

West Ilsley News

February 2002

Well it looks as though things are beginning to gear up for a "sociable" 2002, so, even though we are sorely missing the people-contact which trips to and from the Post Office precipitated, there will be opportunities for a neighbourly chat at events during the year. We've shown the jubilee weekend as a "?" on the calendar below - is there time and inclination for an event? There are lots of suggestions in the jubilee pack - here is a selection: festivals, fairs, fun days, carnivals, street parties and garden parties, feasts and banquets, picnics, tree planting, spectaculars and concerts, fireworks, bonfires and beacons, tea dances, talent contests, displays and exhibitions. Does something on the list (or anything else) take your fancy? How about something which could involve those who perhaps won't be catered for by a Barn Dance or the pre-fete "do" if there is one? Please let Richard Gore have your ideas.

The Editors

PRESENTATION

Andrea Cook

I've spoken to the great majority of people who contributed to Audrey's leaving gift, but to those of you who didn't give your phone numbers - "thank you" too! We had another good turnout for the official presentation and the opportunity for a quick get-together meant we overran into the Parish Council meeting and had to be evicted so they could get on with the business! Below is a photo from the presentation on 14th January - since Richard Gore who kindly presented the gift got his photo into the Newbury Weekly News, I thought that Phil ought to get in on the act as the "man behind the post mistress" over the last 30 years, so here they are.



THANK YOU

Audrey Tizzard

I would like to say a very very big thank you to everyone who contributed to my retirement presents. The Goblet is lovely and will be a nice reminder of all those hours spent 'behind the counter'. The cheque was amazing, you were all so generous, and I am really very grateful. Thank you also for the 'send off' on my last morning. I had been so busy all morning and had no idea what was going on so was very surprised and touched.

I am sorry that we have lost the Post Office, there were several people interested but no one felt able to

take it on. All is not lost however. Post Office Ltd. are still keen to provide a service and are working with the Parish Council to try to find a solution.

I am not intending to disappear off the scene completely and will still be collecting Pontoon money and Red Cross money (25p weekly for their weekly draw). I will also still be taking village hall bookings, my phone number is 281646.

Repeat prescriptions can still be collected on Tuesdays and Fridays, just leave your prescription in the box in the porch at 5 Fir Tree COTTAGES. If the box is not out put it through the letterbox.

THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY

Calendar 2002

FEBRUARY

- 15th Cricket Club Quiz Night
- 17th Downland Sports Centre Boot Sale

MARCH

- 11th WI Parish Council meeting
- 15th Church Quiz Night

APRIL

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MAY

- 1st Watermill Theatre Trip
- 18th Church and Under 5s Barn Dance

JUNE

- 1st -4th Jubilee event?

JULY

- 13th Pre-fete event?
- 14th Fete

POST OFFICE**Richard Gore**

The Parish Council are still talking to the Post Office, who are keen to explore any avenues to restore even a much more basic level of Post Office services to the village.

They are willing to consider all options, for example the use of alternative premises, or a community organised initiative, which might be viewed as a service to the village. The P.C. has also been in contact with VIRSA (Villages Retail Services Association), who are able and willing to give guidance and advice on any initiative.

Anybody who would like more details or has any ideas on how West Ilsley can regain some level of Post Office service, please contact Richard Gore on 281241 or Darren Brennan of the Post Office on 07710 736965.

WEST ILSLEY CRICKET CLUB Alan Bloor

The club bar will be open every Friday evening in February (8pm onwards)

A second Quiz Night has been arranged for Friday 15 February, so do come along and join us.

It is likely that the club will be entering a team in the Berkshire Downs League this year. These games are held on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer and consist of 15 eight ball overs a side using a minimum of five bowlers per side. It is hoped that these games can be used to give experience to some of our younger members. If there are any budding young cricketers or for that matter anyone with a desire to play cricket, nets will be starting in March, details will appear next month.

**WEST ILSLEY Alison Banks/Ian Burton
VILLAGE FETE on behalf of the soon to be
2002 Fete Committee**

Dates for your diaries: Saturday/Sunday 13th/14th July 2002

Fete Sunday 14th July - Fete Committee

An initial meeting is planned for Wednesday 20th February at The Malthouse to form a new Committee and get on with the planning. Anyone wishing to become involved either as a Committee Member or to fashion a stall etc. is asked to contact Alison Banks – details below. Other than the date, nothing is yet fixed – so there is much scope for implementing your new ideas or revitalising any “old favourites”. Please look to get involved and become part of a great Village event.

Pre-Fete Event on Saturday 13th July

Anyone/Any group that may like to run and gain benefits from the Pre-Fete Event this year please also contact Alison.

Sponsorship

Awareness and publicity benefits are always on offer from such events - in return for a donation of prize worthy goods/services and money (of course). Please

also contact Alison if you would like to explore sponsorship and awareness.

Given the enforced break of last year, many want to see us make up for lost time and make the 2002 Fete an event to beat all. With a little of your help we most certainly can.

Alison@malthouse.org.uk is also on Tel: 281705

FREE

**LEAN-TO GREENHOUSE
NEW OWNER TO DISMANTLE
GORE, BARNSIDE 01635 281552**

**WEST ILSLEY
PARISH
200242**

**Linda Gibson (Clerk)
COUNCIL**

The Parish Council met on Monday 14th January 2002. Following the resignation of Tracey Allan-Jones, we welcome in her place, Joanna Scrivens who was co-opted onto the Council at that meeting.

Village Flooding. West Berkshire Council have assured the Parish Council that they have reached an agreement with the Environment Agency to actuate the pump between East & West Ilsley should the need arise in the future.

Precept 2002/2003 The Parish Council set a Precept of £1660. Included in this figure are donations to local organizations including an increased donation to The Surgery Bus.

Queen's Golden Jubilee Celebrations. This falls on the first weekend in June when there is an extra Bank Holiday. The Parish Council would be interested to hear any ideas that villagers may have on how they would like to mark this occasion. The Chairman, Richard Gore has a Jubilee Pack which has various suggestions. Anyone interested in seeing it should contact him on 281241. June will soon be upon us so please make your views known as soon as possible.

The next Meeting of West Ilsley Parish Council will be held on Monday 11th March 2002 at 7.00p.m. in The Village Hall. All residents of West Ilsley are welcome to attend this meeting and may raise any relevant matters in the open forum.

**PRAM SERVICE AND AFTERSCHOOL
SERVICE, ALL SAINTS CHURCH**

There was a super turnout for the January afterschool service and the children were kept very busy making christingle oranges.

The Afterschool service will take place on **Thursday 21 February at 4pm** and the Pram Service on **Monday 25 February at 11am**. The theme for February is “Water”.

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

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Ian Fewtrell-Smith

Church Services for February 2002:

3 rd	All Age & Baptism	11.00 am
10 th	Holy Communion	8.00 am
17 th	Holy Communion	9.30 am
24 th	No service	

QUIZ NIGHT

We are holding a quiz night in the village hall on Friday, 15th March. There are some old scores to settle so make it a date!

ELECTORAL ROLL

Every six years, the Church of England renews its record of membership. If you worship in our church, have been baptised and are over 16, and would like to have a say in church matters, please ask me for a form. I need to have it returned by 24th February.

COOK REQUIRED

MAJOR DICK HERN IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME COOK, MAINLY FOR EVENING MEALS.

SHOULD ANYONE BE INTERESTED, PLEASE

TELEPHONE:

MAJOR HERN ON 01635 281251 OR

ELIZABETH BROWN ON 01488 71421

BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

West and East Ilsley raised £789.56 between them in the 2001 appeal.



The next trip to the theatre will be on Wednesday 1st May 2002, to see Fiddler on the Roof. Tickets £15 but we will get group discounts if we have sufficient numbers. Bookings to Andrea Cook by **Thursday, 14th February**. By phone to 281224 or email, or use the booking slip at the end of this WIN.

BUSES - And How they could solve a problem

Peter Bartaby

With the very sad demise of our Village Post Office, and the fact that the likelihood of it being re-opened in the near future seems remote, the best alternative the Authorities can offer us is to go to Chieveley, Compton or Harwell. With a car none of these is too far away but without a car what is one's best option?

In my view it is Chieveley as we can now get to Chieveley by bus, leaving the Village at 45 minutes past 9 and 11 a.m. and 1, 3 and 5 p.m.: Do one's Post Office business and pick up fresh bread and any forgotten grocery needs and get buses back at 34 minutes past 10 a.m.; Noon and 2, 4 and 6 p.m. The journey time to and from Chieveley is about 16-18

minutes so any of the above services will allow about 25 minutes in the Shop/P.O. and as most people will know the bus stops are no more than a level 100 yard walk from the Shop.

The shop is open all day, every day, but the Post Office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday to Friday PLUS 2 to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Tracy and Steve Gregory on the arrival of Joseph on 24th January, weighing in at a very healthy 9lbs 6 ozs, a brother for Sam and Alex.

CLAY PIDGEON SHOOT of The Ilsleys Primary School

The Friends

Thank you to everyone who turned out to support this event. The weather was not kind to us at all and many of you took a real soaking – but it was all in a good cause! Thanks also to those of you who made wonderful puddings and donated other foods.

The event was great fun (for those of us who were inside) and also a huge success and has raised £1200 for the school. We believe it is our biggest fund-raiser ever! £1000 will pay for a much needed new reading scheme and we are still pondering over how best to spend the balance. Thank you all again.

VILLAGE HALL PONTOON

Audrey Tizzard

The results of the 5th pontoon were as follows:

Winners:	J.Stead	(Ayr)	
	M.Baggs	(Ipswich)	
	S.Turner	(Oxford)	£7 each

Booby:	H.Young	(Everton)	
	B.Hayes	(Hibernian)	
	J.Evans	(Macclesfield)	£2 each

A profit of £35.00 went to Village Hall funds.

WATER LEVELS

Alison Banks

This report was received from the Environmental Agency and is collated from all the data they receive from well owners.

Remember the year? Here are some key hydrometric events that happened throughout the year of 2001:

Dec 2000

- Highest ever level recorded at Rockley borehole (3 miles north-west of Marlborough) on 18/12/2000.
- The average rainfall across West Area between September 2000 and January 2001 was approximately 500mm. This is equivalent to a depth of 0.5 m over the entire catchment that covers an area of 6184 km and represents over three thousand million tonnes of water.

Jan 2001

- Extremely high groundwater levels continued to cause groundwater flooding problems resulting in

damage to many properties and roads.

- In the West Chilterns, groundwater levels continued to increase rapidly.

Feb 2001

- Groundwater levels have continued to rise in the Chilterns where Stonor borehole (5 miles north of Henley) reached 4 meters higher than any previous level.

Mar 2001

- March was very wet month throughout West Area, with rainfall totals ranging from 119 % to 169 % of the average March figures. The Berkshire Downs, West Chilterns and Thame areas all exceeded the highest ever rainfall, over the previous 6 and 12 months.

May 2001

- Following an exceptionally wet winter, May and June were relatively dry with below average rainfall over the whole catchment.

Jul 2001

- Groundwater levels continue to decrease but still remain high for the time of year, particularly in the Chalk aquifers.

Sep 2001

- Limestone and Chalk borehole water levels continued to fall, although levels in the Chilterns are significantly higher than this time last year.
- In contrast, groundwater levels in the Berkshire Downs were similar to last September, as groundwater tends to drain away much more quickly from this aquifer.

Oct 2001

- After a relatively dry summer, October was extremely wet and all areas received higher than average rainfall.
- Water level started to rise in some areas although levels in the Chalk are continuing to decline. Groundwater levels remain above maximum within the Chilterns which suggests that this area may be at risk from groundwater flooding again this winter

Nov 2001

- It was a very dry month throughout West Area with all areas receiving less than their average monthly rainfall.
- Groundwater levels began to rise slowly at Rockley but remain well below maximum.
- In contrast levels in the Chilterns at Stonor remain above previous maximum levels for the time of year but fortunately continue to decline.

Dec 2001

- Less likely that the problems of last winter will reoccur at any location on the Chalk.
- Heading for a very dry winter as many wells have yet to turn.

The Malthouse well turned in the first week of January with a low reading of 17m69cm.

ILSLEY UNDER FIVES

There will be no Toddlers or Playgroup during half term – 11-15 February.

Baby and Toddler Group

The Baby and Toddler Group meets on a Wednesday morning, 10.00am – 11.30am in the village hall. There are lots of toys plus a climbing frame, playhouse, slide etc for the children and coffee and a chance to chat for the Mums. If you are interested in coming along please contact Tracy Gregory on 281650 for more details.

Playgroup

The playgroup is held in the Main Hall at the Ilsleys Primary School on a Wednesday and Thursday afternoon from 1.25pm to 3.30pm during the school terms. The numbers at the playgroup have risen suddenly and we are currently only accepting 3 year olds if a place is available. If you are interested in your child attending the playgroup please call Tracy on 281650 for an application form to register your child or if you would like to arrange a visit.

EVENING CLASSES

IN WEST ILSLEY?

Andrea Cook

Newbury College is very keen to put classes (for anything) on in the villages (see last month's "Kite Flying for the Terrified" article). I've followed it up to see what might be possible and the answer is "ask for it and see if we can do it". I've asked if we could have ballroom dancing lessons and my contact is keen to try to find a tutor if we can get a group together. What would you like to do if we could arrange for sessions in the village? I've said I'll canvass opinions both for the ballroom dancing and any other classes. It's so difficult timewise to get home from work and out again to an evening class/group in Newbury – it seems a shame not to take up the offer of someone coming to us, and we might learn something too! There's a tear off slip at the end of this WIN for your views – no promises, but hopefully we can get something going. If you don't want to drop the form in, a call to 281224 with your response will be great. Please respond by the deadline for the next WIN, and I can report the response next month.

MISS TOFFELLEES

The last few days of heavy rain and high winds have brought about seasonal problems again with flooding and detritus over the roads. The flood outside Forge Cottage seemed vast, and probably as bad, if not worse than I had ever seen it. A day later I managed to sustain a puncture (from which I was gallantly rescued by The Old Fell-thank you!!-he was here for a change, thus I didn't have to telephone him and confess to another domestic problem). Has anyone else experienced a large number of flat tyres from travelling around the back roads in the last year? I recall this must be the seventh 'flat' that I've had in just over twelve months. I really would prefer it if someone were to blame the huge number of flints on the roads rather than my driving ability, and the newer tyres with the lovely thick tread seem to pick things up even faster! One of our tyres was on for less than four

weeks before it had to be replaced. The other thing that seems to need replacing on an annual basis is the windscreen-usually done immediately prior to an MOT. Could we have a need to have our road edges swept more often? It seems to me that Bury Lane is very gritty at the moment, you could almost turn it into a gravel-pit. (Parish Councillors, anyone moved to action, please?)

The Pub! Emily and Scott have gone, but (real tittle-tattle now!) Emily was spotted with son and mother in Burford (Cotswolds) in an elegant shoe-shop. We had a "How are you conversation? Etc." and she's very well thank you. The little man was a paragon of virtue and obviously loves his shopping (though the shoes were for granny, not him!) unlike another toddler, this of the female variety. She squawked persistently, to her mother's oblivion, and for so long I am convinced that she will never emulate Imelda Markos. She will have NO shoes.

Welcome, then, to our new publicans. We visited on the first Sunday after the changeover and meet one local and a frosty reception. I understand, in contrast to our findings, that the opening night was rather a success and a good time was had by one and all. It would be grand if the local were to become a comfy hostelry once again where we all meet and greet. (Or am I living in the past?) I have many happy memories of The Harrow and I do wish landlord Alan Berry and family every success. I hope that the rooms are swelled with happy drinkers and revellers, and that I could turn back the clock twenty years to when we had just moved to West Ilsley!!!! We do need to keep those pints pulled.

Downland Sports Centre (in Compton)

Is having another - Indoor Car Boot Sale

on
Sunday 17th February
12.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.
(setting up from 11.00 am)

Cost £5.00

Please supply your own table.
Pre-booking advisable to guarantee space
Refreshments will be on sale

Also

Our half term Activity Programme for children aged between 5 – 11 years will be available from the beginning of February. If you've not been before, there are activities for all interests – Art, Sports and Fun and Games!, so why not come along – we're sure you would have a good time.

For further information, please contact us at the Centre on 01635 578866 between the hours of 6.00 – 10.00 p.m. Mon. – Fri

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 26th 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
☎ 281224

Fax: please phone first

Email: andreacooklimited@msn.com

Steve Price
Manor Farm Barn
☎ 281738

Fax: 281838

Email: ilsleyfinance@aol.com

Website: www.btinternet.com/~ilsley

WATERMILL THEATRE

Please book tickets to see Fiddler on the Roof on 1st May.

Name: Telephone:

Payment will be required when the tickets are delivered – please don't offer money now, we don't know what the bill will be.

EVENING CLASSES

Name: phone number:

- Would be interested in ballroom dancing lessons (TICK)
- Would be interested in classes in

PLEASE RETURN TO ANDREA COOK, CLOCK COTTAGE, OR PHONE 281224 BY 26th FEBRUARY