

# West Ilsley News

July 2000

Many thanks to those of you who liked the June edition and took the trouble to give us positive feedback - we'll assume nice words and silence are both good news, but we're also very happy to receive suggestions for improvement. Not much reaction to our suggestions for more input but we're not downhearted (yet!). The WIN reaches every household in the village and is also on the internet - this must make it the ideal medium for communication in the village, so we'd like to remind all those good people who are involved in organising events, that the WIN reaches more people than word of mouth. Not everyone is around all the time to hear what's going on so please spare a moment to let us all know what you're planning and then to let us know what a good time we missed if we didn't attend! In this spirit we held the presses for this edition in order to include the report from the millennium children's party, and we've started a diary section which we'll update as and when we hear of any planned events.

The Editors

## ALL SAINTS

### CHURCH

Ian Fewtrell-Smith

Church Services for July 2000:

2 <sup>nd</sup>	All Age Service with baptism	11.00 am
9 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion	8.00 am
16 <sup>th</sup>	Family Communion	9.30 am
30 <sup>th</sup>	United Benefice Communion at Beedon	10.00 am

### Bottle Stall - West Ilsley Show

The church will be running the bottle stall this year. Please could we have as many bottles (wine, beer, ketchup - whatever) as you are able to give. Please see Anne Carlisle, Shirley Gore, Janice Sheppard or me. Many thanks!

## EVERGREENS

Anne Carlisle

At the West Ilsley Show on 16<sup>th</sup> July we have a cake stall and would be very pleased to receive anything edible - cakes, scones, quiches, jams etc.

On 11<sup>th</sup> July there is an outing to Millets Farm to pick fruit, leaving West Ilsley at 1.30 pm by car or handybus.

On 20<sup>th</sup> July we will be going to see 'Carmen' at the Watermill Theatre, Newbury, leaving West Ilsley at 1.30 pm. Non-members very welcome to join us for the theatre.

Names for both outings to:

J Collier 281283

A Carlisle 281613

S Gore 281552

## FISH MAN

Don't forget that the fish man calls at Morland Close on Thursdays at 4.30 pm.

## POST OFFICE NEWS

In addition to Lloyds, Girobank, Alliance & Leicester and Co-op bank, Barclays and cahoot (yes, really) now offer banking facilities at the Post Office.

## PRAM SERVICE

Alison Banks

## ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Liz Dray

The Pram Service usually brings together about 8 or so children from West and East Ilsley and very gently introduces them to songs and stories from the church.

The next service will take place in the church on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 11am. The services are for 0-5 year olds plus parent, grandparent or carer etc and last for half an hour, followed by refreshments for the children. This informal service includes lots of songs with instruments for the children to play plus a short story based on a theme. The theme for July is "Work". Everyone welcome. Contacts: Alison (281705) and Liz (281704)

## PARISH

Linda Gibson

## COUNCIL

Clerk

The Next Meeting of West Ilsley Parish Council will be held on Monday 10th July at 7.00p.m. in The Village Hall. All residents of West Ilsley are welcome to attend this meeting.

## LETTER FROM AMERICA

Many thanks to Tina Roberts (currently ex Keetos) for their observations of life in Long Island. We've a second extract ready for next month. Here then, is the first part of Tina's "letter from America":

Back in February 1999, Mark came home from work with 'An offer we simply couldn't refuse'. This offer meant packing up our two children, George then aged 5 and Catherine then 3, the entire contents of our home and moving 3,000 miles around the world to Long Island, New York.

After 6 months of frantic preparation we found ourselves in said location with all our worldly goods packed into 4 suitcases and 8 large boxes which we had taken with us. The rest was in a very large container which, natural disasters allowing, would arrive by ship 3 weeks later.

Upon our arrival to the US of A, we made the following alarming discoveries:

1. Several letters of the English alphabet had been lost when the original settlers moved over. The words labor, neighbor, color have had a letter dropped and words like theater have had letters transposed. Words take on different meanings. On a recent trip to the hairdresser I was asked if I would like my 'bangs' done. When I asked 'what's a bang?' he replied '\$6'. I later discovered that a bang is a fringe.
2. Measurement had also become somewhat altered. A pint contains 16 fluid oz. over here and a gallon is 6 UK Pints. 6 pints of petrol costs about 95p (1:26p per real gallon).
3. The ability to brew beer with any taste seems to escape the Americans although we find Bud to be an excellent laxative.
4. Wine and liquor is not sold at supermarkets. Instead, the local liquor store stocks many fine (?) wines, mostly Californian Chardonnay. Great unless you happen to run dry on a Sunday when all liquor and beer stores are closed. All purchases must be placed in a brown paper bag and hidden from sight.
5. The Yanks don't seem to be able to drink as much as us Brits, probably due to the lack of tasty beers and wines. When we order a bottle of wine in a restaurant we usually end up being given one glass and a 'you must be alcoholics' look when we try to set things right.
6. They are obsessed with telling you to 'Have a nice day'. Not that they give two hoots if you do or not.
7. Flags – another obsession. In garages, shops, on the side of the road. EVERYWHERE! One rule – the Stars and Stripes must be highest flag on the pole.
8. An intriguing road near us is a 4-lane highway and is called 'Bicycle Path'.

Still its not all bad, the weather allows lots of outside activities. We back onto a golf course and our local (private) beach is only 2 minutes drive away – and we are off to Florida on our holidays.

## DOWNLAND

### SPORTS CENTRE

Tracey Weaver

The Centre is now open at the weekends for casual bookings, parties, trampoline courses and, of course, use of the gym. The weekend opening hours are 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

We now have, at long last, Circuit Training on the programme. The classes started on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June and run from 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm. The cost is £2.60 for members and £2.85 for non-members. Circuit

training is a session to suit both men and women of all levels of fitness – you train at a level to suit you!

We will also have a Ladies Self-Defence course starting in June/early July. Please let the Centre know if you are interested and we will be pleased to send you details. Telephone: 578866

## NATURE NOTES

### Is it a woot or a steasel?

Normally seen racing across a road at high speed around West Ilsley, stoats or weasels can be really difficult to identify. So how can you tell them apart? As the well-worn old saying goes "One is weasiliy identified and the other is stoatally different!"

In reality they are actually quite similar in appearance - especially when you see them flying across a road. Stoats have a long thin tail with a distinct bristly black tip and are between 25 to 45cm (10 to 18in) in length. Weasels on the other hand are generally smaller, although there can be an overlap in size with stoats. They are 20 to 30cm (8 to 12in) long, but have a shorter tail with no black tip. It is perhaps by their tails that they can be most easily identified when crossing the road. In winter stoats can grow a white coat which was sought after as ermine fur, while weasels never had this problem.

Recent studies showed that stoat diets consisted of 65% rabbits, 16% voles and wood mice, and 17% birds and birds eggs. Weasel diets however, were made up of 25% rabbits, 68% voles and wood mice, and 5% birds and birds eggs. Perhaps surprisingly, and unfortunately, neither of them often take rats as prey.

## CRICKET FIXTURES

### Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July

1<sup>st</sup> XI IBIS Mapledurham (home)

2<sup>nd</sup> XI Thatcham (away)

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

Market Lavingdon (home 2.30)

### Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July

1<sup>st</sup> XI Purley (home)

2<sup>nd</sup> XI Bradfield (away)

### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July

Didcot (away 2.30)

### Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July

1<sup>st</sup> XI Pinkneys Green (away)

2<sup>nd</sup> XI No Fixture

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July

Brightwalton Six-a-Side

### Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

1<sup>st</sup> XI Englefield (home)

2<sup>nd</sup> XI Farley Hill II (away)

### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

Sonning (home 2.30)

### Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July

1<sup>st</sup> XI Reading Allstars (away)

2<sup>nd</sup> XI Crown Wood (home)

### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July

East Ilsley (home 2.30)

## **RED CROSS**

**Anne Carlisle**

The house to house collection early in may raised £155.07. Thank you to those who collected and those who gave a donation.

## **UP AND UNDER**

**Steve Price**

Any reader who is familiar with the beautifully situated Watermill Theatre in Bagnor will know that it is the venue for some extraordinarily successful and well-known plays, this despite the limitation of its very small stage and the relatively low number of seats. That small stage area leads the players to some amazingly complex stage directions and not infrequently the play continues on the lawns outside during the half-time interval; this is always a great favourite with the audience.

However, last Thursday was a real treat. "Up and Under" is a comedy about a no-hoper Rugby Team fielded by The Wheatsheaf Pub in the annual 7-a-side tournament. Some idea of their difficulties can be summed up by the fact that they can muster only three players. A former star player, incensed by the ease with which the annual champions acquire the trophy largely through the use of imported and expensive players, places a bet with the competitor's financial backing that he can train a no-hoper to win the competition. Given the opportunity to name "any team – go on, any team" on which our hero can exercise his skills, "Mr Big" selects The Wheatsheaf and to spice up the bet our man is forced to put his money where his mouth is, in the shape of the family home! Honour demands though that he carry it through and this forms the basis of the entire play.

The addition of a personal trainer plus the former star brings the number of available players to five and they go on to face the Champions, though this is achieved with a "fix" that gives them a bye into the thrilling final. Along the way we witness the hard work, training, and humour that accompanies the task; what is truly astonishing, though, is the way in which five people can take that stage area at the Windmill and yet make you feel you are witnessing a very much larger arena. I lost count of the number of times I ducked when the ball was "kicked"!

By the time this review comes out the play will, I believe, have finished, so I hope I am not spoiling anyone's fun to tell you that they lost the bet in a thrilling, last-kick final – the real winner was clearly the rugby itself and they determined to have another go "next year." If so, I do hope they return to the Watermill to play it!

The next production is Carmen – and if you haven't got tickets yet, I would recommend that you get some soon. The run has already been extended by an extra week to cope with demand and it promises to be a wonderful and entertaining production. The Watermill also does post-show meals in their Restaurant and the bar and garden setting is wonderful; despite the bypass nearby I have never noticed any roar of traffic,

which at one time appeared to threaten the theatre's very existence.

The Evergreens detail elsewhere in this publication their plans to visit for an afternoon matinee of Carmen – they would welcome more guests if you can make it and I promise you will not be disappointed.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD**

**WATCH**

**Norman Carlisle**

Neighbourhood Watch coordinators have been asked by the Police to give a strong warning to the public to make sure all doors and windows, garages and garden sheds are securely locked at night. Also during the day if you are not at home. If you are in the garden lock your front door.

Men have been calling asking for a drink or if they can help do some garden duties – any excuse to have a look around your premises.

If you see any suspicious characters call 999 or me on 281613.

## **WEST ILSLEY**

**MILLENNIUM**

**Avice Morris**

**COMMITTEE**

**Chairman**

### **Children's Millennium Celebration Party – 25<sup>th</sup> June**

With 62 village children signed up to attend the party, you can imagine the relief, after the cold day before, that the weather was kind to us. Yes, 62 village children! Many times I heard that day "I didn't know there were so many!" Well, now we know, and that was just up to age 13 and still there were a few missing.

The day started with the arrival of the Monster bouncy castle, setting up tables and chairs, blowing up 200 balloons, and, with many welcome helpers, decorating the recreation ground with bunting, streamers, balloons etc in time for the children to arrive. Then suddenly it was 3 o'clock and the noise and excitement began! First of all the magician/juggler, then games, face painting, tea and disco. Bursting the Bubble-wrap probably won the best game prize. What a noise! It was quite incredible.

A really good time appeared to be had by all – both children and adults alike. All the children will receive a copy of the group photograph in due course and maybe we could display the other photos taken at the village show?

On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank all those who kindly turned up on the day to help. In particular, thanks are due to Toni Sugden, Sandra Carlisle, Anke Summerhill, Denise Buckland and Janice Sheppard, who helped the Committee organise the party and the food.

Special mention must be made of Jemma Gore who made the brilliant 2000 celebration cake – a real masterpiece, and Digby Summerhill, who bravely acted as DJ throughout the afternoon and did a splendid job in keeping the music going. Thanks are also due to

Antony Scriven and Ian Fewtrell-Smith who did such a wonderful job on the face-painting, and Jim and Barbara Lafferty who provided the helium for the balloons. A really good West Ilsley spirit once again!

Well, everyone, that's it – our last event. Time for the Committee to put its feet up now (except for the Gazebo, of course)! We hope you have enjoyed all the events that have taken place. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank my fellow Committee members. So often it is the Chairman who gets the thanks, but it has all been teamwork and they have given tremendous support: Jemma Gore, Ian Fewtrell-Smith, Denis Gilmore, Anne Wond, Colin Sheppard, Karen Miller, Gail North, John Verney and Ron Calder. And a reminder that all this was the brainchild of the late dear Michael Brown.

We still await a response from West Berks Council on the issue of the land by the pond and will keep the village posted on the Gazebo project via the WIN.

**WEST ILSLEY VILLAGE FETE**      Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July  
    12:30pm to 5:00pm

**Final Reminder - Tell all your Friends - and get them to come along:** Art Exhibition, Produce Show, Fun Dog Show, Tug-o-War, Plant Stall, Book Stall, Quality Bric-a-Brac, Aunt Sally, Children's Dancing, Terrier Racing, Fun Golf, Bar, BBQ and Teas.

**Loads for the Kids:** Mr Wiggy, Snake Man & Spiders, Face Painting, Children's Fancy Dress, Activity Toys and Penalty Shoot Out.

**Help (Still) Required:** Many stalls still need Helpers, they include: Crockery Smashing, Stocks, Welly Wanging, Egg Throwing, Ducks in Pond, Treasure Hunt, Face Painting, Balloon Throwing, Clown Face, Balloons in Land Rover, Roll-a-Coaster. Chris Allan-Jones Tel: 01635 281306 [christopher@allan-jones.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:christopher@allan-jones.freeserve.co.uk)

**Final Donations:** Donations for the Quality Bric-a-Brac stall - Jill Wiejak Tel: 01635 281665 to arrange delivery/collection.

Plants to sell on the Plant Stall - Karen Miller Tel: 01635 281876 [karen.miller@btinternet.com](mailto:karen.miller@btinternet.com)

#### **West Ilsley "Fun" Dog Show.**

The very popular West Ilsley Dog Show will again be taking place. It is important to note, as the classes suggest , this is a fun event. Entry fee is 50p per class and there will be prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in each class and masses of rosettes. The event organiser is Jo Gore, she can be contacted on 281618 or via [joanna.gore@btclick.com](mailto:joanna.gore@btclick.com)

#### **Dog Show Classes**

- Best Choc-drop catch
- Dog with the waggiest tail
- Dog the Judge would most like to take home
- Fastest recall
- West Ilsley Dog Derby (agility test)

#### **Children's Fancy Dress:**

Two competitions: under 5's and 5-11. Entrants to be in front of the Cricket Pavillion at 1:00pm. Prizes for every entrant. Theme is 'Nursery Rhyme Characters'. Jo Gore on 281618 or via [joanna.gore@btclick.com](mailto:joanna.gore@btclick.com) or Alison Banks Tel: 01635 281705 [alison@malthouse.org.uk](mailto:alison@malthouse.org.uk)

#### **Art Exhibition**

Please note that a photographer will be taking pictures around the Village for the Art Exhibition.

#### **Produce show.**

Please enter and support the Produce Show. Discount vouchers remain available for entrants - 10% off purchases over £20 at Chilton Garden Centre. Karen Miller Tel: 01635 281876 [karen.miller@btinternet.com](mailto:karen.miller@btinternet.com)

The best kept garden and hanging baskets (all as seen from the road) competition will be judged about a week before the show.

#### **PRE-SHOW DINNER AND DANCE**

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July** Dance to West Ilsley's favourite DJ. 7:00pm until Midnight. Tickets £10 from Ali Easton Tel: 01635 281365 or Alison Banks Tel: 01635 281705 [alison@malthouse.org.uk](mailto:alison@malthouse.org.uk)

#### **PLANNING APPLICATION**

Just the one spotted during June:  
West Ilsley 551: (Full/con) land adjacent to The Bungalow, Church Way, West Ilsley. Lockinge Trust, detached dwelling.

#### **MISS TOFFELLEES**

I must confess to enjoying the great read I had last month of the June issue. The new look WIN was great in content and presentation.

The goof this month, having left it late in the day to contribute (again!!!), was that, having telephoned to check the coast was clear for delivery of said contribution I woke the governor of the house who had retired to bed. It turned out the poor chap was leaving next day at some unseemly hour (to quote Kevin Holloway, there is silly o'clock and \*\*\*\*\*y silly o'clock, and this was the latter!). Next month, late or early, I'll leave it to the electronics.

There was a great amassing of the clans yesterday afternoon at The Rec. when 63 children plus various parents, friends and organizers gathered for the final Village Millennium Bash. What a great sight to see them all line up for the photograph... the youngest was 2 weeks (the oldest was holding him, but I don't know if Anna Sugden is allowed to be counted as a party - goer or helper), the oldest was almost 14 years. They bounced on the castle without killing or injuring each other, they passed the parcel, they trampled on bubble wrap, ate chocolate with a knife and fork and played footie. They sat down to a huge tea, the leftovers of which were later demolished by the grown-ups. The weather was very clement considering what it might

have been. How would you have got them all in the village hall without an extension, Avice? There must be a huge vote of thanks to go to the Millennium Committee at the end of their hugely successful events. We have enjoyed them all, thank you, each and everyone of us. We will continue to remember that it was the foresight of Michael Brown that was that catalyst for it all.

Congratulations to Sean and Carmel Ryan on the birth of their daughter, Anna.

Anna Sugden confessed that their little man was Ferdy for only a short while, he is, in fact, now Josh. So, welcome to Josh Sugden.

Welcome, too, to Annie Painter's grandson, Henry who, appropriately, put in a guest appearance at the party on Sunday afternoon.

Our warmest wishes, too, to James Sheppard and his wife, Lucy, who were married in the church last month. Health and Happiness to them both.

Also congrats to the Dutch couple (please tell me how to spell your names and spare my embarrassment....or is it a greater sin to leave you out because I haven't got time to find out?). You succeeded in making the village look very like Glastonbury. The Caravanning and Camper's Club should have used it as PR!!! If I have forgotten anyone do let me know!!!!

## DIARY DATES ...

### July

10<sup>th</sup> West Ilsley Parish Council 7.00 pm  
15<sup>th</sup> Pre-Show Dinner and Dance 7.00 pm  
16<sup>th</sup> West Ilsley Fete

### September

10<sup>th</sup> Church Treasure Hunt  
11<sup>th</sup> West Ilsley Parish Council 7.00 pm  
29<sup>th</sup> Church Harvest Supper

### November

3<sup>rd</sup> Church Quiz Night  
13<sup>th</sup> West Ilsley Parish Council 7.00 pm

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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 Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> 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: [MWandACook@email.msn.com](mailto:MWandACook@email.msn.com)

Website: [www.btinternet.com/~ilsley](http://www.btinternet.com/~ilsley)

Steve Price  
Manor Farm Barn  
281738  
Fax: 281838  
Email: [ILSLEYFIN@aol.com](mailto:ILSLEYFIN@aol.com)

**WEST ILSLEY VILLAGE FETE - SUNDAY 16th JULY 2000**  
**THE RECREATION GROUND, WEST ILSLEY**

**RULES**

- 1 All exhibits must be the exhibitor's own produce or making with the exception of the Flower Arrangement Classes, where purchased flowers may be used.
- 2 Prizes are awarded at the Judges' discretion and all decisions are final
- 3 Entries: **No Entry Fees** this year  
Entries on the morning of the fete between 9.30 and 11.00 am:  
Entries together with Entry Forms should be delivered to the exhibition tent.
- 3 Entries after 11.00 am will not be accepted.
- 4 Children's classes: Prizes awarded in two age groups, up to 6 years and 7-11 years. Age must be stated on the Entry Form.
- 5 The Fete Secretary reserves the right to re-arrange the exhibits in the interests of general layout and to give maximum room to the exhibits.
- 6 Entries will be judged between 11.30 am and 1.00 p.m.
- 7 Prizes can be collected from the exhibition tent after 3 p.m.

**Produce Show Classes 2000**

**Flowers and Ornamentals**

1. Roses – 3 blooms any variety / varieties
2. 3 blooms of any flower
3. Patio flower pot – minimum 3 plants
4. House pot plant – foliage
5. House pot plant – flowering
6. Pot of herbs – minimum 3 plants
7. Pot of alpines / rockery plants

**Fruit and Vegetables**

1. One dish of soft fruit, any variety
2. Collection of any 3 types of vegetables, 3 of each
3. Potatoes – 3
4. Carrots – 3
5. Onions – 3
6. Shallots – 6
7. Beans / peas – 3 pods, any variety
8. Lettuce – 1 head, any variety
9. Courgettes - 2
10. Cabbage – 1
11. Most exotic or unusual home grown fruit or vegetable

**Flower Arranging**

1. Arrangement in unusual container to be viewed all round, max 24x24 inches
2. Arrangement of foliage, max 24x24 inches
3. Arrangement of flowers from owner's own garden
4. Miniature flower arrangement, max 6 inches overall
5. Arrangement in a beer can – men only

**Home cooking**

1. Jar of jam
2. Jar of chutney
3. Jar of marmalade
4. Savoury flan
5. Ginger cake
6. Decorated chocolate cake
7. Biscuits or cookies – 6
8. Home made chocolates / sweets
9. Summer juice cocktail – fruit or vegetable
10. Man made scones – ie made by the men!

**Homecraft**

1. Specimen of needlecraft eg a hand knitted garment, article of crochet work, article of dressmaking, patchwork, weaving or any other needlecraft
2. Home made cushion cover
3. Upholstered item
4. Specimen of handicraft eg pottery, woodwork, corn dolly, whittling or any other handicraft

**Photography**

1. Views of West Ilsley
2. Photo of a pet
3. Photo of local person(s)
4. Photo of your garden
5. Holiday photo

**Children's Classes**

- Up to 6 years
- 7-11 years

1. A miniature garden, not exceeding 12x18 inches in size
2. Wild grasses in a jam jar
3. A picture of your garden, any medium
4. A pressed flower picture
5. A painting or drawing of a pet
6. Papier maché mask
7. Clay / salt dough face
8. Specimen of needlecraft / home made toy
9. A decorated 6 inch plant pot
10. 6 items that you would put in a millennium time capsule (shoebox size)
11. A gingerbread man
12. 3 biscuits/cookies
13. 6 Home made sweets

**Best Kept Garden**

1. Best kept garden as judged from the road – Country Gardens Cup
2. Best hanging basket as judged from the road

**ENTRY FORM - WEST ILSLEY FETE 2000**

Name and Address	Age (11 and under only)	Section & Class Number(s)

X.....

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