

West Ilsley News

February 2001

The Editors, still recovering from the Burns Night bash at the Village Hall last Saturday, take pleasure in presenting the February edition of the WIN. Now can we go back to bed please?!!

The Editors

RAT ALERT!

Jill Wiejak

Just to inform those of you who may not know, that quite a few residents in the Maltings/West Ilsley House area have seen rats at close quarters, and frequently! The council have been to some houses and put down traps etc but this is just a plea on behalf of everyone to be alert to the possibility that you may be harbouring, unwittingly, the pests in your garden, under sheds etc. Please have a look at your garden to see if you have any piles of garden rubbish, compost heaps (sad though it is to say that) and get rid of them. Rats are horrid things, which we all know, bring disease and it is up to all of us to discourage them in every way. The birds will survive without the food we all like to put out. Thanks.

CLEANER WANTED

for

THE DOWNLAND SPORTS CENTRE

MONDAY - FRIDAY (4.00 - 5.30)

RATE OF PAY - £4.37

For more information or an informal chat,
please contact:

Tracey Weaver (Thursday) or Debbie Saw
(Wednesday or Friday)

on 01635 578866 between 6 - 10pm.

THE RIDGEWAY HERITAGE PROJECT

Andrea Cook

Here is an article which is slightly adapted from *Ridgeway Heritage* (see later).

The Ridgeway Heritage Project is supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund. It is a partnership led by The Ridgeway National Trail with all organisations with an interest along the Ridgeway.

Over three-quarters of all users of The Ridgeway National Trail have said that they use the Ridgeway because of its scenery and landscape, with half enjoying the peace and quiet. Many also value the

wildlife and archaeology to be seen along the Trail. The Ridgeway Heritage Project has been set up to help protect these special qualities and to ensure that future users will also be able to enjoy the landscape, wildlife and archaeology of The Ridgeway.

The Ridgeway Heritage Project will run for five years from 2000 until the end of 2005. During this period it will carry out management works on fourteen nationally important archaeological sites to protect them from damage caused by farm animals, burrowing rabbits and tree roots. The Project has already carried out a full survey of the archaeology of the Ridgeway National Trail during 1999. This has identified 687 sites of which 79 were new sites which were not previously known. The survey also highlighted those sites which were in urgent need of work to protect them for the future. It is works on these sites which will be carried out by the Project over the next five years.

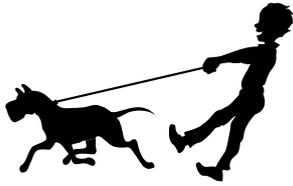
The Project will also work to secure the management of the landscape of the Ridgeway and its important sites for wildlife, particularly those remaining areas of chalk grassland.

During the first three years of the Project, a newsletter, *Ridgeway Heritage*, will keep you informed about what the Project is doing. It will explain works you may see in progress while you are out and about on The Ridgeway National Trail and will help you to understand the archaeological and downland wildlife sites you may visit. *Ridgeway Heritage* will be published twice each year and will be available through public libraries along the Ridgeway corridor or Tourist Information Centres. I have a copy of the edition published last Autumn which you are welcome to borrow from me. The next edition will be published in the Spring and to ensure you receive a copy you can join the mailing list. Write to The RNT, Cultural Services, Holton, Oxford OX33 1QQ (I've asked for a copy for myself so let me know if you'd like to borrow mine.) You can also contact them on 01865 810224 or E-mail: mail@rway-tpath.demon.co.uk or visit their excellent Website: www.nationaltrails.gov.uk

RACE NIGHT

DETAILS AND ENTRY FORM APPEAR AT THE END OF THIS EDITION

The Phantom Pavement Fouler



Dear WIN readers
My owner and I both strongly object to
this practice and even though I may
appear to fit the "evidence"
I am **not guilty** and wish to eliminate
myself from any further enquiries
Harry the Great Dane

WEST BERKSHIRE NIGHTSTOP SCHEME

Did your New Year's Resolution involve using your spare time effectively?

By the time you read this article, it is hoped that you will have seen or joined in the Great Balloon Release in Newbury on January 29th organised on behalf of West Berkshire Nightstop Scheme. This was planned to raise much needed funds, and also to advertise a Nightstop Welcome Event being held on Monday 5th February at 7pm in St Nicholas Church hall, Newbury. A Steering Group consisting of a number of local people from various backgrounds has been working hard over recent months to set up a Nightstop Scheme to operate across West Berkshire to meet the needs of young people who are becoming homeless in our community.

Could you spare a few hours and become involved with West Berkshire Nightstop Scheme?

A Nightstop is a voluntary sector scheme to provide accommodation for single homeless 16-25 year olds, in the homes of approved volunteer hosts. The objective of the scheme is to provide accommodation, one night at a time, in a single room provided by a host. They also offer an evening meal and breakfast, and use of bath/shower, for which expenses are paid. This gives agencies such as Social Services or the Local Authority Housing Department time to work out something more permanent for the homeless person.

The volunteer hosts are ordinary people with a spare room who are sympathetic to the needs of young homeless people. Nightstop arranges comprehensive training programmes for volunteers, provides advice on call support to hosts whilst they are hosting, and arranges meetings amongst hosts so that they can share their experiences with others. Other volunteers can help by taking telephone referrals whilst at home via a telephone redirection service or by driving a Nightstopper to a host for a night. All out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed.

If you think that you might like to get involved in such a scheme or wish to find out more please come along to our Nightstop Welcome Event. Your attendance will not oblige you to offer help, it will be an opportunity to find out more about the benefits of such a scheme to

both homeless young people and to yourself by being part of it and what becoming a volunteer involves. For further details please contact Karen Anderson at:
Community council for Berkshire
1 Bolton Place, Northbrook Street
Newbury RG14 1AJ Telephone 01635 523857
E-mail: ccbnewbury@aol.com

WEST ILSLEY VILLAGE

FETE - SUNDAY

15TH JULY 2001

Chris Allan-Jones

The fete committee is due to re-form in the very near future as there is a good deal of planning and organisation in the months ahead. However, as is often the case we need to recruit new members to take up positions on the committee. Some of the outgoing committee may be re-applying for their previous positions, or for new ones, but all offices are up for grabs, so if you are interested in getting involved, get in touch. Needless to say, unless we can find enough people to form a committee the show will not happen. We are therefore extremely keen to hear from anyone who would like to get involved as a committee member.

Due to the significant efforts of those who gave up their time before, during and after the event, last year was a great success, raising considerable funds for our community and providing an enjoyable day for all those who went to the Fete. If you are interested in helping us to continue the success, please contact Chris Allan-Jones on 281306.

The roles on the committee are:

Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer
Produce Show Organiser
Publicity & Advertising
Sponsorship Secretary
Committee Members

A final word of thanks is due to Jo Gore, who, having been involved with the fete committee for several years is expecting to be even busier in the not too distant future and has therefore decided to resign her position. As committee members past and present will attest, Jo has been a major driving force behind the success of the Fete and her enthusiasm and energy will be sorely missed. Many thanks Jo!

PRAM SERVICE, ALL SAINTS CHURCH, WEST ILSLEY

The next service will take place in the church on Monday 19th February at 11am. The services are for 0-5 year olds plus parent, grandparent or carer etc and last for half an hour, followed by refreshments for the children. This informal service includes lots of songs with instruments for the children to play plus a short story based on a theme. The theme for February is "Animals" so please bring along any friendly ones!

Contacts: Alison Banks (281705), Anna Sugden (281784) and Liz Dray (01488 638749).

Easter Bingo
Friday 13th April
7.30pm
West Ilsley Village Hall.

Raffle prizes welcome

**WATER, WATER
EVERYWHERE!**

Alison Banks

I am sure everyone has commented regularly on the rain and the water levels in this area and thought how lucky we are. At The Malthouse, we have a well in our garden and each week I read the meter for the Environmental Services. This they use for their regional water table information. I had noticed that the well readings were going up by 1-2m per week from a start in the autumn of 10m below ground. This compared to autumn a year ago of 18m and in 1998, 21m below the ground. Frigtingly the water levels two weeks ago were only 3m12cm below the ground!. Therefore anyone with cellars or houses below this level will no doubt be aware of this. Fortunately the trend has stopped and the level has remained stable and even receded a little to 3m37cm as of today. The experts at The Environmental services who had called round to calibrate the meter told me that they were extraordinarily high in the area but in common with my readings the water levels had now stabilised. They also said that with a normal amount of rainfall over the spring, the levels should not rise. Of course I'll be the first to know if the levels are normal! So if anyone is interested in how long they've got before being flooded just call me for a well reading. Apparently it comes up through your floorboards first!.

**ALL SAINTS
CHURCH**

Ian Fewtrell-Smith

Church Services for February 2001:

4 th	Christingle Service	11.00 am
11 th	Holy Communion	8.00 am
18 th	Family Communion	9.30 am

QUIZ NIGHT – 30th March

Is this date in your diaries! (**not 31st March as stated in last month's West Ilsley News**). £5.00 per team (maximum of 4).

COMMON WORSHIP

The new service book, "Common Worship" was authorised at the beginning of this year within the Church of England and used at All Saints for the first time on 20th January. Its strength lies in the choice of style and language, including a range from the traditional Book of Common Prayer to contemporary. Hopefully, there is something to please everyone!

CAR PARKING

Parish Council

Over the past two years the Parish Council has been pursuing various options for car parking within the village. Investigation brought to light that the land by the village pond is partly common land (Parish Council responsibility) and partly owned by West Berkshire Council Highways. In discussion, WBC Highways made it clear that they were unhappy for cars to be parking on the land due to its dangerous proximity to the road junction. It became clear, in this age of high insurance claims, that if an accident occurred the Parish Council, and indeed its individual members, might well be sued. It would not be reasonable to expect Parish Council members to bear this risk and parking of cars on the land had to cease.

A site meeting was held with a representative from WBC Highways and alternative options considered and pursued. A list of these is set out below, together with responses received.

1 Field behind village pond. This was the favourite option and has been persistently pursued by the Parish Council with the Crown Agents over the last two years with negative response. The Parish Council wrote again in November 2000. The reply was as follows:

"...I apologise for the delay in replying but I have taken further advice following your letter and I regret to say that the situation is unaltered in that the Keeper of the Privy Purse has confirmed that the land regrettably is not available for sale or for use by the parish at the present time. I am afraid the situation is the same as when you contacted us previously on this matter."

2 Catmore Road. The proposal is for a layby adjacent to the recreation ground. This was initially turned down by WBC Highways, who have since rescinded and now say that they are not entirely against the idea, with the proviso that the layby would have to start 15 metres from the road junction.

3 Harrow Inn (land presently play area). Approaches have been made to the tenants and to the Brewery, although at the present time Highways have been negative on this option.

4 Parcel of Land to the west of the recreation ground. Negative response received.

5 Parcel of land at side of Village Hall (Downlands). Negative response received.

It is clear from the above that at present the only option the Parish Council can pursue is the layby in Catmore Road which will only take a few cars. However, we are constantly looking at the options and will keep the village informed.

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 Tuesday 27th February 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.

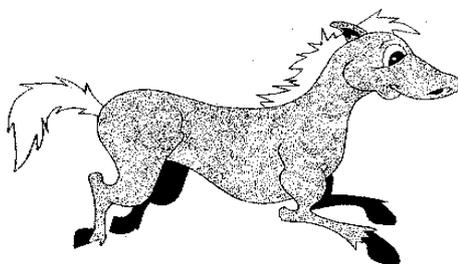
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RACE NIGHT



The Friends of The Ilsleys Primary School are holding a race night in the Village Hall on Friday 2nd March. Tickets cost £3.50 each to include supper. If you would like to own a horse or two they cost just £2.50 each. There will, of course, be a bar.

First race 8pm

If you would like to buy a horse or tickets please complete the slip below and return it with your payment to either the School office or Toni Sugden, Bramble Cottage, West Ilsley. Tel 281291

I would like tickets at £3.50 each.
I would like horse/s at £2.50 each.
Your name.....
Horses name