

# West Ilsley News

www.westilsley.org.uk

January 2006

As you are aware, we no longer have access to the free source of photocopying we have been using, which would mean that the cost of photocopying would have to be found if the WIN were to continue to be distributed in the traditional way. We feel strongly that the WIN should be inclusive and should be distributed free of charge to each household. It was suggested that 21<sup>st</sup> century technology could help and we have pursued this to see if it is possible to distribute the WIN by email. We have had a fantastic response to the leafleting on the topic. The vast majority of homes will, from now on, receive the WIN via email and those who do not have access to email will have their copy provided courtesy of village friends and neighbours. Thank you to everyone who responded so positively, and in particular to those who have offered to print and deliver an extra copy or two to fellow villagers, also, to Gill Headley and Barbara Coakley who will now be providing copies for everyone associated with their stables. For the future – we need feedback as to how the new system works, so that we can refine and improve upon the process where necessary. We are sure you will join us in thanking Anne Carlisle, Kay Fewtrell-Smith, Angus Muir, Carrie-Anne Young, and John Verney who have braved rain, wind, snow and heatwaves to deliver the WIN during our Editorship – Thank You.

The Editors

## WEST ILSLEY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Please could you publish our thanks to the West Ilsley Christmas Party team - Angela Ryan, Sandra Carlisle, Anne Wond, Marnie Moyle and Andrea Cook – for organising a superb evening on 3rd December. A huge effort had obviously gone into transforming the village hall into a magnificent venue for the event. The attention to detail was fantastic, from the braziers burning outside to the decorations inside; excellent organisation of wonderful food and drink; and a terrifically staged raffle draw! Add to that friendly and welcoming fellow guests and the event became a highlight of our Christmas. All of our friends who don't live in West Ilsley were very jealous when we told them about it. Hopefully the same team can be persuaded to repeat it for Christmas 2006 in order to give anybody who missed it this year a

chance to go! Wishing everybody a Happy New Year, Philip and Amanda Knight

## CHRISTMAS PARTY THE FINAL

RECKONING

The Party Team

We are delighted to report that we were able to donate £761 to Raising the Roof, and this has now been increased by £500 from Vodaphone – thank you very much!

## DIARY

JANUARY

9<sup>th</sup>

Parish Council Meeting

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Deadline for the next publication is 5pm on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January

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Please direct your feedback to either of the editors.

To join the email distribution list or for new/changed email addresses, please email

westilsleynews@msn.com

## CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL SINGING

Sandra Carlisle

Following the Crib Service on Christmas Eve some children, ponies and adults went carol singing.

I am very pleased to say that a huge sum of £85 was raised for the Hampstead Norreys branch of Riding for the Disabled - no mean feat for one hour's work!

A huge thank you to those of you who gave so generously and also to Carrie-Ann, Ryan, Trissy, Storm, Dylan, Georgina and William - not forgetting Angela and Tracey! Well done everyone.

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH, ALL SAINTS CHURCH

### Afterschool Service

The next service will be on **Thursday 19 January** at 4pm in the church.

The Afterschool services are well supported but we would love to see new faces or friends from outside the village. Each service lasts approximately half an hour followed by drinks for the children. The services cover a variety of themes we hope of interest to the children and are aimed at primary school age children and younger ones.

### Mums and Tots (for the very young and their carers)

We will be meeting at the Peasemore Rectory on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January** from 10am-11.30am. This is a more casual get together where the children can play and sing and the Mums get to have a chat and a coffee. Our numbers have been lower of late and we hope some more of you may join us in the New Year. Our February get togethers will be on Thursday 2 February for Mums and Tots and Thursday 23 February for the Afterschool service.

If you would like more information on either of these services please contact Denise Brown on 01635 281825 or Liz Dray on 01488 638749.

## ALL SAINTS WEST ILSLEY

William and Alexandra Axtell

### Church Services for January:

Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion	8.00am
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Family Communion	9.30am
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	No Service	
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	United Benefice Holy Communion at Peasemore.	10.00am

### Christmas

The Carol Service, Crib Service and Christmas Eve Midnight Service were all well attended with the church beautifully bedecked in festive flowers and Christmas greenery. At the Crib Service the children were all splendidly dressed as angels, shepherds and other assorted nativity figures with Henry and Storm making a lovely Mary and Joseph. Dylan also made a wonderful donkey! Thank you to all who came and to the ministry team for their hard work over this busy period.

## Raising the Roof Appeal

A huge thank you to Sandra, Anne, Marnie, Angela and Andrea for organising a superb Christmas drinks party in aid of the Raising the Roof appeal. The attention to detail from the carol singers on arrival to the wonderful decorations and eats was amazing! A superbly festive night was had by all and I understand £761 was raised for the appeal. In addition Vodafone has kindly agreed to donate £500 to the appeal as part of its matched fundraising programme.

The Garfield Weston Trust has kindly donated £3,000 to the appeal and the Gerald Palmer Eling Trust has kindly donated £2,000. As such the total at the moment is nearly £24,000. We were unfortunate in not getting a grant from English Heritage (who often give out substantial grants) but are hopeful of receiving a grant from the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust. We are getting closer to our target of £45,000 but still have some way to go. There will be more fundraising events in the spring and we aim to start some of the urgent work this summer.

Thank you all so much for your continued support for this appeal to restore our village church – it is much appreciated. Happy New year to you all!

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Fred Carter

### Your Home is Your Castle

Anyone Home?

Most burglaries are committed by opportunist thieves, so a few simple measures can help deter thieves from targeting your home.

The first thing a burglar wants to know is whether there is anyone in. You can make it more difficult for them by:

- leaving lights and/or a radio on while you are out and using a timer switch if you are away for a few days.
- opening your curtains and taking in newspapers, post, milk before you leave the house in the morning.
- asking your friends or neighbours to keep an eye on your house if you are going away – perhaps they could come and draw the curtains for you and collect your post, as this will make your house look lived in – you can do the same for them when they are away
- don't forget to cancel your newspapers and milk while you are away
- don't leave valuables in view while you are out.

### Around the House

#### Windows

A third of burglars get in through a back window. Visible locks may deter some thieves as it means they have to break the glass and risk attracting attention. You can keep thieves out by:

- fitting key operated window locks to downstairs windows and easily accessible upstairs windows such as those over a flat roof or a drainpipe.



- Gluing in slats in louvered windows so that they cannot be removed easily
- If you are replacing windows consider laminated glass

#### Doors

If your doors are not secure then neither is your home. Secure doors by:

- fitting a good lock to all of your doors
- patio doors should have special locks fitted to the top and bottom
- glass panel doors are particularly vulnerable and should be replaced with laminated glass
- make sure doors and frames are in a good and strong condition
- If you are thinking of buying UPVC or metal framed doors/windows, make sure they come with good built in locks, as these can be expensive to fit afterwards

#### Alarms

Visible burglar alarms make burglars think twice. Get specialist advice and consult your insurance company to see what they recommend

#### *Be aware of the risks*

As with all security measures, consideration must be given to the risk of fire.

Fit a smoke detector. Make sure that you have adequate means of escape from your house in cases of emergency. Remember you will not be able to break laminated glass.

Keep window lock keys close to the windows

### THE DOWNLAND VOLUNTEER GROUP

Linda Gibson

It is amazing to think that Downland Volunteer Group will be celebrating its twentieth birthday this January! How the years have flown by! Over the past twenty years the group has carried out thousands of journeys for hundreds of residents of the Downland Villages, not only to the local doctors' practices in Chieveley and Compton and to the West Berkshire Community Hospital but also further afield to the Royal Berkshire Hospital and to the Oxford hospitals. It also helps the more remote residents find their way to dentists, opticians and other medical appointments in the local towns. Shopping trips to Newbury and Wantage are a regular feature of the Downland Handybus.

The Group is also involved with the Downland Lunch Club which is held in Compton village hall on the last Friday of the month. This is a friendly, social occasion that welcomes people from local villages, who enjoy a freshly cooked meal and a chat with friends and neighbours, who they may not otherwise see. A two course meal is served, followed by tea or coffee for a cost of £2.50. Transport and general help is provided by The Downland Volunteer Group.

The D.V.G. is a charity run entirely by volunteers and is supported by West Berkshire Council, Parish Councils and local organisations. It exists solely from donations by clients and grants from local organisations.

The Group has an office in the Downland Practice Surgery in Compton which is open for business Monday to Friday from 10.00 – 12.00. Anyone who

would like to know more about these services should telephone 01635 578394 during these times.

We are always looking for more volunteers! Particularly car drivers and people to man the office. A mileage allowance is paid also out of pocket expenses. Anyone who feels they may have some time to spare, even if it is only a few hours a month, and would like to be part of this worthwhile organisation, please contact the Downland Volunteer Group on **01635 578394** for more information.

### RAPID RESPONSE SERVICE

Carers look after adults and children who are disabled or have an illness. Many people cope in very difficult situations with little or no support and they are unaware of the help that is available to them through local voluntary organisations or the statutory authorities. Many people do not see themselves as 'carers' at all. Many may be reaching the point of being unable to cope and may become ill themselves through stress - caring at home can be very isolating and tiring.

The Rapid Response service is available to all carers in West Berkshire and it is there to help if a carer reaches the point of crisis and they are no longer able to cope.

The project is facilitated by Newbury Crossroads who employ a member of staff to be on call on weekdays from 8pm to 8am and weekends for 24 hours a day.

A telephone helpline is available in the case of an emergency - a care support worker will support the carer over the phone and make appropriate telephone calls to gain assistance.

In addition, carers who have registered with Crossroads and have been visited by the Care Coordinator receive a service that allows the Care Support Worker to visit the carer's home in an emergency situation.

To register with Newbury Crossroads please call 01635 30008.

The Rapid Response Emergency Number for all West Berkshire carers is 07867673063.

### OUTREACH OFFICER

As part of a government funded project to support the needs of voluntary and community sector organisations, the Volunteer Centre West Berkshire has appointed an Outreach Officer, Jacqui Sharp.

The Volunteer Centre has experienced growing success in the recruitment of volunteers, however it is recognised that there are many groups of people across West Berkshire who are unable to benefit from the centre's services due to location and/or limitations in access to the internet.

Jacqui's role will be to address this problem by working actively to promote volunteering within the rural and eastern parishes of West Berkshire. She will work closely with other groups to develop an outreach service which will run a range of activities across the region to encourage local people to get involved in volunteering and community development opportunities.

Any organisation seeking to recruit volunteers is invited to contact Jacqui at the Volunteer Centre to

discuss needs and explore ways of working jointly to promote volunteering in the parishes. Jacqui can be contacted on 01635 49004 or by emailing [general@nvb1.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:general@nvb1.fsnet.co.uk).

## NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

The Bonfire Night was as successful as ever with excellent fireworks and BBQ and we raised £402 for our funds. Thanks to all those who supported us.

The new heating system is in place and should ensure warmer meetings and functions.

The New Premises Licence is in place and from now on anyone wishing to supply, not just sell alcohol must apply for a Temporary Entertainment Notice (TEN). This simple form is available from the Council and must be served no later than 10 days before the event. The Council charges £21 for a TEN.

So please do continue to book the Hall for functions involving alcohol and the Committee will assist you in obtaining and filling in the form.

Following our AGM the committee have agreed some objectives for next year as follows:

To continue to manage and maintain the Hall and to this end we plan to redecorate completely. To run the Village Camp Out and to fund raise in the form of a bottle stall at the Village Fete, 2 Bingo evenings and the Village Fireworks.

Any questions or queries please contact:

Audrey Tizzard – Bookings 281646

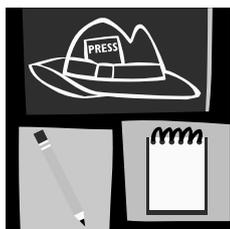
Fred Carter – Maintenance 281621

Angela Ryan – general queries 281500

Alison Banks – general queries 281705

## TITTLE TATTLE

Polly Muir



West Ilsley's roving reporter here, ready for details and news of December 2005 and more for the New Year.

I must say that I thought the Christmas party was undeniably excellent. What a huge amount of effort had been made to decorate and totally transform

the village hall. No stone had been left unturned (origin of this expression to be revealed when your correspondent refers to her newly acquired book, Red Herrings and White Elephants!) to ensure that everything was just as it should be. What was even more amazing was that the final delivery was so relaxed and professional. The food was delicious, the company was great: I thought that the whole thing was grand. Thank you to the ladies for their huge effort and graft, and to the gentlemen that supported them. It definitely hit the right spot and was a huge success!

The cricket club quiz evening...this also was good fun. I was asked as a last minute replacement and nearly turned this down as I was only second choice...however, this was unnecessary of me, and very churlish (and I would have missed a great social

opportunity!). I have to say that Sarah's mince pies were to die for - and Kevin deserves death by mince pie for beating us in the last round! Unbeknown to at least two of the team members, we had been in the lead right up to the last round...I think, actually, there should have been a change of subject matter in this round - sport had featured all the way and something with general knowledge may have given us more advantage (other than the four points lead!) with which to defeat the opposition. Anyway, by the time our team leader coerced us into action for this last and monumental round, it was too late for the grey matter to function effectively. Marnie Moyle's delicious mulled wine had taken effect and we were slain at the post. Team leader had a sense of humour failure!! Team leader's husband took sulking partner home, but not before A Good Evening was had by all - roll on the next one!

What is to become of the dwelling that used to accommodate the Post Office? I was discussing its deteriorating condition with another resident just a few weeks back. It looks dreadful and most surely will fall into disrepair. I believe it belongs to Her Majesty, but I wonder who is responsible for the upkeep. With the lack of housing and accommodation in this area, surely something could be done with it?

Happy New Year and Happy Electronic WIN. (Does this mean less walking now with fewer news to deliver?)

P.S. Just in time to hit the deadline...what a New Year's Eve! Jacky, Pete and Hayley did everyone proud and hosted a great evening. It's a long time since The Harrow has hosted such an evening, nay, night of partying and revelry that we all enjoyed. Old regulars returned to eat the delicious fare (generously provided), drink and generally be merry. Oh! And to dance. The hosts were kept busy late into the night/morning. We left at three; I understand Jemma Gore was disturbed by her parents one hour later (so Lord knows what time they got home!) when they telephoned with their New Year's greetings. Anna Sugden was last seen propping the bar (sober!) with pint of water in one hand and challenging Peter Carlisle who failed to down his pint (of beer) faster than she. Such was her skill, and such his confidence, that the second challenge had the same outcome as the first. She won again! She managed to keep Richard Gore to a dead heat. Both their empty glasses hit the counter at the same moment. I understand that domestic skills similar to these can be learnt at undergraduate level at Reading and Cirencester. I think on Sunday there will have been a few thick heads of the gathered clans following some alcoholic destruction of grey matter.