

WEST ILSLEY NEWS

1 April 2000

www.btinternet.com/~ilsley

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

TITTLT - TATTLE

Now that I've attended three evenings of computer course I no longer need any assistance. It's Official! It's why I still have to wait and make sure someone is around to help me (just in case!) or make sure nobody is looking, just in case I mess-up.

Well, about the village this month...lovely to see the Baas out with their mums with the sun on their backs in this fabulous dry and unseasonally warm weather. It is always freezing during lambing. When Lou and I were in the lambing sheds we were always chilly, weren't we, Lou? Then I used to get even colder coming home on my bike and crawl into bed with a freezing cold posterior and feet, to the dulcet tones of himself. "Why are you so b*****y cold?" Obvious really, been in a cold barn. Ahh! That was all B.C. (before children). It's still magic watching the lambs, though.

The grain dryer is officially quieter. Following a remark I had made to Norman that we had noticed it had been running and was very much improved in its output of noise, I was given The Official Tour showing all the outlet fins facing the ground so that the noise is projected downwards and not across the village. Thank you!

Welcome to Duncan and Sarah who have moved in next door to Kevin and Sarah (in the cottages on the corner). I wasn't given your surname-sorry! I know, too that 'somebodies' have moved into Emma's house in Rowles Paddock, but I don't know whom. The Seddons - Sue, Steve, Catherine and Christine have also arrived (sometime back). I'm afraid to report and I previously missed them. Can we take it that there are a lot of folk on the move?

The church quiz was great success and certainly good fun. The entertainment value was high (especially on the more taxing questions). Boy, did I wish I spent more time watching the soaps on the box instead of listening to the Archer's on Radio 4. There wasn't one question on that! Everybody seemed to enjoy themselves and we all came away with a wealth of information - even if it was only how competitive one's neighbour's can be. Well done to the trio who won- Andrea, Mel ably abetted by young Mr. Paterson. Family Gore was hot on their heels, and then Steph's team.

Miss Tofilees

WEST ILSLEY CRICKET CLUB NEWS

Spring is definitely here. The daffodils are out, the Carlisles' lambs are skipping in the fields and Dick Beech has emerged from hibernation and started to mow the cricket pitch.

A lot of hard work is currently going on behind the scenes to complete the refurbishment of the pavilion before the season starts. Hopefully large numbers of you will come and use and enjoy the facilities over the coming months. Practice nets have already started and are being held at Northcroft Leisure Centre on Sunday evenings, and a practice match is planned for Saturday 15th April.

Friday 14th April is the date of the annual pre-season Golf Day to be held at Deanwood Park Golf course, as usual. Any newcomers to the village interested in joining the club either as a playing member or as a social member, or anyone interested in attending the Golf Day, please contact Kevin Holloway on 281556.

Cricket Widow.

DOWNLAND SPORTS CENTRE

The Downland Sports Centre and The Lambourn Centre now have a newly appointed General Manager, Rose Metalli. Rose was previously the Assistant Manager at Theale Green Recreation Centre and took up her new position here on 1st March 2000. We are all looking forward to working with her.

We have many plans for the future The Downland Sports Centre and you will hopefully start seeing some changes at the Centre shortly, particularly in terms of the programme.

The gym continues to be popular. We intend to install a music system in the very near future as we are all aware that for most it is difficult to train in silence. Also, we are planning a gym challenge (date to be announced) – so get training.

There will as usual be an Easter Children's Holiday Programme for children aged between 5 and 11. It will run from 17th to 20th and 25th to 28th April, between the hours of 10.00 am and 2.30 pm (2x2 hour sessions will run within these hours). The programme will be delivered to all local schools at the beginning of April. If you do not receive a copy, or if your child does not attend a local school please telephone us on 01635 578866 and we will send you a copy. The gym will also be open between those hours for use by those who have completed Downland Sports Centre gym inductions.

The Centre will be closed for Easter on Friday 21st until Monday 24 April, inclusive.

WILD FLOWERS ON THE VERGE

Do you enjoy seeing wild flowers? Do you walk along your local lanes? If you do we would like you to join our Roadside Verge Survey, recording wildflowers you see. British roadside verges cover an area equivalent of 200,000 hectares and are a valuable and often ignored resource. In some counties those that are particularly rich in wildflowers can be made into Roadside Verge Nature Reserves. We already have over 50 of these in West Berkshire and, with your help, their number could be increased. To encourage more people to join the survey, we are planning a workshop on wild flower identification on 27 May at Little Hidden Farm, Hungerford. It will provide an opportunity to learn more about wild flowers and how to identify them as well as to see some growing. Would you like to join us?

If you are interested in the workshop or the survey please contact Sally Oldfield or Charis Weller at the Berkshire office of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust; Telephone 0118 9303773. We look forward to hearing from you.

NEWS OF OUR POLICE AREA REORGANISATION.

The new West Berkshire police areas will probably be as follows:

Newbury. Main station.

The only police station in West Berks open for 24 hours to the public. No change

There will be 24-hour shift cover for the new Hungerford area as well as Newbury and Thatcham town.

Thatcham, Crookham and Cold Ash parishes will amalgamate with Newbury parishes (Greenham, Enborne, Speen, and Shaw cum Donnington) for police cover but have separate Thatcham and Newbury town centre patrols.

Thatcham Police Station will remain open in daytime only – no change.

Hungerford Police Station.

Limited opening for the public, usually daytime. No change.

There will be a Community Police Team (CPT) based there which will have general responsibility for half of West Berks rural area, situated mainly to the west of the A34 to the Wilts, Hants and Oxon borders.

This area will include the old Hungerford Section (Lambourn, East Garston, Fawley, Gt. Shefford, Chaddleworth, Brightwalton, Farnborough, Leckhampstead, Welford, Boxford, Kintbury, Inkpen, West Woodhay, Hampstead Marshall, Combe,) **with the addition of** East and West Ilsley, Catmore, Stanmore, Beedon, Peasemore, Chieveley, Curridge, Hermitage and Winterbourne.

Pangbourne Police Station.

Limited opening for the public. It varies but usually opens from 0800 – 2400hrs. No change.

There will be 24-hour shift cover for the whole of the new Pangbourne sector from here. The eastern Community Police Team, which will cover their rural area, will also be based here.

The new Pangbourne Sector which includes the whole of the old sector (Streatley, Basildon, Bradfield, Tidmarsh, Purley, Tilehurst, Sulham, Stanford Dingley, Englefield, Theale, Burghfield, Sulhamstead, Ufton Nervet, Padworth, Wokefield, Stratfield Mortimer, Beech Hill, Aldermaston, Beenham) **with the addition of** Compton, Aldworth, Ashampstead, Hampstead Norreys, Eling, Bothampstead, Yattendon, Frilsham, Bucklebury, Midgam, Woolhampton, Wasing and Brimpton.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?

There will be no more individual police officers responsible for your village. Any one officer from these two CPT teams or 24-hour shift officer could attend any call in their respective areas and investigate any incident.

The telephone numbers will not change. All your calls will be answered at a central switchboard, usually in Oxford. **Wantage control room will still be the main control centre for radios and deployment of all officers. DO NOT ASK TO BE PUT THROUGH TO ANY OTHER PLACE OTHER THAN WANTAGE CONTROL ROOM FOR ANY ONGOING INCIDENT.** It will cause delays.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME?

I have not retired contrary to current speculation. My police house will **not** be an operational police house any more from about the middle of May 2000. I will be a policeman who will now only work 8 hours a day and comes home for a rest into a private dwelling. If you want a policeman, please don't ring or call at home any more, call the police station.

WHAT WILL IT MEAN TO YOU ?

With present manpower every officer no matter what team or station they are based will have to respond to any calls for police in the whole area, not just their own, as I and fellow Area Beat officers have been doing for the last 5 years.

In the whole of West Berks police area there are about **88** what I call operational uniform officers - those who work shifts or beats and respond to calls. Divide that by four because of the four-shift system and **in theory** that leaves about **22** officers on duty in one 8-hour period in the whole of West Berks police area. Out of this you must **take out** a proportion each day for annual leave; additional rest days; training courses; sickness; special events such as Ascot; police support units; attending court; paperwork; etc.. When any of those officers make an arrest the **minimum** time that officer is unavailable for operational cover is about one hour, usually anything from 2 to 6 hours, depending on the incident. Last weekend three officers were involved with three prisoners. They interviewed, prepared court files, fingerprinted, photographed and charged them with an offence on our area. This took the whole of their 8-hour shift. We have a job to do little more than fire brigade policing on occasions - only going from call to call. **but**, if we were the fire brigade, we have not, and will not be able to, put out some fires with our manpower as it is. This occurs not just in our local area or in Thames Valley Police's area, though we have the lowest police to public ratios in the country, but nationwide. Is it any wonder the police morale is low, and pay has got nothing to do with it?

HOW CAN WE COMPLY WITH THE HOME SECRETARIES NEW STRATEGY?

What's that you say? Making every police force reduce crimes of burglary and theft by enormous amounts.

Lock the offenders up for longer I hear you cry! Though in one stroke, it would probably be effective, probably cheaper in the end, it is not one of the options under consideration I believe! Answers on a postcard to the House of Commons!

BANKS. My favourite gripe.

Heard about the bank that lost **£60,000,000** (million) in credit card fraud last year? Times that by six for all the big banks!!! They don't care, that bank alone made **£2.5 billion** profit last year. Never mind the stress and financial loss we the customers have to suffer. Change to one with a photo!! Get a photo type driving licence aswell. How many times to I have to tell you boys and girls.

PC 2427 Morris

PS. I will try to continue this newsletter due to popular request. What's the post like from Siberia?

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Church Services for April 2000:-

2nd April:- 11.00 am

United benefice Mothering Sunday Service

9th April:- 8.00 am

Holy Communion (BCP)

16th April, Palm Sunday:- 9.30 am

Family Communion

23rd April, Easter Sunday:- 11.00 am

All Age Service with Holy Communion

Full details of the Easter Services within the benefice will be on the Easter card dropping through letter flaps shortly.

Quiz Night

Well done to everyone who joined in the quiz night and thank you for supporting our fund-raising. We raised over £450 for the church – a fantastic effort by all. But it was mainly intended to be fun and I reckon it was, especially the embarrassment of the quizmaster (joke!) when one of the questions had the wrong answer! As for future events, Kay has just given me a (different) quiz book for my birthday, so I intend trying it out later on in the year (just when you thought it safe to venture outside again...!). But I will definitely check out the answers and not trust a book. And as for anagrams...

Good Friday Walk – 21st April

Details of the walk timetable between the benefice churches will be in the Easter card dropping through your front door, so make a note of when and where you might like to take part. The walk starts at Peasemore at 9.00 am and finishes at Farnborough with a service (if you want to join that) at 2.30 pm. If anyone wants to do the whole circuit with me, I shall be leaving Farnborough church at about 7.40 am. Don't forget lunch (to be eaten in West Ilsley village hall) and water. A good walk, (but not the weather), is guaranteed.

Ian Fewtrell-Smith

EASTER LILIES

I shall be pleased to accept donations from anyone wishing to contribute towards buying an Easter Lily as a token of remembrance.

A Carlisle

EVERGREENS

On Tuesday April 11th there is an outing by coach to Winchester leaving outside West Ilsley Church at 10.00am. The coach will return from Winchester at 3.30 pm. Members £4, non-members £5.

Names to S Gore 281552, J Collier, 281283 or A Carlisle 281613.

Anne Carlisle

PRAM SERVICE, ALL SAINTS CHURCH

The next service will take place on Tuesday 11th April at 11.00 am with an Easter theme. Please note that from May the monthly services will change to 11.00 am on a Monday, dates as follows: -

8th May Sharing with others

12th June Feeding of the Five Thousand

10th July Work

The services are for 0-5 year olds plus parent, grandparent, carer etc and last for half an hour, followed by refreshments for the children. The aim is to be very informal and there are lots of songs and instruments for the children to play.

Liz Dray - (281704)

WEST BERKSHIRE VICTIM SUPPORT values a strong local identity in its Volunteers and Management Committee Members. We are committed to providing a service to all sections of the community from Lambourn and Hungerford across to Pangbourne and Tilehurst.

Trained volunteers contact people following a crime to offer support and information. Crime causes pain and suffering which can shatter families and wreck lives. In any crime, the emotional wounds often last a lot longer than the physical ones and people still need someone to talk to. Most of the time it's giving people reassurance and emotional support, helping them to get over their fears.

Extending our work into the whole of West Berkshire has created places for new volunteers. People who are good listeners, people who are understanding and can get on with people of all ages, cultures and background. People who care. Included in the above are people who can help with the running of the Scheme, who are interested in joining the Management Committee, bringing with them valuable skills and knowledge.

Our next training programme commences in June, so if you think you are the kind of person who can help people, please call us on 01635 524493, the reward for helping can be immense.

W.I.R.&S.A.

(West Ilsley Recreation & Social Association)

EASTER

BINGO

IN

THE VILLAGE HALL
FRIDAY 21ST APRIL

7.30 p.m.

*****GOOD PRIZES*****

*****MULTI-PRIZE RAFFLE*****

Admission 20p OAP's/Under 18's 10p