

West Ilsley News

www.westilsley.org.uk

November 2006

ILSLEY EVERGREENS Anne Carlisle



On Wednesday 22nd November there will be an outing by coach to Milton Keynes, leaving from outside the church in West Ilsley at 9.00 am. Members £7, non-members £10. Names to J Collier 281283.

THANK YOU Sue Carrington

Thanks to those who braved the thunder and rain and to those who provided delicious cakes for my coffee morning. We made £229.95(!) for Macmillan Cancer Support.

West Ilsley Village Hall Committee

Fireworks

(kindly paid for by Fete Funds)

All villagers and their friends and families welcome to join for a fun evening

Sunday 5th November

(next field but one to the pond)

Bonfire at 6.00pm (earlier this year)

Fireworks at 6.30pm

BBQ (Hot Dogs & Burgers),

Refreshments and Glow Sticks available for sale from 5.30pm.



A Date for your diary!

There will be a **WINTER WARMER** on Saturday 27 January in the village hall
All funds raised will go towards a children's play area

Tickets will go on sale soon!

DIARY

NOVEMBER

5th Fireworks
10th Harrow Anniversary Celebration
13th Parish Council Meeting
18th Evergreens Bazaar
30th Village Hall AGM

DECEMBER

8th Christmas Bingo
17th Nativity Play

JANUARY

27th Winter Warmer

MAY

19th Barn Dance

Deadline for the next publication is 5pm on Monday 27th November.

Contributions to the WIN can be made by conversation, phone, email, handwritten or typed copy and "word" file (via email or disk), but most importantly, please do contribute. Contact details:

Andrea Cook

Clock Cottage

☎ 281224

Email: westilsleynews@msn.com

Liz Dray

The Malthouse

☎ 281688

Email: Ejwizzy@aol.com

Please direct your feedback to either of the editors.

To join the email distribution list or for new/changed email addresses, please email
westilsleynews@msn.com

Enjoy this Christmas
With a Walters Turkey
Producers for over 30 years of
traditional farm fresh turkeys



Choose from Free Range Bronze
Or

Barn reared white turkeys
Turkey crowns and other joints, pork
sausages, sausagemeat, bacon etc
also available

Phone 01635 578251

Bower Farm, Aldworth, Reading, Berks
RG8 9TR

THE HARROW

Peter, Jacqui, Hayley and Chris are celebrating their first year at The Harrow and would like to invite you for first drinks free and buffet on Friday 10th November from 7pm

Christmas bookings now being taken,
menus available from The Harrow 281260

THE EVERGREENS BAZAAR

at

THE VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2 PM

RAFFLE TOMBOLA

CAKE STALL BOOKS & TOYS

NEARLY NEW GIFTS

TEA AND BISCUITS

Domestic Electrical Installation

"Bright sparks" are all well and good on Bonfire night but when it comes to all electrical work, such as installation, inspection, testing, fault finding and certification, insist on a local electrician who is, "Building regulation Part P ELECSA scheme compliant".

Contact; Keith Pentecost

Tel / ans: 01635-281389 (East Ilsley)

Mobile: 07985-797333

Auditions for the

"West Ilsley Nativity Play"

(production to take place on Sunday 17th
December at Rowles Farm, W.I.)

All village children 5 and over are welcome to come and audition! We need lots of budding actors and actresses to make our production a success. Younger children, those aged 3&4, will be invited to join in at a later date to play as angels and shepherds. There are lots of parts, big and small, come along!

Date: WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER

Place: WEST ILSLEY VILLAGE HALL

Time: 5 - 6pm

Parents: Please note that the children will need to commit to Wednesday practices at the barn from 5 - 6 pm for 6 weeks starting on 8 November and they must be able to attend a dress rehearsal all morning on the 16 December.

For more information call Angela on 281500

ALL SAINTS WEST ILSLEY

William and Alexandra Axtell

Church Services for November:

Sunday 5 th	All Age Worship	11.00am
Sunday 12 th	Holy Communion	8.00am
Sunday 19 th	Family Communion	9.30am
Sunday 26 th	No Service	

Christmas services

For those that like to plan ahead the December services for West Ilsley this year will be:

Sunday 3 rd	All Age Worship	11.00am
Sunday 10 th	Carol Service	6.00pm
Sunday 17 th	Nativity Play	5.00pm
Christmas Day	Family Communion	10.00am
Sunday 31 st	Holy Communion	10.00am

ILSLEY UNDER FIVES Amanda Knight

Following the half term break the Toddler Group will resume meeting at the village hall on 1 **November** where we will be holding a **Halloween** themed session. There will be a prize for the Toddler with the best Halloween fancy dress costume and we will be running a suitably (ie not very) spooky craft session. Also, at our 15 **November** session we will be hosting a visit from the ever-popular **Phoenix Cards**. There will be a fantastic array of cards, wrapping paper, invitation and thank-you card sets for sale both general purpose and for the Christmas season. The Toddler Group will receive 10% of takings and so we are keen for as many members (both past and present) and their friends to drop by, join us for a coffee and then stock up on their Christmas stationery.

(Ilsley Under Fives Toddler Group meets on Wednesday mornings: 10:00 am – 11:30 am in West Ilsley Village Hall (term time only). We have heaps of toys, ride-ons and a baby area for the littlest ones and tea and coffee for the parents/carers. New faces always welcome! For

further details please feel free to contact me (281609).

Christmas BINGO



Friday 8th December
In the Village Hall at 7.30pm
All the Family welcome
Bingo and Raffle Prizes
Bring your own refreshments
Admission: Adults 20p, Children 10p
Bingo Books 30p
Any donation of prizes to:
Audrey, 5 Fir Tree Cottages
Proceeds to Village Hall Funds

CHILDREN'S CHURCH, ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Afterschool Service

At the October service the children heard the story of the birth of John the Baptist and enjoyed celebratory birthday cakes in recognition of the importance of his birth. Our next service will be on Thursday 16 November when the children will learn about "Remembrance".

Our Afterschool services are held at 4pm in the church and are very informal with songs to well-known tunes and a simple story to listen to. The children have the opportunity to become more familiar with the church and learn about prayer, religious festivals and other topics in a relaxed atmosphere. The services are aimed at all ages from babies to older ones.

The services are well supported but we would love to see new faces or friends from outside the village. Do come and join us if you have a free half an hour.

Christmas preparations

Denise has kindly prepared some lovely Advent activity sheets for the children – there are two sets available according to the age of the child and they consist of different activities, information and prayers. The idea is to distribute these by email at the beginning of each week of Advent. If you would like to receive these either by email or hard copy please contact Denise by email at: denisefbrown@googlemail.com or by phone on 281825. Please give the age of your children.

The travelling crib will begin its journey around our homes from 1 December. If you would like to host the crib for a night before Christmas please sign up on the list in the church.

Mums and Tots Coffee morning (for the very young and their carers)

This is a monthly get together at The Rectory in Peasemore from 10am – 11.30am. It is an informal gathering where the Mums and carers have a chance to have a coffee and a chat and the children to play and sing. Forthcoming dates are as follows:

Thursday 2 November

Thursday 7 December

If you would like more information about either of these services please contact Denise Brown on 01635 281825 or Liz Dray on 01635 281688.

PLAYGROUND FOR WEST ILSLEY

Amanda Hagen

West Ilsley is a fantastic place to bring up children. We are surrounded by beautiful countryside and the village itself is home to numerous people who enjoy organising seasonal events to keep our children happy – the nativity play, cricket, bonfire night, the fete, Easter egg hunts and children's church to name a few. A rough headcount indicates there are approximately 50 children in the village of primary school age or younger. But the one thing the village lacks is a play area for the children to enjoy. A daily walk to a play area is something that children in the vast majority of villages in the area take for granted – it is a shame to have to get into a car to visit a playground. It is a wonderful social activity for our children to meet one another, especially when they all go to different schools in the area, but it also helps their physical well-being and builds confidence. From toddlers to older children and visiting family members – they would all benefit from it.

The finer details of any future playground for the village can be pursued once funds have been raised and grants applied for.

Amanda Knight, Donna Cobrin, Mandy Slater and myself are organising a Winter Warmer for Saturday 27 January to raise funds for a play area for the village children. We hope that you will support this event. We are sure it is going to be as enjoyable as ever!

WEST ILSLEY YOUTH CLUB

The youth club is again up and running and is free to all children aged 8-15 years from West Ilsley and Farnborough. Sessions will be fortnightly, 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm at the cricket club. Dates for sessions are 2nd and 16th November. We also hope to have a Christmas Disco in December, date to be confirmed. Contact Paul Willis for more information on 281185.

WEST ILSLEY
Presents
a
Nativity Play



Get into the Festive Spirit!

Come and join us in Rowles Farm Barn to see the play performed by village children and linger afterwards to enjoy refreshments.

Sunday 17th December,
Doors open 5 pm, performance starts 5.30 pm

£5 adults £2.50 under 12s, under 3s free

For tickets:

Sandra Carlisle 281220 Andrea Cook 281224
Profits to West Ilsley Charities

BARN DANCE!

Sean Ryan, Chairman, Parish Council

I'm delighted to announce that by kind permission of the Carlisle family, the Parish Council will be holding a barn dance on May 19th. The dance will raise money for a new charity called the West Ilsley Trust, which will provide funds for all sorts of good causes in the village. The last barn dance here was quite a while ago now but it was a brilliant evening which not only brought the village together for one of the biggest parties of the year, but also raised an impressive amount of money, not least through a large sum spent at the bar by thirsty dancers! Many of us had friends down for the weekend to swell the numbers and they went home with only slightly bruised toes, thinking how lucky we are to live in such a lively and sociable village. I'm sure we'll put on another great evening but needless to say, it will take a lot of work to set up. Alison Banks has kindly offered to make a start and would love to hear from anyone else who'd like to be involved in any aspect of the organisation. If all goes well, more than £2,000 could be raised for the West Ilsley Trust, which has been set up by the Parish Council under the guidance of the Charity Commission. The Trust is intended to be a vehicle for fundraising and

allocating funds, and the trustees will be our parish councillors - Philip Knight, Dries Hagen, Ron Cook, Alan Bloor and John Mountford along with Alison Banks, the clerk to the council, and myself. We've agreed a 'Declaration of Trust', drawn up by a lawyer at West Berkshire Council, which says that the Trust will be for the benefit of the inhabitants of West Ilsley. The charity aims to provide money for projects ranging from facilities for children and young people to welfare and leisure initiatives. It will be able to apply for grants and donations, so with luck, we'll see a little bit more money flowing into village projects in the future. One of the things we'd like to do is provide a play area for the 50 or more children in the village who haven't even had swings to play on since the Harrow's were taken down, but there are plenty of other good causes in the village which will benefit and I'd be glad to hear from anyone with ideas for improving the quality of life in West Ilsley. You can reach me at sean.ryan@sunday-times.co.uk or on 281336. If you'd like to be involved in organising the barn dance, please contact Alison Banks at alison@malthouse.org.uk or on 281705. Now take your partner by the hand...

**LUXURY WREATHS
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**



**INDIVIDUALLY MADE TO ORDER
PLEASE TELEPHONE
VERONICA SMITH
01635 281704**

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



If you would like to send Christmas greetings to friends and neighbours in the village via the WIN and donate a sum towards Church Funds rather than sending cards, let me have a note of what you want to appear and your donation - any time from now up until 27th November and it will appear in the December edition.

Andrea Cook

Village Hall Committee AGM

Thursday 30th November, 2006
At WI Village Hall 8pm

New faces welcome. We maintain and manage the Village Hall for the benefit of Village residents. In addition we run annual fun events such as the Summer Camp Out, The Village Fireworks, Bingo Nights and a stall at The Fete all to replenish our funds.

We meet 3-4 times a year to discuss and organise the above.

MY CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF WEST ILSLEY - 1970'S

My name is Judith Bunn (nee Turner). I used to visit the village of West Ilsley for holidays during the summer in the mid- 1970's.

We used to visit my Aunt and Uncle – Lily and Ellis Lawton and their daughter and husband Lily and Danny O'Shea. I believe they also had a daughter called Judith.

I have wonderful memories of visiting the village during the summers. It was always hot and the fields always golden. To me it seemed to be a tiny county village from a story book. Lily and Ellis lived at No 1 Fir Tree Cottages I think. It was the most pretty little cottage, with stable doors and the upstairs windows seemed so near to the ground!! There was a lovely garden full of wild flowers. I can still remember the smell of the cottage – coal range – home cooked pies, puddings and roast dinners. I remember there was a forge at the back of the cottage, and remember watching the blacksmith making horseshoes. He would let me take a few home with me – I still have one today. One of my most vivid memories is of being woken early in the morning to the sound of horses on their way up the gallops. I used to hang out of the bedroom window and watch them. I always wanted a horse of my own (doesn't every little girl) but living in a town, never had the opportunity. I remember making friends with a girl who lived near my aunt who had her very own pony! And remember a few hair-raising lessons. I think her name was Shendy. I know that Ellis worked with horses all his working life, I think he was a jockey in his younger days, and believe that Lily was in service somewhere when she was young. I remember being taken to a stable yard one year, and the name Dick Hern rings a bell, but again my memories are very sketchy. I remember seeing a horse and being told it was Red Rum, again I don't know if they were joking with me or not! I remember Lily talking about the Queen having

some horses nearby, and that she would often be seen in the village, but I don't remember seeing her whenever I was there!

I remember going to the beautiful little church on Sunday mornings, and remember a wooden bench outside the churchyard. It was set in cement and in the cement were the footprints of some famous jockeys.

I am not sure where Lily's daughter, "young Lily" lived, but believe that you turned left out of Fir Tree Cottage and then left again up a small lane. Having looked at the web-site gallery – the picture of Downs Side looks very familiar and I think she may have lived here.

Last weekend, I was on holiday in Dorset and on the way home decided to call in on West Ilsley to see if I could remember anything. I must admit I was completely disorientated at first, but once I found the church, I began to find my bearings a little. I immediately found Fir Tree Cottages, but the gardens at the side have gone. The forge and blacksmith are long gone, and there are now some newer houses there. I had a wander round the church yard and found the graves of Lily and Ellis, but nothing for "Young Lily" or Dan O'Shea. The little wooden bench outside the church is no longer there. I remember a post office where I used to buy sweets, but could not find that.

It was lovely to re-visit the village, and although there have been a lot of new houses built since the last time I visited, it is so lovely to see the village has retained its charm and beauty.

If anyone remembers the family I would love to hear from them. My e-mail address is judithbunn@lycos.co.uk and my phone number is 01283 704371.

BROADBAND UPDATE Philip Knight

Many thanks to all those of you who responded to my July piece on broadband.

Although the sample size was pretty small it did demonstrate the wide variety of service delivery we are getting.

My summary is as follows:

- The fastest connection achieved by a villager is 3.3Mb download and 336 Kbps upload connection via the BT Total Broadband service;
- The most common supplier is BT, but Demon, Plus.net and Pipex are also being used;
- The East Ilsley Exchange has been upgraded to 8Mb technology – what BT call BT Total Broadband and is also referred to as Rate Adaptive, ADSL Max, ADSL2 etc etc. The name varies from ISP to ISP and from my experience with BT from week to week;
- The BT website checker for our postcode states that a maximum of 4.5Mb is achievable and this is obviously consistent with the 3.3Mb report from one correspondent and the fact that when I called them BT said that I could

upgrade my service to BT Total Broadband. I double checked using an East Ilsley postcode and got a suggested maximum speed of 6.5Mb. Goodness knows how close to the exchange you have to be to get 8Mb! Strangely if I put our telephone number into the BT checker it says that the max service is 1.5Mb.....;

- If you already have a 2Mb connection (from BT or other ISP) and want to take advantage of the 'up to 8Mb' service you need to change your current ISP package. For BT customers this is an 'upgrade' (BT speak for 'pay more money') to BT Total Broadband. I am not sure how proactive other ISPs are, but BT will only do this if you contact them, even if you registered with them to tell you when the 8Mb service would be available!;

I am currently going through the process of upgrading my service from the 2Mb BT Yahoo to BT Total Broadband. This involves 2 weeks of some sort of testing in which they establish an appropriate maximum speed and at the time of writing I don't have a final settled speed. Obviously I am expecting to get at least 3.3Mb, but so far have yet to see any significant improvement over the 2Mb service (which was giving approx 1.3Mb) I was already paying (less) for.

In fact if anything it seems worse, which neatly brings me back to what prompted me to write the original piece in July, my apparently poor BT broadband service. Ho hum, I see a need for another follow up article in December.....

Let me know via rattlebox@fastmail.co.uk if you have any experiences, comments or updates and I will include them in my next piece. I wonder if anybody would like any other IT issues discussed and, subject to the editor agreeing, I will try and put pen to paper and fingers to keyboard. Such things as how people deal with spam, good local sources of computer components, are ideas which spring immediately to mind.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Norman and Anne Carlisle who celebrated their Golden Wedding (50 years) in October.



MASSAGE THERAPIST IN COMPTON MASSAGE THERAPY TO REDUCE STRESS AND AID RELAXATION



MASSAGE TREATMENTS TARGETTED
AT SPECIFIC PROBLEM AREAS ON THE
BODY, USING SPECIALLY BLENDED
MASSAGE OILS
FULL BODY - 1 HR
NECK, BACK AND SHOULDERS - 30 MINS
INDIAN HEAD MASSAGE - 30 MINS

Dianne Beechey
ITEC Dip. VTCT Dip. IHM
Tel: Compton 01635 578446

HARVEST LUNCH

Jo Scriven

A big thank you to Liz and Andrea and their team of helpers for organising a delicious harvest lunch. Thank you to all of those who supported us, enabling £300 to be raised for church funds. If anyone lost a pink cardigan, aged 7 it is still in the village hall.

The Friends of the Ilsleys School (FIPS)

Sue Evans

A new school year and we have had a really busy start. Ten new families have joined the school from both East and West Ilsley and the Friends is a really great way for mums and dads to meet other parents from the school. Given our main purpose though.... The Headteacher Felix Rayner, has really pulled out the stops this year and has asked us to raise money to convert the sheds (next to the oil tanks) into useful teaching areas which will cost in the order of £10,000 – a huge effort required to get close to this one I think! But we like a challenge.

However, before we move on, a reflection on the achievements of last years Friends who raised over £5000 . A huge thank you is due to all those who ran and participated in the Friends last year. Specific mentions to Sue Simmons, Robbie and Jilly who tirelessly campaigned and participated in a variety of events – The Shoot, The Sheep Fair, The Summer Play, The West Ilsley Fete, The East Eggstravangza and the discos. The money raised has already been spent by Felix to buy Science Equipment and a new white board for the main hall which will make a huge difference to assemblies

I'm sure. So, thank you again ladies and thank you for continuing to support either on or off this year's committee. Your experiences and stories of the good, the bad and the ugly are hugely valuable.

The Halloween Party held on the Friday before half term was a triumph with nearly all the children coming along with their parents. The costumes were really fabulous - well done to Andrew Slater and Emma Spink for winning the best costume competition. This term's major event is the Christmas Bazaar which is to be held on Sunday the 3rd December from 2-4pm so please pop this into your calendars. We are already planning to have the usual raffles, but also to have lots of stalls for adults and children. We are contacting Santa's elves to see if he can make an appearance too.

The Christmas Bazaar raffle tickets will be on sale shortly and we have a fabulous first prize....2 x box seats for Arsenal vs Reading at the new Emirates Stadium in March next year. The box is on the half way line and there is chauffeur driven transport to and from the game. Books will be on sale at 50p a ticket/ £2.50 per book.

A busy term and year ahead I think – with the emphasis on something for everyone in the family and the community to participate in and enjoy.