

West Ilsley News

December 2000

☺ At this festive time it is appropriate to say "thank you" to everyone who has contributed to the WIN over the last seven months of our editorship. In particular we would like to thank the delivery team of Anne Carlisle, Kay Fewtrell-Smith, Angus Muir, Sarah Norman and Carrie-Anne Young for their continued efforts. Sarah now feels that she must relinquish the role, however, our thanks to John Verney for taking over Sarah's round. We have a truly "bumper bundle" for you this month, including a competition with a £10 prize! Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year, and looking forward to your continued support in 2001.

The Editors

POST OFFICE NEWS

The latest posting dates are:

Letter Post

Overseas	Europe	14 th December
	Outside Europe	7 th December
Inland	First Class	21 st December
	Second Class	18 th December

Parcel Post

Overseas	29 th November (mostly, but see leaflet)
Inland	15 th December

W.I.R.&S.A

(West Ilsley Recreation & Social Association)

CHRISTMAS BINGO

2

In

The Village Hall
Friday 15th December
At 7.30 pm

GOOD PRIZES
MULTI-PRIZE RAFFLE

ADMISSION (only) 20p O.A.Ps/Under 18's – 10p
All profits go direct to Villae Hall Funds

MISS TOFFELLEES

(Apologies to Miss Toffellees - the technology didn't quite work last month, so we missed her article - here is a slightly edited version as the original is no longer timely - we think we've cracked the communication problem now!)

I was going to whinge about the milkman changing his delivery from six days a week to three, but he has since upped that to a more satisfactory four days. I couldn't believe the difference in my fridge capacity when he offered to come an extra day. The fridge door positively heaved a sigh of relief on its hinges. It is interesting that, both here and on the continent, people manage without a doorstep pinto delivery. I'm afraid that the opportunity for the third milk delivery in the village vapourised when the new man failed to make contact. Disappointing, as I know that his milk is wonderful, but I guess we know that our regular man is reliable, and that with comment the powers-that-be, consumer feedback can sometimes work wonders. It is also effective when diligent neighbours beaver away to get Biffa to remove wheelie-bin rubbish that they didn't have access to. Biffa kindly made an extra journey out to remove all the rubbish from The Maltings.)

Congratulations, belatedly to Lizzie Atkins who married Rupert Noad in September. We wish you both every happiness together....I can't believe that she used to babysit for the children!

I bumped into Colin Shepherd (help! Spellcheck!) and was he excited! He could scarce contain himself dispatching the news that Louise and Toby had just had, two hours previously, a bouncing baby chap, Alistair Jack. All 7lbs. 1/2oz of him at 11.25a.m. (BST), 10.25 (CET) on the 26th Sept! (That missed the deadline, too, but I gather that babies don't care much for trivia like that!). Colin's excitement had scarce been contained when an exuberant Janice phoned, having decide that I was The Mouthpiece of West Ilsley. Well!!!

DOWNLAND VOLUNTEER GROUP IN CRISIS?

Les Fayle

Not yet, but it will be soon unless we get some more car drivers and Handybus drivers. If you can spare even one half day a month ring 248685 anytime or 578394 between 10 and 12 any weekday morning and get some details.

GOING PLACES!!!

Peter Bartaby

Its not until you start thinking about restricting your car usage or get tangled up with petrol panic buying that you realise how badly served the Village is by Public Transport.

On weekdays we have Bennett's service to Newbury at 7.40 & 9.20 am. and back from Newbury at 4.10 & 5.40pm. (a long day's shopping!). There is also the Post Bus (if the body can absorb the bumps) in - twice per day and back once Mon-Fri. - None on Saturdays.

Bennetts Saturday service is more frequent with four buses to Newbury - 7.40am., 10.00am., 1.00pm. & 6.20 pm. and 3 back leaving Newbury at 9.15am., 12.30pm. & 5.40 p.m.. Although it is quickly obvious that the first and last in and the first to the village are not really very convenient

But having tried the Saturday service three times now I must say that if you are just wanting to spend up to 2 hours in Newbury you can't beat the 10.00 am. in - getting there at about 10.30 am.- and the 12.30 p.m.. back getting into the village at 1 p.m.. And the price is a treat too - £2.45 return - which makes the car cost of petrol and parking barely worthwhile - to say nothing of the driving hassle which is Newbury these days.

But none of this really addresses the needs of someone wishing to go somewhere by train. As shown the service to Newbury is not very good at all and, as we know, there is NO SERVICE AT ALL to the main line station at Didcot. But whilst investigating the areas Public Transport position I did discover that there is a service - 5 times per day from Newbury to Didcot - 'Stagecoach' Service No. 234 and, believe it or not, this serves East Ilsley and then whizzes straight up the A34 to Chilton totally bypassing W.I.

I'm in communication with West Berkshire Council (who support Service No. 234 financially) suggesting that instead of doing the A.34 whizzing bit the busses could divert into the village and no great addition to their mileage and only about 3 minutes extra on each journey. W.B.C. started off by being encouraging and promising to "look into the situation" but a letter just received is fobbing me off with talk of the service being extended to Abingdon & Oxford which would cause problems with the E.C, if it diverted into W.I. as the journey would exceed the U.K. route limit of 50Km and bring it under that of the E.C.

All of which sounds a bit gobbledegookish to me but is being looked at carefully. To be continued - but if anyone else has any ideas I'd like to hear them.

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WEST ILSLEY WEB SITE

For those who don't yet have access to the technology, here's a note which appeared on the message board on the web site recently:

"Hello to all the persons accessing this message board and a big hello to all in the village. I have been browsing the web and have come across the site quite by accident. I was born in Hodcott, number eleven to be precise, and moved away from the village when I was eleven, much to my dismay, and moved to Beedon where my parents, Fred and Dylis Fairbrass ran the Langley Hall for many years. My father has sadly passed away, my mother now lives in Yeovil in Somerset. It is fascinating to find pictures of the village on the web, the picture of Hodcott bungalows is wonderful as it shows my eldest brother, Paul Fairbrass and Uncle, Steve Searies riding their trikes down the road by the hostel, the house at the end of the road is number 7, we moved into that house when I was 6, my grandparents lived next door, Geoff and Norma Searies, who now live in Newbury but still go to the post office in the village to see Audrey and to get their pension. I still feel part of the village and have very fond memories of living there, maybe one day my family and I will return for good. I have driven through the village on a number of occasions and still get that that feeling of home when I see the church, post office and the cricket pitch.

Please keep up the good work with the site and the village, it has now been bookmarked so I can come back again. Kindest regards to all, Wayne Fairbrass"

W.I.R.& S.A.

West Ilsley Recreation & Social Association
(Registered Charity No.1044429)

SITUATIONS VACANT

The Management Committee of the above Association - which is responsible to the Parish Council for the running of the Village Hall -urgently require two or more Residents, who are interested in ensuring the viable future of the Hall, to join the Committee to help in the management of the Hall, planning activities to be promoted and encouraging local organisations and individuals to avail themselves of the Hall Facilities.

Following the recent Annual General Meeting there are two Offices still to be filled and anyone prepared to join the Association's Committee is asked to contact the retiring Chairman, Clive Hooker or Audrey Tizzard.

WEST ILSLEY RECREATION AND SOCIAL ASSOCIATION

The Association's Annual General Meeting was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 15th November. A total of 11 Association members were present. In the unavoidable absence of the Chairman (Clive Hooker) Peter Bartaby was asked to take the Chair. Two other apologies for absence were received.

The Chairman's Annual Report, highlighting the main areas of the Association's activities through the past year, was read, accepted and adopted by the members.

Mrs Audrey Tizzard (Treasurer) presented the Annual Accounts which showed an excess of expenditure over income of £1,095 in the year due, mainly, to the cost of re-roofing a large part of the hall. The Accounts were adopted.

The Secretary (Peter Bartaby) gave his report which was, mainly, concerned with the discussions which had taken place with the Parish Council during the year to regularise the Association's position with the P.C. He said that there were a few points still to be resolved largely in regard to the Charity Commission's attitude to a new Constitution which had to be agreed with the P.C. but expected that this would soon be resolved.

An election for 4 Members of the Management Committee resulted in Mr C. Hooker, Mrs A. Hyde, Mrs M. Thimbleby and Mrs A Tizzard being successful.

'User Group' representatives to the Committee for the ensuing year were confirmed as - Mrs S. Gore (All Saints Church); Mr J. Verney (Cricket Club); Mrs A. Tizzard (Evergreens); Mr P. Barratt (Stables) and Mrs J. Brophy or Mrs A. Banks (Under 5s).

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m. and was followed by the first meeting of the new Management Committee.

WEST ILSLEY CRICKET CLUB

David Gore
281618

Although the summer is now only a distant memory the pavilion continues to be open every Friday night. In addition the darts club stage matches every other Monday and Tuesday and the bar is open on these nights as well. Opening time is at 7.30pm.

Opening Dates for December

Monday	4 th
Friday	8 th
Tuesday	12 th
Friday	15 th
Monday	18 th
Tuesday	19 th
Friday	22 nd
Tuesday	2 nd January 2001.

All members whether existing or prospective are very welcome.

The club held its AGM at the end of October electing the new committee as follows:

Chairman	Dick Beech
Secretary	Ben Clacy
Treasurer	Alec Coles
Fixture Secretary	Kevin Holloway
Social Secretary	Dave Stephens
Groundsman	Dick Beech
Bar Manager	John Verney
Janitor	John Evans
Club Captain	Russell Jeffries
2 nd XI Captain	John Evans
Sunday Captain	To be appointed
Committee Members:	
John Marston	
Kevin Chitty (Darts representative)	

Gary Taylor (Football representative)

David Gore

At the AGM it was decided that the membership year should run from April 1st to March 31st instead of October to September. This means that existing members get an extra 6 months FREE!

BURNS NIGHT 2001

Alan Atkins

There will be a celebration of Burns Night in aid of Church funds on Saturday January 20th 2001 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. Newbury Caledonian society will lead the dancing and there will be a bar and the usual Scottish Supper including Haggis. Tickets will be on sale from several sources including the Post Office and more details will appear in next month's WIN.

JOHN'S (our postman) SPONSORED SLIM

I started my sponsored slim on Monday 25th September. My aim is to lose 2 stone by Christmas to try and raise money for the Berkshire Air Ambulance. Why the air ambulance I can hear some saying, well let me explain. Earlier this year a postwoman in Newbury was knocked off her bike and was taken to Oxford by the Air Ambulance in 7 minutes. She has since sadly, died of her injuries. So I thought, what could I do? I came up with the idea of a sponsored slim as I was trying to lose weight and had hit a bit of a lull and thought what a good way to get back into losing weight. I have lost 18.5 lb up to my weigh in this morning (27th November). I would like to give a big thank you to those who have sponsored me and for anybody that hasn't, but would like to, there is a sponsor form in the post office.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Ian Fewtrell-Smith

Church Services for December 2000:-

3 rd	All Age Service	11.00 am
10 th	Carol Service	6.00 pm
17 th	Family Communion	9.30 am
24 th	Crib Service	11.00 am
25 th	Christmas Day Communion	10.00 am

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

There will be a card popping through every door soon with all the services throughout the benefice on it.

QUIZ NIGHT

Thanks to all who came and made the evening the success it was. We raised £540 for church funds. Everyone seemed to enjoy it and I have succumbed to numerous requests to run another, so one has been booked for Friday 30th March 2001. Put it in the diary now - you can't possibly let The Three Profits get a hat-trick!



PRAM SERVICE, Alison Banks (281705)
WEST ILSLEY Liz Dray (281704)

The next service will take place in the church on Monday 18th December at 11am. 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. The theme for December is "Christmas."

And don't forget the Crib Service on Christmas Eve at All Saints Church, West Ilsley at 11am.
Everyone welcome.

ILSLEY UNDER Tracy Gregory
FIVES 281650

The Halloween Party was a great success and thanks go to everyone that helped and donated prizes for the raffle. Total raised was £480 which will be used to purchase specific toys to Toddlers and Playgroup.

IMPORTANT DATES

3rd December 2-5 pm - Ilsley Primary School Fete
(Ilsley Under Fives to have Table Top Sale, Biscuit Decorating and "goody mug sale")
13th December Toddlers Christmas Party
14th December Pantomime, Corn Exchange, Newbury
(last day of playgroup)
10th January 2001 New term

Toddler Group

The Group is for Parent/Carer and baby and/or toddlers up to school age. It is held in the West Ilsley 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. New faces are very welcome.

Play Group

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. 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.

WEST ILSLEY PARISH Linda Gibson
COUNCIL Clerk to W.I.P.C.

The Parish Council met on Monday 13th November with a full Council and five members of the public.

Flooding. The recent serious flooding in the village prompted much discussion. It was agreed that the clerk should write to the Highways Dept highlighting

the seriousness of the flooding and to request that urgent consideration be given to the matter. It was also suggested that the Chief Executive of West Berks Council, Stella Manzie be invited to the next Parish Council meeting in January. This would give all Parishioners the opportunity to ask questions.

Millennium Beacon. The Parish Council has been invited to by a company called 'Millennium Beacon Ltd' to light a Beacon to mark the close of the Millennium. The Parish Council have decided to decline this offer. However, if there are other groups or organisations that would be interested in taking up the offer, further information is available from the Editors or myself on 01635 200242.

Parish Councillors. It has been suggested that a list of Parish Councillors and their telephone numbers could be useful to Parishioners. They are:

Tracey Allan-Jones 281306
Peter Bartaby 281335
Peter Carlisle 281220
Richard Gore (Chairman) 281241
Avice Morris 281341
Colin Sheppard (Vice Chairman) 281345

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on 8th January, 2001. The agenda will be published on the noticeboards in the village, as will the full minutes of each meeting.

FRIENDS OF THE ILSLEYS SCHOOL

During the summer holidays, Green Classroom received a fresh coat of paint and some smart green doors ready to welcome the children back to school along with their new teacher, Mrs Gregory. That was the latest project for the Friends. Over the last year we have been busy raising money by holding coffee mornings, a race night, a sponsored sleep over at the school (that was fun!) and most recently a make-up master class with Gina from Virgin Vie.

Our next big event is the Christmas Bazaar which is on Sunday 3rd December. There will be crafts, a bottle tombola, guess the weight of the cake, find Rudolph, Spinning Jenny, Christmas tree draw, the raffle and last but not least, a visit from Santa, with a sack full of presents. If you get weary take a seat and treat yourself to a mince pie and a cup of tea. See you there!

CHURCH FLOWERS

Would anyone like to join the flower rota? It entails arranging flowers about twice a year plus festival days. Please contact Anne Carlisle.

VILLAGE HALL

PONTOON Audrey Tizzard

The winners of the last two pontoons were:

R Brown (Cal. Thistle) - £28

Jo Gore (Barnet) - £21

Booby prizes went to:

S Austen (Halifax) - £8

L Carlisle (Forfar) and A Dockrill (Huddersfield) who won £3 each

Village hall funds profited by £60.00

I would like to thank all those who gave, helped and came to the bazaar in the Village Hall on November 18th.

EVERGREENS

Anne Carlisle

The Christmas lunch will be on Saturday 16th December at 12 noon at The Swan, East Ilsley. Names to J Collier, S Gore or A Carlisle.

THE DOWNLAND VOLUNTEER GROUP

Les Fayle
Chairman

There are many people within the Downlands isolated because of age or disability or simply not having access to suitable transport. Getting to the doctor or to a hospital appointment or shopping can be a major problem if you are without a car, not on a suitable bus route or are infirm or disabled. Many are elderly and very proud and do not find asking for help comes easily. They could well go for weeks without speaking to another human being.

The Downland Volunteer Group was set up to help such people and the calls on our services increase from month to month. Based at Compton, we believe that we are unique, covering 18 villages in the very heart of the Downlands. Our main function is carrying people by car to hospital or doctors' appointments but we also run the Handybus on weekday afternoons and sometimes at weekends or evenings, taking groups of elderly or disabled passengers to the theatre or on regular shopping trips. In addition, many of us call regularly on the housebound members of our community to do simple jobs or just to provide some company for them. We work very closely with the Downland Practice and with the Social Services.

We have about fifty volunteers who either drive the bus or use their cars to take clients for medical appointments, shopping trips or hospital visits. Some help to run the office where all records are kept. There requests for help are received and acted upon and it is the hub of our operation. It is situated in the Compton surgery.

We are funded mainly by grants from many of the parishes we cover, fund raising activities by our supporters, legacies and generous donations from individuals who recognise the value of our work. Our passengers also contribute what they feel they can afford towards the cost of their journey.

We pay out of pocket expenses to all our members and car drivers receive a mileage allowance to cover petrol and some running costs. The majority of our clients are very grateful for what little we are able to do for them and the job is very rewarding. We are however always in need of more volunteers, either as car drivers, bus drivers or office helpers. Some of our members are only able to give us one day every two or three months whilst others are available several days a week. All are very valuable and if you feel you could help, however much or however little, we will be very pleased to hear from you. Car drivers are welcomed up to the age of 75 and Handybus drivers 70.

If you know of anyone who needs our help or if you feel you would like to join this happy group of volunteers but would like to hear more before you commit yourself, please ring the office between 10.00 and 12.00 any weekday on 01635 578394. Otherwise you can contact anyone you know who is one of our volunteers or 'phone Les Fayle, on 01635 248685 at any reasonable time of day. A lot of people need your help so don't delay in making contact with us.

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CHRISTMAS TREES

Needle-fast Christmas Trees are for sale at
Manor Farm, West Ilsley,

Saturday 9th December
Sunday 10th December
Saturday 16th December
10am-4pm

Trees from £10
Or ring Gemma on 281241

FOR SALE

R/C Hovercraft £20
Angus Muir – 281647

-0-

K'nex Construction Set
Very large box £40 ovno
Ross Muir 281647

The Harrow Inn

01635 281260

Arrangements for the Festive Season

Sunday 24th

Lunch as usual

Evening, open for drinks only

Monday 25th

11.30 am to 12.30 pm open for drinks
only

Tuesday 26th

12.00 to 1.30 pm food and drinks as
normal

Evening – closed

Wednesday 27th to Saturday 30th
open as normal

Sunday 31st

Lunchtime as normal.

Evening yet to be decided

If we don't have a sufficient response
for New Year's Eve by Sunday 10th
December, we will be closed.

THE DOWNLAND
SPORTS CENTRE

Tracey Weaver

I realise we're now approaching Christmas and here I am giving you feedback of October half term activities which seem long since finished.

Anyway.... we had a great time! I don't think we have ever seen so many children in the Centre before - we're obviously doing something right!! Activities included the usual Football, Trampolining, Uni Hoc, Art n' Craft and so on, but we now also have a small Bouncy Castle and 'pop up' tents, tunnels etc. which were very popular - particularly by our younger customers. A 'Halloween' theme on Friday ended the week nicely.

Our Christmas programme will be available early to mid December so if you are interested please book early to avoid disappointment as places are limited. Activities will run on Thursday and Friday the 21st and 22nd of December and week beginning the 2nd January 2001.

The Centre, in general is busy - particularly the gym - but not uncomfortably so. It usually makes training easier to have the 'buzz' of others in the gym. Now, is a great time of year to start a fitness regime. Most of us enjoy the excesses of Christmas and the New Year celebrations so why not prepare yourself well with a life style that includes exercise. We can provide you with the place to train and advice - just pop along and speak to a member of staff. We are more than happy to just show you the gym and have a chat. The decision is yours!!

Badminton also seems to be very popular at the moment. It can be enjoyed by all - children, adults, fit and not so fit and is great fun. The whole family can come along and take part. We have a supply of racquets and shuttle cocks that can be hired if required. We would recommend pre-booking Badminton Courts in advance. Remember, if you are a member of the Centre you can book a court up to one week in advance. If you are not a member you can book your court up to three days in advance.

Unfortunately, our 'Fitness Challenge' was a dismal failure and did not take place. However, we are not the sort of people to give up and hope to hold another fitness event in the New Year which will benefit a charity. We'll keep you posted!

The Centre will be closed for Christmas and the New Year from Sunday 24th December until Monday 1st January 2001 inclusive.

May we take the opportunity to wish all our customers a very happy Christmas and New Year.

from

ALL THE STAFF AT THE DOWNLAND SPORTS CENTRE

CHRISTMAS
CRACKERS!

Two aerials meet on a roof, fall in love and get married.

The ceremony was rubbish but the reception was brilliant!

~

Two cannibals eating a clown.

One says to the other: "does this taste funny to you?"

~

"Doctor, Doctor, I can't stop singing The Green Green Grass of Home."

"That sounds like Tom Jones syndrome to me."

"Is it common?"

"It's not unusual."

~

Two elephants walk off a cliff ... boom boom!!!

~

What do you use a wombat for?

For playing wom!

~

What do you call a fish with no eyes?

^ ^ ^



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* Blue Peter Appeal 2000 *

Appeal time is the *most* important time in the Blue Peter calendar - and this year, the **Blue Peter Millennium Appeal** aims to turn postage stamps into health aid desperately needed in the Peruvian Andes.

The Quechua Indians live 3,000 metres up in the Peruvian Andes where there are no shops of any description, no electricity, gas or running water. They are direct ancestors of the Incas and have their own language making their lives difficult in Spanish speaking Peru.

It is a two day trek down the treacherous mountainside to get even basic medical care, but a scheme is already in place to build simple but vital health posts to deal with ailments and accidents before they become life threatening.

Blue Peter is working with British charity **Health Unlimited** and wants to build and equip health posts in three villages where local people will be trained to deal with common problems like coughs, colds, cuts, diarrhoea, toothache and difficult child-birth. These ailments don't appear life threatening but if left untreated can soon develop into serious illnesses.

We want viewers to save postage stamps! Used second hand stamps can be exchanged for money. Our target is to receive 100,000 envelopes filled with 200 postage stamps to pay to train health workers and provide essential health posts for three Quechua communities.

All you need to do is send in your used stamps to *Blue Peter*. Any stamp will do. It is very important that the stamp is left with the paper on the back. Cut round the stamp making sure the perforations are not damaged as this may affect the value of the stamp. Whatever you do don't soak the stamp in the water as that ruins them.

We have worked out that you can put 200 stamps

into a small envelope. It will only cost the price of a second class stamp, that's 19p to send! The address is:

BLUE PETER STAMP AID
PO BOX 100

LIVERPOOL *please save your stamps I can come*
L33 3BD *and collect them from you Thankyou*

Victoria Carlisle

Folly Farm,

Tel. 01635 281 340

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 2nd January 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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