

West Ilsley News

February 2004

The "hot" news this month is that we have a new Parish Council composed of village residents! Many thanks to Paul and Lynne Smith and Ron Cook who are the new councillors for West Ilsley - details on the noticeboards.

The Editors

WEST ILSLEY SUMMER FETE

11th JULY 2004

Yes, planning is due to begin for this very popular annual event. We welcome newcomers (or those wanting to return!) who wish to participate in this fun day for all the family. All proceeds go to local charities. Please come along to our first planning meeting this year and see how you would like to be involved. The planning is as much fun as the day itself and is a great way to make new friends.

February meeting

Location April Cottage, Fir Tree Paddock

Date & Time: Tuesday 17th February - 8pm

Contact: Ron or June Cook - telephone: 281565

E-Mail ron1.june2@virgin.net

We look forward to seeing you.

Dell Monitor

Free to a good home

Ring 01635 281600

ALL SAINTS

WEST ILSLEY

Ian Fewtrell-Smith

Church Services for February:

1st February All Age Service with 11.00 am
baptism

8th February Holy Communion 8.00 am

15th February Family Communion 9.30 am

WINTER WARMER – 7TH FEBRUARY 2004

If you haven't got your ticket, WHY NOT!?!? Please contact Tony or Jo Scriven (281405) so that numbers can be finalised. Remember how good it was last year?

COMPTON PLAYERS

Lofty the Dwarf is really down on his luck - until a chance encounter sets him back on the road to gainful employment - via the Town Hall, Jail and the Darkest Jungle! Featuring dashing heroes, dastardly villains, a dubious dame and her dishy daughter..... not forgetting a talking Moose!

Compton Players are proud to present their latest all-new Pantomime "The Eighth Dwarf". The Players' previous pantos have all been a sell-out, so don't miss your chance! Get your tickets while they're hot. The show is suitable for both young and old, so drag your granny out of the cupboard and pull uncle out from under the bed - you'll all have lots of fun.

The **Eighth Dwarf** will be performed in the Coronation Hall, Burrell Road, Compton from Wednesday 4th to Saturday 7th February 2004 - with a matinee on Saturday. Tickets will be on sale from 7th January 2004 - please call the Box Office for further details: 07884 436216

PRAM SERVICE AND AFTERSCHOOL SERVICE, ALL SAINTS CHURCH

The theme for the February services will be "Love your neighbour" and the dates will be:

Monday 9 February 11am Pram Service

Thursday 12 February 4pm Afterschool Service

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.

Our normal services for March and April are being replaced by the following activities.

On Thursday 18 March, by kind agreement of David and Jane Carlisle, we have the opportunity to visit the lambing at Folly Farm in West Ilsley. We will be meeting at Alison Banks' house at 4pm (Tel: 281705) and walking through the fields up to the farm. Old clothing and wellies recommended!

We will be holding an Easter activity morning on Wednesday 7 April from 10.15 – 12.30 in the village hall in West Ilsley. The children will enjoy a fun morning of activities to help them follow the story of Easter and we ask that they have an accompanying adult. Drinks will be provided but please bring a packed lunch to round off the morning.

If you would like more information please contact Denise Brown on 01635 281825, Antonia Cretney on 01635 248925 or Liz Dray on 01488 638749.

AU REVOIR AND HELLO

The Gore family (David, Jo, Alex and Victoria), jetted off for sunnier climes on Friday 16 January. We wish them well during their stay in Sydney and look forward to receiving an update on life down under in due course. We welcome the new residents at The Barracks - Matthew and Amanda Brown and their children Barney and Hector.

MISS TOFFELLEES

Before another month goes by and I have not written any column news I have made myself partake in Bum-Sitty Time (BST henceforth). It is thus I turn to the computer and type (nowadays preferring the expression 'put pen to paper' to the activity of same!).

The new shelter which has been erected over the newspaper box is splendid both to look at and in function. I believe Peter Barrett was ably aided and abetted by one of our newer residents in the village (I beg your pardon for not knowing your name). My newspaper is much the better for being dry and no longer has pride of place on the Aga. Talking of moisture, most residents seem to prefer staying dry in their cars when it's cats & dogs weather, judging by the number of people who drive to collect their newspaper.

I am sorry that the Sugden family has left West Ilsley. They will be missed hugely for the contribution they made to village and family life here. I don't think Toni ever stopped doing anything, except when she was actually asleep and I don't believe that she took many hours of shut-eye. She was ALWAYS cheerful and always busy. I'm sure I should miss him for other things, but I do miss Jonathan for delivering my newspaper. The cart track is not the same without the silhouette of Harry and Paul on it, but I believe they feature in the documentary on Mick Channon to be shown on Channel 4 sometime soon. Don't miss it as it is both informative, most amusing and entertaining - Mick is heard threatening (and expletive amongst other things!) to put a saddle on the 12.2hh Great Dane!! (I had similar thoughts myself when I first saw Harry, but decided he didn't have enough bone for me). West Ilsley's loss is Ascot's gain: I hope that the family are very happy in their new home. They are the sort of people who will take their happiness with them wherever they go.

Have you observed how many people continue to make telephone calls on their mobiles without using handsfree? I actually have not seen this in towns as I have whilst driving around the country lanes. I guess there are just not that many policeman to stop you on the 'B' and unclassified roads.

I did notice a Thames Valley traffic police car sitting on the slip road onto the A34 going north about a month ago. It was a Saturday morning (08.30) and so, not much traffic about. The road conditions were good (no fog, rain, blinding sun or other weather hazards) and I cannot imagine (well, I can!!) why he was there closely monitoring the speed of the passing vehicles, camera held in his hand. He was visible only in one's rear view mirror, or, if you were fortunate enough, as you joined the A34 from the slip road. Not that anyone should have been exceeding the speed limit, but I can only think that anyone going faster than 70mph on the very clear road was a sitting duck for his camera. It seems such a shame that so many dangerous manoeuvres are missed (people sitting on each other's bumpers when travelling at high speed, particularly at peak times, for instance).

DOWNLAND VOLUNTEER GROUP

We were shocked and saddened by the sudden death of our Chairman, Mary Dodd, recently. The Committee offers its sincere sympathy to Mary's

family, with heartfelt thanks for all the hours of her time devoted to the Group's work.

Mary and her late husband, Frank, became leading lights within the Group early in its history. Frank served as Chairman for several years and both worked tirelessly to encourage the growth of the Group, including computerisation of the office.

To ensure the maintenance of this growth, the Committee needs to recruit some more volunteers, both as car owner/drivers and to help man the office in Compton, which is open from 10.00 a.m. to mid-day, Monday to Friday. Any lady or gentleman living in the Downland area, who would like to devote a few "flexible" hours to this very rewarding charity, is invited initially to telephone the DVG office on 01635 578394 with their basic details. A mileage allowance towards expenses is paid to drivers.

WELCOME

We are pleased on 17th January to welcome Dries (pronounced "Dreese" - he's originally from South Africa) and Amanda Hagen, and their 19-month old daughter Mae, to West Ilsley. They have moved into Manor Farm Barn, formerly the haunt of your co-Editor, and we very much hope they enjoy living in the Village.

Pashminas - Direct from Nepal

70% Cashmere / 30% Silk

Scarf 12" x 60" £15

Shawl 28" x 80" £30

Wrap 36" x 80" £45

Huge choice of colours

Please contact Jill Wijek on 281665

1 IN 5 PEOPLE ARE BULLIED AT WORK

The Andrea Adams Trust is the only UK Charity dedicated to tackling Workplace Bullying. As a non-political, non-profit making charity they are working to reduce the incidences of bullying in the workplace through advice lines, publications, services and specialist consultancy services and training programmes.

The major foundation of the Trust is the helpline which is operational between the hours of 10.00 and 16.00 Monday to Friday. This is a totally confidential information and support service which is free apart from the cost of a telephone call. Currently the helpline takes on average around 120 calls per week from people who need specific expert advice, but most importantly, people who need someone to believe, to understand, to listen and help.

The Andrea Adams Trust Helpline
01273 704 900

www.andreadamstrust.org

REGARDING OUR "WANDERING MINSTREL"

I think the time has come to write a short letter to introduce our young cat to those villagers who have not yet met him.

His name is Topsy, he is a young neutered tabby with white paws, bib and tip of his tail (hence the name), he is ungrateful, totally disloyal, has no road sense whatsoever, and has a seriously useless sense of direction (which must account for the fact that he keeps disappearing for days at a time having wandered to the other end of the village and then been incapable of finding his way home!)

For the record, he lives with Sara. Kevin, Robbie, Alex and Sef at Number 29 (on the junction with Bury Lane) and has a nice warm Rayburn, plenty of food and a choice of snuggly beds and children to make a fuss of him, and is not the starved, abandoned, unloved cat he makes out to be!

Having just despatched Robbie to Mr Pease's house to fetch said errant cat home for the umpteenth time, I

would like to thank all those people who have kindly rung us to report his whereabouts on various occasions, and- for those of you who will (undoubtedly) meet him in the future', our number is 281356 - if you write it down now, it will save you having to take his collar off"!

Many thanks. Sara, Kevin & boys

WEST BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Newbury and Sandford hospitals will be moving at the end of February. The new address will be:

West Berkshire community Hospital

Benham Hill

London Road

Thatcham, Berks RG18 3AS

01635 273300.

The main entrance from Newbury will be in the A4 at Benham Hill, and from all other directions via Turnpike Road.

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 24th 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.

Contact details:

Andrea Cook

Clock Cottage

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South Stanmore Barn

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Extracts from the Minutes of West Ilsley Parish Council

Monday 12th January, 2004 at 6.30p.m.

Present: N.Carter (Chairman), A.Day, D.Holling, L.Gibson (Clerk), and 7 members of the public.

Matters Arising

Mrs Banks had written to say that the planting of a memorial tree in memory of her husband Eric Banks had now been completed. Royal Mail Post Boxes. No further action, the clerk has written to The Royal Mail asking for an update. Speeding. Nick Carter reported that there are no plans to introduce traffic calming measures into the village in the foreseeable future. Parish Council Vacancies. The deadline for nominations is Friday the 16th January, and the election date 12th February.

The Future of West Ilsley Parish Council

The Parishes of Catmore and Farnborough had both replied negatively to the suggestion of a grouping order, East Ilsley will be discussing their position at their next P.C. Meeting (12th January). The matter is therefore deferred to the next Parish Council meeting on March 8th.

Parish Precept 2004/2005

The Parish Council set a precept of £2184.. The motion was proposed by Nick Carter and seconded by Andy Day. All in favour. The joint editor of the W.I.News explained that the amount set aside for supporting the production of the paper did not cover the full cost and should others take over the production in the future it is possible that extra financial help may be required. On behalf of the Church, Ian Fewtrell-Smith explained that in the next few years the church would need major roof works. Clerk to send a copy of grant aid criteria and application form.

Planning Applications

No. 03/02428 34, Church Way. Construction of a new 3 bedroom house in the garden. The Parish Council chose to make no comment given that the Parish Council is made up of officers of West Berkshire Council.

Open Forum

Further discussion ensued regarding the future of the Parish Council, to date there had been no candidates coming forward. All members promised help and support to any parishioners that may be considering the position or would like to know more. The Chairman explained that should the current situation remain, meetings would probably be reduced to three per year.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.04p.m.

Date of Next Meeting – Monday 8th March, 2004