

West Ilsley News

July 2002

We have a very full WIN for you this month. Apart from the regular contributions, Ian Burton has researched into the issues surrounding the Parish Councillors Code of Conduct. There are huge amounts of information available on this topic, and as parishioners it is something of which we should all be aware, so thanks to Ian for wading through the words on our behalf. Our thanks also to Giles Blumfield for making us aware of the delightful and touching tribute to Major Hern which Kathleen Hardy wrote (with no plans for publication) just after the Major's death. Much has been written about his achievements, but only a few in the village really knew him, so many thanks to Kathleen for allowing the rest of us some insight in to the personality of our late neighbour.

The Editors

PARISH COUNCIL Linda Gibson (Clerk)
200242

The Parish Council met on Monday 10th June for an Extra Special Meeting, primarily to discuss the 'Model Code of Conduct for Parish Councillors.' Peter Bartaby, having already resigned, was not present. After giving the 'Code' a great deal of consideration and following a lengthy discussion the remaining five members have each decided individually not to sign the necessary 'Declaration of Office'. They are therefore no longer eligible to be Parish Councillors. (see separate letter from Richard Gore)

David Holling, the Head of Electoral Services will appoint a temporary 'Caretaker' and will be advertising for a new Parish Council.

If view of this, the future of the Parish Council meeting on July 8th is uncertain. Please watch the notice boards for further information. I have also decided to postpone the visit of Sgt Athawes until a later date.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU?

West Ilsley is full of people with all sorts of interests, hobbies, talents and leisure pursuits. West Ilsley is also full of children and young people who would enjoy and benefit from your knowledge! Starting this Autumn I am hoping to give everyone the opportunity to get to know one another a little better by sharing such hobbies and skills. It's so often heard that many of the adults of the village don't know the youngsters well enough to say 'hello' let alone know their names. So here is the perfect opportunity. From pom-pom making for the younger ones, to basic woodcraft skills, playing the recorder, making fairy cakes or coaching some of the older ones in Tennis or football everyone of all ages can come together. I will coordinate whatever suggestions you have and provide other adult helpers to support you. We will be based in the village hall for probably about 2 – 3 hours on a Saturday afternoon in October. Even if you don't think you have anything to offer activity wise then there is always a drink and a biscuit to give out or even a younger child who might enjoy you playing puzzles with them. I really do believe that this could be the

beginning of something rather special and unique in which everyone can get involved. Please either call me on 281500 or drop a few scribbled suggestions in to me at Forge Cottage. Hopefully there might even be enough interest for it to become a regular village hall event on those wet and miserable Saturday afternoons of winter!

Looking forward to heaps of suggestions!! Angela – Village Hall Management Committee Chairman

PARISH COUNCIL Richard Gore

Members of the Parish Council have been deliberating on whether to adopt the new Code of Conduct for Parish Councillors which has been imposed by central government.

The code obliges councillors to record on a register available for public inspection not only their own financial and property interests, but also those of their relatives, and to register any gifts valued at over £25 which might be construed to have an influence on Parish Council business.

The post of Parish Councillor is totally voluntary and unpaid, and the influence exerted and amounts of money controlled are both relatively small. In this context, many councillors feel that the intrusion into their privacy from publicly registering interests would be totally out of proportion to the influence wielded as a Councillor.

Each Parish Councillor has made their decisions individually, rather than as a joint policy. However, the outcome is that none of the Councillors is at present prepared to sign the new Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Several have already resigned from the council, and the remainder of us are no longer eligible to be councillors.

BRITISH RED CROSS Anne Carlisle

In May there was a house to house collection for the Red Cross, £139.13 was donated. Thank you to those who collected.

THE MAJOR

Kathleen Hardy
23rd May 2002

When I came for an interview in February of this year as a Cook to the Major, little did I realise what the next three months would bring. Luckily I had absolutely no idea of just how important the Major was in the horse training world. My experience of horses didn't extend beyond reading the exciting thriller novels of Dick Francis (something the Queen Mother and I had in common!). I will always remember with humour how Miss Brown and Mrs Fiennes tried not to look too horrified when the Major came out with his embarrassing enquiry "Are they your own teeth?". Luckily I took this as a good sign, I knew that a horse's age and health were judged on their teeth!

I giggled when I thought about it afterwards and decided that the Major had appointed a "rank outsider" as I had never had a cookery lesson in my life and certainly hadn't a certificate of any sort. Perhaps he could see that I desperately needed a place to be myself and express my ideas through good English plain cooking. But if the Major treated his horses with kindness and firmness and got the very best out of them then it's hardly surprising that I blossomed in such a situation. Of course, I remained in awe of him but learned that he observed much and was infinitely understanding, and always kind.

He had a great sense of humour and missed nothing. He also knew what he wanted and encouraged me if I ever felt that I was unable to tackle something new. He was always gracious and courteous and expressed his thanks for my cooking efforts.

His life could not have been easy since his riding accident but he had managed never to be bitter and to show us how to enjoy life. He loved his music and the afternoons would be filled with his favourites – George Formby, Joseph Locke and Burl Ives. I think he had a particularly good week just before he died when he and Ken hit on the idea of announcing his imminent arrival down for breakfast by singing catchy or bawdy songs as he went into the lift. It brought a smile to all our faces and started the day off well.

I think that the measure of a man is in what he leaves behind him. He has left behind a lovely home filled with really happy and nice people. As he once said very firmly "all my staff are nice". And so were you, Major.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH Ian Fewtrell-Smith

Due to a complete failure of brain cells on my part, All Saints did not get a look in last month and the details are still floating about in the ether (or wherever e-mails reside!)

Church Services for July:

7 th July	All Age Service with Baptism	11.00 am
14 th July	Holy Communion	8.00 am
21 st July	Family Communion	9.30 am

West Ilsley Show

We will be running the bottle stall and face painting again this year so please take a trip down into your cellars and dust off a few old bottles that have been

lying around, getting in the way. Anything will do, it can even be something you splash on rather than drink. (You mean there's a difference? Ed) Please let me have the bottles a few days in advance if possible.

Car Treasure Hunt - 28th July 2002

The Downland Federation of Churches will be holding a celebration over two weeks in July. West Ilsley will be organising a car treasure trail, going round all the villages in the Federation. You will be able to start at any of the twelve churches within the federation, finishing in All Saints, West Ilsley. So after working out clues to identify each village, you can plan your own route, working out the clues relating to each Church. The trail will start at 11.00 am and finish with refreshments at 4-4.30 pm in the village hall. Details will be published nearer the time, but make sure it goes in your diary now!!

JUBILEE PARTY

Richard Gore

The Jubilee Party on the recreation ground was a great success, and I hope that everyone had an enjoyable time.

I would like to thank all those who helped with the organisation and generously contributed the food, with the result that the event was run with no cost to the Parish Council or village.

OPEN TO DEBATE

Ian Burton

As part of the government's aims to make the lowest tier of local government more accountable, Parish Councillors now have to sign a new code of conduct - but not everyone is keen as we have learnt.

Knowing little about this, I sought to delve deeper into the matter and these are some of my findings. I hope they provide a broad and balanced view:

The new requirement is contained in a statutory instrument, the Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001, which came into force last November. Under its provisions, many public accountability measures, which have previously been applied to parliamentarians and to county and district councillors, now apply to parish councillors as well.

Every Parish Council is included in an "ethical framework", under which it is overseen by the standards committee of the local district or unitary council, and has six months from the end of last November to adopt a code of conduct, meeting the minimum requirements of the model code. Once adopted, each member of the council is obliged within 28 days to sign up to the code and to record their financial and other interests in a publicly accessible register.

The government sees nothing exceptional in the new order and does not accept that lower standards of probity should apply to Parish Councillors. Nor does it feel that there is any great new precedent being set.

A spokesperson for the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions (DTLR) says: "The government does not believe it is heavy handed to

expect councillors in any tier of local government to observe certain minimum standards of conduct. People have the right to expect the same high standards from all their Councillors.

"Parish Councillors have always been expected to abide by a Code of Conduct. The new code is very similar to the old, except that it is clearer. It is also enforceable. From now on, complaints that councillors have breached the code of conduct will be capable of being investigated by a new independent body - the Standards Board for England."

For the most part, Parish Councillors (from what I've read) feel able to live with the new code of conduct had it not been for its part three - the register of members' interests.

A Councillor is quoted as saying: "Most of the new code is identical to the rules under which we already operate. We do, however, strongly object to registering details of our financial holdings and our membership of organisations, particularly when that register is open to public inspection. It might even be dangerous to do so."

"Parish councillors, who have no financial clout and no power, might easily be exposing themselves as targets of violence if they reveal that they own shares in a company like Huntingdon Life Sciences or that they are members of a hunt."

Again, the DTLR does not see any reason for making Parish Councils a special case, citing the opinion of the Nolan committee on standards that the register is "an important supplement to a declaration of interest, because it is a standing document, which can be consulted when or before an issue arises, and enables others to take a view on whether a conflict of interest may exist".

The government also believes that most parish councillors are in favour of the registration measures. A consultation exercise undertaken by the DTLR last February showed that a majority of councillors, and both the National Association of Local Councils and the Association of Larger Local Councils, considered them "reasonable, clear and workable".

Though separate from the new code, national government have also launched the Quality Parish Councils initiative. In it the view of Parish Councillors as dedicated, apolitical individuals with no financial clout or power becomes a thing of the past. The new vision of local government articulated by national government is one in which Parish Councils have both clout and power, one in which they are quality service providers, more sensitive to local needs and more democratically and directly accountable. Parish and town councils of a definable and measurable quality are seen as instrumental in achieving the objectives of improved quality of life in rural communities that were set out in the rural white paper.

Launching a consultation paper on developing quality parish and town councils last November, rural affairs Minister Alun Michael said: "We want truly representative parish and town councils to be the

recognised voice for their communities... Quality councils will give people a better deal on local services, such as leisure facilities, street lighting and litter collection, by working closely in partnership with their principal authorities."

Although the Quality Parish Councils initiative and the Model Code of Conduct are separate entities, they have their origins in the same strategic line of thought and many Parish Councils have fallen foul of a general desire of the government to beef up the "lowest tier" of local government. Ministers would like to see matters such as planning, currently dealt with at district council level, devolved to parish and town councils, where they would be handled with more local sympathy.

Ministers would also like to see Parish Councils subject to more electoral accountability and an end to the not uncommon practice of those councils with the smallest electoral catchments routinely co-opting their members.

This could mean mergers of smaller bodies and introduction of party politics into an arena from which it is currently largely absent, while devolving real power from district level would also mean devolving real budgets. Hence the insistence on an ethical framework and a Code of Conduct.

If you want to read "Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 3576 The Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001" it is available via:
<http://www.hmsso.gov.uk/si/si2001/20013576.htm>

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Liza Brown and Giles Blomfield would like to thank most sincerely all the kind people who helped to make Major Dick Hern's Funeral Thanksgiving Service on 30th May such a very special occasion, and, particularly, those people who gave their time to do the flowers so beautifully in the Church and the immaculate lawn mowing outside, all of which helped to make the day.

EVERGREENS

There will be a "mystery trip" by coach on Tuesday 16th July. The coach will leave from outside the Church in West Ilsley at 1.00 pm. Members £3, non-members £4.50. Names to J Collier.

The Evergreens have a cake stall in the marquee at the West Ilsley Fete on Sunday 14th July. We would welcome donations from anyone living in the village of anything edible – cakes, quiches, jams et.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library will visit on the following dates:

July	9 th	30 th
August	20 th	
September	10 th	
October	1 st	22 nd
November	12 th	
December	3 rd	

The library will park in Morland Close between 2.25 pm and 2.55 pm.

'ALLO ALLO

Sgt Rob Athawes

COMMUNITY POLICING TEAM, HUNGERFORD

GENERAL INTEREST

During the month of May I managed to attend several Annual Assemblies. I always enjoy these occasions as it gives me the chance to meet a wider section of the public and I have to say, in general terms, I felt that the meetings I did get to attend were very positive. I think everyone accepts that we are thin on the ground these days and we have to make best use of the resources at our disposal and the message I try to get across is that we have to prioritise our, at times, very heavy work loads and that the core business of the police is fighting and investigating crime and crime related incidents. However one of my roles is the Community Liaison side of things and attending Parish Meetings is a major part of that but I will usually only attend if there are particular issues that need addressing by the police.

ROBBERIES

The new Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police Mr Peter Neyroud is committed to reducing the levels of street crime and in particular robberies in this police force. Unfortunately in the West Berkshire police area this type of crime is currently on the increase with violence being used to snatch peoples handbags and mobile phones. We at Hungerford are also doing our bit to target this type of crime, although fortunately, if we compare ourselves to the Pangbourne sector of West Berks, the crime is still relatively rare. However the 'Street Wise' campaign is aimed at being more aware of who or what is happening around you and part of that campaign involves the marking of mobile phones and the recording of your phone information. If you want advice and a free marking kit please pop into the police station during our opening hours and obtain one.

BURGLARIES

Unfortunately we have also had a recent upturn in burglaries, particularly in the Northern part of the Hungerford sector. Please be aware of this fact and do all you can to reduce the opportunity. We have received information to suggest that refugees are travelling out into 'the sticks' trying doors in the villages and if they find one that is unlocked they will be 'in like a shot' and take whatever they can carry in the few moments they are in YOUR house. Don't let this happen to you!!

CRIMES AND ARRESTS

Chieveley Parish

There has been an upturn in crime in the village again this month. Between 11th and 18th a cheque book and cheque card were stolen from an elderly lady living on her own in the village.

Overnight 15th/16th a car was broken into in Bardown and a CD player, an auto changer and discs were stolen. On 24th an assault took place in Down End when a male offender assaulted a female and damaged property. He was arrested and charged.

On 26th a male offender was arrested for possession of cannabis, on 29th criminal damage was caused to a car and a window smashed at a business premises in the village. Overnight 29th/30th a vehicle was broken into in Curridge village with a trolley Jack and door trimmer being stolen, and on the 31st of the month a

car was broken into on the High Street with a laptop computer and suit being stolen.

I seem to say it time and time again in these pages but PLEASE DO NOT leave laptops on display in your cars. They are a very desirable target for would-be thieves.

The Ilsleys

On 14th a burglary to a house took place when a tool kit was stolen from the conservatory. Two offenders were seen and ran away when challenged by the householder.

'Hot off the press' are 2 of the above type of described crimes which both happened in West Ilsley in the first few days in June. Doors were left unlocked and the thieves simply walked in and helped themselves. Enough said I think.

Beedon

Between 16th/ 17th of the month a burglary of a shed took place in the Westons and a Lawnmower was stolen. On 24th a house was burgled in the Westons and a Sony Playstation was stolen. On 26th the burglary of a house took place in the Oxford Road and a Laptop Computer, printer, handbag and rucksack were stolen. The rucksack was probably used to remove the other items. A car was also stolen from the driveway and was later found abandoned in the Headington area of Oxford.

Brightwalton

Overnight 9th/10th a Subaru was stolen from outside an address in Holt Lane in the village and during the month there was a burglary to a cottage in the village where jewellery was stolen.

Chaddleworth

Between 24th and 27th a burglary took place at a farm in Woolley where a chain saw and disc cutter were stolen from a store shed.

On 31st a further burglary took place in Chaddleworth where a shed was entered on another farm premises where batteries and a torch were stolen. The offenders had driven across fields to get to the premises and several fences were damaged to enable this to take place.

Farnborough

On 26th a burglary occurred to the garden shed of a house in the village but due to the alarm being activated nothing was stolen. An excellent piece of crime prevention used here. It is very easy to rig up a relatively cheap alarm system on your shed. It transpired that several fences were also damaged to an adjoining property so we are obviously linking the offences with the ones that took place in Chaddleworth (just up the road) on the 31st (see above). We have also had similar crimes in the Fawley area. Something to very much bear in mind.

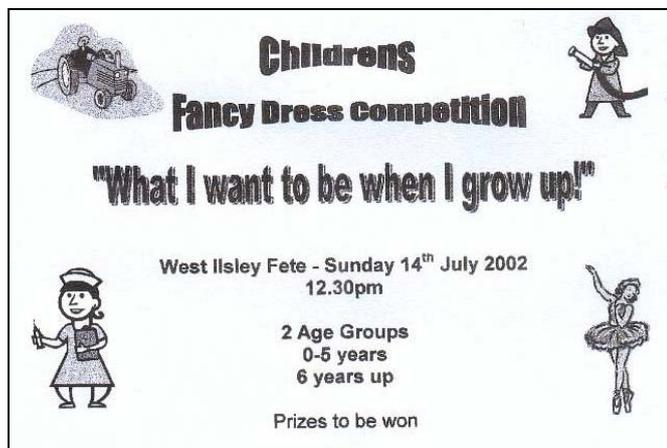
Once again there have been several arrests for drink driving related crimes in the village throughout the month. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.

Please continue to report ALL crime and if you have any information on any of the above incidents which you feel will help us with our enquiries please ring us or leave a message on 01488 685915.

WEST ILSLEY FETE

Sunday 14 July 2002, midday to 5pm

The big day is almost upon us and, as this will be the last edition of WIN before the fete, I would like to remind everyone about some of the highlights of the day.



Exempt Dog Show

4 pedigree classes:

Puppy 6-12 months Any Variety
Sporting (gundogs/hounds/terriers)
Non Sporting (working, utility, toy)
Any Variety - Open

8 Novelty classes

Rosettes and prizes to 5th position

Cups for;

- ✓ Best in show,
- ✓ Reserve best in show.
- ✓ Junior handler
- ✓ Best puppy
- ✓ Best veteran

Only dogs of 6 calendar months of age and over on the day of the show eligible for entry.

Entries on the day from 12:00, judging begins at 1pm.

Entry fee: £1.00 per category

Full schedule available from June Cook, April Cottage, Fir Tree Paddock, West Ilsley, Berks. RG20 7AY, Tel. 01635 281565

Fete attractions include:

- ☺ Mr Wiggy, children's entertainer will be amusing children of all ages, from 2 to 92 years old.
- ☺ Children's Football Tournament
- ☺ Bouncy Castle
- ☺ Children's Races
- ☺ Teas, BBQ and bar
- ☺ Art Exhibition
- ☺ Owls
- ☺ Penalty Shoot-out
- ☺ Spiders and Snakes
- ☺ Raffles with fabulous prizes
- ☺ And much, much more.

Produce Show

The place to show everyone how good you are at gardening and homecrafts!

NO CHARGE for entry to the competition and this year we have £££££ prizes for the winners.

Entries will be accepted from 10.00am to midday.

A reminder of the categories;

Flowers and Ornamentals

- 1 Roses – 3 blooms of any variety/varieties
- 2 3 blooms of any flower
- 3 Patio pot – minimum 3 plants, foliage and/or flowering
- 4 House pot plant – flowering or foliage
- 5 Pot of herbs – minimum 3 plants

Fruit and Vegetables

- 6 One dish of soft fruit, any variety
- 7 Collection of any 3 types of vegetable, 3 of each
- 8 Potatoes – 3
- 9 Carrots - 3
- 10 Onions – 3
- 11 Shallots – 6
- 12 Beans/peas – 3 pods, any variety

Flower Arranging

- 13 Arrangement to be viewed all round, max 24w x 24d x 36 inches high
- 14 Arrangement in a basket, max 24 x 24 inches
- 15 Miniature flower arrangement, max 6 inches overall
- 16 Arrangement in a beer can – men only

Home Cooking

- 17 Jar of jam or marmalade
- 18 Jar of chutney
- 19 Savoury flan
- 20 Fruit pie
- 21 Shortbread
- 22 Man made scones – ie made by the men! (p.s. A recipe for my mother's fruit scones is printed below)

Handicraft

- 23 Specimen of needlework, eg article of dressmaking, patchwork, weaving or any other needlecraft
- 24 Specimen of knitting or crochet
- 25 Upholstered item
- 26 Specimen of handicraft, eg pottery, corn dolly, whittling or any other handicraft

Photography

- 27 Views of West Ilsley, place or people
- 28 Photo of a pet
- 29 Photo of your garden
- 30 Holiday photo

Children's Classes

- 31 A miniature garden, not exceeding 12 x 18 inches
- 32 A decorated digestive biscuit
- 33 A painting or drawing of parents or family
- 34 Food face on a paper plate
- 35 Specimen of needlecraft / home made toy
- 36 Stencil picture, eg potato stamp

Best Kept Garden

Best kept garden as judged from the road – Country Gardens Cup

Best Hanging Basket

Best hanging basket as judged from the road – Millennium Cup

NB: Judging for the best kept garden and hanging basket will take place over the weekend of 6/7 July. Please do not be too worried if you see a strange person peering into your garden!

Cash prizes will be awarded for;

- Best under 11's exhibit
- Best homecrafts exhibit
- Best flowers, ornamentals or flower arranging
- Best fruit and vegetables
- Best kept garden
- Best hanging basket
- Best "man made scones"

Entry Form is attached at the end of the WIN, please bring completed form with your entry on the day.

Raffle

As is traditional, Wendy Coles will be running the raffle. The prizes on offer are always outstanding, largely due to the generosity of the villagers. Please call Wendy on 281547 if you have a prize to donate. Last minute offerings will be welcome on the day.

Plant Stall

For those who do not have green fingers and have not won the best garden competition this is your opportunity to stock up on plants for your garden. Those who, like me, always have too many plants are invited to donate them to the Plant Stall. Pia Burton will be delighted to take them off your hands and ensure that they find a good home. Please bring them on the day.

Bric-a-brac

Your unwanted items will be welcomed by the Bric-a-brac stall so now is a good time for a slightly belated spring clean. A perfect opportunity to get rid of that unwanted Picasso?

ATTENTION ALL MEN

This is a guaranteed recipe for the perfect scone Well, this year's challenge is on!! The 'Man Made Scones' class (ie made by the men) in the produce show has really brought on a surge for male supremacy. There is talk of sabotage, cheating and revenge. Duels will be fought on the recreation ground at dawn with the scones that turn out like house bricks. Make sure that you chaps show them who wears the apron in your household and bake some scones for the produce show this year. It is free to enter and there is a tenner for the winner! To help you, here is a foolproof recipe for scones. It has that extra bit of raising agent to ensure your scones rise to the skies.

Ingredients

225g (8oz) self raising white flour
pinch of salt

5ml (1 tsp) baking powder
40g (1 ½) oz firm butter or margarine cut into pieces
1 ½ tbsp caster sugar
50g (2oz) sultanas, raisins, currants or chopped dates (optional)
150ml (1/4 pint) milk approximately
beaten egg or milk to glaze

Method

Heat your oven to 220 deg C or 210 deg C if you have a fan oven. It is very important that the oven has reached the right temperature before you put in the scones.

Sift the flour and the baking powder together into a food processor or bowl. Rub in the butter using your fingertips or process in short bursts until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar, salt and the dried fruit if using. Mix in enough milk to form a soft dough with a knife, or process for about 10-20 seconds until the mixture forms into a ball.

Turn onto a lightly floured surface and roll out to 2cm thickness, no less. Cut out into rounds with a 6cm (2 ½ inch) cutter. Press down with cutter sharply and cleanly and try not to turn it (the scones rise better if cut cleanly). Re-roll the trimmings to make more scones.

Put on a greased baking sheet and brush the tops with beaten egg or milk. Open the oven and put in the baking sheet on a high shelf as quickly as you can to avoid heat escaping. Bake at 220 deg C or 210 deg C if you have a fan oven for 12-15 minutes until golden brown. Transfer to a wire rack to cool. Bring to produce show and proudly display!!

Be warned, we know what supermarket scones look and taste like, so don't even think about it!!

Anyone who is able to help in any way is invited to contact any committee member;

Alison Banks 281705	Alison@Malthouse.org.uk
Ian Burton 281536	ian@netdra.freeserve.co.uk
Karen Miller 281876	Karen.miller@btinternet.com
Gordon Bewick 281876	Gordonb1@ntlworld.com
June Cook 281565	Ron1.June2@virgin.net
Sally Shillinglaw 281169	sally.Shillinglaw@bbsrc.ac.uk

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 Monday 29th July 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

