

WEST ILSLEY NEWS

1 September 1999

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

TITTLE TATTLE

Last month saw the departure of the two Tina's (-both Tina Roberts!). That they should both share the same name and leave the village in the same month is a coincidence. One has left to set up home in Wantage and the other to live temporarily in the USA.

Welcome to Stephen Hopson, wife Janet and their four children.

I hope everyone has bought their copy of the West Ilsley cookbook – everyone I have given one to has admired them enormously. They make great gifts. There is a printing error in Jill Wijek's chocolate sauce (page 170). It should read ½ a pint of milk and not 2 pints as stated.

Miss Tofilees

BROWND OFF BY THE BROWN OUT'S

If like me, you are browned off by the many brown out's (short power outages) that we have been experiencing in West Ilsley of late, you will be pleased to hear that the potential of village life, for those in need of more constant currents, may be rising.

Southern Electric, now in the guise of Scottish and Southern Energy, are to bring forward (to September 1999) the refurbishment of E2L5 – which to you and me is the 11,000 volt power line to Leckhampstead, that feeds our village.

I gather that it has yet to be decided if we will have a temporary generator, to supply us during the work – or if they will be able to carry out the work by "hot gloving". We will be notified as necessary.

Ian (Gimme the Power) Burton

MENCAP

How to describe India in such a small column?

Well it was hot and dry, the transport and roads were appalling and the food was all vegetarian (aagghh! How I missed my meat). The trip started with an eight and a half hour plane flight to Delhi and as we took off it suddenly struck me that I was actually going to India, and would not be able to use a proper toilet for 12 days!! The flight was followed immediately by a 12-hour bus journey through amazing scenery. The driving over there is insane and along the sides of all the roads grow cannabis plants! The real trekking started on the third day of the trip and it made all the hard work worthwhile. The scenery was breathtaking and I met some colourful people amongst my fellow trekkers. The most awesome sight I saw was on the second day of trekking; it was the mouth of the glacier that feeds the river Ganges. There was such a feeling of peace and of finding one's soul that I could have sat there looking at it for hours. The next day we climbed up onto the glacier and were rewarded with more stunning views through the thick cloud. In

total we only walked about 40 miles but because it was at such a high altitude it involved a lot more effort that walking at sea level.

In all it was an amazing trip and I could go on for hours about my experiences out there. I would just like to say a special thank you to everybody who helped me raise the money for the trek as it goes to a very worthy cause. In total I raised £3349.70 for Mencap and I couldn't have done it without your help - a part of all of you went on that trip with me. Thank you.

Nick Fewtrell-Smith

PRAM SERVICE

The next service will be at 11.00am on Tuesday 14th September and will be about farming.

Future dates for your diaries are 11.am on

12 October – Bells

9 November – Candles

14 December – Christmas

The services are for 0-5 year olds and last half an hour followed by refreshments for the children.

Liz Dray – 281704

TENNIS

This has been a good year for the Tennis Court so far – the weather has been kind and new tennis heroes such as Tim Henman have generated a lot of enthusiasm, especially with the young adults and children. Altogether, some 154 bookings have already been made for the court this year.

The court surface is standing up to this well, although the booking clerk keeps a strong and watchful eye on correct footwear being worn. It is worth repeating that the fees are £1.50 per adult per hour and 75p for children under 16. Bookings are done, preferably by phone, in advance, 10 am to 10 pm daily, or at the veterinary surgery 01635 281344.

I noted that in the published discussion at the recent Parish Council meeting some criticism was levelled at the veterinary surgery as being "less convenient" than the Harrow for location of the key and that booking arrangements "had then worked better". This is unkind and unfair comment especially when made by people who don't book the court for tennis! Elaine, along with Julia, is one of the best booking clerks we have had and arrangements for obtaining and returning the key are quite simple. Granted, the veterinary emergency telephone line swings into action after 7.30 pm and at weekends but the situation is soon sorted. At least no one has been booked in by mistake as a Tom Cat op yet!! The reason the key was changed over from the Harrow (just before the new incumbents) was due to a tightening up of rules and regulations for the court needed to preserve its playing integrity. In the past keys have gone missing and we had one character who turned up several months later with a "lost" key saying he had been playing regularly but didn't realise he had to pay!

Those free and easy days have gone – but it is still simple to book an enjoyable game of tennis – why not try it.

John Clemenger - Chairman TCMC

WE DON'T CHARGE FOR SERVICE

Eat at the Crown and Horns in East Ilsley – and you don't get charged for service. Not that you would normally know this if you simply order from the board at around £10 per main course dish.

However, should you be asked to comment on the meal and mention in return that it would have been nice that they cleared the dirty plates the landlord may point out to you too that "we don't charge for service"!!

Having mused at this remarkable revelation – we left the pub very happy that they actually gave us free delivery to table and we did not have to collect from the kitchen ourselves.

A great British Pub - Happy eating out.

Ian Burton

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Church Services for September:-

5th September:- 11.00 am

All Age Service

12th September:- 6.00 pm

Harvest Festival with supper

HARVEST SUPPER

We hope that you will be able to join us after the Harvest Festival for the Supper in church. There will be a glass or two of wine with a "ploughman's"-type supper. Watch out for the flyer dropping through the front door!

Please note that there will be no service on 19th September because of the Newbury Show.

Ian Fewtrell-Smith

MORRIS DANCING

The Old Speckled Hen Morris Dancing group visited the Harrow on Thursday 19th August. They are keen to recruit new members and are holding an open evening on Thursday 16th September at 8 pm at Milton Heights Community Centre. It appears that no experience is necessary and two left feet would not be an impediment! For further information call Richard on 01235 768171 or Jenny on 01235 527732.

Angela Hyde.

WEST ILSLEY RECREATION & SOCIAL ASSOCIATION

The W.I.R.& S.A. (or Village Hall Committee as it is better known) had a busy meeting on the 17th August.

On arrival, Members were amazed at the transformation of the Hall's stock of Card Tables - Now totally refurbished and good enough for use at 'Crockfords' - and all thanks to ALEC COLES who carried out the work...for which the Members passed a huge vote of thanks

The Hall roof (the condition of which has been a cause for concern for a long time) is to be repaired and retiled over the main sections and, from four Tenders received, the work was awarded to Heritage Roofing Ltd of Lambourn Woodlands. The work will cost £4,484 ex V.A.T. and an application will be made to West Berkshire Council for a grant. . . and any other donations will be greatly accepted.

Treasurer Audrey Tizzard reported that Hall bookings for the next quarter are reasonably good but more bookings can now be accommodated and the Committee is hopeful that greater regular use than hitherto will develop.

The year's biggest Fund Raiser will be a 'Clay Shoot' to be held on Sun. 7th November. David Rockall will be in charge of operations 'on the field' and after the shoot they'll be Lunch available in the Hall (and a Licence is being applied for). Enquiries re. participation please to Clive Hooker.

The Association's Bottle Stall at the Village Show broke records with takings of just over £340 - in about 3 hours. Our thanks to all Villagers who donated Bottles and Sainsburys (Newbury), Summerfields (Didcot), Tesco (Didcot) and Waitrose (Wantage) who also contributed generously.

The Hall Decorations - carried out by Members last May - have evoked much favourable comment and the Chairman particularly asked for thanks to be recorded to Peter Barratt for his work in 'organising' matters.

Thanks to the anonymous donor who left a Refrigerator in the Hall!!! We're going to try and get it into working order.

Please make a note in your diary - The Association's Annual General Meeting will be held on Thurs 18th November at 7.30. This is open to all Villagers. Please come along and support your Hall Committee.

There are about 20 'vacant spaces' in the weekly Football Pontoon run by Audrey & Phil Tizzard. £5 covers entry of one team for the season. Please see Audrey in the P.O.

P.J.Bartaby - (Hon Secretary)

WEST ILSLEY FETE 1999

Proceeds from Activities

Gate 432.53

Donations 13.53

Bar 232.92

BBQ 213.10

Dog Show 33.30

Village Stocks 28.07

Teas 90.65

Produce Show 21.50

Bouncy Castle (0.70)

Plant Stall 63.80

Treasure Hunt 19.50

Penalty Shoot Out (44.63)

Cakes 140.00

Aunt Sally 38.00

Book Stall 32.40

Badge Making 6.05

Snakes (33.55)

Raffle 244.50

Fancy Dress (7.20)

Swingboats (31.00)

Slide & Balloon Throwing 25.85

Golf Putting 35.40

Tombola 147.30

Skittles 52.50

EI PTA Stall 90.50

Art 10.58

Craft 19.50

Face Painting 7.10

Welly Wanging 40.69

Bottle Stall 328.50

Biscuit Decoration 20.52

Total Proceeds 2,271.21

Many thanks to all who helped raise the above total.

We will be having a meeting shortly to arrange the distributions. A report on the distributions will be published in the October West Ilsley News.

FOR SALE

Six foot extendible garden table and six chairs.

20 inch Trek Mountain Lion Mountain Bike.

Call 01635 281647 for further information.