

West Isley News

www.westilsley.org.uk

February 2005

Here's the February edition - see you at the Winter Warmer!

The Editors

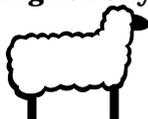
ALL SAINTS CHURCH WEST ILSLEY William and Alexandra Axtell

Church Services for February:

6 th February	All Age Service	11.00am
13 th February	Holy Communion	8.00am
20 th February	Family Communion	9.30am
27 th February	No service	

We hope everybody enjoyed the Winter Warmer in aid of general church funds - report to follow next month!

Lambing at Folly Farm



Sunday 19th March 2005
2 - 5 pm

CELEBRATION OF BAS PEASE

Roland Pease

The Pease family will be holding an afternoon of music and words to celebrate the life of Bas Pease, who died last October. It'll be held on 26th February at 2.30 in Cockroft Hall, AERE Harwell (just off Curie Avenue, directions available). There will be refreshments to follow. All welcome.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Fred Carter

Criminals find burglary easy.

Most burglars rate their chances of being caught at less than 1 in 100, according to research. A quarter of them say it is "easy" to pinch people's possessions from under their noses and nearly half admit to preying on the same house they have targeted before.

Despite a dramatic fall in the number of burglaries in the UK in the second quarter of this year, the research revealed that burglars still feel that they have a clear run.



Of the 30 convicted burglars surveyed 70% blamed householders for making their homes an easy target by not taking sufficient security measures.

Of the burglars asked, 60% said they chose homes, which appeared to be empty, 33% looked for houses with no security measures and 37% try to find targets in darkness.

In view of the darker evenings, it is important to consider your security and ensure that your property is not in darkness when you go out. Ensure that you leave a light on and pull the curtains, use a timer or ask a neighbour to do the lights and the curtains for you. Alarms and outside sensor lights are good deterrents. It is important, even in the daytime, to make your house look as though you are in. Leave a radio on, a newspaper open on the table or even an iron and ironing board out.

A telephone fraud is currently in operation which applies to home/or work telephones - landlines and mobiles. If you receive one of these calls, you will hear a recorded message congratulating you on winning an all expenses trip to an exotic location. You will then be asked to press 9 to hear further details. If you press 9 you will be connected to a premium rate line that costs approximately £ 20 per minute. Even if you disconnect immediately, it will remain connected for a minimum of 5 minutes, costing around £ 100. The final part of the call involves you being asked to key your postcode and house number. Do hang up before the message prompts you to press 9: even safer is to HANG UP on any unsolicited "free offer" call. DO NOT DIAL 9 (or 9 0# or 09#) for ANYONE! There is another scam operating on Mobile Phones. A missed call comes up(continued next page)

DIARY

FEBRUARY

26th Celebration of Bas Pease

MARCH

14th Parish Council Meeting

19th Lambing at Folly Farm

Deadline for the next publication is 5pm on Wednesday 23rd February

Contact details:

Andrea Cook
Clock Cottage
☎ 281224

Email: andreacooklimited@msn.com

Lynne Smith
Ridgeways
☎ 281163

Email: lynesmith@palgo.u-net.com

The number is 0709 020 3840. The last four numbers may vary but certainly the first four numbers remain the same. If you call this number back, you will be charged £ 50 per minute. Beware, do not call back numbers beginning with 0709!

NEW VILLAGER

Alison & Nigel are pleased to announce the arrival of another Ryan to West Ilsley! Sophie Ryan was born on the 20th November 2004. Thank you to everyone for their kind wishes.

AFTERSCHOOL SERVICE

ALL SAINTS CHURCH Liz Dray

At the January service our topic was "Christingle" and the children learnt the significance of Christingle oranges and each made an orange to take home.

The next service will take place on Thursday 10th February in the church at 4pm on the topic of "Lent" and we look forward to seeing you there.

In March, thanks to David and Jane Carlisle, we will be able to do a "lambing" visit on Thursday 10 March. We will walk up to Folly Farm as in previous years and more details will follow next month.

Finally, we are holding an Easter activity morning in the village hall on Wednesday 6 April where the children will be undertaking some craft activities based around the story of Easter. Again, more details to follow.

The Afterschool 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 or Liz Dray on 01488 638749.

CRIME REPORT

Our thanks to PC Andrew Buckingham who emails us with his NWN article, from which we extract items which may be valuable in keeping villagers alert to what's going on in the area:

Last Sunday night (23rd) a quantity of diesel was stolen from a farm on the north of the sector. Thieves used 'bolt croppers' to gain access to the pump. If you have diesel in your yard please be aware and report anything suspicious.

MS. TOFFEELEES

Only a quick bit of Tittle-tattle. But, Hey! What are they doing with 'The Orchard'?. It's supposed to be there for ten years before they build on it but now looks like a fall-out zone for Chenobyl. I've not seen flatter pancakes!

Two births to celebrate over the Christmas period (not that I was here...great sun, weather and wine in Australia, thank you for asking!). Congratulations to Paulina and her partner on the birth of their first-born, Colin. He looked very comfortable in the pub the

other day, I thought he might like his first pint of Guinness!

Also, congratulations to Anna and Ed on the birth of their son, Jonty (a name I have a great weakness for). He joins the clan, Casper and J.J., as their third in line to the throne for the Sugden family.

UNDER 5s

It seems ages ago since the Toddler Christmas Party took place and this year we decided to keep it to the Under threes only, so although the older children were not around, they all managed to have a good time especially making their own Christmas decorations using dough, paint and glitter. There was great excitement when Santa paid a visit although some of the children thought he was a bit scary - that won't always be the case!!

The Panto trip to 'Jack & The Beanstalk' at the Corn Exchange was a great success with the Playgroup children although it was a shame that the 'take-up' was not larger. We only had one 'casualty' who didn't like the thunder and lightening every time the 'baddie' came on. None the less, we were impressed and pleased that the children sat still for nearly 3 hours!

Some of the Mums got together for a Christmas Night out at the Stag at Leckhampstead which was well worth the trip as the food was brilliant especially the White Chocolate and Lime Tart. Thanks to Sarah for organizing the evening.

We started the new term at Playgroup welcoming our new Playgroup Supervisor, Cindy Weight. Cindy is NNEB trained and has 3 children of her own. She spent some sessions last term at Playgroup getting to know the children and experiencing what goes on. She and Hayley have lots of fun ideas for the months ahead and have decided to start the Spring term with the theme of 'Old, New & Growing'. They are hoping to get one of the Grandparents in to talk about their childhood and will also be incorporating Nursery Rhymes, Books, role play and cooking which will keep the children focused. They will also be covering Pancake and Mothers Day.

We are holding a Virgin Vie Skincare evening on Thursday 24th February at the Village Hall at 8pm. Just the thing for getting some ideas with 'Mothers Day' coming up and you don't have to belong to Under Fives to come along. It's a good excuse to get together and have a glass of wine at the same time. Should be a good evening with nibbles and wine included in the ticket price of £2.50 in advance, £3 at the door. Posters will be appearing in the village soon with a percentage of sales going to the Under Fives. Tickets available from Toddlers on Wednesday mornings or from Ali at 3 Church Side, East Ilsley (281567).

We are planning to visit 'Thomas the Tank Engine' at Didcot on Friday March 11th. Some of the other engines will be there along with the 'Fat Controller' and story readings are also included in the price. Group rate is £6.50 (50p going to Under Fives). If you would like to attend please book your ticket from Sarah at

Toddlers with payment or for further details ring her on 281700.

CALOR VILLAGE OF THE YEAR 2005

The Community Council for Berkshire (CCB) is, once again, organising the Calor Village of the Year competition for Berkshire. This is open to villages with a population of under 5,000 throughout the county. It aims to recognise well balanced and vibrant rural communities which are active in working together for the benefit of the village. For 2005, Defra (Dept. for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) is supporting the competition and its aim is to encourage the inclusion of all groups and individuals into the fabric of rural life.

The prize money has been increased and so there will be a first prize of £750, with £100 for the runner up and £100 for the best village in the IT category. The entry form has been simplified and shortened since last year. The closing date for entries is 20 May and judging will take place in the summer.

For further information and an entry form, contact Wendy Dacey, CCB, 55 Russell Street, Reading RG1 7XG, tel: 0118 9612000 or email: wendy.dacey@ccberks.org.uk

PANG & KENNET VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE PROJECTS - FRIENDS DIARY

Sun 6th February Hedge planting Bucklebury

Help Karen Davies restore a hedge next to the river Pang. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10.00am or phone the Project office for details of meeting on site.

Fri/Sat 11th & 12th February 10am Hedge laying Training course Turnpike

Come and learn the traditional skill of hedgelaying at the Riverside Meadow, Newbury. A trainer will be on hand to help develop and improve your hedgelaying skills. Meet at Riverside Meadow, next to Riverside Community Centre SU485677. Booking is required for this event through the Project office either £10 per day or £5 per day for concessions.

Sat 12th February BBQ & Heathland Management Bucklebury Common

Please bring own food for BBQ. For all tasks meet at Angel's Corner, by the Scout Hut on Bucklebury Common (Grid ref. SU 550688) at 10.00 am Contact Tim Culley for more details on 0118 9714 830.

Fri 18th Feb 'Pang Valley Skittles Championship' 7.30pm - 11.00pm Upper Bucklebury

Join the volunteer group for the annual 'Pang Valley Skittles Championship'. Cost £8 per person. Tickets include a buffet meal (please bring own drink and glasses)- available from Project Office numbers are strictly limited so please book early. Meet at Upper Bucklebury Memorial Hall (SU 545 684) for 7.30pm.

Sat 19th February Hedge planting Hosehill LNR Theale

Join the Ranger and Theale Area Bird Conservation Group to plant a hedge along a path at this tranquil wildlife reserve. Meet at the entrance opposite the Fox & Hounds Pub at 9.00am Grid ref: SU650697

Sun 20th February Downs with Barrows 1.00pm Lambourn

Lambourn Seven Barrows is an internationally important site for both archaeology and botany. Join Dick and Jill Greenaway for a 3.5-mile (5.5km) walk across open down land and along green lanes to look at the barrows and the surrounding downland. Meet at the Nature Reserve car park (SU 329 828) at 1.00pm. Back soon after 3.00pm. Dogs on leads only please. Please phone to book your place.

Tues 22nd February Footpath Work Bucklebury

Help 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 Dennis Gower at the Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm * at 10.00 am

Sun 27th February Hedge Restoration Holt Lodge Farm

Come and help Karen Davies restore hedgerows in the beautiful North Wessex Downs AONB and experience the hospitality of Holt Lodge Farm. We will be coppicing and planting to help regenerate an overgrown hedge. Meet at Kintbury train station. Grid Ref: SU386672 at 9.30am.

Editors' note: If you find the Pang & Kennet diary useful/interesting, please let us know, otherwise we may discontinue

The Corn Exchange, Newbury
presents

**THE MAYOR'S
TSUNAMI
APPEAL CONCERT**

Watership Brass / Newbury Town Band
musical director: M. Pickon

and

Basingstoke Male Voice Choir
musical director: D. Cgborn

Compere: C. E. De Souza
artistic director: Southern Symphonia

Sunday 27th February 2005

@ 3pm

TICKETS £10 EACH

now available at The Corn Exchange box office