

# ILTON TALKING February 2012

Provided by Ilton Parish Council

## St Peter's Church

We are going to elect our committee for the next year  
on

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

Everybody is welcome to come and air your views and, if you are on the Church Electoral roll, to vote for next year's team.

If you wish to be entered onto the Church Electoral roll please contact Chris Lock on 53142 for an application form.

The meeting starts at 7:30pm in the Church  
Tea/Coffee and biscuits will be served.

## Coffee Pot

Do please come along to Merryfield Hall for tea, coffee and biscuits and have a friendly chat with old and new friends. Next dates are:-

**Tues 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> Feb, 6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, April**

For more information please contact Mrs Blasdale on 53907.

## SPRING 2012 SUNDAY BREAKFASTS

will be on

**4th MARCH and 15th APRIL**

Hilary and the team will be serving Ilton's famous '**Full English**' breakfast from 9am.

Please **book in advance** by phoning **Hilary on 53531** and make sure that she is told of any special dietary needs at the time.

Unfortunately, increasing costs mean a price increase to **£4.50 (£3.00 for children)** for the breakfast and cheerful service you know and love.

All proceeds are for **Merryfield Hall** funds.

## Jubilee Celebrations

Most of you, by now, will have filled out your forms for the jubilee celebrations. Thank you to all those who have said they'll help - I'll no doubt be in touch!!

Most other villages have decided to fund raise for their projects but we have taken the decision not to, but just to charge a minimum amount, if at all, for each event.

To fit everything in we have decided to not just celebrate over the 'official' weekend but all year!! And thanks to the parish council's help this is possible.

Whilst I managed to catch most of you with the questionnaires there are still some of you that I missed. If you would like to be a part of the celebrations and possibly, in some instances receive a personal invitation, (particularly children!), please just ring me with your address to confirm your intention to attend - Jacqueline on 54164.

Below is a list of provisionally planned events, (Some details are in this issue of Ilton Talking and others will be confirmed nearer the time,) and as you can see most organisations are taking part so please join us at sometime during the year - we'd love to see you.

## Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

**March (16th)** - Quiz Night with Cheese/Biscuits Supper (St Peters)

**April (14th)** - Spring Chocolate Treasure Hunt (St Peters)

**June (2nd)** - Sat - Flower Festival (St Peters)/Fete (ALL)

**(3rd)** - Sun - Flower Festival/Village Treasure Hunt (St Peters)

**(4th)** - Mon - Street Parties (CLC)/BBQ - Sporting Tournament (Cricket Club)

**(5th)** - Tues = High Tea (TTC)

**TBC** - Something Special! (Wyndham Arms)

**September** - Concert? (St Peters)

- Soup & Pudding Lunch (Merryfield Hall)

**October** - History Lunch (TTC)

## **St Peters Jubilee Spring Chocolate Treasure Hunt!**

(This event has been supported by the Parish Council)

**Saturday April 14th**

**At**

**St Peters Church**

**10am - 12 noon**

As most of you know our church isn't ideal for fund raising/social events and remains closed most of the time because of a very bad spell of vandalism. There is no water supply, the heating system is virtually non existent, there is no toilet, we are land locked and there is not much "space" for tables, chairs, stalls, exhibitions etc. *However*, as most of you know we are trying to change all of this with a regeneration project and, up until now, we have ignored using the church because of the difficulties associated with doing so. BUT we are going to try to change all of that, and, yes, it will still be difficult, but we shall overcome them as best we can! Our church has a lot of history attached to it and has an air of peace and tranquillity once inside, so we hope you can join us on the events that we shall be organising during the year and we look forward to meeting you.

So what's going on?.....

For the children - there will be 5 named teddies hidden around the church (and churchyard if it's warm enough). See if you can find the teddies names and when you've got all 5 take your answers to a given location to receive your chocolate prize. At 11.15 we'll all sit down and play pass the parcel and see what surprises we can unwrap!

For the adults - join us for a cup of tea/coffee and a piece of cake, have a go at our adults treasure hunt in the church, enter our small raffle, browse through a selection of our spring plants but most of all, come up to the church, relax and enjoy!

Entry fee for above treasure hunts - 50p

(HELP! - if you have any plants/seedlings that you can spare for our stall please would you ring Dinah on 54230, thank you.)

## **Christmas Cards & Light A Candle**

Thank you to all of you for supporting the Christmas cards and candles in December. It was nice to see the church so full and I thought the candles looked great at the back on the altar - a fitting way to remember those we've loved and also to celebrate our families today.

# Merryfield Pre-School at Ilton

Merryfield Pre-School is situated within the grounds of St Mary & St Peter's School, Copse Lane, Ilton. We are open Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 1.00pm.

We Accept Nursery Grant funding and are registered with Ofsted.

To see our latest report, please visit the Ofsted website at [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk).

For more information please contact –

Emma Adams (Supervisor\_ 01460 53915 or Sharon Bell (Chairperson) – 01460 54723.

## MERRYFIELD HALL 100 CLUB 2011/12

### RECENT PRIZE WINNERS

#### December 2011

1st	£20	Ticket 39	Serena Lonton
2nd	£15	Ticket 62	Robert Bragg
3rd	£10	Ticket 18	Natalie Smith
4th	£5	Ticket 27	Susan Healey-Fenton

#### January 2012

1st	£20	Ticket 145	Peter Hutchings
2nd	£15	Ticket 40	Joan Blasdale
3rd	£10	Ticket 85	Jenny Morris
4th	£5	Ticket 99	Mr & Mrs Gannon

The Draw is normally carried out at Friendship Club meetings

**Please Note: the February 2012 Draw will be the last one for your current subscription.**

### Merryfield 100 Club, Subscription Reminder

This is to remind all members of the 100 Club that **your current subscription ends** with the February draw, planned to take place at the Friendship Club meeting on 13th February.

Remember, for £1 per month (£12 for the year) you will have your own lucky number which will be entered into a monthly draw from March 2012 until February 2013 when you could win one of the following cash prizes: 1st - £20, 2nd - £15, 3rd - £10 and 4th - £5.

Existing members will probably be visited to invite renewal of your membership in time for the March draw, but it would be a great help if you, or any new members, could contact Hilary / Tony Miller (Dystlegh, Rod Lane) or Mark Bennett (3 Cottage Corner) with £12 for your 2012-3 subscription. Cheques payable to Merryfield Hall, please.

## **Ilton Youth Club**

We run on Monday evenings between 7 and 9pm in term time at Ilton Village Hall. We provide games, sports, crafts and activities for children aged between 8 and 16 years. We also run a tuck shop for members. The cost per child is £2.50 (siblings £1.50). Under 8's are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. All children are to be registered. The first session is free to new members. So come along and meet with friends and see what's on offer! Volunteers are very welcome and get a discount.

For more information contact Kim on 55562 or June on 57164.

## **A Right Royal Quiz**

(This event has been supported by the Parish Council)

Friday March 16th

At

Merryfield Hall, 7.30pm

Join us in the village hall for a quiz with a royal theme. Teams of four are invited to enter, at a cost of £1.00 per person. (It would be great to see a team entered from each lane/close/road etc!) We'll kick off the evening with 3 rounds of questions, take a break and enjoy a cheese & biscuits with tea or coffee supper, and then finish off with another couple of rounds. There will be a prize for the winning team.

(The village hall is not licensed but please feel to bring a bottle of wine etc if you'd like)

For catering purposes please let us know if you are coming.

Any proceeds will go towards Church funds

## **Church & Churchyard Tidy Up**

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March 10am-12pm**

We have endeavoured over the last few years to 'tidy' up the appearance of both the church and churchyard - both of which are beginning to look much better now. Just like our homes & gardens though, the area needs constant maintenance, so we would like to keep this going (it's getting easier!!). The churchyard needs a big bonfire (!! ) and some strimming work whilst the church needs some hoovering, dusting and general cleaning. We will start at 10am and be there for 1½ - 2 hours max and refreshments will be provided. (If you can only spare an hour though we'd still love to see you - every bit helps as they say!)

Please help us if you can.

We would appreciate a call to let us know if you can help - for catering - so please call Jacqueline on 54164 or Dinah on 54230. Thank you.

## St Peters Wedding Package

Thought you couldn't afford to get married? - Maybe we can help! To celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee we are offering a "Diamond" wedding package! (This year only.) A package is based on a wedding for 60 persons.

Each package comes with the following; church = banns/certificate, verger, heating, marriage service/certificate. Merryfield Hall = hire of hall & kitchen (for a maximum of 6 hours).

Catering = a choice of 3 menus, labour, tablecloths, crockery & cutlery, glasses for wine.

The package does not include; church bells, organist, flowers, church/hall/table decorations or wine.

The 3 packages are

1 - afternoon high tea - package price - £800

2 - cold meat salad (3 courses) - £1,000

3 - finger buffet with dessert - £1,000

If you would like any more information please call Jacqueline on 01460 - 54164.

## Ilton Explorers

Wednesdays at 1.30pm until 3.30pm.

Play and have fun with your Ilton Explorers at the Merryfield hall every Wednesday and do something different each Wednesday of the month.

Suitable ages 0-5 years.

Further details from the Levels Children Centre 01458259146.

# Mobile Library

Due to cuts in services provided by Somerset County Council the following changes will take place to the mobile library service

From 24<sup>th</sup> August Visits will be on a Wednesday at the following locations and will be every 4 weeks.

2.10 - 2.30 -----School

2.35 - 2.40 ----- Penny's Mead

2.45 - 2.55 -----Merryfield Lane

<b>Visits on Wednesdays - every 4 weeks 2011</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2012</b>
	14 Dec	4 April	25 July	14 Nov
	11 Jan	2 May	22 Aug	12 Dec
	8 Feb	30 May	19 Sept	
	7 March	27 June	17 Oct	

For further details ring 0845 3459177

## Hedgerows and Grass verges

Whilst the local authority cut the hedgerows and verges along the roads only a few times each year, this is a reminder that householders do have a responsibility to ensure that the hedges and verges of their own properties do not cause an obstruction to the pavements footpaths or the highway.

It also helps to make the village look more tidy and pleasant.

If you feel that the highways has missed an area they are responsible for you can contact them on  
**0845 345 9155**

## Christmas Dinner 2011

Following the successful Christmas Dinner held in December a number of people have contacted "Ilton Talking" to ask us to pass on their thanks to the organisers for a wonderful afternoon.

Ken Heathman would also wish to say a big thank you for everyone who work so hard to make it such an enjoyable event.

## New Footpath For Ilton

As part of an investment in safety improvements throughout Somerset. Somerset County Council are going to complete the long awaited footpath from the Village Green to Miniatures Day Nursery. This will incorporate an element of traffic calming to reduce the speed of vehicles entering the village and improving the safety for all road users. This is as result of a long campaign to complete the footpath by the Parish Council and members of the community. This has been supported by our County Councillor Derek Nelson and will help all members of the community who have to use this section of road. It is hoped the work will begin very shortly.



## **NEWS from PC Toni Lines**

### **DARK NIGHTS**

“As the dark nights draw in criminals and opportunist thieves think there is less chance of being caught so we are asking residents to be vigilant and look out for one another. By giving a little extra thought to security and adopting simple routines, householders can secure their property and help us make life difficult for offenders.”

Top Tips for beating the burglars:

- Don't give thieves a window of opportunity - Fit and use good quality locks on doors and windows and ensure they are closed, even when you are inside.
- Keep valuables and keys in a safe place, out of sight and at a distance away from windows and doors where they can be snatched. (Opportunist thieves take advantage of unlocked door's and can very quickly step inside and snatch items such as handbags, purses and laptops.)
- Make your home appear occupied when out or away by using timer switches or leaving a light on.
- Consider installing outside security lighting and a burglar alarm.
- Don't open your door to unexpected callers – check their identity first using a door viewer or a door chain. Always check the identity of business callers as identification cards will always be carried and readily offered. If in doubt, keep them out. Genuine callers will always provide a contact number for their head office in order for you to check out the nature of their work.
- Mark your valuables with your postcode – speak to your Neighbourhood Policing Team about how to get Smartwater to protect your valuables.
- Lock away ladders, garden tools and other items that burglars could use.
- Remember – if you can get into your home without your keys – so could a burglar.
- Remove all property from your vehicle when you leave it unattended. Keep your car in a secure garage or on the driveway of your home. If you park in the street make sure it is locked and in a well lit area.

Neighbourhood Policing Teams are available to give individual crime prevention advice for local residents and businesses and listen to their concerns.

## **Local Councillors**

Sue Steele is your District Councillor. She can be contacted on 01460281345, or via her website [www.susansteele.co.uk](http://www.susansteele.co.uk)

Your County Councillor is Derek Nelson. He can be contacted on 01458253864

## **Parish Council**

The Parish Council meets every month. An opportunity is usually made available for Parishioners questions between 7.30pm and 8.00pm. This is to enable members of the community to raise any issues that may concern them. The clerk is Ms Sue Morley who can be contacted on 01460-53378. See notice board for dates of meetings.

## **Merryfield Hall Bookings**

The Merryfield Hall can be booked for various functions.

If you would like to hire the hall please contact , Jacqueline on 54164 for further details.

## **South Somerset District Council**

Area North Office-  
The Council Offices, Brympton Way,  
Yeovil Somerset  
BA20 2HT.  
Telephone **01935 462462.**

## **Welcome**

Welcome to the February 2012 issue of Ilton Talking.

If you have any information you would like to share with the rest of the Parish such as events or fundraising activities, please pass it to me and I will include it in the next issue which is due to be published May 2012. You can send it by e-mail- [iltontalking@btinternet.com](mailto:iltontalking@btinternet.com) or by telephone-53382.

## **St Peter's Church**

### **Service Times**

**1st Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**2nd Sunday 11.00am Parish Praise,(This is led by members of the congregation - no Communion)**

**3rd Sunday 09.30am Family Communion (Common Worship)**

**4th Sunday 11.15am Family Service (No Communion).**

**We look forward to seeing you at some or all of our services.  
Everyone is welcome.**

Andrew.The Revd Dr Andrew Tatham  
The Rectory, Broadway  
ILMINSTER, TA19 9RE  
01460 52559

## **FRIENDSHIP CLUB PROGRAMME**

### Programme of events 2012

9 January	A Talk on Stained Glass by Richard Raynsford
13 February	AGM followed by a talk on horse riding for the disabled by Pat Matravers
12 March	Lunch at the Ashill pub
16 April	A Talk on Woollen Mills in the West
14 May	An outing to Stourhead
11 June	Cream Teas
9 July	Pets on Parade a talk by M Welshman, a retired vet
13 August	A Talk on Canal Boats by Clem and Val Pryor
10 September	<i>To be arranged</i>
8 October	A Talk on Cheeses
12 November	Lunch at the Ashill pub
10 December	Christmas Buffet Lunch at Merryfield Hall at 12.30pm

## **Potholes**

As many of you are aware there has been an increase in the number of Potholes that have appeared as a result of the recent bad winters. Many of these have been reported and repaired, but a number have yet to be fixed. A circle of paint is normally an indication that the County Council are aware and are dealing with it.

If you are concerned that there are potholes that are not being repaired then the County council is asking for everyone to help identify them by reporting there location by logging on to [www.somerset.gov.uk](http://www.somerset.gov.uk) or by ringing 0845-3459155.

## **DOG MESS**

There have been a large number of complaints about the amount of dog mess around the village that appears to be getting worse. This also includes reports of bags of dog mess being thrown into trees and hedges. Although the majority of dog owners are behaving responsibly by bagging and binning, the mess on the pavements indicate that there are some who are not.

There are a number of dog bins around the village which are emptied regularly by the council. These can be found near Spurwells, Merryfield lane, Rod lane and near the cemetery.

The Councils dog warden has been contacted about the problem and has put up signs around the village to remind dog owners of their responsibility. Extra patrols will also be made to monitor the situation.

The Council employ dog wardens who carry out a range of duties to prevent and reduce dog fouling in public areas. These duties include: the routine patrols of parks and open spaces, fixed penalty notices, verbal warning or possible prosecution of dog owners who do not pick up faeces after their dogs.

Failure to clean up after your dog is a criminal offence. Anyone observed by the dog warden failing to clear up after their dog will be served with a fixed penalty notice or reported for a potential prosecution. If you are aware of specific individuals allowing their dog(s) to foul, please report them to the dog warden by calling 01935 462462.

## **Merryfield Hall New Procedures & Hiring Rates**

Over the last five years the village hall committee have managed to keep the hall hiring rates at the same level. However, due to increased energy rates, extra facilities in the kitchen etc we are now having to revise our charges and booking procedures.

The new hiring rates are as follows:

**£5.00 per hour for Ilton residents (rate remains unchanged)**

**£6.00 per hour for non-Ilton residents (rate remains unchanged)**

**£1.00 per hour if you use the kitchen - up to a maximum of £5.00 per booking (NEW)**

The new booking procedures are as follows:

**Payment for the hall must be made on collection of keys**

**A hiring agreement will be issued on collection of keys which must be signed by both parties**

It has now become necessary to introduce a £20.00 deposit - cheque or cash - with every booking and provided that the hall is left clean, tidy and without damage will be returned to you within 3 working days. (We have no caretaker for the hall - and can't find anyone to volunteer to take this on - so the hall will be inspected at the committees earliest convenience)

Keys can be collected ½ hour before your hiring time and returned ½ hour after your hiring times. This is to allow you to set up before and clean up afterwards, if you need any more time than this you must build this into your hiring times.

Having said that we are introducing the new rates and procedures, we are simply bringing them in line with all other halls in our area, and, we think, that we have one of the better halls locally with one of the lowest hiring rates. The hiring rates include all heating, electricity, and use of all tables and chairs.

Our last request is that you leave the hall as you found it (wipe tables, sweep floor, wash up & wash down surfaces in the kitchen) as our hall is cleaned voluntarily - if we had to pay someone then the hiring rates would have to increase again so please help us to help you. Thank you.

These new hiring & booking procedures take effect from 1st November 2011

## **Snow Clearing**

Following the heavy snowfalls of the last couple of winters and concerns from some residents, the Parish Council is trying to secure extra bags of salt that can be spread on some of the more difficult hills and junctions in the village. We as a parish council do not have the finance or resources to be able to provide a full road clearing service in the village, however we are continuing to press the county council to do so. We have arranged with a contractor with a snowplough to help try and clear the village roads.

It is felt that as a priority, residents of the village could clear the paths outside and around their homes, and also those of residents who are unable to clear their own. Provided this is done responsibly it would improve safety for pedestrians. Guidelines about clearing snow are available from the County Council.

It is hoped that a team of volunteers could be formed in the village. Nick Watson has agreed to help co-ordinate this. If you would like to help, please contact Nick on 54597.



### **Remember**

When reporting a crime or an incident  
Please call the following numbers:

**101**

**In case of emergency 999**

**CRIME STOPPERS on 0800 555 111** - Your call cannot be trace and you will not be asked your name

### **Further ways of contacting the police in your area;**

By booking an appointment with your local neighbourhood team –**101**  
Calling in to a beat surgery – local details are on the ‘in your area’ pages of our website

**If you are deaf, deaf -blind, deafened, hard of hearing or speech impaired,**

Emergency text number: **80999**

Non-emergency text number: **81003**

Non-emergency Textphone: **18001** followed by **0845 456 7000** or **101**

For more information and for more advice on all the above and much more  
Please visit

**[www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk)**

## **Bus service in Ilton**

Whilst some of you may be aware that Somerset County Council are making huge cuts to public transport throughout Somerset, the effects on our service in Ilton are unknown as Ilton Talking goes to print. Due to the flexible nature of the Nippy bus service it is hoped that the service will not be affected too much. However it is understood that there may be changes to the buses run by “First” as they are looking to cut costs. The county council are looking at seeing if these services can be provided in a different way and we are still waiting for a response at this time.

## **The Nippy Bus Demand Responsive Service**

The N6 Nippylink is a flexible demand responsive bus service which links Martock and Ilminster with the rural Parishes and communities within the area.

Passengers can travel from any Village within the area of the service to either Martock or Ilminster simply by phoning the booking line on **01935 823888**. The N6 service seamlessly connects with the N9 Yeovil Service and the N10 Taunton Service, giving passengers numerous travel options throughout the day.

Full details of times and destinations are available from Nippy Bus on 01935 823888

## Donation to Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance

I am Bob Seward and I have lived in Ilton for about 20 years. On 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011 I reached the age of Ninety and my daughter Marilyn Shelley and my son Graham arranged a party for me in the Village Hall on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

On the invitations we said "no presents please" but donations to the Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance would be welcomed.

I am pleased to say that £600.00 was raised and sent to the charity. A very nice acknowledgement was received from the Air Ambulance

About 135 people attended my celebration including about 45 villagers.

Thank you to every one who donated to this worthwhile cause.

## The Shop Trial Run - Results

Firstly, may I thank all of you that both supported and volunteered in the trial run shop. Before I launch into any possibilities, these are the figures over the 3 weeks:

*Total Takings £954.91 (including £41.43 from the sale of donated goods and £48.50 from the raffle)*

*Gross Profit £180.60*

*Setting Up Fee £12.00 (originally loaned from the TTC club)*

*Hire of Hall £75.00*

*Nett Profit £93.60 (profits to go towards the jubilee celebrations)*

### **So.....how did it all go?!**

**Position of shop** - Whilst the room that the village hall let us use was just the right size for Ilton I do think the best possible position would be up on the main road through Ilton but, as we all know there is no-where for it to go anymore (we have exhausted the obvious possibilities of the pub/the old shop by the bus shelter and every other gap along there has been filled in!!). So we're left to look elsewhere in the village - the village hall committee have stated that they don't want a shop in the hall but both the cricket club and church have expressed an interest so it could still happen but both of these properties would need some building work done, probably involving grants, and so we are looking at least towards the end of the summer if it became a reality in either of these buildings.

**Financially speaking**..... Because we have now adjusted to modern living and the loss of our shop most of us now buy our groceries etc in the supermarkets and the shop would be used as a convenience rather than a 'must.' As you can see the figures aren't high, and given that the shop was manned for 47 hours a week, it certainly wouldn't pay a wage! I do, however, think it could be built up - maybe starting with a morning shop only opening from 8 - 12 noon every day (and possibly an hour between 3.30 - 4.30pm during school term time (the children were one of our best customers!!!) Volunteers would be needed and we would have to start off selling the basics only - bread, milk, newspapers, eggs, fruit & veg and sweets and with the date sensitive items, maybe on an order only basis. In terms of overheads, the hall hire of £25.00 was very generous and we would have to find somewhere like that for, at least, the first 2 years.

## The Shop Trial Run – Results (Cont)

**Profits** - For those of you that used the shop you will know that we kept the prices competitive - which is why profits are so low - but given that Tesco and Co-op are so close I don't think it would have been realistic to do anything else. We also incurred heavy losses in the first week on dairy products as I just didn't know what to order and whilst we took some good money on bread during the first week hardly anyone wanted any during the second week, and although they weren't so heavy, we incurred some more losses there. As I have previously said, maybe we would have to start off on an order only basis with date sensitive items.

**Socially speaking**..... From the experience it was very apparent that, more than a shop, there is a service that is both wanted and needed in our village. Villagers that like to keep in touch with the outside world want a paper every day and either have to pay to go into Ilminster every day or pay someone to deliver it, children like to excitedly file into a shop and ponder over all the treats that they might buy that day as well as inadvertently learning the value of money, some people rely on seeing family once a week/month to take them shopping and having a shop gives them the independence they still need rather than be having to rely on other people buying their groceries for them or having to go shopping at someone elses convenience, young mums run out of milk etc and can easily push baby up to a shop rather than having to put him/her in the car and drive into town. That covers the 'wanted' part and the reason that a service is needed is that during the three weeks we were open there were those villagers who came to the shop, mainly because they wanted something, but also because walking up to the hall, being inside and walking back home would be the only time they would see someone that day and possibly for the next 2 - 3 days - it gave villagers a reason to get out, whether to socialise, get some fresh air, walk somewhere instead of sitting indoors all day and, for me, that is just as important as the wanted section.

**Another alternative?** - is to provide a delivery service only, where someone can run a service from their home. Goods would have to be ordered and then delivered around the village for a set fee, but due to the nature of the goods wanted this would have to be before 10 - 10.30 every morning, seven days a week. Once again it would probably have to be driven by volunteers, at least to start with and built up if possible. Is there anyone out there that is interested both in starting this up or wanting this service? Let me know by phoning me on 54164 or e-mail; [m.bennett295@btinternet.com](mailto:m.bennett295@btinternet.com).

**In summary** - at the moment I just can't see how to make it work and certainly not in the imminent future. I, like most of us that are able and willing!!, have to earn money at this stage in my life, (if you can all rally my husband and persuade him to let me give up work I would willingly do it for free!!!), and the steering committee that ran the trial feel that the response from the questionnaire's wasn't strong enough for them to carry on at this point. However, we won't give up and, who knows, maybe someday.....

### **IN THE MEANTIME...**

For those that have to travel to get your newspapers - would you like to form a 'paper collection group'? It would need 7 people to take it in turns each day to go and fetch the papers and deliver them to the 7 addresses in the group - this way you would only have to travel for one day per week. If you are interested please phone Jacqueline on 54164.

## **Local History Talks with Peter Forrester**

### **"Not Forgotten" & "When Grandpa Was A Child"**

**Sunday 19th February, 3pm**

**At**

**Merryfield Hall, Ilton**

Join us for 2 talks by local author, and ex-Iltonian, Peter Forrester. Peter served for 37 years in the Marines and is now retired. He is a successful author with 4 books under his belt. Although he has not lived in the village since 1969, he still regularly visits to see his Uncle Bob Spiller, and his sister, Mary. Peters sister, Trixie Jeffery, still lives in the village.

"Not Forgotten" takes us on a journey into Somerset's air crashes since the end of World War 2. Peter has done extensive research into this subject and this talk, taken from his latest book entitled "Wings Over Somerset - Aircraft Crashes Since The End Of World War 11" tells of the stories of those who lost their lives - yet there remains no tributes or memorials in their honour. This is especially true of Ilton and one the author hopes will be rectified.

His book is available on Amazon or any good book shop and Peter will be happy to sign any of his books for you.

"When Grandpa Was A Child" - as a child growing up in the village of Ilton in Somerset and after the end of the Second World War, you lived with only two thoughts in mind - how to eat and how to survive. Living in the vacated Royal Air Force Nissen Huts of the village, Peter Forrester learned how to live off the land and how to supplement the family table.

He also learned how to accept life and death. The Vampire and Meteor jet aircraft were based on the airfield, and air crashes and military funerals were a common event.

His tale is one of a childhood that was full of happy memories - a childhood that formed his character and made him the man that he became. It also reflects a life that has now passed us by. It was a time of self sufficiency, a time of eating what you caught or what you found. None of this exists in today's world. There was no TV, and for a very long time there was not even a radio in the house.

Peters story starts in September 1947 and runs through to the day he left school.

Entry is £2.50 per person. Tickets are limited to 60 so it is advisable to book. Price includes tea, coffee and cake. All proceeds will go to the jubilee celebrations. Any enquiries please phone Jacqueline on 54164.

## **Census Day**

**Saturday 18th February**

**At**

**Merryfield Hall, Ilton 10 - 4 pm**

I am trying to put a jubilee census of the village together for the month of June 2012. A full exhibition of the houses in Ilton today will be on display with as much information on each property as I have been able to gather over these past 8 years. Please take a few minutes out of your day to come up and look at your property details and then help to complete a full diamond jubilee census.

Tea & Coffee will be available and free entry into a raffle as a thank you for your time. Any enquiries please phone Jacqueline on 54164.

Merryfield Hall Trustees  
invite you to a  
Cheese and Wine Social Evening  
at  
Merryfield Hall  
on  
Friday 30th March 2012  
6.30pm - 9pm

A similar event was held in April last year as a 'Thank you' to parishioners for their support and to welcome newcomers to the village. Owing to delays, not everyone had moved into the Copse Lane development at that time so, if you are new to the village, here is another opportunity to see what goes on in our hall and the parish.

The evening is entirely free of charge, so come along to sample a glass of wine and see what the village can offer you.

The Trustees will be inviting the following users and village groups to be represented:

St Peters Church	Ilton Friendship Club
Ilton Youth Club	Coffee Pot
Parish Council	Children's Level Centre
Ilton History Society	Line Dancing
Ilton 100 Club	

If you are interested in any of these groups just come along to find out what they do.

Would you like to start a new club? Short mat bowls, drama, computing and photographic have all been suggested but failed through lack of support. Is it time for another try? If you think so, contact Tony Miller on 53531 with your ideas.

---

## RSVP

Although the evening is free of charge we would appreciate knowing how many are likely to attend for catering purposes.

Name: .....

Address: .....  
(First line only)

No. of people attending .....  
(Under-18s **MUST** be accompanied by an adult)

Please return this RSVP slip to any one of:

Jackie Bridges, Broadacres, Cad Road  
Mark Bennett, 3 Cottage Corner  
Tony or Hilary Miller, Dystlegh, Rod Lane  
Marilyn Oliveros, 2 Copse Lane