

West Ilsley News

April 2003

A very full WIN this month, which, even though most of it arrives by email, still means a lot of work. It's hard to know what villagers will/won't be interested in so wherever possible we've operated a policy of "if in doubt, include it", thus perhaps increasing our workload unnecessarily. We've never asked for specific feedback before, but now seems a good opportunity, so BEFORE YOU THROW THIS WIN AWAY - please will you take a minute to mark the articles "yes" - I always want this type of item, "no" - I have no interest in this or "???" - please include this type of thing if you have time/space. Then put your name and phone number on it (in case we want to ask for further opinions) and post it through one of our doors. If you have any suggestions for things you feel are missing, please note them somewhere too. If you want to keep your copy, please would you take the trouble to speak to Andrea to give your feedback. Have a good Easter!

The Editors

EVERGREENS

Anne Carlisle

On Tuesday 8th April there will be an outing by coach to Basingstoke. The coach will leave from outside West Ilsley Church at 10.00 am. Members £5, non-members £7. Tokens can be used. Names to J Collier 281283.

EASTER LILIES

Anne Carlisle

I shall be pleased to accept donations from anyone wishing to contribute money towards buying an Easter Lily as a token of remembrance.

ALL SAINTS, WEST ILSLEY

Ian Fewtrell-Smith

Church Services for April:

6th April	All Age Service	11.00 am
13th April	Holy Communion	8.00 am
18th April	Good Friday Service	2.00 pm
20th April	Family Communion	9.30 am

EASTER SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

See "Fourways" or the Easter card, both due out in the near future, for full details of Easter services.

GOOD FRIDAY WALK

There will be a walk from Farnborough to West Ilsley, via Peasmore and Beedon, timed to arrive in West Ilsley for a packed lunch (bring your own) at about 1.00 pm. The walk will start at 9.15, arriving at Peasmore around 10.45 and reaching Beedon at about 11.30. Walk as much or as little as you like, and if you are up for the whole circuit starting and finishing at West Ilsley, I would be delighted to have some company! Get in touch with me for more details (281625)

PRE-SHOW DANCE - 12TH JULY

The dance is being organised to raise money for All Saints this year. Make a note in your diaries. Tickets and more details nearer the time, so watch this space.

APCM - 7TH APRIL

Please come to the church at 8.00 pm for the annual parochial church meeting. Your support is important!

PARISH COUNCIL

Linda Gibson - Clerk - Tel 200242

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 25th March.

Flooding The Chairman, Nick Carter reported that following discussions with W.B.D.C. Highways Department, the ongoing problem with flooding in West Ilsley was not on the schedule of works for 2003/2004. However, it should appear on the program of works during the next three years. Following some discussion including some members of the public, it was agreed that he would again take the matter back to the Highways Department seeking reasons for the delay.

Main Street Following consultation with residents of the road known as 'Main Street', it was unanimously agreed that the procedure to formally name the street should be put in place. This will probably take place during the next few months.

Bury Lane Sign The matter of the damaged road name sign at the end of Bury Lane is in the hands of West Berks Council and should soon be repaired and reinstated.

District and Parish Elections will take place on Thursday 1st May. The closing date for nominations is noon on Tuesday 1st April. If anyone would like more information, please contact me.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 12th May at 7.00p.m. followed by the Annual Village Assembly at approximately 8.00p.m. in the Village Hall.

BINGO NIGHT

Good Friday 18th April

West Ilsley Village Hall 7.30pm

All the family welcome. Lots of prizes to be won, Easter Eggs, boxes of chocolates etc. Also a raffle. 20p entry. Bring your own refreshments. Donations of Bingo and raffle prizes most appreciated to Audrey, 5 Fir Tree Paddock

APPRECIATION FOR

A JOB WELL DONE

Andrea Cook

It's still not too late if you're kicking yourself for missing the deadline for the collection for Bruce the Windowcleaner. The cheque will be given to him in the next week or so (probably at his house) so give me a buzz on 281224 to warn me that you want to contribute, before I finally write out the cheque and deliver it – to get maximum benefit, I'm extending the final, final deadline to Friday 4th April.

ILSLEY UNDER FIVES

Baby and Toddler Group

The Baby and Toddler Group meets on a Wednesday morning, 10.00am – 11.30am in the village hall. There are lots of toys plus a climbing frame, playhouse, slide etc for the children and coffee and a chance to chat for the Mums. If you are interested in coming along please contact Jess Logan on 281670 for more details. On Wednesday 9 April there will be a selection of cards available to purchase.

Toddlers ends: Wednesday 9 April

Toddlers re-starts: Wednesday 30 April

Playgroup

The playgroup is held in the Main Hall at the Ilsleys Primary School on a Wednesday and Thursday afternoon from 1.25pm to 3.30pm during the school terms. The numbers at the playgroup have risen suddenly and we are currently only accepting 3 year olds if a place is available. If you are interested in your child attending the playgroup please call Tracy Gregory on 281650 for an application form to register your child or if you would like to arrange a visit.

Playgroup ends: Thursday 10 April

Playgroup re-starts: Wednesday 30 April

CRIME-RELATED MATTERS Andrea Cook

MOBILE POLICE STATION

Driving through East Ilsley a few weeks ago, I was surprised to see a "Mobile Police Station" and subsequently received an email of their schedule for April. I'd just typed my first draft of this article which told you that the MPS would be in the village on 4th April, when one of my informants told me they'd been notified that this visit will not now happen due to other commitments. I assume I'll be sent a schedule of future visits so will let you know. I've emailed to ask the purpose of the visits, what participation they want from us etc, but haven't had a reply so far – I understand that there has been at least one previous visit and they parked outside the village hall.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

I've recently been in touch with Angela Money who is the Ringmaster Administrator for West Berkshire Neighbourhood Watch. We only have one Neighbourhood Watch scheme in West Ilsley – in Bury Lane – so the village could do more to protect itself by setting up further "schemes". I've asked Angela a few questions about the benefits etc, which are shown below, and have obtained an information pack which tells all about the role and includes some helpful information to get you started. To obtain a pack (without commitment) telephone Angela on 01635

264718, or have a look at the one I've got. The role doesn't look too onerous – just good neighbourliness really - but could well be an opportunity for some of the newer residents to get to know their neighbours.

Here are a few words from Angela Money:

A Co-ordinator has to get the interest of neighbours to join a NHW scheme. Normally everybody is keen to be involved but it is getting somebody to do the groundwork. A scheme can be anything from 6 houses upwards and it is a good idea for a Deputy to be appointed so that Police messages are still received when the Co-ordinator is on holiday. When a number of neighbours have shown interest, a meeting is arranged and I come along to have a chat with residents about security, how neighbours can help each, various scams etc and bring along leaflets and NHW stickers for the doors and windows and advise where signs can be obtained from for putting on say lamp posts. Once the scheme is up and running, it is up to the Co-ordinator whether they wish to arrange regular get togethers or not. The main duty is to receive and circulate information from the Police which can be anything from crime prevention information, crimes that are operating in the area, vehicles or people that they are trying to trace.

Support is offered by myself, West Berkshire Police and West Berkshire Council. The Police realise that we will recognise strangers or strange vehicles in the area which the Police would not know when they are driving in the area. It is important to take down vehicle details and as much information as possible.

Advantages to the village are that it brings the community together and makes the area much safer and better to live and work in. The signs and stickers are an obvious deterrent against crime and criminals feel that members of NHW schemes are more vigilant, will report instances to the Police and are aware of security measures. So often neighbours do not know where to contact each other in an emergency, such as if an overflow is gushing with water and the people are at Work. I emphasise the importance of knowing Work or Mobile numbers as well as Home telephone numbers, or if the person(s) are elderly, a contact number for a Son or Daughter. The Police recognise the benefits of NHW and are keen to help us as we are extra eyes and ears for them in the community.

The cost of the scheme is NHW signs which are currently £10 each and admin costs such as paper and ink used by the Co-ordinator, plus possibly some phone calls. I find that if each neighbour puts in £2 - £3 each (obviously depending on number of people in scheme and number of signs required) this usually covers everything. When new people move in, I ask them to pay the same money as everyone else and this just tops up the NHW account in a Bank or Building Society.

See below the Role of Co-ordinator. We need community minded people who wish to make a contribution to the community. Time involved is the setting up of the scheme, possible typing out or printing off of Police messages and delivering to members in the scheme.



ROLE OF CO-ORDINATOR

1. Contact individual households in their neighbourhood and arrange a meeting to discuss the setting up of a scheme.
2. Liaise with Police/Area Co-ordinator to attend the meeting.
3. Communicate all Ringmaster messages to neighbours within 24 hours.
4. Encourage neighbours to be observant and report to the Police any suspicious and criminal incidents, however trivial the information may appear.
5. Provide members with crime prevention information, circulate newsletters and promote property marking.
6. Act as the link between the scheme, other Co-ordinators in the area, the local Police and the local Neighbourhood Watch Group.
7. Keep a check on vulnerable households, such as the elderly, and visit new residents to encourage them to be involved in the scheme.

MANY THANKS

Pia Burton

Thank you to everybody for their best wishes and "new home" cards. Life here in the centre of Oxford is just so different from West Ilsley. We see very little of Amy, her time is completely taken up either studying very hard or socialising, equally as hard. Mark too has taken advantage of the proximity of the station to take the train to Reading to meet up with his mates and stagger back in the wee hours.

The good weather has seen me extremely busy trying to bring my allotment up to scratch. Ian has become something of an allotment widower, but as this has pushed shopping into a very poor second place as my main pastime he is not complaining! Ian has spent a lot of time exploring Oxford on his bicycle and is constantly amazed at the variety of people, architecture and scenery that is on offer.

We are pleased to find that just a few yards from our doorstep there are huge green fields, with adjacent river leading to Hinksey. I've heard an owl at night, my allotment site has a resident green woodpecker and badgers from the next door field mean that harvesting their favourite morsels, sweet corn and carrots, is impossible.

Local takeaways, and popping to the shops for a paper or forgotten items is still a treat.

If you are looking for an excellent Indian restaurant in Oxford, we've just been to "Bombay" at 82 Walton Street (01865 511188) – on a recommendation. Four of us had a super meal for £44. The service was good and very friendly. You have to bring your own alcoholic drinks (which I think is a plus). It was very busy when we went, so do book and be prepared to spend a little time parking in Jericho – but it will be well worth it from our experience.

Babysitter required for 1 night per week

likely hrs, anywhere between 6 - 10pm.

Ideally, living in West Ilsley, you will be confident around children.

Please call Sue/Hugh on 01635 281763.

THANKYOU! Angela Hyde and Alison Banks on behalf of the Village hall Committee

The Activity Club which took place on Sunday 23rd March was another great success. 33 West Ilsley children took part in a wide variety of activities. One group of 11 children visited Folly Farm to see the lambing. This was the second lambing visit for West Ilsley children kindly hosted by David Carlisle and his 'team'. The Toddler Group visited in early March and saw the wonderful birth of twin lambs – they were speechless! – Thanks again.

Anna Wond worked with 4 girls to make cards – the results looked great. Thanks Anna for your time and enthusiasm.

Adrian Dray led a Hockey Skills session and game. 7 of the children had fun learning ball skills and enjoyed a game at the end. I'm sure that all the hockey players would like me to thank you on their behalf.

Pete C., Sarah Norman, Mark Ryan and Paul Willis led 11 very keen mountain bikers on a 7 mile trek of the Ridgeway. I was fortunate enough to join them. It was fantastic fun and quite a sight. Thanks to all who gave their time and energy on the trek.

Finally our thanks also goes to Antonia, Sharon, Steve, Tracey, Sandra, Liz and to anyone else who helped us on the day.

The sessions are becoming more popular and we look forward to offering sessions every 3-4 months. The next will be in June – watch this space for a great outdoor opportunity coming up then!!

WEST ILSLEY FETE

Under 16s Logo Competition

Following the success of last year's competition, we are inviting entrants for this year's logo. The logo should represent what the fete means to you and entrants should be sent by e-mail to gordonb1@ntlworld.com, or delivered to Tanglewood. Prizes will be awarded for the top 3 entrants and the winning entrant will be used on all pre-show publicity.

PRODUCE SHOW

Many people feel that the produce show is the "heart" of the fete as it embodies the traditions of the rural community. Following the success of the produce show at the last village fete there will be no charge for entry into any of the classes. We should also have some extra prizes rather than just the rosettes and cups to tempt you to enter. The show will only be a success if as many people as possible take part!

The photography section has been extended with more classes, so let's see everyone out with their cameras taking the winning photo.

The children's section has been split into 2 age ranges, under 7 and 7-11, so even more prizes will be available.

It would be nice to get more entries in the vegetable classes, which have been dwindling over the years.

Why not plant a few vegetables amongst your flower beds? The red stems of rhubarb chard look wonderful and dwarf beans crop prolifically. Even leeks look good amongst the flowers!

Due to popular demand, the men only classes remain, flower arrangements in a beer can and man made muffins.

We really want the Produce Show to be an even bigger success this year, so take a look at the classes and start your preparations now! Don't forget to plant extra seeds for the Plant Stall.

PRODUCE SHOW CLASSES 2003

Flowers and Ornaments

- 1 Roses – 3 blooms of any variety/varieties
- 2 3 blooms of any flower
- 3 Patio pot – minimum 3 plants, foliage and/or flowering
- 4 House pot plant – flowering or foliage
- 5 Pot of herbs – minimum 3 plants

Fruit and Vegetables

- 6 One dish of soft fruit, any variety
- 7 Collection of any 3 types of vegetable, 3 of each
- 8 Potatoes – 3
- 9 Carrots - 3
- 10 Onions – 3
- 11 Shallots – 6
- 12 Beans/peas – 3 pods, any variety

Flower Arranging

- 13 Arrangement to be viewed all round, max 24w x 24d x 36 inches high
- 14 Arrangement in a basket, max 24 x 24 inches
- 15 Miniature flower arrangement, max 6 inches overall
- 16 Arrangement in a beer can – men only

Home Cooking

- 17 Jar of jam or marmalade
- 18 Jar of chutney
- 19 Chocolate cake
- 20 Florentines
- 21 Shortbread
- 22 Man made muffins – ie made by the men!

Handicraft

- 23 Specimen of needlework, eg article of dressmaking, patchwork, weaving or any other needlecraft
- 24 Specimen of knitting or crochet
- 25 Upholstered item
- 26 Specimen of handicraft, eg pottery, corn dolly, whittling or any other handicraft

Photography

- 27 Views of West Ilsley
- 28 Photo of family or friends
- 29 Photo of a pet
- 30 Photo of your garden
- 31 Seasons of the year
- 32 Holiday photo

Children's Classes (under 7)

- 33 A miniature garden, not exceeding 12 x 18 inches
- 34 A decorated digestive biscuit
- 35 A painting or drawing of parents or family
- 36 Food face on a paper plate
- 37 Specimen of needlecraft / home made toy
- 38 Stencil picture, eg potato stamp

Children's Classes (7-11)

- 39 A miniature garden, not exceeding 12 x 18 inches
- 40 A decorated digestive biscuit
- 41 A painting or drawing of parents or family
- 42 Food face on a paper plate
- 43 Specimen of needlecraft / home made toy
- 44 Stencil picture, eg potato stamp

Best Kept Garden

Best kept garden as judged from the road – Country Gardens Cup

Best Hanging Basket

Best hanging basket as judged from the road – Millennium Cup

BERKSHIRE FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS CLUBS

For over Fifty years Berkshire Federation of Young Farmers Clubs have opened their doors to young people aged between 10 and 26 years. Young Farmers is where you can meet people of your own age, from different backgrounds. You don't have to be involved with farming but an interest in the countryside does help. Meetings are usually once a week and you take part in the running of the club and help organise the programme of events that take place. As well as activities, which challenge, educate and are fun, you can find both male and female companionship, exchange ideas and information and debate important issues.

Involvement with your own club then leads to the opportunity to progress to county, regional, national and international level. This can include exchange visits in the U.K. and abroad. You can take part in cultural visits and even obtain work abroad. The YFC organisation can serve as a voice for young people on any issue and as a young peoples organisation it values its contact with adults in the farming community and many other professions. There are thousands of Young Farmers throughout England and Wales who belong to clubs such as those in Berkshire.

Every year a group of past members and friends either from one club or from all the clubs join together to organise and host the Berkshire Country Fayre. On this day Young Farmers from Bracknell, Bradfield, Maidenhead, Newbury, Shefford and Reading will compete in competitions such as flower arranging, brick laying, cooking, tractor handling and many more. Some of the winners will then compete in a national event in the autumn. It's a day when all Berkshire Young Farmers enjoy friendly rivalry and help each other achieve their best.

This year the Country Fayre is being hosted by Bradfield Young Farmers and will be held at Englefield Estate, Theale on Sunday 18th May 2003.

Young Farmers have put the Young back into farming. They reach out to achieve, enjoy learning new skills and most of all HAVE FUN!

VILLAGE HALL

PONTOON

Audrey Tizzard

The results of the last two Pontoons are as follows:

7th Pontoon (3 weeks)

Winner M. Baggs (Cowdenbeath) £21

Booby M. Cook (Hull) £6

8th Pontoon (4 weeks)

Winner A. Thimbleby (Nott. Forest) £28

Booby J. Wiejak (Stoke) £8

£55 went to Village Hall funds.

BUS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE

With spring just round the corner it's time to start planning some countryside visits, and this should be made easier with the Ridgeway Explorer leisure bus service which starts to operate on Good Friday 18 April. It will run every Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday until Sunday 26 October.

The Ridgeway Explorer travels between Swindon, Wantage and Reading, with connections from Oxford, providing a really useful service for walkers who wish to visit the western half of The Ridgeway National Trail west of Streatley on the River Thames. Passengers can get off the bus at one stop, walk as far as they wish, and then catch a later bus to take them home or back to a railway station. Running four times a day in both directions this service also provides access to several visitor attractions along the route, as well as many pubs offering welcome refreshment during or at the end of a walk.

Full details of the Ridgeway Explorer, including timetable, attractions and pubs, can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to National Trails Office, Cultural Services, Holton, Oxford OX33 1QQ. Copies of the timetable are on the village notice boards.

POLICE REPORT

I am settling into my role as Hungerford's Community Liaison Officer and I am really enjoying it. There are a number of topics I wish to mention this month.

Antisocial Behaviour, this is by no means isolated to the inner city areas, as the media would have us believe. It covers a very broad spectrum and can range from yobbish, rowdy behaviour, graffiti and damage with local residents feeling intimidated and sometimes living in fear. It is present in our rural villages as the police receive many calls and complaints, though we cannot sometimes respond to these incidents as promptly as we would like due to other commitments. This I'm sure and probably does give the impression that the police do not put high priority on such reports. I can assure you that this is not the case. Though I must admit it is difficult for the police to deal with such behaviour when a substantive criminal offence has not been committed and upon our attendance the situation has often quelled or the youths have already dispersed. A valuable piece of legislation to tackle such behaviour is the use of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and Anti Social Behaviour Orders. They have been talked about recently on the news and in the press and would appear to be a good solution to some of the problems we encounter today. In order to obtain such contracts

and orders the person or persons making the complaint will need to supply evidence of such behaviour and identify the offenders. These are early days in West Berkshire concerning such issues but I have every confidence, that by working together they will prove an effective tool to combat this problem.

The school run. An every day occurrence, however because it happens repeatedly morning and afternoon people can become complacent to the real dangers involved in this simple act. One of those common occurrences is the scenario of "I am going to be late, I will have to drive fast to get to school, I'll park as close as I can to the school because I'm late and it won't matter if I double-park or leave the car on the yellow zigzag, I'm only going to be few minutes". Without naming any town, village, road or school you have probably guessed there have been some complaints about the parking of cars outside schools. So when you are next on the school run and if this applies to you, can you give some thought to how and where you park your car. It can only take one moment's lack of concentration from the driver or the simple act of a child running into the path of a car for a tragedy to occur.

Something to look out for – there have been further reports of forged £20 notes circulating, so if you are lucky enough to have £20 notes in your change make sure you check the notes. There're no hard and fast rules for identifying these forgeries as some of them stick out like a sore thumb whilst others are extremely good. Basically if you are not happy with the note don't accept it. (see attached Hints and Tips – Eds)

I have been made aware of a 'scam' currently doing the rounds. It goes like this. You are sitting at home and there is a knock at the door. On answering the door you are confronted by a respectable looking woman who is slightly distressed. She explains that her car has broken down and she needs to telephone her husband and could she use your phone. You allow her to use the phone and she has a long conversation with her apparent husband. She finishes the call and even offers you a pound for your trouble, but of course you decline it. She leaves and everything is fine. Or is it? The day or week before knocking on your door she has set up her own premium rate line with a telephone company at a cost of about £150, and she has dictated that calls to that number should be charged at £50 per minute. She has dialled that number from your phone and has had a five-minute fictitious conversation and that call has cost you about £250. The first you know about it is when you receive your phone bill. We are not aware of any cases in the area but as you see the victim may not be aware of the deception until up to three months after the event when the phone bill comes in. If someone you do not know calls at your house and wants to come for whatever reason, DO NOT LET THEM IN unless you have seen their identification AND are satisfied as who they are. If in doubt call the police.

One for all you dog owners to be aware of. On Sunday 2nd March between 3pm and 4pm the aggrieved was walking his dog (greyhound bitch called Purdy) on the downs, north of Lambourn, when he was approached by four men in a Subaru estate. They encouraged the dog over to them, when one of the men grabbed the dog and threw it into the car and

drove off. The Subaru was light blue or silver and part of the registration was taken H519?????. Were you walking your dog up on the downs that Sunday afternoon, were you approached by these men or did you see that Subaru?

We are also trying to locate a green BMW registration E671 XET any sightings of this vehicle please let me know.

Strange persons or vehicles in your road then we want to know.....give us a call.

Well that's about it for this month, Lock up your chattels and keep them peeled. I'll report back next month.

Andrew Buckingham
Police Constable 2078
Community Liaison Officer
Hungerford Police Station
01488 685915
07970145132
fax 01488 685916
E-mail Andrew.Buckingham@Thamesvalley.police.uk

PRAM SERVICE AND AFTERSCHOOL SERVICE, ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Dates for services during the summer term will be:

Afterschool Service	Pram Service
4pm Thursdays	11am Mondays
15 May	19 May
12 June	16 June
10 July	14 July

The Pram Service is aimed at 0-5 year olds and the Afterschool Service for the slightly older ones as well as the babies. The services are well supported but we would love to see new faces or friends from outside the village. Each service lasts approximately half an hour followed by drinks for the children. If you would like more information please contact Denise Brown on 01635 281825, Antonia Cretney on 01635 248925 or Liz Dray on 01488 638749.

WEST ILSLEY CRICKET CLUB

John Verney

TREASURE HUNT 6th April, 10.30 am at the Pavillion. Entry fee £5 per car. Light lunch on return.

Ring R Jefferies 01235 851176

PRE-SEASON NETS 6th and 13th April at Bradfield College

PRE-SEASON MATCH

20th and 26th April interclub match. The club is always looking for new members or if you wish to take part in nets or a pre-season game contact D Beech 281633 or K Holloway 281556

GOLF DAY A club golf day at Deanwood golf club will take place on 18th April. Ring K Holloway 281556 to register.

EARLY CLUB GAMES

20th April Interclub

26th April Interclub

27th April Village Knock-out at home to Morton CC

FIRST LEAGUE GAME

3rd May Crownwood Home 2nd XI

PANG & KENNET VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE PROJECTS

The Friends of the Pang and Kennet Valley Countryside Project has been set up to represent all of the people who care about the countryside in the two valleys. The events below are co-ordinated by The Friends and give you the opportunity to come out on practical tasks, learn new skills, meet new people and, above all, enjoy yourself. The tasks usually begin around 10am and finish by 4pm but you are very welcome to come for as much time as you wish to give during these hours. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing, and bring a packed lunch if you are coming for the full day. Hot drinks are usually provided, as are the necessary tools.

Friends diary

Conservation tasks

Tues 15th April Footpath Work: Bucklebury

Improve access in the parish by helping to clear encroaching vegetation on its 45 miles of off-road rights of way – but not all of them! Meet at the Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm * at 10.00 am. Phone 0118 930 5336 for details.

Tues 13th May Footpath work: Bucklebury

Improve access in the parish by helping to clear encroaching vegetation on its 45 miles of off-road rights of way – but not all of them! Meet at the Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm * at 10.00 am. Phone 0118 930 5336 for details.

Walks and Events

Sat 26th/Sun 27th April 11.00am – 6.00pm

Bradfield

Bluebell Weekend

Come and enjoy the glorious woods full of bluebells, wood anemones, primroses and violets. The woodland at Rushall Farm, Bradfield will be open to the public for the annual bluebell weekend from 11.00am – 6.00pm. Self guided walks will be signposted and refreshments will be available. A donation of £2.00 per adult and £1.00 per child is invited in aid of Multiple Sclerosis. Woodlands at Rushall Manor Farm*.

Sunday 4 May 11.00am – 4.00pm

Ashampstead

Walk in an ancient landscape

Join Dick Greenaway on a five mile guided walk around Ashampstead parish. The walk will take in many ancient features of the landscape including coppiced woodland, bluebells and other wildlife and historical features. Please bring a picnic lunch. Numbers are limited so booking is essential on this walk - ring the office on 0118 930 5336. Meet at Childs Court Farm, off the Ashampstead Road between Bradfield and Yattendon. Grid ref: SU 753 575.

Bank Holiday Monday 5 May 5.30am!!

Pangbourne

Dawn Chorus

An opportunity to rise with the larks and join John Lerpiniere at the BBOWT nature reserve Moor Copse, to listen to the morning bird song. To book a place call the office on 0118 930 5336 Meet at Moor Copse car park Grid ref SU633738 off the A340.

Saturday 10th May 7pm

Upper Bucklebury

Quiz Evening

Come and test your memory and pit your wits against other teams at the 'Friends' Quiz evening Upper Bucklebury Memorial hall. Tickets £10 per person to include supper. Cash Bar, Raffle and Prizes. Tickets available from Project Office Tel. 0118 930 5336. Grid ref SU 545 684

* The Black Barn is situated off Back Lane between Stanford Dingley and Bradfield, to the west of Scratchface Lane (Grid ref. SU 583723).



If you've ever twiddled your radio dial and despaired of finding a station that covers local news and items in a way that you'd be interested in, have you ever tuned in to BBC Radio Berkshire?

We're a local station that cares about getting to the stories local people are interested in; and because we're part of the wider BBC, we're also impartial and accurate.

Recently we've covered the issue of rural policing in West Berkshire, the growing trade in stolen dogs in the area, and the confusion over the future of a Kintbury care home.

Now we need your help. We're looking for more local stories from your community, no matter how big or small you think they are. Perhaps you've noticed a change in the local environment, perhaps you've heard something you think others might be interested in too, perhaps you want us to investigate something for you, or warn others of something that's happened to you. Perhaps there's a local character you think would make a good listen, or you've got a good news story others would like to hear. Whatever your story is, we'd like the chance to tell it.

BBC Radio Berkshire has a local reporter in West Berkshire, so if you've got a story; get in touch! Here's how; you can call me, Louise Price on 01635 550374, or e-mail me at louise.price@bbc.co.uk, or drop me a line at Rm 4, 77 London Road, Newbury, RG 14 1JN.

Or if you want to publicise a local event on the radio this spring and summer why not e-mail us the details by logging on to our website www.bbc.co.uk/berkshire One more thing, if you enjoy gardening, then listen out for our special coverage of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in May. Behind the scenes programming and your chance to win tickets. Don't forget you can listen and take part in our gardening programmes Wednesday from 10.30am and Sunday from 1pm.

You can hear BBC Radio Berkshire on 104.4 FM in West Berkshire.

TENNIS COURT

John Clemenger
Chairman

I have some good news to report. The Court has just been pressure cleaned professionally, the surface reinforced with polyurethane binder and then painted in its new colours. Additionally, new fencing has been put up at the front. All in all, the costs were £2090 +VAT and the work carried out very efficiently by Colour Court Ltd of Renhold, Beds.

Application has been made to the Parish Council for possible funding of the VAT component of the bill and the Tennis Management Committee have paid the remainder. This has depleted our funds almost totally, but the overall result is very good. What was most pleasing was the compliment paid by the professionals that the court surface had been well looked after and had come up "like new" – and this after 10 years of use! The court was originally laid in 1982 and then totally resurfaced in 1992 at an approximate cost of £5,300. What this means now is that for the next 5-7 years we can enjoy a smart looking and excellent playing tennis court. The future thereafter is less certain and it may be that we can convert the court to a multisports surface (ie catering for tennis, basketball, volleyball, badminton or 5 aside football etc) We would need a substantial grant from Newbury District Council or the lottery fund to do this, although I believe that both authorities welcome the idea of increased multi-activity. We would ask that the court, meanwhile, continues to be used with consideration ie correct tennis shoes to be worn (no hard "barred" trainers) and only playing members inside the court perimeter. Also, no climbing of outer fences to retrieve stray footballs or cricket balls. Please ring 281344 or call at the Vet's for a key!

Finally, in a private capacity and as a contribution to the village, I have purchased a power brush for my ATV to enable the court to be swept regularly. There is no excuse now for anything less than a splendid, bright and clean tennis court for you to enjoy. Please make use of it. The court normally opens on 1st May or maybe earlier if weather permits.

A management committee meeting will be held shortly to discuss a new fee structure for the court and regretfully this will have to reflect our recent heavy expenditure. However, increases will be kept to a minimum.

Stop press: Great news! I have just learned that the West Ilsley Parish Council has agreed to fund the VAT component of the reconstruction bill. Many thanks indeed.

HELPING BOTH PEOPLE AND THE PLANET

Who are we? - The Community Furniture Project (Newbury)

A local independent charity, run by local people for local people, that also reduces waste by encouraging re-use and re-cycling.

What do we do? - Operating from a warehouse in central Newbury, and serving a 10 –15 mile radius of the town, we collect, at no cost, donated furniture (such as sofas, beds, chairs and tables, chests of drawers, etc etc), electrical items (such as cookers, microwaves, fridges, freezers, washing machines, dishwashers, televisions, video recorders and hi-fis), household and baby goods which we then sell at low cost to local people in need. All the electrical goods are safety tested in our own workshop prior to being offered for sale.

People in receipt of most types of benefit, and pensioners, can buy from the Project.

Apart from providing furniture to people in need, we also offer a wide range of volunteering opportunities – from admin/computer work to furniture shifting and van driving, from customer reception to re-upholstery. We particularly need help at the moment with van drivers and van crew, to help with loading and unloading, and also re-upholstery skills – **if you can help, please ring us.**

To donate furniture or electrical appliances, to find out about volunteering or buying from the Project, contact:
The Community Furniture Project (Newbury),
Unit 5, 36 Queens Road, Newbury RG14 7NE
Tel 01635 43933



Supporting active rural communities

The Network

There are many grants available to communities and in this months Network we have highlighted a few of them for you.

AWARDS FOR ALL ENGLAND Lottery grants for local groups.

Could your group use a grant between £500 - £5,000 If so then Awards for All could be what you are looking for. Tel. 0845 600 2040 www.awardsforall.org.uk

DON'T FORGET THE COUNTRYSIDE AGENCIES VITAL VILLAGES GRANTS PROGRAMME

Community Service Grants

£500-£25,000 available to Parish and Town Councils, rural commercial enterprise, local voluntary and community groups to improve or establish a rural service.

Parish Transport Grants

Up to £10,000 available only to Parish and Town Councils to identify local needs and small scale solutions.

Contact the Community Council for Berkshire on 0118 9612000 for further details.

AGE CONCERN ENGLAND has three types of grants available to communities:

Small service support grants – one off grant of up to £2000 for a new or expanding local project providing services for the direct benefit of older people.

Small grants to clubs – any club for older people may apply for a one-off grant up to £120 for new equipment or activities.

Opportunities for Volunteering Scheme – grants are available for new projects which involve volunteers in providing services of benefit to older people.

For further information or application form contact The Grants Unit, Age Concern England, Astral House, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER Tel.020 8765 7738

www.ageconcern.org/ageconcern/products53.htm

CAN DO/SCARMAN TRUST AWARD

The Scarmans Trust is a national charity committed to helping citizens bring about change in their community in the way they want.

They are looking for 160 community entrepreneurs to fund with an average grant of £1600. The Awards are funded by the Millenium Commission's You and Your community scheme.

All completed applications must be returned by 2nd May 2003.

For more information on how to apply tel. 01273 23485

OTHER NEWS

CONNEXIONS BERKSHIRE has launched their new Website for young people. The site is aimed at providing information on a variety of subjects to young people, from advice on careers and further education to leisure activities and other opportunities.

www.connexions-berkshire.org.uk

Extracted from the news-sheet produced by CCB's Rural Networks Project

Sarah Ward 1 Bolton Place Northbook Street Newbury

Berks. RG14 1AJ

01635-523857

E mail: ccbnewbury@aol.com.

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 Monday 28th April 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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