

ILSLEY UNDER FIVES

Flick Lucas

We continue to have a small but enthusiastic committee. We hosted the West Ilsley Pre-Fete Dance last July which was an excellent fundraiser for the group.

We have trialled a range of different activities to encourage new parent/carers to come along (babies and toddlers are all welcome). It has worked well and we now offer a range of activities including music, village recreation visits, cooking, messy play, outdoor learning and Yogabellies on a Wednesday at 9.45am (term time). We also have strong links with the Chieveley Childrens Centre and have Bookstart sessions once a term. We are not always based in the village hall, so best for parents to keep an eye out in the WIN for more details. We also have a Facebook page which has all our upcoming events - www.facebook.com/groups/ilsleyunderfives/

WEST ILSLEY TABLE TENNIS CLUB 2014

Steve Cobrin

The role of the Table Tennis club is primarily to host the West Ilsley B team (no A team again this year), playing in the Newbury and District Table Tennis League (<http://www.ndtta.co.uk/>)

We were slightly beset with injuries this year and ended up 6th in Division 3, playing 16 matches, winning 5, drawing 3 and losing 8.

We are regular bookers of the Village hall during the season September - March, being mostly a winter-time sport, with approximately nine Monday evening bookings.

We continue to pay £20 per night to the Village Hall for the booking.

We still has some minor problems with with water seeping though the floors, but conditions weren't as extreme as in previous years. Having the heating on during the day, also further improved playing conditions, and helped reduce condensation. Which is still an issue, but thanks to James Hanbury and the loan of a dehumidifier we've managed to keep it under control.

We look forward to the proposed new lighting, which has incorporated our input.

We have a second table (which has to be moved into the Garages), but it isn't quite the competition quality we'd hoped for, on loan to us from the Newbury league. We do not have a process to allow for hire of the Table, this leads on to..

The cost of individual hire of the village hall is still far too expensive, if just a couple of residents want to come round for a knock. I could consider running occasional open sessions, if there is demand. Alternatively perhaps, we should get a list of residents who play and or have tables in their houses, so that we can get some more social sessions within the village going?

Finally, if any villagers would like to consider play for the team, (we could even have a second team again), please contact me.

WEST ILSLEY NEWS

Andrea Cook and Liz Dray

We would like to extend our thanks to villagers who continue to print the monthly West Ilsley News for neighbours who do not have internet access.

We are happy to continue producing the WIN and sending round ad hoc emails but equally happy if anyone else would like to take it on.

We currently have 14 paid advertisements and various ad hoc ones and have accumulated £1,150.71 in advertising revenue.

We have periodic checks of the database, our latest one reminding us that we are missing 3 or 4 new residents who haven't responded to a WIN through the door but we will try to contact them again. We would appreciate any help villagers can give us in enquiring if new neighbours would like to receive the WIN but we appreciate they may only be here for a short time and it may not be of interest.

TENNIS CLUB

Alison Banks, Louise Beaumont, Martin B W Andrea Cook, Liz Dray, Amanda Knight, Katie Simpson

May we first of all say a few thanks. We were extremely grateful to benefit from the Open Spaces grant which in reimbursing us for the removal of the dead trees was a huge help in replenishing our funds.

We would also like to thank Alan Beaumont for his continuing help with weedkilling and strimming around the court which is no small task but provides a massive cost saving for us. Also, Louise Beaumont who organised a very successful and well supported week of junior tennis coaching in the Easter holidays and will run more sessions in the May half term.

Recently we have tried to improve our "wind" situation up at the court now that the wind barrier of the "albeit dead" trees has gone. In using a net windbreak we have found the posts on the sides of the court are not strong enough to hold this. At present we have asked members to continue play, without the windbreak, but to let us know how much of a problem they are encountering, and we will make a decision as to the way forward at the end of the season.

Whilst trying to improve the quality of play we have still managed to hold our membership rates at £45 for a family and currently have 32 family and single members of which 26 families are within the village.

Our next improvement will be a new booking system and we are very grateful to Martin B W for

developing this for us. It will be much more user friendly especially for mobile devices and also give greater access for non-members to book and pay for the pay and play online.

If anyone who hasn't joined would like to do so or to pay and play please contact Liz Dray on 281688.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Ian Fewtrell-Smith

Over the last year, the clergy have remained as previous years, with Revd. John Toogood supported by Revd. Lady (Denise) Brown and Revd Douglas Dales.

At our recent annual parochial church meeting, Alexandra Axtell was again re-elected churchwarden with Ian Fewtrell-Smith, together with the appointment of two new PCC members.

We are one of 9 churches in the East Downland Benefice, with united services held in Chieveley every third Sunday in the month. All Saints continues to hold three Sunday services on the first, second and fourth Sunday of each month, two of which being specifically aimed at families and children.

The church and churchyard are looked after by volunteers, keeping the grass cut, cleaning the church or providing flowers, for which we are very grateful. We had our usual working party for Easter and Remembrance Sunday and recently, a major effort to clear the top graveyard was organised by Andrea Cook and undertaken by numerous volunteers from the village. The footpath to the church has also been widened and gravelled by Giles Wilson-North, and climbing roses planted by the porch in memory of Anne Carlisle.

In 2014 we found ourselves paying for the cost of installing mesh under the ceiling in All Saints to protect from any plaster falling. Consequently, we started 2014 with a bill for the work of over £9,000. By the end of 2014 this, together with an increase in our Parish Share and Benefice expenses and our usual costs of maintaining the church, resulted in expenditure of a massive £19,083. A donation of over £750 was made to Mencap from the collection taken at Anne Carlisle's funeral and just over £300, collected at the Remembrance Sunday Service was sent to the British Legion.

During 2014 we were fortunate to obtain a grant from the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme, which covered the VAT we paid on the repairs, as well as receiving a number of donations, including those from Quiz Nights held at the Harrow and from the West Ilsley News Christmas Greetings. Our fund raising in 2014 comprised a Mid-Summer Lunch, 5 Voices Concert, our usual Harvest Lunch, and a number of people sponsored two members of our church in the Ride + Stride. Thanks to our regular contributors, as well as to those who gave generously in collections throughout the year, together with the very generous grant from the Parish Council in early 2015 towards the installation of the mesh,

our financial concerns have been eased for the time being.

Our church has been actively playing its part within the benefice. This includes helping to redesign the benefice magazine and website, considering ways of serving the wider community, such as assisting with the local food bank and preparing new modern services, particularly for children.

VILLAGE HALL

James Hanbury

The Village Hall committee met to discuss progress on improvements to the facility.

The Parish Council has approved the grant to support the improvements to the halls lighting, insulation and sound proofing.

Tenders have been sought for this work and suppliers chosen.

Work will commence over the summer months and should take less than a fortnight to complete.

DOWNLAND VOLUNTEER GROUP

Joe Clerkin

The Downland Volunteer Group exists as a last resort to help people in this area to travel to hospital, surgeries, dentists and other such appointments when no other option is available to them.

In the year 2013/14 DVG made 1320 such trips, last year 2014/15 DVG made 1360 journeys - a small increase

West Ilsley supplies 4 of our volunteer drivers and they made 107 trips last year compared to 82 in the year previous

The village also contributes behind the scene as the Treasurer and the member responsible for Publicity live in West Ilsley. In addition, another West Ilsley resident, who is not a member, is redeveloping our database.

West Ilsley residents only called on the DVG for 11 trips in the 2014/15 year possibly a reflection on the support we get from our neighbours, friends and families which have meant the village doesn't rely too much on this over stretched resource.

The withdrawal of the Handybus service has contributed to an increase in demand on the DVG. Recruiting volunteer drivers continues to be difficult so if I can take this opportunity to ask if anyone has some spare time during the week and would be able to help in some small way either in the office at the Compton surgery or driving please let us know. You get the opportunity to meet all sorts of interesting people you may not come across your everyday life.

REPORT ON THE ILSLEY EVERGREENS 2015

The Ilsley Evergreens is a retirement club for the sixties and over, in West/East Ilsley. In recent years, it was decided to allow friends from Compton, who regularly travel on our coach outings, to become members. There has been a significant and quite worrying reduction in membership over the past twelve months. Numbers have dropped from 57 to 43. We have

lost several staunch and long-standing members and particular mention must go to the passing of Anne Carlisle in June of last year. Anne had always been a special part of the Ilsley Evergreens from the very beginning, which I believe dates back to 1993. She had contributed so much to the success that we have enjoyed over these many years.

Members Alec Lister from East Ilsley and John Hughes from Compton, both very loyal and supportive members of the Evergreens, will also be sadly missed. Just over a week ago, our Secretary of many years, Jean Wells, died after a short illness. Jean did so much for our Group. She was such a dedicated and efficient Secretary and a lovely, kind person.

At our AGM in February, our Chairman, Madeleine Brand, tendered her resignation. She had experienced a difficult year and endured a tragic family bereavement. Madeleine remains a member and will continue to support our Group as she has always done in the past. The Evergreens welcomed back Julia Rockall as Chairman/Outings Organiser. Julia has recovered well from her period of ill-health and is now brimming with vitality. We are all so pleased to see Julia back. Margaret Gilmore and Jim Hughes were re-elected as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Mary Studart became Vice-Chairman and was joined on Committee by last year's members Avis Dockrill, Michael Pinfold and Tony Elliott. Sonia Wilkie was elected as a new Committee Member.

The primary activity of our Club is monthly coach outings and fund raising. We had our first outing of the year in April with a trip to London. Excursions will follow during the summer with Bournemouth, Bognor, Devizes/Marlborough and Street/Wells amongst the visits planned.

A Mystery Trip is also on the agenda, but where is not known? Again, as with membership numbers, there has been less people going on the trips as had been previously. By removing some restrictions, e.g. those who live outside the area, etc., more people could be recruited and thereby make the cost of the outings more viable.

The income we raise from fund-raising events, coupled with the generous donations given to us from various local organisations, go a long way to help subsidise the cost of the outings as well as the annual Christmas Lunch. We do appreciate the generous amount sent to us from the West Ilsley Show Committee and the recent donation following the Village Pantomime in March.

We continued to go to the Windmill Carvery at Burford for Christmas, 2014. We are examining the possibility of having our Christmas Lunch much nearer to home in the future, thereby reducing costs.

The Evergreens will be providing a Bric-a-Brac/Tombola Stall at the East Ilsley Sheep Fair

on

June 7th and will be supporting the West Ilsley Show and Fete on Sunday, 5th July, when we will have our usual attractive Bottle Stall.

Ilsley Evergreens provide news items of their activities for publication in the local bi-monthly magazines, i.e. East Ilsley Communicator, Compton's Compilations, as well as the monthly West Ilsley News.

After considerable lengthy discussion, a Constitution Document for the Ilsley Evergreens has been prepared, finalised and approved.

Our annual membership fee remains at £10.00. Coach fares stay at £10.00. for members and £12.50 to friends. We are able to offer spare seats to non-members, so if you would like to join any of our outings, please contact Julia Rockall on 281597. Anyone wishing to join the Evergreens, please contact myself.

Finally, for any Bingo Addicks that are here, my fellow Committee member, Tony Elliott, has arranged a Bingo Session Evening at West Ilsley Village Hall in aid of Evergreen Funds. The date for your Diary is Friday, 26th June. Doors open at 7pm for prompt "Eyes Down" at 7.30pm.

Jim Hughes. Hon. Secretary. Tel no. 01235 834487.

WEST ILSLEY WEB SITE REPORT 2015

Martin B W

WIN very generously donated the funds for the proposed plans from last year to re-host the westilsley.org as a separate entity (it previously shared hosting). The web domains (westilsley.org and westilsley.org.uk) were transferred as was the complete website.

Unfortunately the redesign did not take place due to other commitments but it is still an option and much simpler now the site is hosted separately.

Statistics

From April 1 – March 31 the site had 14,500 page views which included 4000 visits. Average time spent on the site was 1 minute 19 seconds. The photo Gallery remains the most popular section, followed by WIN.

Email Addresses

As the site is now hosted separately, it is possible to set up email addresses with the westilsley.org domain. For example we could have parishcouncil@westilsley.org. The West Ilsley Tennis club are using this facility for the new booking system (tennis.bookings@westilsley.org). If any other West Ilsley Organisations would like their own email address please contact Martin.

Web Site Running costs for 2015-1016

Hosting £2.99 monthly (or £35.88 annually)

Domain name £19.20 annually (for westilsley.org and westilsley.org.uk)