

# West Ilsley News

July 2001

At last summer seems to have arrived and it's been hard to drag ourselves in from our gardens to produce this edition. Despite the lack of fete matters which usually swell the contents of the July WIN, we still have quite a sizeable volume for you. As usual, all feedback gratefully received.

The Editors

## EVERGREENS

Anne Carlisle

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July at 1.30 pm we will leave by car and Handy-Bus to go to Millets Farm to pick fruit and look round the farm shop and garden centre. Names to J Collier, S Gore or A Carlisle. There is no meeting in August.

## THANK YOU

Ron and Rummy Calder would like to thank all those who contributed to make our party a great success. Lots of people worked hard both before and on the day, and it all went very smoothly. It was lovely to see so many friends there, from near and far; a great day was had by all.

## OUR PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor Peter Bartaby answers more questions posed by the WIN Editors:

**8. To whom can the PC refer for advice without it costing huge amounts e.g. in this increasingly litigious society, how can they know whether they are likely to get sued etc?** The Parish Council would always be able to seek the advice of the District Council's Legal Officers on 'tricky' matters and they can refer matters to the Legal Department of the 'Association of Local Councillors' of which Body West Ilsley P.C. is a Member. Larger Parishes, likely to be involved in Complicated/ Large issues likely to be contentious and/or potentially 'explosive' would undoubtedly arrange for 'Legal Liability' to be included in their Insurance.

**9. How often does the PC meet?** Six times per annum – usually on the second Monday of May (Annual Meeting); July; September; November; January and March with an 'Annual Assembly' following the May Council Meeting.

**10. What is the process for becoming a Councillor?** Elections for the Parish Council are called every 4 years. Any resident of the Parish whose name is on the Electoral Register can ask for a Nomination Paper – in accordance with the Statutory Notice of the Election published by the Returning Officer for the District – and, providing he/she is Proposed and Seconded by 2 other listed residents - they are eligible for election in the event of more

nominations than there are seats to be filled; or of being returned 'unopposed' if nominations only equal or are less than the number of seats to be filled.

## WEST ILSLEY CRICKET CLUB

David Gore  
281618

**Important Diary Date! August 17<sup>th</sup> 2001. Race Night**  
The cricket club will be holding a race night in the village hall on August 17<sup>th</sup>, so be sure to put this date in your diaries. Horses are already on sale for £5 each and can be purchased from our bloodstock agent on 281618. Further details will follow in next month's issue.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> X1 are the current rising stars in the league with an excellent record of four wins out of five whilst the firsts have so far only won one game out of four with one loss. We have also been knocked out of the National Village Knockout by Rowledge from Surrey (again) and by Thatcham in the local Bowness Cup. We have also been removed from the league knockout in somewhat controversial circumstances without actually playing the game.

Opening times for July are: -

Sun July 1 <sup>st</sup>	Berkshire League Over 50s
Fri July 6 <sup>th</sup>	Friday night bar
Sat July 7 <sup>th</sup>	1sts v Nettlebed & Swincombe
Fri July 13 <sup>th</sup>	Friday night bar
Sun July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Corporate match
Fri July 20 <sup>th</sup>	Friday night bar
Sat July 21 <sup>st</sup>	1sts v Emmbrook
Sun July 22 <sup>nd</sup>	East Ilsley
Fri July 27 <sup>th</sup>	Friday night bar
Sat July 28 <sup>th</sup>	2nds v Knowle Hill
Sun July 29 <sup>th</sup>	Welford

The bar will also be open on some Mondays and Tuesdays for the darts but sadly I don't know when!

### 1stX1

P4 W1 D2 L1

Eliminated from Bowness by Thatham  
Village KO by Rowledge

### 2nds

P5 W4 D0 L1

**IN DEFENCE  
OF THE RAT**

**John F Clemenger  
Veterinary Surgeon**

I was saddened and disturbed to read of the continual vilification of the rat. It must be known that this creature has many admirers. It is a highly intelligent, sensitive and affectionate animal which has endeared itself as a pet to many a young child. It is also a highly successful laboratory animal to whom man owes a great debt of gratitude for advances in human medicine and surgery.

The fact that we meet a different rat in our backyards, mainly the common brown rat, makes no difference to its inherent characteristics. The trouble is the rat is a very sociable animal which likes to live in large colonies (if given the chance) and breeds fast. It is entirely self sufficient and although a keen scavenger is no more "dirty" than any other wildlife.

On a desert posting in the Army, I lived for a time closely with the Arabs and learned to admire and respect the rat. It is common in Oman and here lives happily side by side with humans, although controlled to some extent by its predators – wild dogs and cats. Surely, in our new world of environmental awareness we should try to develop an empathy with all living creatures? In a well known hymn we sing of "All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small – The Lord God made them all". Who are we to differentiate between the rat and the hamster? They are both God's creatures. The rat simply does not deserve such comments as "revolting" and "vile".

Here, in West Ilsley, I agree the rat can cause problems at times, but isn't it the job of the Pest Control Officer of the area to sort it out? Frankly, it's bad advice to encourage everyone to put down poison. If we do that we'll poison a whole host of living things (dicoumeral derivatives takes no prisoners) and the wildlife, birds and domestic cats and dogs will all be in grave danger. We see many cases of such poisonings in our Veterinary Practice.

Weils disease or leptospirosis (Ictero) is rare in humans but can be caught from infected rats urine – but then so can tuberculosis be caught from cattle, or from sheep, toxoplasmosis from cats, tapeworm from uncooked fish or pork, retinal tumours from roundworm larvae in dogs/cats faeces. The list of zoonoses is quite long. But a sense of proportion and common sense approach goes a long way to lessen the risk to us all. Don't replace this small risk with the rat with a far worse hazard.

**ALL SAINTS  
CHURCH**

**Ian Fewtrell-Smith**

Church Services for July 2001

1 <sup>st</sup> All Age Service	11.00 am
8 <sup>th</sup> Holy Communion	8.00 am
15 <sup>th</sup> Holy Communion	9.30 am

As there is a fifth Sunday in July, there will be a United Benefice Communion. This month, it will be held at Farnborough at 10.00 am.

**TINA ROBERTS**

**Andrea Cook**

Our neighbour, Tina Roberts, sadly died on 1<sup>st</sup> June on Long Island USA where the family had been spending a two-year posting with Mark's work. The funeral was held at Oxford on 18<sup>th</sup> June, and amongst the very many mourners there were friends from both West and East Ilsley.

Tina had been looking forward to returning to live in the village and we are very sad that this was not to be.

**URGENTLY WANTED**

**Father's help(ers) in West Ilsley**

To look after George (8) and Catherine (5) during school holidays, term time or even evening baby-sitting, when I have to be at work. I am open to all suggestions regarding age and hours i.e. could be live in (own room) or live out. Driver preferred, car could be supplied. Please call Mark Roberts for details or offers of help 01635 281301 or email [marktinaroberts@aol.com](mailto:marktinaroberts@aol.com)

**DOWNLAND LUNCH CLUB**

The Downland Lunch Club takes place on the last Friday of the month (no lunch in August) in Compton Village Hall. Why not come along and enjoy a freshly cooked two course meal followed by tea or coffee for a small charge of £2.50. This is a good opportunity to sit back and chat to friends old and new whilst being waited on, and, no washing up afterwards! Transport, if required, is provided by The Downland Volunteer Group.

For more information or to book a lunch, please telephone The Downland Volunteer Group on Compton 578394 Monday - Friday 10.00 - 12.00 or Peggy Potts on Compton 578275

**PARISH COUNCIL**

**Linda Gibson (Clerk)**

The Next Meeting of West Ilsley Parish Council will be held on Monday 9th July, 2001 at 7.00p.m. in The Village Hall.

All residents of West Ilsley are welcome to attend this meeting. The 'Open Forum' will begin at 8.30p.m. when any matters of concern or interest may be raised.

**REMINDER** Those residents interested in registering for the Rural Housing Scheme, who have not yet done so, would they please return their applications to The Rural Housing Trust as soon as possible.

**MISS TOFFILEES**

It should have been the month when we were preparing for The Show. However, nobody knew in which direction Foot and Mouth was to turn and so the decision to cancel The Show was made. I think the hope for a return to normality remains high on everyone's priority, but there is still a certain vigilance in the farming and animal communities. Let us manage a few more weeks without too much damp weather (we know, farmers, that you need some

moisture-mostly at night, of course!) so that the virus is exterminated finally. It is very interesting to observe that, much as we love the thought of warm weather once it gets seriously warm we all start whingeing. This country just doesn't get enough hot stuff to allow us to gear up to it.

There was a large contingent who left West Ilsley for celebrations in sunnier climes last weekend. All, save one intrepid soul, boarded aeroplanes for Spain for an exciting birthday party. The one adventurous explorer who went by bus and train had a tremendous journey and will shortly be making her own contribution to The Lonely Planet guide series of books. I was well impressed that she made it there and back (not that I've seen her back, but I have assumed that she made it!). We all had a fabulous time-it was very odd bumping into neighbours on a sunny beach where everyone greeted other with 'Ola!'. We arrived later than most to find the (D.C.) Carlises, Shepherds and Gardies sunning themselves on the sand. Perhaps we could endeavour to create a sandy beach here with the odd cafe (the rec. and the cricket pitch?). We could all meet for tapas, beer and coffee in the sun for a continental lunchtime.

None fared too well on the return journey on account of the public transport problem in Barcelona. We arrived at the airport so late that some of the standby passengers were being given tickets. which had not yet been claimed by members of the party. It was a very close shave, the closest I've ever had without actually not getting on. Thank heavens for the taxi-driver who took us at our word when we said, 'Rapido!' My Spanish has come on in leaps and bounds!!!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ANKE!!!** We are all looking forward to your next birthday and doing it all again-West Ilsley in the sun is fun!!

Once again I had cause to seek help from the vet, this time with a young blackbird which was being attacked by a magpie. Its mother was clearly loosing the battle against the larger bird and it was difficult to turn a blind eye to nature and let the magpie kill the youngster. Sadly the blackbird did not make it, but thank you to John Cleminger for his kind and stoic efforts in trying to redeem the situation.

It seems a long time ago now, but thank you to the tennis committee and to Liz for the tennis coaching which was enjoyed by a large number of youngsters. There was great variety in both age and ability but this seemed to be skilfully managed and nearly everyone remained on their toes and alert to the tasks they were asked to perform. I love to think of kids outside banging a ball about instead of sitting in front of The Box, particularly in the summer!! Just think how beneficial it is for the health.

### **PRAM SERVICE, ALL SAINTS CHURCH**

The last service before the summer break will be on **Monday 16 July at 11.00am** when the theme will be "The Good Samaritan".

#### **Afterschool service**

The July service will be on **Thursday 12th at 4pm**. The service is for children in their early years at school (3 years onwards) and their younger brothers and sisters (plus adult companions as well!).

Services will recommence in September and dates will be publicised shortly. If you would like more information or would be interested in being involved with the organisation of these services, please contact Denise Brown on 01635 281825, Antonia Cretney on 01635 248925 or Liz Dray on 01488 638749.

### **DARK STRANGER?**

Does anyone know the identity of the large (entire) black tom-cat currently making himself "known" around the top (Harrow) end of the Village? Susan Huggins reports that the cat has been a regular and somewhat unwelcome visitor to her garden and apparently some friction has developed between her cats and this tom. Does anyone know to whom this cat belongs? We wonder if it is possible that it might be an abandoned cat but his coat is in good condition, which would seem to indicate a domestic cat. Any information most welcome to Susan Huggins on 281462.

### **FOR SALE**

Various micro machines.  
A mixture of military machines and cars with some 'bases'.  
281647



Produced by CCB's  
Rural Networks  
Project in  
partnership with  
West Berkshire

Council for Voluntary Service – contact Sarah Ward  
Project Worker on Tel.No: 01635-523857

### **FREE CHAIRS AVAILABLE**

Lockharts in Theale are giving away 800 stackable chairs to voluntary and community groups, village halls and community centres.

If you are interested phone Mike Dunsbee on 0118 9303900 for further information.

**A WEST BERKSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST WATCH GROUP** has formed for 7-12 year olds. It meets 1 x month on a Saturday in Newbury. If you would like to know more contact Emma Wilding of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust on 01865 775476

**FARMERS MARKETS** are operating in Newbury Market Place on the First Sunday of every month 10.00am – 2.00pm Come along and shop for locally produced food and meet local farmers and growers.

### **TRAVEL TOKENS (Concessionary fares) are to continue**

Good news for those people who were concerned that travel tokens were going to be withdrawn! West Berkshire Council has decided to operate a scheme that allows each individual a choice between a bus pass and the existing value of the tokens. West Berkshire Council

will be contacting those people who at present receive tokens, to discover which scheme individuals wish to use.

### **SOCIAL ENTERPRISE EVENT**

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 9.45-1.45 at The Frank Hutchins Community Centre Thatcham A series of workshops where participants can get abroad overview of the mechanics of setting up a community enterprise. Further details from Laura Cooke CCB 0118 9612000

### **INTERESTED IN CHILDCARE?**

Childminding is challenging, rewarding and most of all, enjoyable. You can make a career out of it, yet it is flexible enough to fit around your lifestyle. A good childminder can make a huge difference to the lives of children and their families. Childminding is particularly suitable for parents with young children, who want to combine paid work with looking after their own children. We also hope to recruit people – men and women from the wider community.

Registered childminders are self-employed and take care of their own tax and national insurance, charging parents a fee for their service. If you are receiving benefits, then childminding could be an idea; career move. Only one third of your earnings as a registered childminder is taken into account when calculating your benefits.

More and more parents are looking for affordable, quality childcare, whether this is with a childminder or other provision such as a day nursery or after school club. The new Childminder Start Up Grant could give you up to £300 of help towards the cost of setting up a childminding business. Where can you find out more?

If you are interested in finding out about how to become a registered childminder, or considered a career as a childcare in a day care facility, please contact:-

The Day Care Advisory Service 01635 519748

### **SHOPMOBILITY NEWBURY**

Do you have Mobility Difficulties?

Do you live in the Rural Areas of West Berkshire?

Would you like to be collected from your home, come into Newbury on a Thursday, visit the shops, market or do what you wish and be returned home for a little as £3. If you answer yes, you will have free use of a wheelchair or scooter from Newbury Shopmobility to assist you in whatever you decide to do.

The length of time you would be away from your home would be approximately from 10.30am until 3.30pm.

This service will be initially available once a month in your area, because of the need to cater for the whole of West Berkshire. This could change to a more frequent timescale dependent on the demand from the other areas.

If you are interested contact the Co-ordinator of Newbury Shopmobility on 01635 523854

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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 Thursday 26th July 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.

#### **Contact details:**

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# DOWNLAND SPORTS CENTRE

With the summer upon us, the gym is, as expected, quieter. Much of the cardiovascular training is taking place outside - running, cycling and swimming and providing you have the right sun protection on and plenty of fluids with you, it is a really enjoyable way to get (stay!!) fit. 'Off road' running and track cycling are now possible in some areas with many paths open. It's a great way to enjoy the country side.

For those of you who prefer the gym environment, we now have the new cardiovascular equipment - 1 x treadmill, 1 x stepper and 1 x racebike. The new equipment (new to us, that is !) is manufactured by Technogym and is more sophisticated than the previous machines. The treadmill has a gradient option and all three pieces have pre-set programmes of different duration's. You can of course train in the manual setting which will allow you to select the intensity, duration and gradient (in the case of the treadmill) to suit your fitness level. Heart Rate Monitors can be used with the Technogym equipment and we now have a few monitors for use by our gym members. There is a very small charge for the strap hire, so if you are a regular user you may decide to purchase your own strap at a cost of £5. We can supply these.

We have taken on board the many complaints/comments about losing one treadmill and we understand you concern regarding this. Unfortunately, the lease had expired on the 'old' equipment and it had to go, however, we will try our very best to get more equipment as soon as (financially) possible.

**Good news for those of you who like a dip!** We now have limited use of the school pool. The pool will be open during August for public use from 2.30 - 5.30 p.m. Monday - Friday and 12 - 4 p.m. on Sundays. Let's keep our fingers crossed for a dry, warm summer.

Finally, our Summer Fun programme has been available for a while now and promises to be the best ever. We have activities for 5 - 11 years, both sessions (10 - 12 p.m. & 12.30 - 2.30 p.m.) and Fun Days (10 - 2.30 p.m.) and activities for 11+ (4 - 6 p.m., except Mountain Biking which is from 10 - 4 p.m.). New sessions this Summer include - Drumming Workshop (with Bongo's), Tye Dying, Problem Solving and much more ... The sessions must be pre-booked to ensure correct staff:child ratios, so book now to avoid disappointment. The Holiday Programme starts on the 30th July through to 31st August. The Playscheme is taking place at Compton Village Hall from 30th July to 10th August, so we will not have activities for children aged 5 - 11 years during those weeks.

And finally, we will be having an Open Day on Sunday 23rd September which will be full of great activities to try. A great day out for both adults and children alike!!

For more information about any of the above, please call The Downland Sports Centre on 01635 578866, or just pop in.

Have a great Summer !!

Tracey Weaver and all at The Downland Sports Centre

# DOWNLAND SPORTS CENTRE

## *NEW TIMETABLE 2001*

<b>DAY</b>	<b>SESSION</b>	<b>AGE LIMITS</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>COST MEM / NON</b>	<b>SESSION/ COURSE</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	Bums Tums & Thighs	All	7.30 p.m. - 8.15 p.m.	£2.65 / £2.90	Session
	Step Aerobics	All	8.15 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.	£2.65 / £2.90	Session
	Downlands Badminton Club	All	7.30 p.m. - 9.45 p.m.	Fee to club	Club
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Downlands Badminton Club	All	7.30 p.m. - 9.45 p.m.	Fee to club	Club
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Aikido (Fortnightly)	11+	8.15 p.m. - 9.45 p.m.	£1.80 / £2.05 JN £2.80 / £3.10 AD	Session Session
	Archery	12+	7.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.	£1.80 / £2.30 JN £2.30 / £2.80 AD	Session Session
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Trampolining (Improvers)	5 - 11	6.00 p.m. - 6.45 p.m.	£14.30 / £15.80	Course
	Basketball	All	7.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.	£2.30 / £2.55	Session
	Indoor Bowls	All	8.00 p.m. - 9.45 p.m.	Fee To Club	Session
<b>SATURDAY</b>	Only for Party Bookings				
	Only for Party Bookings				
<b>SUNDAY</b>	Open for bookings and parties				

In addition to the above sessions, the Centre is also open for casual bookings (eg. 5 - a - side Football, Badminton, Netball, Tennis (in summer) etc.). The gym is also available for use by members of the Downland Sports Centre who have completed the Downland Sports Centre gym induction.

Further information is available from reception or telephone 01635 578866 during opening hours

6.00 p.m. - 10.00 p.m. Monday - Friday or between 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. Sundays.

### STOP PRESS ...

The pool at The Downland Sports Centre will be available for use by the public this year between the hours of 2.30 pm – 5.30 pm. Also, our Summer holiday activity programme will be available at the beginning of July. There will be loads going on so if you would like a copy please ring us on the telephone number above.