still being gratefully received, and long may they continue. An opportunity for some advance planning for Burns Night is offered this month by the Caledonian Society's advertisement - dare you miss it?

The Editors

EVERGREENS

Anne Carlisle

On Tuesday 5th September there is an outing to Salisbury – Market Day. The coach will leave West Ilsley Church at 9.35 am. Members £4, non-members £6. Names to J Collier, S Gore or A Carlisle.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The West Berkshire Mobile Library visits West Ilsley once a fortnight, stopping in Morland Close on a Friday between 4.05 pm and 4.30 pm. Confirmed dates for the next few weeks are: August 25th September 8th and 22nd. The stock includes fiction and non-fiction, books in large print, and books for children of all ages. The library has a lift for easier access. Enquiries to the Branch Supervisor, Thatcham Libranry on 01635 866049.

POST OFFICE NEWS

Tickets for Newbury Show on 16th and 17th September can be purchased at special prices from the Post Office. £7 adults, £7 children 5-16, under 5s free. £18 for a family ticket (2 adults and 2 children). Show opening times are 8 am to 8 pm Saturday, and 8 am to 6 pm on Sunday.

We may have lost our shop, but have you noticed the selection of items on sale in the Post Office? Besides the normal stationery-type items, there are sweets, crisps and drinks, cards, wrapping paper, shoelaces, cat food, washing-up liquid, washing powder, loo rolls, firelighters and much more – including some of those really bouncy little rubber balls which are hard to catch, and packets of modelling clay.

ALL SAINTS

CHURCH

Ian Fewtrell-Smith

Church Services for September 2000:

3 rd	All Age Service	11.00 am
10 th	Holy Communion	8.00 am
17 th	Family Communion	9.30 am

TREASURE HUNT - 10th September

Meet at the church at 2.50 for a start at 3.00 pm. The course could last up to about three hours and will finish at the church. Marking will be done at the cricket pavilion, where you will be able to celebrate your win

(or drown your sorrows). Entry will be £5.00 per car and all proceeds from this will go to church funds.

HARVEST SUPPER - 29th September

The harvest supper this year will be in the village hall at 7.30 for 8.00 pm. Dr. Paul Sievers will be giving a talk with slides on New Zealand. Tickets will be on sale from the second week in September and will be available (on a first come, first served basis) from Anne Carlisle, Shirley Gore, Jan Sheppard or me.

DON'T FORGET...

3rd November - Quiz Night

BUS SERVICE

An enquiry to Alfa-Bennetts on 01635 248423 produced the following information, but it was a little uncertain, so please check for yourself if you decide to try the service the editors will not take responsibility for stranded villagers!

Weekdays

Departures from West Ilsley:

7.40 am, arriving Newbury Post Office at 8.08 am
9.20 am, arriving Newbury Bus Station at 9.50 am

Departures from Newbury Bus Station:

4.10 pm, arriving at West Ilsley at 4.40 pm

Saturdays

Departures from West Ilsley:

7.40 am, arriving Newbury at 8.10 am
10.00 am, arriving Newbury 10.30 am

Departures from Newbury Bus Station:

12.30 pm, arriving West Ilsley 1.00pm

If anyone has more information, please contribute it to the WIN.

ILSLEY UNDER

FIVES

Tracy Gregory 281650

Toddler Group

The Toddler Group is thriving and with new babies arriving it should continue to do so for years to come.

The Group is for Parent/Carer and baby and/or toddlers up to school age. It is held in the Village Hall on a Wednesday morning from 10.00am to 11.30am during which the adults get to drink tea/coffee and have a good old chat while the children play, hopefully with each other without too much squabbling. This is

followed by juice and a biscuit or two and then Song Time.

During the summer holidays the group has been getting together in various peoples gardens which has helped the children to keep in their routines. We start back in the village hall on Wednesday 6th September and new faces are very welcome.

Play Group

The Ilsley Under Fives playgroup was set up by a group of parents to provide a local place for children to play and learn together. The emphasis is on the children having a good time, with lots of games and planned activities, which we feel is the best way for them to acquire vital social skills and learn about the world.

The playgroup is held in the Main Hall in the Ilsleys Primary School on a Wednesday and Thursday afternoon from 1.25pm until 3.30pm during the school terms. The playgroup is mainly for children from 3 years old until they start in full-time education. There are a limited number of places for 2½ year olds, at the playgroup leaders discretion, and parents are asked to join a parent's rota to enable this to continue. The 2½ year olds attend only one afternoon a week. Playgroup starts back on Wednesday 6th September.

If you are interested in your child attending the playgroup or would like to see it for yourself please call either Jill Brophy on 281672 or Julia (Playgroup Leader) on 281357 for an application form or to arrange a visit.

VILLAGE HALL PONTOON

Audrey Tizzard

We still need more names for this year's football pontoon, so please contact me at the Post Office.

PLEASE HELP

Our much loved Ginger Persian (Long Haired) Cat called Freddy, went missing at the end of July. If you have any news, good or bad on his whereabouts it would be much appreciated if could let us know. Please either call Ali or Mike on 281158 or email downside.cottage@virgin.net

A big thank you for all the people who have helped us so far.

On a lighter note, we are trying to find the history of our home, Downside Cottage (on the cart track at the east side of village). We have discovered many very interesting roof and floor beams perhaps from a much early building and also uncovered a huge Inglenook fireplace. We have had an Inglenook expert complete a survey on it and he has dated it to around, 1700 - 1730 which would make the cottage almost twice as old as we first thought. This is why we would be delighted if anyone could either point us in the right direction or share what they know, anything however large or small would be a great help. Contact Mike Coleman on 281158, downside.cottage@virgin.net
P.S. If anyone would like to see the building plans that we have submitted to the planning office, please let us

know, we would be delighted to show anyone who is interested or concerned.

PRAM SERVICE ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Alison Banks
Liz Dray

Pram services resume in September. The dates for next term are as follows:

Monday 18th September - Harvest
Monday 16th October - Lost and Found
Monday 20th November - Saints
Monday 18th December - Christmas

The services are for 0-5 year olds plus parent, grandparent or carer etc and last for half an hour, followed by refreshments for the children. This informal service includes lots of songs with instruments for the children to play plus a short story based on a theme.

Everyone welcome. Contact Alison on 281705 and Liz on 281704.

OUT AND ABOUT "UP NORTH" (OF THE RIDGEWAY)

Andrea Cook

A quick drink after an evening class was my introduction to the Boar's Head at Ardington. Having never visited this pub before, I was surprised to recognise some of the other customers – the West Ilsley ladies darts team was playing a match! The pub seems to be a good mix of local watering hole - on that evening a TV was temporarily set up in the middle room so that drinkers could watch the European Cup – and informal restaurant offering a good range of interesting-looking dishes. In the interests of the WIN readership, I forced myself to investigate further, and we visited for lunch on a cold and showery Saturday. We chose from the "lighter" menu on the blackboard. Salmon fishcakes served with a small but nicely mixed and presented salad, and a fish pie which included tuna and scallops were both excellent. We said we'd "just look" at the dessert menu but were tempted by the interesting selection – a peach melba (a poached peach and home-made vanilla icecream) and a tayberry shortcake rounded off the lunch, followed by a cafetiere of coffee strong enough to ensure that we stayed awake for the Wimbledon ladies final when we got home! The bill, which included two pints and two halves, came to £30. The service and ambience were both excellent, and when combined with the quality of the food, it's unsurprising that they have been awarded Oxfordshire Dining Pub of 2000 by the Good Pub Guide.

On reporting back to evening class on the good time we'd had, I was informed that the Hare at West Hendred offers a similar standard of hospitality. Our public-spiritedness knows no bounds, so we headed off to check this one out too – a visit several years ago hadn't been impressive. Well, what a transformation! The place is clearly geared up for dining, but whilst we were there several locals came in for just a drink. The staff are both friendly and efficient and the printed menu offers a good variety of tempting dishes. We

chose an avocado and bacon salad, and a terrine to start – both well presented and flavoursome. Cumberland sausage with mustard mash and onion rings, and salmon fishcakes with a selection of prettily presented vegetables both went down well. The bill, which included two glasses of house red and two pints, came to £35 without service.

CRICKET FIXTURES

Saturday 26th August

1st XI Goring (home)
2nd XI Woodcote (away)

Sunday 27th August

Yattendon (home 2.30)

Saturday 2nd September

1st XI IBIS Mapledurham (away)
2nd XI Thatcham (home)

Sunday 3rd September

Aldworth (away 2.00)

TITTLE TATTLE

Miss Toffilees

Only short snippets this month, which makes a change to the large volume that I produced at the end of July.

Firstly, whilst delivering the WIN last month we chanced upon Alison Coleman and would like to welcome her and her husband, Michael to Downside Cottage. Also, welcome to Bett and Jack Channon who have moved into Hodcott. I don't think the latter 'hello' is quite as tardy as the first! Please keep me up to date all you new chaps.

I don't suppose that any of the farmers will be pleased with the large amount of rain that fell yesterday, it really does add a huge amount of hassle to an already busy time of year. I was informed the other day that the grain needs to be stored at less than 15% moisture content otherwise it needs drying in thud dryer with all the inherent cost of that procedure. During the dry spell that we had the moisture content fell to less than 15% and as a consequence did not need to be dried. Well, after yesterday's downpour, it must be well and truly saturated. The 'after-flood' brought spectators out and one resident even had to be rescued from the house. The water rose to a level such as I have never seen before. There is, of course, the possibility that I have missed previous occasions, or, the memory fails me. When I spoke to a chap who was marking the road prior to the re-surfacing, he assured me that the new

road could help. Well! It has improved one's general passage through the village.

Newbury & District  **Caledonian Society**

Scottish Country Dancing

*Learn the basics on Saturday, 30 September 2000,
at Falkland School and St George's Hall.*

*Separate afternoon classes with qualified teachers
for children and for adult beginners.*

*Children's Dance in the early evening followed by the
Adults' Dance, both to live music.*

Details and tickets from: Reuben Freemantle (Newbury 40530) or
Jim Johnston (Newbury 45687).

Free event

funded by a Millennium Festival Awards for All grant.

DIARY DATES ...

September

9th CROW
10th Church Treasure Hunt
11th West Ilsley Parish Council 7.00 pm
29th Church Harvest Supper

November

3rd Church Quiz Night
13th West Ilsley Parish Council 7.00 pm

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 Tuesday 22nd August 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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