

WEST ILSLEY NEWS

1 May 1999

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

TITTLE – TATTLE

It is with much sadness that I have to report two deaths this month. Both Mickey Brown and John Chaney lost their respective fights against cancer and sadly their lives were prematurely ended.

I know there will be more written of them both, but I would like to record a few thoughts of my own. Michael was always busy. He was either mowing the cricket pitch for the Cricket Club, moving bales for the West Ilsley Show, setting off fireworks for Bonfire Night or chairing the Millennium Committee and then found time to occupy himself trimming hair, playing with his bike (which I had the honour of driving), or having a quiet(?) drink at The Harrow. His distinctive figure will be sadly missed

John kept a lower profile but on the occasions I met him I enjoyed his company and he revealed an enormous knowledge concerning the various developmental stages of the latter day building of West Ilsley.

Our thoughts and prayers at this time are with their partners, family, and friends.

Miss Tofilees

WEST ILSLEY CRICKET CLUB

The cricket season is here again and not surprisingly the first friendly of the season was abandoned due to poor weather.

We have been drawn away to Farley Hill in the first round of the National Village Knockout Cup on Sunday 25th April, and we hope to have as good a run as last year when we reached the quarterfinals. This year the aim is Lords!!

The Berkshire league season starts on Saturday 1st May and supporters/new members are welcome to join us at the club.

We are holding a quiz evening on Friday 30th April in the pavilion starting at 7.30 pm. Teams of four people can be entered on the night so please join us for an evening of fun and facts.

New members are always welcome at the club and this year a single non-playing membership is £5.00 and a family membership is £10.00. Please call Ashley Arnold on 01635 864262 or call in at the club on a weekend for further details.

The cricket club would like to send its sympathy to Mickey Browns family following his death. He will be sadly missed by all at the club and will be remembered for his commitment and hard work over many years.

Bobby Jeffries – 01635 247318

MEMORIES – MICKEY BROWN

Whilst Mickey was taken from us far too early, I am sure you would all agree, that during his time in West Ilsley, he left us with lots of memories.

Anyone, who has ever been involved in village life, will be only too aware that 90% of the work is done by 10% of the people. Mickey was a doer and a true villager.

It was at Mickey's suggestion that a committee was set up to raise funds and organise entertainment for the forthcoming millennium festivities. He personally has been chairing this committee, and it is extremely sad that he will not be here to share in the festivities and to see his plans and ideas come to fruition.

One of my memories of Mickey is seeing him walk up and down the village with a carrier bag, which held the tools of his trade. Yes, he was out on a hair-cutting mission. Indeed Mickey is probably the only person to go from full time barber and part time groundsman, to full time groundsman and part time barber. It was his dedicated work for the Cricket Club that helped him land a job as a groundsman at Priors Court School. In true Nobby fashion, he hadn't been there long before he had installed a Golf Course around the perimeter of the rugby pitches, and instigated an annual Groundsmans versus Teachers golf tournament, a tournament I played in on several occasions and thoroughly enjoyed.

It is however the Recreation Ground (or on this occasion may I be forgiven as referring to it as the Cricket Pitch) which serves as a lasting memorial to Mickey. There are those of us, here today, who will remember when we had to shoo the cattle into one corner and pick up the cow pats in a wheelbarrow, before we could commence play. Long may this idyllic, rural, corner of West Ilsley remain as a lasting tribute and memory to Mickey Brown.

MEMORIES

When to the sessions of sweet silent thought

I summon up remembrance of things past

I sigh the lack of many a thing I sought

But if the while I think on thee, dear friend,

All losses are restored and sorrows end.

Colin Sheppard

IN MEMORIAM – JOHN CHANEY

John knew about journeys, for in his early years he had done much travelling and had many adventures through his years at sea with the Merchant Navy, serving in the New Zealand Army in Japan, and being in

Australia. That time, from his leaving home at 14 until he returned at 29, must have given him a broader experience of the world and of living than many of us have had a lifetime. John once sang on Australian radio. It is a tribute to West Ilsley, and to this beautiful part of the world, that it was here that he and Margaret chose to settle and spend their life together.

Coming home at 29, full of experience and, even better, the owner of a car, John happened to give Margaret a lift. So began 43 years of married life and, in the fullness of time, Nicola, their daughter was born whom John so proudly brought to her marriage in our church not so many years ago.

In this church you will find a little piece of John's work, in the shape of the alms-box in the wall by the door. Throughout the village there are other examples of John's work as a builder – not least of course, the house that he built for his own family when they came to live here.

Having chosen to come here, John was content to stay here. Travelling was, for him, a thing of the past. He cared deeply for the countryside and was passionately fond of all animals. A sturdy exterior concealed a gentle heart and a hatred of all killing.

He had a love of laughter and the sharing of fun – not in crowds and at parties, but simply, quietly, over the garden wall as it were and, not least, in the Post Office. He and Margaret enjoyed fly-fishing and John took pleasure in painting and writing poetry and, of course, in walking the dogs.

Even in the midst of sorrow, there is much to celebrate and be thankful for in John's life as he lies at peace in the West Ilsley Churchyard.

THANK YOU

Nicola and myself would like to thank you all for the kindness shown during our very sad time.

Although John was not renowned for his socialising, he certainly seems to have made many friends in the village.

Your genuine offers of help and good wishes were very much appreciated, and certainly will not be forgotten.

Thank you sincerely.

Margaret Chaney

EVERGREENS

Wednesday 5th May 1999 - outing by coach to Worcester. You can visit the Royal Worcester China factory and shop, the cathedral and shops in the town. Coach leaves from outside the church at 9.30 am. Members £4, non-members £6 – tokens can be used. Names to A Farimond (281537), S Gore (281552) or me (281613).

Anne Carlisle

HAVE YOU A USE FOR IT?

Compton Day Centre for the Elderly is open three days a week and provides a wonderful service to all that attend. However for the other four days it is not used. West Berkshire Social Services would like to offer the facility to other groups and organisations on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The Centre has a comfortable sitting room, kitchen, bathroom and toilets.

Have you any ideas? Could you help – even on an occasional basis with transport or within The Centre? Please contact The Downland Volunteer Group on 01635 578394 (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 10.00 and 12.00).

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Church Services for May:-

2nd May:-

All Age Service 11.00 am

9th May:-

Holy Communion 8.00 am

13th May:-

Ascension Day Communion 7.30 pm

(The Downland Federation of Churches)

16th May:-

Family Communion 9.30 am

23rd May:-

Morning Prayer 11.00 am

30th May:-

United Benefice Communion at
Peasemore

11.00 am

(Drinks at the vicarage afterwards)

EASTER

Thanks to all that decorated the church for Easter – the burst of colour after the austerity of Lent is always so refreshing. The church was extra active being the venue for the children's production of "Jesus and the Spaceman". All who took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves (look out, John Glenn – I have a taste for the

extra high life!) and the props were superb. Will there ever be another space probe built in a Peasmore dining room I ask myself?

Ian Fewtrell-Smith

PRAM SERVICE

At the April service the children listened to the Easter Story illustrated by the special Easter scene created in our church. They also learnt about Easter Eggs representing new life.

The next service will be on Tuesday 11th May at 11.00 am. Please can the children bring a sheep (toy one's only!!) if they have one.

The services, lasting about half an hour, are for 0-5 year olds plus parents, grandparents and carers.

Liz Dray - 281704

MENCAP – SPONSORED TREK

Thank you so much to all the people who have supported the sponsored trek I am doing to raise money for Mencap. The coffee morning we held on the 31st March 1999 helped to raise £150 and I would like to thank everybody who turned up and who helped in any way. To date I have raised about £2800 which is really encouraging so I'm only £200 away from my target now. If anybody feels they would like to sponsor the Mencap Trek, then please contact me on 01635 281625 or pop something through the door, cheques payable to "N J Fewtrell-Smith Trek Account" or "Mencap Promotions". Thanks again on behalf of Mencap.

Nicholas Fewtrell-Smith

PARISH COUNCIL

A vacancy has arisen for a new Clerk to the Parish Council. This is an interesting and varied job with no perks, no pension, no company car and no time off for good behaviour!! If someone would like to take it on please ring me on 281600.

Gail Wilson-North - Clerk

WANTED

Person to deliver papers – Monday to Friday every third week. Please contact East Ilsley Post Office (281275).

DOWNLAND VOLUNTEER GROUP

We are desperately short of volunteer drivers – can you help this local charity? We drive clients from their homes to hospital, shops, hairdressers and many other destinations. Volunteers are paid expenses from and to their home address. Please ring 01635 578394 (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 10.00 and 12.00).

SCHOOL REUNION

Did you leave the Down's School in 1984? (I wish I had!). There is going to be a reunion on 12th June 1999. Information from Anne Beake (nee Barnes) on 281821.