

West Ilsley News

www.westilsley.org.uk

March 2008

DIARY

MARCH

10th
21st

Parish Council Meeting
Easter Bingo

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Have you ever taken a photograph of that perfect sunset with a sense of achievement and then wondered why the photograph didn't represent the image at all.

The Friends Of The Ilsleys Primary School is having a photography workshop run by professional photographer Karen Kendik. This will take place at the school hall on the 5th March 2008 at 7.30pm, cost will be £10.00 and will cover a glass of wine and some nibbles.

In this workshop I will cover

- basic camera operation (either compact or SLR cameras)
- rules of composition
- how to shoot in-focus photos every time
- flash photography
- troubleshooting (bring along a cd of all the shots you would like to know what went wrong and I will try to help you)

This workshop will primarily be for compact users but if there is enough interest I will run further workshops for SLR users.

So bring along your camera if you need help with it, your manual (yes get it out of the draw and dust it off), and any photos on cd that you want help with.

Just turn up on the night, but if you could please let Karen know on 01635 281653 if you are attending, so we have an idea of the numbers. See you then Karen Kendik

Saturday 15th March Live Irish Music @ The Harrow, 9pm till late, to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, food will be served as normal from 7pm till 9pm

Don't forget to book now for Mother's Day on Sunday 2nd March, Sunday lunch menu will be available

KENNET DISTRICT SCOUTS

NIGHT HIKE Bruce Meldrum, Scout leader, 4th Newbury Scout Troop

Kennet District Scouts will be running a District Night Hike competition on the weekend 15/16 March 2008. The event will be based in the West Ilsley Village Hall, and teams of Scouts will be departing/arriving during the night. The route will be on public footpaths in the surrounding area, and the Scouts will be encouraged to keep noise to a minimum while walking through the village. If anyone has any questions, feel free to contact me on 07771 822492, or on the evening, we will be available in the Village Hall. I've already booked the dry weather!

EVERGREENS

On Tuesday 4th March we shall be leaving by coach from outside West Ilsley church at 9 am for an outing to Cribbs Causeway.

Members £7, non-members £10. Tokens can be used. Names to J Collier 281283.



Deadline for the next publication is 5pm on Thursday 27th March

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

Andrea Cook
Clock Cottage
☎ 281224

Email: westilsleynews@msn.com

Liz Dray
The Malthouse
☎ 281688

Email: lizdray@btinternet.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

Easter Bingo

Fun For All the Family

Good Friday 21st March

7.30pm

West Ilsley Village Hall.

Loads of EASTER EGGS to win

Bring Your Own Drinks

Raffle prizes/Easter eggs welcome to

Audrey at 5 Fir Tree Cottages.

Admission 20p, children 10p

Bingo Books 30p

Proceeds to West Ilsley Village Hall funds

POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS - HOW DO THEY MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN WEST BERKSHIRE?

Communities are benefiting from an increase in the uniformed presence on their streets as the number of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) grows across West Berkshire. Their introduction has been one of hot debate, opinion has been divided and there has been a great deal of media coverage; yet there is still confusion about their role and powers.

Superintendent Chris Shead, Local Area Commander at West Berkshire police, said: "A common misconception is that PCSOs are being used as a replacement for police officers and I would like to reassure people that this is not the case.

"PCSOs are part of policing teams in this area and they provide crucial support to their police officer colleagues. They also work closely with staff, like neighbourhood wardens, from local councils and housing associations."

Thames Valley Police employ nearly 500 PCSOs across the Force area. All kinds of people, of different ages and backgrounds, enjoy getting out on the streets of their community; meeting the residents and business people and finding ways to improve their quality of life.

Their job is designed to allow them to spend around 80 per cent of their time patrolling and, although they cannot arrest people, they have other powers which allow them to deal with lower-level crime, such as vandalism, which affects peoples' lives but is very time consuming. This, in turn, frees up the police officers they support and enables them to focus on solving crime and tackling priority offenders.

If you haven't met your local PCSO yet, keep an eye on the local press and publications for details of any events they may be organising. Or simply

stop them on the street and say hello! You can also find out more about policing in your area at www.thamesvalley.police.uk

This is a full list of the powers available to PCSOs:

- Power to issue local authority fixed penalty notices (FPN) for dog fouling, littering, graffiti and fly-posting
- Power to remove abandoned vehicles
- Power to issue penalty notices for cycling on pavement
- Power to carry out road checks
- Power to direct traffic
- Power to issue a penalty notice for disorder (PND) for a range of offences including the unlawful sale and consumption of alcohol by people under 18 years of age; fireworks offences; causing harassment, alarm or distress, and trespassing on a railway
- Power to seize vehicles used to cause alarm
- Traffic wardens' powers
- Power to require persons drinking in designated area to surrender alcohol
- Power to require persons aged under 18 to surrender alcohol
- Power to search for alcohol and tobacco
- Power to seize tobacco from a person aged under 16
- Power to seize drugs and require name and address for possession of drugs
- Power to require name and address for anti-social behaviour
- Power to disperse groups and remove young persons to their place of residence (S 30 Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003)
- Power to require a person to wait for 30 minutes
- Power to enter and search any premises for purposes of saving life and limb or preventing damage to property
- Power to stop and search in authorised areas and enforce cordoned areas (Terrorism Act)

EASTER LILIES Anne Carlisle

I shall be pleased to accept donations from anyone wishing to contribute money towards buying an Easter Lily as a token of remembrance.

PUB QUIZ

Rosanne Pilditch

Many thanks to Marnie Moyle and Pete Oliphant for organising a very entertaining Quiz Night at The Harrow. It is good to see that West Ilsley's competitive spirit is burning brightly as the pub was full – not a spare seat in the house – of clunking grey matter trying to answer questions regarding the Highway Code, village locations and country codes to name but a few subjects! Thank you also to the Watling family for hosting the event.

"Celebrating Success"



The Ilsleys Primary School's
Open Day 2008

Monday 17th March 2008

Presentations by the Headteacher at 9.00 and 1.00

- Calling all our friends and families
- Calling all prospective parents
- Calling all parts of our community
- Calling anyone with an interest in The Ilsleys Primary School!!

If you would like to see the school at work and play, please come along to our day of celebration, our first ever open day. For further information please contact the school office on 01635 281225.

ILSLEY UNDER FIVES TODDLER GROUP Amanda Knight

Numbers at the Toddler Group have flourished over the past couple of months. We now have 16 children who attend (4 girls and 12 boys(!)), ranging from only a few weeks old to 4 years old. The children all seem to benefit from having greater numbers with whom they can mix. Long may it continue! Looking forward to the Spring, we have arranged for **Phoenix Cards** to return for a visit on **19 March**. As always, there will be a fantastic array of cards, wrapping paper, invitation and thank-you card sets for sale. All members (both past and present) and their friends are invited to drop by, join us for a coffee and then stock up on stationery. The Toddler Group will receive 10% of takings. We will also be organising an Easter craft activity for the children on that day. (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).)

Domestic Electrical Installation

Building regulation Part P Compliant
installation/inspection/testing/fault finding
and certification

Portable Appliance Testing @ 110/240 VAC

Contact Keith Pentecost

Tel: 01635-281389 (East Ilsley)

Mobile: 07985-797333

1793
Bonhams

FREE ANTIQUE VALUATION DAY

Bonhams, the International Fine Arts and Antiques Auctioneers, will be holding free Antiques Valuation days at the West Ilsley Village Hall, Main Street, West Ilsley on Friday, 29 February 2008 between 10am and 12noon, also on Friday 28 March and Friday 25 April. Our expert would be delighted to appraise items including silver, ceramics, pictures, clocks and furniture with a view to sale. To make an appointment or for further information about our other services please contact the local Henley on Thames office on 01491 413636 or email: henley@bonhams.com. Bonhams, The Coach House, 66 Northfield End, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 2JN

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Rosanne Pilditch

Church Services for March

2 nd	All Age Communion – 10 am
	Mothering Sunday
9 th	Holy Communion – BCP 8 am
16 th	All Age Worship – Palm Sunday 11 am
23 rd	All Age Communion – Easter Sunday 11 am
30 th	No service

This month is full of festivities so please do come and join us:

Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday will be celebrated on 2nd March with an All Age Communion service. Please do bring your children as they will receive posies to give to their mothers to mark this festive day.

Easter Sunday

As we are all no doubt aware, Easter is just around the corner. Please come and join us at the All Age Communion service on Easter Sunday to celebrate this major event in the church's calendar.

Burns Night



We celebrated Burns Night in early February with a festive evening of Haggis, neeps and tatties and lots of dancing! We are very grateful to John Butterworth for all of his help in organising for The Newbury Caledonian Society to lead us through the evening. They demonstrated a few of the more complicated dances and bravely encouraged us through the others. We all learnt steps and skips we had never heard of let alone tried before – all accompanied by much laughter. Many tried their hand at the whisky tasting and there was also an opportunity to show off a knowledge of Scottish tartans. A huge thank you must go to Alexandra and Will Axtell, Ian and Kay Fewtrell-Smith, Amanda Hagen, Justin Pilditch and Jo Scriven for organising such an enjoyable evening – the Caledonian Society thought it was the best Burns Night that they had been invited to and would like it to be repeated! Watch this space.....

Should anyone wish to partake in some more reeling: the Newbury Caledonian Society meet at Highclere Village Hall on Friday evenings from September to May (7.15pm – 10pm). Further information can be found on the village noticeboard or at 01635 861249/45687/40530 or NewburyCaledonian@btinternet.com.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH, ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Afterschool Service

Our next service will be on Maundy Thursday – the 20th March – when we will hear the story of the Last Supper.

Our Afterschool services are held at 4pm in the church and are very informal with songs to well-known tunes, participation from the children 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.

If you would like any further details please do contact us on the following numbers:

Denise Brown on 01635 281825

Liz Dray on 01635 281688.

WEST ILSLEY YOUTH CLUB

The dates this month will be:

Thursday 6 March

Thursday 27 March from 6.30 to 8 pm at the Cricket Club

The youth club is open to children of West Ilsley and Farnborough between the ages of 8-15 years old. If you have any queries please contact Paul Willis on 281185.

JUMP FOR THE ILSLEYS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Children, Parents, Friends, Relatives, our local community.....

To celebrate the Centenary of the school we are thrilled that Neil Slater (Dad of Andrew and Briony) is going to jump from an aeroplane for the Ilsleys Primary school!

The jump is huge - Neil will jump from up to 14,000ft (2½ miles) and freefall for 45 seconds before taking 6 minutes to get back to earth on Saturday 3 May. And so is our ambition... our target is to raise a total of £6,000.

By getting behind Neil, we can achieve great things together and Microsoft will double anything we raise.

If you or your company would like to sponsor Neil in any way then please contact Mandy/Neil or Felix Rayner, (Headmaster of the School).

Mandy & Neil – mandyslater@mail.com - 281325

ROAD SAFETY – WHAT DO YOU WANT?

A moment's reflection suggests that quite a lot has been achieved in improving Road Safety in the village over the past 18 months:

- Moving the 30mph sign further out along Copperage Road.
- Requesting and having a presentation by the District Council Road Safety team at the Parish Council meeting followed by a question and answer session.
- Requesting and obtaining speed data collection in the village (which, in our view, revealed traffic travelling at excessive speeds).
- Raised the profile of Road Safety through a number of articles in WIN.
- Successfully applied for a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) – this is a recent development. The new sign, similar to the ones in East Ilsley, will be installed on the corner of Church Way and Main Street, by Rectory House, facing south east down Main Street. It is

relevant to note that the siting was determined by a very prescriptive set of criteria which meant that this was the only suitable location in the village.

The next step is to consider the following:

Q. Has any of the action actually improved Road Safety?

A. We can't ever know. However it is unlikely that anything we have done has actually made things worse.

Q. Could we do more?

A. Undoubtedly yes. The evidence collected by the survey demonstrated to us that there is a lot of traffic travelling through the village at excessive speed. It is to be hoped that the new VAS will have some effect on some traffic, but it is very specific about the traffic it will 'catch' i.e. travelling north west and already 1/3rd of the way down Main Street.

Q. Can we do more?

A. A fundamentally more difficult question to answer and it depends very much on who is doing the dangerous driving. If it is villagers, then we need to look to ourselves (or perhaps just look at our speedometers? Did you know that at 35mph you are twice as likely to kill somebody than at 30mph?). If it's non-villagers then we could consider specific traffic calming measures e.g. road narrowing.

Do we want to do more?

A. And really this is what this article is all about. Because ultimately it's up to us, or rather *you*, because we don't need convincing. We rather passionately believe that the roads in the village need to be safer, we don't think that we should have to worry about crossing the road in *our* village, or be concerned about children riding bicycles on the road in *our* village, or worry about riding a horse through *our* village. We believe that probability is not on our side, that the fact that we have not had an accident is just luck and that the time will come when, unless we do more in the village to improve Road Safety, there *will* be a fatality. And perhaps rather selfishly, but with no sense of satisfaction, we don't want to be the ones to say, "I told you so...."

When recently reporting the fact that road deaths in West Berkshire had gone up in 2007 (although in the Thames Valley as a whole they went down) the Newbury Weekly News quoted the following (our emphasis):

*"Malcolm Collis of Thames Valley Police said in response to the figures that even one death on the roads is a tragedy. He said: **"The huge effect on families, friends, colleagues, employers and communities should not be underestimated.** "Whilst we are grateful to see a significant reduction [referring to the Thames Valley as whole] in the number dying on the roads, **32 of these deaths were people under the age of 25 with their lives ahead of them; many others will leave behind partners, parents and children.**" **And the sad fact remains that most of these deaths need never have occurred.**" Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership spokesman, Dan Campsall, said that it was important for everyone to play their part with simple safety measures. He said: "Putting on our seatbelts, turning off our mobiles, resting when we are tired and sticking to the limit will all help; and **most of all recognising that it is our job together to make the roads a safer place.**"*

So now the ball is in your court. We feel that what we have done to date matches the level of support we have received from the village as a whole and it is time to take stock. Whilst we, as private individuals, will continue to campaign on an issue which we are so passionately concerned about, we do accept that as Parish Councillors there has to be a point at which we stop and assess what support we have to continue campaigning on this subject.

If you want us to do more, or perhaps less, then please come along to the next Parish Council meeting on Monday 10th March and let us know. If you can't make the meeting then please contact us or any of the other councillors and let them know your opinion on the subject.

Cllrs Philip Knight & John Mountford