

WEST ILSLEY NEWS

1 June 1998

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

PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting welcomed Mrs Tracey Allan-Jones as co-opted councillor after the resignation of Dr Alan Muir.

Following a 19% rise in Council Tax charges, the Parish Council is to write to the new chief executive of West Berks council asking why car parking fees in Newbury have risen. Also, why is West Ilsley still having its wheelie bins collected on a Monday, and can the environmental health department please come out and check pollution levels in the pond.

Mrs Anne Butterworth and Mr Norman Carlisle have agreed to become the new West Ilsley Relief in Need (Poors Wood) trustees with Rev Antonia Cretney.

The Annual Parish Assembly received reports from fourteen organisations in and around the village, including the Chairman's résumé of the Parish Council's achievements over the past year.

Di Peplar from Rural Recreation gave a most informative talk on the services and facilities made available to small community villages such as ours, and is prepared to come out to help any organisation that wishes. Telephone 519579.

The Downland Volunteers would like new volunteers, especially those prepared to drive clients to Oxford or Reading occasionally. Telephone 578394.

The Downland Sport and Leisure Centre would like more lady badminton players and is holding an over 50's walk on May 31st.

PC Dave Morris informed us of a police "safe house" open for group visits to demonstrate security in action, contact him on 31000.

the Ilsleys Playgroup reopens in the autumn at the school on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, 1.25 to 3.30 pm and requires a volunteer to help on Thursday afternoons. Telephone 281614.

Judging for the Best Kept Village Competition takes place between 10th and 23rd June. Points are awarded for the appearance of the following:

The Bus Stop

Churchyard

War Memorial

Telephone Box

Post Office

Village Hall

Public House

Pub Gardens

Recreation field

Cricket Pavilion

The Ridgeway Flyer bus service is up and running again on Sundays and Bank Holidays stopping at the Harrow. Bus timetables are at the Post Office and on the Parish Council Noticeboard.

Gail Wilson-North - Clerk

(The Parish Council will be complaining to West Berks District Council and you can add your individual voices as well by adding your name and address to the attached letter.

You must receive a reply so the more letters received the more recorded notice will be taken of your concerns! - Ed)

TITTLE - TATTLE

I know that there have been babies that I haven't welcomed - I haven't been made aware of their arrival. I haven't acknowledged all the little ladies or men and I keep seeing you being transported around the village.

I really enjoyed the recent barn dance-it is one of my favourite organised recreational "sports". I like nothing better than the odd glass of wine, with a smattering of socialising and a little physical exercise. It was such a shame that there weren't more to share it, especially, as one soul had pointed out to me, that there is often the complaint that there is nothing organised in the village.

Now is the time to think of winter....and how about winter holidays? I know it was a very long time ago, back in April, but we had the most fantastic time in France skiing as guests of Louise Shepherd and Toby Garland. Apart from the fact that we had to ask them to stop providing so much food (otherwise we would be paying excess baggage on the way home) we had no complaints and an enormous amount of fun and snow. There was an abundance of hunky ski instructors and an enormous number of quality runs. Alan was apparently extremely diligent, he and Colin regularly disappeared to the "Office". It was only after one particularly late night when he came home smelling of beer, that I discovered that the Office was, in fact, a bar. Go to Argentiere! It's enormous fun.

Miss Tofilees

FARMING

At long last better weather has arrives, if only for a short time. Silage making (or should we say haylage making - haylage being half way between hay and silage as the name suggests) is well underway. This product is sold as a high value feed for horses - that is if it makes the grade!

The sheep have just been shorn, this will mean that we do not need to keep such a close eye on them in case they get cast. When cast, a sheep will die after approximately 3 hours since its stomach inflates hence suffocating the sheep because its windpipe gets blocked.

The farming community are battling with the new Assured Combinable Crops Scheme - ACCS - launched earlier this year. The Scheme sets out basic requirements in relation to record keeping, maintenance of equipment, crop nutrition, environmental best practice, crop protection, storage and transportation. A lot of farmers are against the scheme because they feel it is unnecessarily regulatory especially on procedures that farms have been following for years - most of which are general farming practice. However, we feel it is better to be in the scheme at the start and expect crops produced under the ACCS will command a slight premium from buyers over those that are not.

Peter Carlisle

WEST ILSLEY CRICKET CLUB

Summer is here I think – or at least the cricket season has started so prepare for snow and hail at any time. The club has wintered well and the pavilion has undergone a facelift thanks to John Evans and his merry men. The pitch also looks excellent and we have acquired a tractor. Thanks to Michael Brown for his repair work.

The social side started with an enjoyable quiz which was inevitably won by Tot's team despite some dispute about stalactites and stalagmites. They were fortunate that there was a Russian linesman. By the time you read this the Race Night will have come and gone and thanks to everybody who supported and bought horses. Thanks also to our race sponsors who were The Harrow, Mike Studart, Steve Price, Neil Paterson, Kevin Clarke, Colin Sheppard and West Ilsley stables.

The drive to increase the club's membership has also been very successful and we currently have 59 members. Thanks to all of you who are supporting this effort. Please do not hesitate to come and use the club facilities.

Cricket is also going well so far and we have a 100% record. The first team having gained promotion to the Premier Division of the Berkshire League have won their first two games as have the seconds. The Sunday side are also undefeated with two friendly wins and yesterday (10/05/98) beat Hamley Green near Biggin Hill in the Village Knock-Out. Lord's this year?

David Gore

NEIGHBOURHOOD WOOF

As I write, it's a pleasant spring morning and I'm settling down to work. The window is open, the birds are singing, tractors hum away in the fields, the odd car passes through the village and all is right with the world ... and then ... the barking starts. Do our village dog owners not realise what their mutts get up to whilst they are "home alone" and bored? One starts and they all start - it was sweet in 101 Dalmatians, rather the opposite in these circumstances. If they're meant to ward off burglars, I suspect that they will be too "dog" tired from barking to put up any resistance, and have they not heard the term "to cry wolf"?

Andrea

RIDGEWAY WALK

Come and join us on a walk along the Ridgeway on 20th June and help raise money for Leukaemia Research. We are starting at Wendover and finishing at the Bell Inn, Aldworth, approximately 35 miles. For those not wishing to walk the whole route, 20, 10 and 5 mile walks have been organised to join in as we progress along the way. Transport to all starting points will be available as will full backup and drink stops. For further details, sponsor forms, times etc. please contact Tony Prior on 01635 578268 or 578306. All will be most welcome, young or old, walking clubs, individuals, a great chance to meet other people. Last year we raised £3,000. If anyone not walking has any spare time on the day we will be happy to find a use for you perhaps manning drink stops or check points.

A PLAYGROUND FOR WEST ILSLEY

A Playground Management Committee (PMC) was formed in March 1998 following an appeal by the Parish Council for interested parishioners to step forward. The committee's role is to:

- investigate and assess potential locations and equipment,
- consult with the children and adult residents of West Ilsley to understand the requirements,
- obtain appropriate funding through grants and fund-raising,
- plan the implementation and ongoing management of the playground.

In order for us to understand villagers' views, a questionnaire is enclosed with this copy of the West Ilsley News. Please take a couple of minutes to complete it and if you have children, help them to fill in their copy. Additional copies of the Children's questionnaire can be obtained from the Post Office.

The results of this survey will be published in the West Ilsley News, and will help the PMC and Parish Council to determine what equipment is required and where best to locate it.

Please feel free to contact any of the committee members if you have any queries:

Sara Laver (281614) Chair

Sue Carrington Treasurer / Grants

Sandra Carlisle Fundraising

Jo Scriven Fundraising

Tracey Allan-Jones Secretary

Chris Allan-Jones Design / procurement / installation

Tracey Allan-Jones

WEST ILSLEY FETE SUNDAY 19TH JULY 1998

Plans are progressing well and attached to this WIN is the list of classes and a supply of entry forms.

Special Trophies:

The **Colling Cup** will again be awarded to the person who scores the most overall points in the Homecraft classes (24 to 32) with three points awarded for first prize, two for second and one for third in each class.

In memory of Sheilah Hern who was a great supporter of the Fete, Major Hern has kindly agreed that we may introduce the **Sheilah Hern Rosebowl** which will be awarded to the person who scores the most overall points in the Flowers and Ornamentals and the Flower Arranging classes (1-7 and 19-23).

Another new trophy will be awarded for the most points in the Fruit and Vegetables classes (8-18).

And don't forget the cup which is awarded for the **Best Kept Garden** which will be judged in the week prior to the Fete.

Prizes:

We're on the look-out for prizes for raffles and competitions so if you feel able to contribute something please let one of the committee know.

Plants and Books:

There will be stalls for both which raised good amounts for Fete funds - we can collect, please call Andrea Cook for collection or deliver to the field on the day.

Helpers:

We always need helpers on the day, so if you feel able to offer an hour of your time to contribute to the success of this village event, please call one of the committee.

Contact numbers:

Steve Price 281738

Liz & Adrian Dray 281704

Jo Gore 281618

Andrea Cook 281224

Angela Hyde 281500

Neil Paterson 281242

EVERGREENS

Monday June 1st outing by coach to Weymouth, leaving the Church at 9.30 am. Members £3, non members welcome at £5. Tokens may be used. Names to D Wells, S Gore and A Carlisle.

Anne Carlisle

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Church Services for June:-

7th June:-

All Age Service 9.45 am

14th June:-

Holy Communion 8.00 am

21st June:-

Family Communion 9.30 am

28th June:-

Morning Prayer 11.00 am

There is a red folding umbrella in the church porch which has been there for the last month. The faith of the owner in the British climate is truly amazing!

Ian Fewtrell-Smith

Come July, I will have been in post as vicar of the Benefice of Beedon, Peasemore, West Ilsley and Farnborough for a year. On 23 July last year, you may remember, there was a sizeable gathering in All Saints' Church, presided over by Bishop Dominic. Since then, I have got to know people all over the benefice. But I am conscious that there are many people living in West Ilsley whom I have hardly met, or not met at all. The vicar traditionally "belongs to everybody", whether or not they are regular church-goers and I would hope, as time goes by, to have the chance to know more people. Once upon a time vicars used, it is said, to spend their mornings writing sermons and their afternoons visiting. Presumably then they had a larger chance of finding people at home than they do now. I am very conscious that to find the vicar on the doorstep at 2.45 pm, when you're just rushing off to collect the children, or 4.00 pm, when you've just collected them (and everybody else's children!) and they want your attention, or 7.00 pm when, with luck, you (both) are staggering in from a hard day at work, is not always a welcome surprise.

Nonetheless, I would not wish to remain only a distant visitor from Peasemore (where I live), dashing in and out of the church once or twice a week and I would be very pleased to drop in and say hello at any time that might suit you, if you would like me to. Or it may be that you know of a person who you feel could do with a visit. In either case, do feel free to ring me up (248925).

Antonia Cretney

VILLAGE HALL PONTOON

The winners of the last two pontoons of the season were:

S Gore (Aston Villa)

T Barnes (Exeter)

£14 each

T Farrell (Alloa) £21

Booby prizes went to:

J Steptoe (Hull) £8

M Brown (Bury)

P McGuire (Dundee)

P Barratt (East Fife)

J Rockall (Millwall)

J Allan (St Mirren)

£1.20 each

Thank you to everyone who took part in this year's Football Pontoon. We made just over £280 for Village Hall Funds. We hope you will all rejoin when we start up again in August, plus a few new subscribers, hopefully.

Audrey Tizzard

SANDPIT

Kind and caring home wanted for an Early Learning sandpit call 281647.