

West Ilsley News

January 2002

Well, it's finally happened, the Post Office has closed. We await news as to whether it will re-open, but in the meantime Audrey was given a very warm send-off on 31st December, despite a very chilly day! Wishing you all a very Happy, Peaceful and Pestilence-free New Year!

The Editors

POST OFFICE



A rather surprised Audrey receiving her "send-off" of flowers and champagne on 31st December. Another photo of a few of those who turned out for the presentation is shown on the last page. Many thanks to Ian Burton for the photos.

The "official" gift-giving will take place at 6.45 pm on Monday, 14th January in the Village Hall.

EVERGREENS

Anne Carlisle

There will be no meetings in January or February.

Before Christmas, Pat Kennedy from the West Ilsley Stables at Hodcott brought me a donation of £190 for the Evergreens, collected by the Stable Lads at their Christmas party. A big Thank-You from the committee.

REWARD

Most of us will have received the notice and lovely photo of John and Allison Mountford's lost cat – last seen on Christmas Eve. They are now offering a £200 reward for his safe return – please telephone 281703.

NEWBURY BUSES

Peter Bartaby

Service No.6 – Didcot through W.I. to Newbury

Our 'Better Frequency' service seems to have settled down quite well and is, generally, running close to time. Regrettably the Company have been obliged to increase fares a little and these are now:

	<u>Single</u>	<u>Return</u>
W.I. to NEWBURY	£ 2.20	£ 3.70
W.I. to DIDCOT	£ 2.00	£ 3.40

For O.A.P.s there is an excellent 'Concession Busabout' fare of £3.50 which [as well as being cheaper than the standard return to Newbury] ALSO allows unlimited travel for the day on all Newbury Buses' services.

Even drivers of average sized cars incur a real cost of around £9 in getting to and from, and parking for a couple of hours in Newbury so the bus is a much better proposition for one person and allows up to 2, 4 or 6 hours in town with no parking fees or driving 'hassle' around Chieveley.

Having got the service lets use it as much as possible. It would be a disaster for many Villagers if Newbury Buses found it uneconomic and withdrew it there being no Bennets around to 'pick up the pieces.

DATE FOR YOUR 2002 DIARY

ALL SAINTS CHURCH AND ILSLEY UNDER 5S
JOINT FUND RAISING JUBILEE BARN DANCE
SATURDAY 18TH MAY 2992
Watch this space for further exciting details

KITE FLYING FOR THE TERRIFIED

Anything might be possible – what would you like to do?

Newbury College is very keen to put classes on in all the villages. We are planning courses now to begin in September 2002. Please Ring Rosemary Green – 0118 974 4910 if you have any particular interests you would like to pursue.

FATHER CHRISTMAS VISIT

(Courtesy of Newbury Lions club) Toni Sugden

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to the collection on Friday 21st December.

We gave £105 each to Helen House, Children's Hospice in Oxford, and The Castle School of Newbury. A big thank you must go to Anthony Scriven, Mick Crockford of the Lions and Jemma, Christine, Alistair, Charlotte, Vanessa and Jonathan for their enthusiastic collecting!

Christmas Tree Collection and Disposal

Contact Angus Muir on 281647 to arrange collection - 50 pence per foot.

FARMING NEWS

Peter Carlisle

As 2001 draws to a close, we can reflect upon how our lives were hugely affected by the flooding of last Autumn/Winter and the Foot and Mouth crisis. The latter not only paralysed the farming community to various degrees depending on one's area, but also had a terrific impact on the country as a whole. The last foot and mouth case was September 30th and at long last the countryside is returning to some sort of normality, but with great emphasis on farmers being careful with their "bio-security" – sorry for the jargon!

Cattle and sheep exports from these shores are starting again, which is most welcome and means our meat prices should begin to increase. It goes without saying that the French are again disregarding EC rules and still banning our beef (because, they claim, of BSE) – they are a law unto themselves and who says there is a level playing field?

British farmers have tightened up all aspects of their production with various assurance schemes, e.g. Farm Assured British Beef and Lamb (FABBL) and Assured Combinable Crops Scheme (ACCS) to name but two, which makes us accountable for everything we do. Yet the Government still allows all manner of imports which do not comply with the above schemes and strict regulations of hygiene etc., an example being beef with spinal cords still attached and cheap milling wheat where we have no idea of either origin or growing methods.

Enough of this! It is quite ironic how this Autumn has been (so far) completely opposite to last year's, with a greatly reduced rainfall and some gloriously sunny days – long may it last. My family and I had a wonderful day today following the Old Berks Hunt at Baulking Green, Faringdon, where there was a huge turnout of horses, hounds and followers having a get-together, a quick swig from the stirrup cup and above all minding their own business – I wish Tony Blair and others could do the same!
Wishing you all a very Happy New Year.

PARISH COUNCIL

Linda Gibson
Clerk (200242)

The next Meeting of West Ilsley Parish Council will be held on Monday 14th January 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.

GARAGE OR FARM BUILDING SPACE WANTED TO RENT

Small sports car whose soft top doesn't like the Winter weather needs overnight home.

If you have spare garage space or suitable space in a farm (or similar) building in the village and are willing to rent, please let me know.

Many Thanks
Martin B W

ILSLEY UNDER FIVES

Playgroup and the Baby and Toddler group re-start on Wednesday 9 January.

Baby and Toddler Group

The children all enjoyed the end of term Christmas party, especially the visit by the man himself bearing gifts! The noise could probably be heard at the other end of the village (and that was just the mothers!!).

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.

MISS TOFFELLEES

This relatively long, cold, dry spell has made a welcome contrast to the protracted warm, wet weather of this time last year, though it does bring its hazards and problems (in the form of icy roads, frozen pipes, difficulty exercising the animals, keeping goldfish from being frozen, etc.). One of the benefits, aside from that of running round headless in order to defrost any of the aforementioned, has to be that some of the undesirable bugs and germs do get killed off - and we haven't had rats running everywhere, they must be enjoying a drier existence elsewhere! The bridleways are iced over and the roads seem most hazardous as

the gritters don't seem to have covered all carriageways. I am surprised that Bury's Bank Lane is not now gritted as it has public transport passing through regularly. Do I need to mention this to a Parish Councillor? Norman was saying to me today, though, that you never know where the trouble really is in these cold snaps until the thaw sets in.

Ian has sent me an electronic communication, conveying news from a relative newcomer to the village. Martin B W was perusing the internet site and passed on his news of his arrival and mentioned that he had enjoyed visiting the site. He's moved into Rowles Paddock.

I have got confused (and I'm vehemently denying drink, though I was at a party at the time of receiving the news). Di, Katie and Dewie have moved in next door to the Sugden's (the flying Sugden's). The problem is, I can't remember which one is the dog. But what the heck, hello, anyway.

Tom and Pippa Hudson have moved from the dizzy heights of Farnborough (famous Domsday village) to infamous, sophisticated West Ilsley. They are living in one of the cottages beyond the pub. Wise people! We hope that you will be very happy here.

I'm sure that The News will be buzzing with reports of Audrey's retirement. There was a very large crowd to say 'Goodbye' to her on Monday 31st December when she closed the door for the last time. I think we will be kept abreast of any subsequent resurrections of the PO, but for the time being the door is closed. I know that I am not alone when I say I will miss Audrey hugely, for she provided us with an amazing service. Who else but Audrey would help you wrap your parcels to stop the staples from hurting the postie's fingers? Who else but Audrey could tell the cheapest and most efficient way to get a parcel from here to Orkney, because she weighed the same parcel three times on different scales? Who else would help you with your stamps? Audrey, I'm going to miss you walking up the road!! Thank you for your help these past few decades. Isn't there someone who wants to be Audrey? Better not ask Phil that, I'll be put on the gallows! And they wouldn't have to be the same. Happy New Year!

**ALL SAINTS
CHURCH**

Ian Fewtrell-Smith

Church Services for January 2002:

6th	All Age Service	11.00 am
13th	Holy Communion	8.00 am
20th	Holy Communion	9.30 am
27 th	No service	

CHRISTMAS 2001

Thanks to all who decorated the church and churchyard for Christmas. The carol service was packed and the crib service was great fun, with lots of children dressing up to act out the Christmas story. Donations from those two services went to the local branch of the Macmillan Cancer Relief and the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution.

Thanks to David Vince, the churchwarden at Chaddleworth, we now have a replacement bell rope.

Looking back over the last year, there are lots of "thankyou's" to be made, whether for flowers, cleaning, churchyard etc. It is good that so many recognize the importance and value of the church within our community – long may it remain.

CHRISTINGLE

The christingle service will be on the first Sunday in February.

BURNS NIGHT

I'm afraid this has been cancelled for the time being. We are hoping to hold a similar event at some time in the year.

WEST ILSLEY CRICKET CLUB

The Club bar will be open every Friday evening in January (8pm onwards)

There will be a Quiz Night on Friday 1st February starting at 8.30 pm. Everyone welcome - do come along and join us. £5 a team and prizes to be won.

A car treasure hunt is being planned for Sunday 7th April. Further details will follow nearer the event.

Half -a- dozen of the cricket team spent a day at the ground in November filming a series of commercials which were screened during the recent test series between India and England on Sky Sports. Some of you may have seen our own local budding stars Kevin Holloway, Jon Evans, Tony Scrivens, Dick Beech, John Bowness and Chris Benning!!



**Manor Crescent
Compton**

We are looking for an enthusiastic person (male or female) who enjoys working with the public to join our friendly team of Duty Managers.

Initially to work on a Monday and a Thursday evening from 4.30pm to 10.00pm, although the option to work additional hours will become available.

Experience in a Leisure Centre environment is desirable but not essential as full training will be provided

This is an excellent starting point for anyone wishing to pursue a career in sport and leisure.

Equally it would suit a responsible person of any age (min 18 yrs) looking to earn a little extra. Rate of pay 5.15. per hour

For more details and an informal chat, please contact Rose Metalli or Tracey Weaver on 01635 578866

PRAM SERVICE AND AFTERSCHOOL SERVICE, ALL SAINTS CHURCH

The Afterschool service will take place on **Thursday 17 January at 4pm** and the Pram Service on **Monday 21 January at 11am**. The theme for January is Christingle.

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.



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 29th January 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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