

West Ilsley News

June 2001

Amidst the doom and gloom of foot and mouth disease, the knock on to the fete cancellation and not being able to go for a decent walk at the moment, not to mention the election, we now have a bright spot! The millennium gazebo was opened on Sunday at a very well attended gathering of people from within and outside the village. Many congratulations to all who lent their support to the project which is a great testimony to teamwork. A report and photographs appear in this edition. Thanks to Ian Burton for the photos - there are lots more on the website.

The Editors

EVERGREENS

Anne Carlisle

On Thursday June 26th there will be an outing to Bournemouth. The coach will leave from outside West Ilsley Church at 9.30 am.

Members £4, Non-member £6.

Names to J Collier, S Gore or A Carlisle.

EXPLOSION IN

THE RAT POPULATION?

Pia Burton

In the 20 years I have lived in West Ilsley I have never seen rats or been aware of rat activity until the past Winter. Both ourselves and our neighbours have regularly seen rats, most worryingly in daylight hours.

Over the last 3 months, using selective feeders, we have fed the rats 15kg of rat poison (Oakes Bros. best and finest) with no discernible diminution in rat activity. We (or strictly speaking Ian) have trapped and despatched over 15 rats - we have lost count - using rat traps baited with Tesco Value chocolate spread. This really does seem to be the most effective means of disposing of these pests. Still we have made no impact on the regular sightings. Perhaps most worryingly the rats seem to be losing their fear of man. Just an hour ago a rat ran but a few feet away from us in broad daylight when we were noisily active in the garden.

On our own we are making no impact on these vile creatures. If everybody put bait and traps out then perhaps we can hope to reduce the numbers and make a difference. Until then I suggest that you all take great care not to leave your doors and lower floor windows open. We have watched rats scale 3 foot high walls effortlessly.

Unless you wish to share your barbecues with these menaces please take action now. I am sure The Maltings is not the only place in West Ilsley with this revolting problem.

PRAM SERVICE, ALL SAINTS CHURCH

The next service will be on Monday 18 June at 11.00am when the theme will be "Our Father". The services are for 0-5 year olds plus parent, grandparent, carer etc and last for approximately half an hour followed by refreshments for the children. We usually have a story or game with lots of singing and musical instruments for the children to play.

The last service before the summer break will be on 16 July again at 11.00am.

New service for young people

The theme for the afterschool service this month was "Growing" and we looked at lots of plants at different stages of growth. The next service will be on Thursday 14 June at 4pm. The service is for children in their early years at school (3 years onwards) and their younger brothers and sisters (plus adult companions as well!), it again lasts for half an hour followed by drinks for the children.

The following service will be on 12 July at 4pm.

If you would like more information or would be interested in being involved with the organisation of these services, please contact Denise Brown on 01635 281825, Antonia Cretney on 01635 248925 or Liz Dray on 01488 638749.

WEST ILSLEY CRICKET CLUB

David Gore
281618

June Opening - A busy month!

Fri 1 st	Friday night bar
Sat 2 nd	2nds v Pinkneys Green
Sun 3 rd	Peasemore
Mon 4 th	Men's darts
Fri 8 th	Under X1s v Sulhampstead and Friday night bar
Sat 9 th	1sts v Sandhurst
Thu 14 th	Woodlands St Mary match
Sat 16 th	2nds v Bearwood
Mon 18 th	Men's darts

Fri 22 nd	Under X1s v East Woodhay and Friday night bar
	Mine host will be Yours Truly
Sat 23 rd	2nds v Farley Hill
Tue 26 th	Ladies darts
Thu 28 th	Woodlands St Mary match
Fri 29 th	Under X1s v Falkland B
Sat 30 th	1sts v Sonning
Sun July 1 st	Berkshire League Over 50s

CULTURE AND YOUTH SERVICES - SUMMER PLAYScheme

We are currently advertising and recruiting for staff to help run the summer playscheme. Would anyone who is interested please contact Samantha Jones on 01488 683692 for further details.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH Ian Fewtrell-Smith

Church Services for June 2001:

3 rd All Age Service	11.00 am
10 th Holy Communion	8.00 am
17 th Holy Communion	9.30 am

Coffee Morning

Thank you to all who made such a marvellous effort and gave so generously. The weather was kind and the churchyard hummed with villagers. Gardens will now be well stocked with plants I can't begin to remember the names of and the bric-a-brac stall yielded some real bargains. We will be repeating the event next year and will cater a little better for the younger members of West Ilsley.

Church Yard

If you are able to spare a little time helping with the church yard maintenance (cutting grass etc), please contact Tony Scriven (281405).

Church Cleaning

If you are able to spare a little time helping with the church cleaning, please contact me (281625).

WEST ILSLEY Linda Gibson PARISH COUNCIL Clerk to WIPC

At this years Annual Parish Assembly on Monday 14th May, Deborah King from The Rural Housing Trust gave an interesting talk outlining the aims and achievements of the organization and explained how the Trust had been providing affordable village homes for village people throughout the country for the past 25 years. Following the survey in the village, carried out by the Trust last year, she felt it was time to move a step further. Incorporated in this copy of the WIN is a page headed "Registration of Interest in Affordable Housing in West Ilsley". Any villagers or eligible people are invited to complete this form and send it direct to the address on the bottom of the form. It is important that any needs are registered now as the scheme must be over-subscribed with serious applications before it can progress any further. The ideal size of development would be between six and

ten houses usually 2 or 3 bedroom. Anyone interested in registering should complete the form and return it to The Rural Housing Trust as soon as possible. For extra forms or further information please contact me on 200242.

The next meeting of the Parish council is on Monday 9th July at 7.00 pm.

WEST ILSLEY Avice Morris MILLENNIUM COMMITTEE

Sunday, 27th May saw the official opening of the Gazebo by the village pond. Anne Paynter, partner of the late Michael (Mickey) Brown, did the honours by cutting the ribbon. Unfortunately the sun didn't shine, but this did not deter a huge turnout from the village to join in the celebration. It was a wonderful atmosphere.

The previous Sunday had seen a tremendous community spirit, with 22 people turning up to help lay the turf. The Committee would like to thank you all – it was a hard task helped by so many hands on a hot, sunny day. None of us will forget the determination of the four who would not be beaten and, with perspiration dripping, finally go the better of the tarmac and installed the last oak post!!

Thanks go to everyone who so kindly donated raffle prizes and bought tickets for our final raffle on Sunday, which raised £171.50. It only remains now for the orientation table, which is currently being engraved on granite, to be installed within the next few weeks. Once the final invoices have been received we will let you all know via the WIN what monies remain and whether we can add anything further to the project.

The whole project was evolved from your top votes for benches, horse trough and orientation table and the Committee hope you all agree it has been successful.

It was Mickey's determination for the village to mark the new Millennium that inspired us all, and it is therefore most fitting that a plaque has been placed on the Gazebo in his memory.

Thank you everyone.

OUR PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor Peter Bartaby answers more questions posed by the WIN Editors:

6. Does it have any spending power, if so, how much, and where does the money come from? This subject has already been touched upon in the third question last month. It can spend money for which it has precepted in the current year and in urgent/emergency situations it can, if it has any reserves of money, support such situations. The Parish Council has to prepare and publish an Annual set of Accounts showing what money it has received and how this has been spent and these accounts have to go to The District Auditor (a Government Appointee) for approval. The District Auditor does not like Parish

Councils building up large reserves of money – other than for specific named purposes i.e. (say) a new village building – and such money has to be kept separate from precepted money in a separate fund. It should also be remembered that if a Parish Council spends public money recklessly or irresponsibly the actual Councillors concerned can be ‘surcharged’ from their own resources.

7. Are there specific things which the PC must approve/disapprove and can have the final say about? e.g. it appears that they can't have final say about planning. There are a number of areas in which the P.C. can take action directly in, for instance, the provision of facilities for local residents – Sports/Recreation areas; Allotments; Bus Shelters; additional environmental activities i.e. litter clearance, verge tidying and the like (where it is felt that the District Council's performance is unsatisfactory); provision of financial support to local leisure groups etc. but the P.C. must always be cognizant of the fact that any money utilised for these purposes whilst coming from the precept from the District Council will still be wholly chargeable to Residents through their Council Tax demand. Planning has always been the subject of decisions by a Higher Authority. In our case, the District Council which is the designated 'Planning Authority. The D.C. is, however under an obligation to advise a Parish of Planning applications received for their area and give them time to express their views - which should be taken account of by the Authority in making a decision. Regrettably West Berkshire Council have taken a decision which is resulting in most decisions being taken at Officer level and not going before the Planning Committee. This is something which, in the past PCs could ask to be done but can no longer do. Generally, applications are now only seen by the Planning Committee if referred to them by a District Councillor. In many people's view this is a retrograde step which gives far too much uncontrolled power to Council Officials and is thought to have resulted from an unwillingness by some District Councillors to continue doing this very important job, which is part of the responsibility for which they were elected.

WEST ILSLEY FOOTBALL CLUB

Gary Taylor

As many of you already know, West Ilsley FC are going to the Isle of Wight for a football tournament on 22nd June, returning on 24th (hopefully we'll do well, although the emphasis is on enjoyment!)

Many thanks to all those who donated money for our new kit, notably Mick and Jill Channon, Norman and Anne Carlisle, and Sue Huntingdon, and also to everyone who gave to the collection at The Harrow. The children were delighted with the kit, and they all looked very smart at our photo shoot a few weeks ago. Thanks go to Alec Coles our photographer; look out for a sample of his handiwork in the Newbury Weekly News shortly.

If anyone else wants a copy of any of the photos that were taken of the team, please see me at 13 West Ilsley.

VILLAGE HALL PONTOON

Audrey Tizzard

The last pontoon of the season went for 5 weeks and was shared by 5 winners each receiving £7. They were:

D Carlisle (Blackburn)
J Steptoe (Bournemouth)
C Chitty (Brechtin)
A Tizzard (Bristol R)
W Coles (Stoke)

The booby prize of £10 went to:

P J Bartaby (Southampton)

Over the season we have made £313.50 for Village Hall funds which is much appreciated. Sorry if you didn't win this time but hope you will join in again next season.

FRIENDS OF THE ILSLEYS PRIMARY SCHOOL

On Friday 4th May, the children took part in a sponsored "Wellie Walk" around the Millennium Green. They had to complete as many laps as possible in an hour. With the sun shining and breeze blowing it was a very pleasant way to spend an afternoon – especially as it raised over £500! Thank you to everyone who sponsored and encouraged the children.

Our next function is the school fete on Friday 6th July 3-4.30 pm. Come and join us for strawberries and cream or try your hand at the egg catching competition. With plate smashing, spinning jenny, country dancing and more it should be lots of fun.



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 June 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.

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