

West Ilsley News

www.westilsley.org.uk

November 2004

We have lost another village worthy - sadly, Bas Pease died on 17th October. He had served as Chairman of the Parish Council and was always a very generous supporter of village life, both financially and intellectually and will be missed. Polly refers below to his obituary in the Telegraph - if anyone would like the opportunity to read it, please let one of us know.

The Editors

PARISH COUNCIL

Linda Gibson - Clerk - Tel 200242

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Monday 8th November at 7.00p.m.** in the Village Hall. See the village notice boards for the Agenda which will be 'posted' during the week preceding the meeting. There is still a vacancy for a Parish Councillor; anyone who is interested to know more should contact either myself or any member of the Parish Council.

BAS PEASE

Polly Muir

You know that you have lived somewhere for a considerable length of time when the venerable in the village pass away and they have been friends for some time. I was very sad to hear that Bas Pease had died and rather more sad that I had failed to find out when his funeral was held, and even more despairing to discover that the jungle telegraph had not transmitted this information to me either.

I first met Bas some 21 years ago and fully appreciate that he made much more of an impact on me than I on him. We had recently moved into the village: Bas and Sue (his first wife, who sadly predeceased Bas in 1996) moved into the village when villages were not trendy places to live. In fact, according to Bas, they thought that he and Sue were (slightly!) nuts. He was such a bright, articulate and awesomely clever man that, had he not been so inherently kind to me, I would have felt truly intimidated. I accompanied both him and Sue at a village fund-raising concert. The village is always raising money for good purposes, and this was one such occasion. They were both very talented musicians and I felt I had an enormous task in hand (Gee! I was sooo young in those days!). However, true to form, Bas put me at my ease and I accomplished what was asked of me and enjoyed it, to boot.

I had little idea, at this time, of Bas' extraordinary brainpower, in addition to his great musical talent. As a gifted physicist, he was director of fusion research at the UK Atomic Energy Authority, having started work on the fusion project in 1955.

However, it was in more of a non-working context in which I knew Bas. He had a huge amount of charisma and a sparkle in his eye (never wasted!) and was always charming company at parties. I note from his pin-up picture, taken by the Daily Express and shown in The Telegraph, that he was shortlisted for "The Most Attractive Man in the World". I wish I had known, I could have asked him more about it. I have no doubt that his response would have been interesting!

Eleanor, it is sad that you did not have longer together. Our thoughts are with you, and his five children and grandchildren. I feel very privileged to have made Bas' acquaintance and will remember him fondly.

DIARY

NOVEMBER

5 TH	FIREWORKS
8 TH	PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
11 TH	EVERGREENS OUTING
17 TH	SPORTS CENTRE INDOOR BOOT SALE
20 TH	EVERGREENS BAZAAR
22 ND	VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE AGM

DECEMBER

5 TH	ILSLEY SCHOOLS BAZAAR
10 TH	BINGO
11 TH	AFTERSCHOOL SERVICE
19 TH	NATIVITY PLAY

Deadline for the next publication is 5pm on Tuesday 23rd November

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VILLAGE HALL PONTOON

Audrey Tizzard

1st Pontoon - 3 weeks to Sept. 4th
Winner Sam Baggs (Arsenal) £21
Booby J. Evans (Stockport) £6.
2nd Pontoon - 4 weeks to Oct. 2nd
Winners Sar. Gore (Bristol C.)
R. Brand (Celtic) £14 each
Booby C. Chitty (Rotherham)
A. Heathrington (Rushden & D.)
A. Tizzard (Dundee)
M. Cook (Rochdale) £2 each
£51.50 went to Village Hall Funds.

Evergreens Bazaar

West Ilsley Village Hall
Saturday 20th November at 2pm

Tombola	Raffle
Cake Stall	Gift Stall
Books and Games	Teas

EVERGREENS Anne Carlisle

On Thursday 11th November there will be an outing to the Bullring Shopping Centre, Birmingham. The coach will leave from outside the Church in West Ilsley at 9am. Members £6, Non-members £8, Tokens can be used. Names to J Collier, 281283.

MS. TOFFEELEES

Having forgotten about the shoot on Sunday, I really enjoyed the Social afterwards. It was great to see friends meet together, especially as it's not Xmas. We don't seem to get together very much in the pub anymore. Is it the price of a round of drinks that keeps everyone away? Or are there other more pressing and sinister reasons? All the bodies seemed to thoroughly enjoyed their shoot and perhaps the delicious lunch even more. The girls that cooked put on a splendid spread while Russ and John ran a good bar. I think we all need cheering up in Winter. It certainly put a smile on my face. I hope they made lots of money for the church roof!

And If someone in our house will please stop throwing away the WIN, I might even remember some of these events!! He's the same person that fails to walk to the village hall to collect the paper.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Fred Carter



'SmartWater'

Thieves thrive upon the fact that the police find it difficult to identify the true owners of stolen property found in their possession. They know that unless the police can prove to a court who the real owner is, there is little chance of them being convicted.

Using a specially formulated solution, unique to each household, you can now mark your property, making it less attractive to thieves as they know it can be traced. This sophisticated product is a liquid containing a non-hazardous, coded, combination of chemicals. The clear solution is simply painted on to the item to be protected. Each brush stroke contains microscopic particles encoded with the owners details. When dry 'SmartWater' is virtually undetectable in normal lighting conditions, but it glows a bright fluorescent yellow under ultraviolet light. It is almost impossible to remove, and even the slightest trace can be analysed for evidence. It is particularly useful for valuable items which would be damaged or impossible to protect with normal marking kits.

'SmartWater' kits are being offered free of charge to the victims of burglary where high value jewellery and antiques have been targeted.

Kits are also available to other West Berks residents in the more rural areas who have either high value jewellery or antiques to protect.

They also have 'free' supplies of standard property marking kits, which are ideal for other types of valuables (i.e. computers, televisions, etc)

The Mobile Police Station will be visiting rural villages to offer specialist crime reduction advice, and to distribute property marking kits

If you would like more information, please contact Crime Reduction Officers Ruth Hemingway or Dale Schnelting at Newbury Police Station on 01635 264643

Village Hall Committee AGM

Monday 22nd November 8pm

At WI Village Hall

New faces welcome – We maintain and manage the Village Hall and run occasional Activity clubs for the village children. We also organise fund raising events each year eg The Firework evening, Icecream selling at The Village Fete, Christmas and Easter Bingo evenings and Last year's Clay Pigeon Shoot to replenish our funds.

Christmas BINGO

Friday 10th December

In the Village Hall

7.30pm

All the Family welcome

Bingo and Raffle Prizes

Bring your own refreshments

Admission: Adults 20p, Children 10p

Bingo Books 30p

Any donation of prizes to Audrey, 5 Fir Tree Cottages

Proceeds to Village Hall Funds

West Ilsley Village Hall Committee

Fireworks

(kindly paid for by Fete Funds)

Friday 5th November

(next field but one to the pond)

Bonfire at 6.30pm

Guys Needed – Guy Competition-

Prizes for all

Fireworks at 7pm

BBQ in aid of

West Ilsley Village Hall

The Cricket Club bar will be open afterwards.

ILSLEY UNDER FIVES

The 50/50 sale raised £225.00 profit which is a great result, so thanks again all those who donated or gave us items to sell.

Unfortunately we had to cancel the Halloween Dance on the 30th October due to lack of support, this was a great disappointment to us as we were really looking forward to having a good night and also there has not been a social 'do' since the Summer. We rely very much on our fund-raising activities for funds as 'Under Fives' is not government funded as we are only able to run two afternoon sessions a week during term time as this is the only time the school hall is free. The fees from playgroup along with the toddler sessions on a Wednesday morning help to pay the two staff we employ as well as insurance, village & school halls hire charges and the weekly paper, paint, crayons etc that we need.

As I have stated over the last few months, if the inhabitants of the villages are unwilling to support us either by sending their children to Playgroup or to support our fund-raising activities then the Playgroup particularly, will cease to exist and another part of the village will die.

We are in the process of organizing the Mum's Christmas meal (night)out- this is likely to be Monday 13th or Wednesday 15th December. Details to be confirmed- keep an eye out for the flyers at Toddler's & Playgroup.

Sunday 5th December is the Ilsley Schools Christmas Bazaar (1pm-5pm) and again we are running Santa's Grotto. We hope to have photos again with Santa so please come along and support us and the school.

ALL SAINTS WEST ILSLEY

William and Alexandra Axtell

Church Services for November:

7 th November	All Age Service	11.00am
14 th November	Service of Remembrance	10.55 am
21 st November	Holy Communion	9.30 am
28 th November	No service	

Autumn Concert

One of the highlights of the year so far was the amazing **concert** performed by Simon Baggs and his uncle Martin Thorne in All Saints. Simon grew up in the village and now performs as lead violin with the West End production of Phantom of the Opera. Martin retired last year after 41 years as organist at St Paul's, Ashford Hill. The duo performed a wonderfully varied programme from Elgar to Gershwin and even a first performance of a delightful piece by Martin's son!

The church was packed and the audience was clearly delighted with a virtuoso performance. It was nice to hear that Simon would often practice his violin late at night in the quiet and still of our church – now through his talent and hard work he is performing to vast crowds in London - bravo!

Harvest Festival

Denise took the popular **Harvest Festival** service in the autumn with the children of the village playing an integral part. The church, bedecked with the autumnal flowers and harvest produce, looked beautiful.

Anna Sugden and Lady Sarah Allendale once again organised a fantastic Harvest Festival lunch that was well supported by the village. Home made shepherd's pie, apple pie and cheese were served to a full village hall.

Clay Shoot

Richard Gore and his wonderful team organised a fantastic **clay pigeon shoot** and an equally impressive lunch in the village hall last weekend. A great turn-out from the village with a sprinkling of ringers from outside led to a fun and slightly competitive day! The clouds

parted and the weather held in the magnificent setting by Grim's Ditch on the Ridgeway – Richard produced some fairly challenging clays but a great day was had by all and we all enjoyed a wonderful lunch and a pint or two afterwards! Thank you Richard and his team for a memorable day that helped raise a substantial sum for the Raising the Roof Appeal.

Funds Raised

The committee is fairly confident of reaching **£10,000** by Christmas for the Raising the Roof Appeal. This is a tremendous start and for a small village to raise this amount in just over a year shows what a strong community West Ilsley is.

However, as we all know there is still a long way to go before we reach our appeal target of £45,000. The strategy is to try and raise roughly half the funds needed locally before we approach grant bodies as this is a requirement for many such bodies. As such there will be a programme of events for 2005 and your support will once again be greatly appreciated.

The appeal's main objective is obviously to raise the necessary funds to restore the church roof but a very important offshoot of this is to organise fundraising events that are fun and enjoyable for the village. Thank you all so much for your contributions, commitment and time to this cause in 2004! It is much appreciated and valued.

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

News from The Ilsleys Primary School
Felix Rayner Headteacher

Well what a busy, yet fun, autumn term we're having! All the children have come back to school with a really positive attitude and are all focusing on doing their best. We have written some positive new Golden Rules together and have introduced an awards assembly on a Friday where the children are rewarded for good behaviour and great work.

Our focus in the curriculum this term has been to further develop writing skills. The children have worked hard at looking at what skills they have, setting their own targets (with teacher support) and reviewing their success. We believe this will have great impact on writing standards across the school.

The children are enjoying a wide range of after school clubs – choir, netball, football and art. We are lucky enough to have the services of a qualified coach for the football training and have great support from parents in helping run the clubs. We hope to have a series of football and netball matches soon – watch this space.

The choir are gearing up for a performance at the Hexagon in Reading during November – they will perform, individually, as a choir and as part of the massed Berkshire choir. As you can imagine the children (and staff) are very excited about this project.

Over the first half term we have raised money for a range of children's charities. We raised £73 for 'Jeans for Genes' by wearing a pair of jeans to school, and collected over £100 for the National Children's Homes by holding a harvest of coins.

We all hope the second half of the autumn term will be as successful as the first. We are all excited and looking forward to having 'Interactive Computer Whiteboards' installed into every class later in the term, and we will all be working hard to make the Christmas show its usual success.

I would like to take this chance to thank the whole community for making me feel so at home at the Ilsleys in this, my first half term, and I look forward to working with many of you in the future.

AFTERSCHOOL SERVICES, ALL SAINTS CHURCH

At the October service the children learnt about "people who are different", The November service will be about "Advent" on Thursday 11 November at 4 pm in the Church.

We are delighted that the services are so well supported but are always very happy to see new faces. The services last approximately half an hour followed by drinks for the children. If you would like any more details please call Denise Brown on 01635 281825 or Liz Dray on 01488 638749.



LUXURY WREATHS CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



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In aid of Church Roof Appeal

Christmas Fair



Saturday 27th November

1-4 pm

West Ilsley Village Hall

Come along and buy your Christmas gifts.
Choose from a selection of hand-made crafts
and luxury goods.

Men! This is the perfect opportunity for you to
buy something special for your wife without
leaving the village!

WEST ILSLEY Village Hall Committee Presents

a

Nativity Play



Get into the Festive Spirit!

Come and join us in Rowles Farm Barn to
see the play performed by village children
and linger afterwards to enjoy mulled wine
and mince pies.

Sunday 19th December, 4pm

Not to be missed - one night only!

For tickets - £5 adults £2.50 under 16s

Anna 281784 Sue 281354 Alexandra 281306

All profits to the Raising the Roof fund

PANG & KENNET VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE PROJECTS

The Friends of the Pang and Kennet Valley Countryside Project has been set up to represent all of the people who care about the countryside in the two valleys. The events below are co-ordinated by The Friends and give you the opportunity to come out on practical tasks, learn new skills, meet new people and, above all, enjoy yourself. The tasks usually begin around 10am and finish by 4pm but you are very welcome to come for as much time as you wish to give during these hours. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing, and bring a packed lunch if you are coming for the full day. Hot drinks are usually provided, as are the necessary tools.

Sun 14th November Bucklebury Common Heathland Management

For all tasks meet at Angel's Corner, by the Scout Hut on Bucklebury Common (Grid ref. SU 550688) at 10.00 am Contact Tim Culley for more details on 0118 9714 830.

Tues 16th Nov Paices Wood Coppicing

The woods in this country parkland are in need of some sympathetic management. Come and help start a coppicing programme in these beautiful woodlands. Meet at 10.00am at Paices Hill (through Youngs Industrial Est.) Grid ref: SU586638

Sun 21st Nov 10am Paices Wood Autumn Amble

Come and discover the history of Paices Wood, whilst on a leisurely walk. In particular, we will learn about the gravel extraction that occurred at the site and how the area has since been transformed into a country park with valuable wildlife habitats. Meet at 10.00 at Paices Hill (through Youngs Industrial Est.) Grid ref: SU586638

Tues 23rd Nov Marlston Hedge Planting

Help Dennis Gower plant a hedge in this attractive part of the Pang Valley. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10.00am or phone the Project office for details of meeting on site.

Fri 26th Nov Brockhurst School Hermitage Christmas Wine Tasting Evening 7.30pm

The theme this year is **Practical Tips for Christmas** and Alan Montague Dennis will lead us through a number of value for money white and red wines followed up with a selection of ports from the House of Fonseca. Tickets are available from the office at £12.50 per person. Book early, as places are limited.

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Christmas turkeys for over 30
years

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soya



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valleys. Further details can be obtained from the Project Office, at the above address.

1st Prize £ 150

2nd Prize £ 100

3rd Prize £ 50

10 Runners-up prizes of 1 year's free membership
of the Friends of the Pang & Kennet Valleys

This competition is open to adults and children alike. It is not aimed at professional photographers. We are working with the Newbury Weekly News who will give publicity to the competition and the prizewinners
Community Action West Berkshire

TRAINING AND INFORMATION FAIR
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 20TH 2004

Please see the noticeboard by the village hall for a poster with more details (too much information to reproduce here).

Friends of the Pang & Kennet
Valleys

The Old Estate Office, Englefield Road, Theale,
Reading, Berks, RG7 5DZ
Tel/fax 0118 9305336

Photo Competition

The Friends of the Pang and Kennet Valleys is a local organisation which raises funds for the Pang and Kennet Valley Countryside projects. We aim to raise awareness of the natural life in these valleys.

To this end we are holding a photographic competition, the theme of which is "Natural life of the Pang & Kennet Valleys". The idea of this is for entrants to take photographs of, for example, landscapes, wildlife, farms, people, rivers – any way that they interpret natural life in these beautiful valleys.

We want to show people the magnificent natural views and features that there are in this area. The winning entries will be used for making notelets and postcards that will be sold to raise money for the Friends. There are some fantastic prizes on offer, as well as the prestige of seeing your photograph on postcards and notelets across the

DONATION TOWARDS WIN RUNNING COSTS

Our thanks to Mrs Walters of Bower Farm Aldworth, who made a donation towards the running costs of the WIN in return for our placing her advertisement.