

West Ilsley News

www.westilsley.org.uk

October 2007

Back by popular demand!

*Anne, Marnie, Angela, Sandra and Andrea
request the pleasure of your company at the*

West Ilsley

Christmas Drinks Party

on

Saturday 1st December 2007

at the

Village Hall

Drinks and Canapés

Tickets include raffle entry

7 pm to 9 pm

pay bar available after 9 pm

Tickets £12.50 each, Concessions £10.00

available from:

*Andrea, Clock Cottage & Sandra, Rowles Farm
281224 281220*

Or email westilsleynews@msn.com

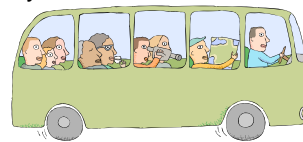
*This is not a profit-making event, but any surplus after
costs will be split between
The Evergreens and the Village Hall*

HELP WANTED

I am tracing my family, who have been and may still be in West Ilsley. The grave yard has at least 22 members of the Wise family, some of them blacksmiths in the village. Can anyone please give me any information, that may help to fill the many gaps? Many thanks, Peter Wise.
Dijeriduda@Yahoo.co.uk 01202 639213

EVERGREENS

On Wednesday 10th October we shall be leaving by coach from outside West Ilsley church at 9 am



for an outing to Street and Glastonbury. Members £7, non-members £10. Tokens can be used. Names

to J Collier 281283.

The Evergreens Bazaar is on Saturday 17th November in the Village Hall at 2 pm.

Landrover 3 wheeler buggy

Free to good home!

Call Cathy on 281242

DIARY

OCTOBER

6th Harrow Irish Music
7th Harvest Festival and Lunch
21st Clay Pigeon Shoot

NOVEMBER

5th Bonfire Night
17th Evergreens Bazaar

DECEMBER

1st Christmas Drinks Party
2nd Craft & Gift Sale 1-5 Village Hall

WELCOME

Alison and Mike Farwell have moved into 5 The Maltings, with sons Calum and Drew. Welcome!



Deadline for the next publication is 5pm on Friday 26th October

Contributions to the WIN can be made by conversation, phone, email, handwritten or typed copy and "word" file, but most importantly, **please do contribute**. Contact details:

Andrea Cook

Clock Cottage

☎ 281224

Email: westilsleynews@msn.com

Liz Dray

The Malthouse

☎ 281688

Email: lizdray@btinternet.com

Please direct your feedback to either of the editors.

To join the email distribution list or for new/changed email addresses, please email westilsleynews@msn.com

Parish Council Update

TROY SEAT

The Parish Council are pleased to announce that there is a NEW Troy Seat in situ. This can be seen on the left hand side at the brow of the hill as you exit the village on your way to East Ilsley. It is a new stone bench which faces the gallops and bears the name - the Troy seat - after the famous race horse "Troy". Troy was trained at West Ilsley stables by Major Hern and won the 200th Derby in 1979. Troy also won the Irish Derby, the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes and the Benson and Hedges Gold Cup (now the International Stakes) and is the only horse to have completed this. The old seat fell apart over the years but thanks to the generosity of 3 close friends/colleagues of the late Major Hern, the Troy Seat has been replaced. We thank them for their generosity. Please do have a look or even sit and admire the view next time you pass.

WEST ILSLEY ROAD SAFETY UPDATE

You may recall that following prompting by the Parish Council, West Berkshire District Council Road Safety Team installed a series of data recorders around the village in order to assess the speed of traffic passing through it during one week.

The statistical analysis of the data shows:

Car speeds in West Ilsley (miles per hour)				
Location	Direction	85th percentile speed	Average Speed	Number of cars
Bury Lane	South bound	27.92	23.25	2799
Bury Lane	North bound	27.15	22.7	3139
Copperage Road	East bound	38.88	31.95	2722
Copperage Road	West bound	40.05	33.15	2895
High St (BT box)	East bound	28.79	23.01	3321
High St (BT box)	West bound	30.64	25.47	1143
High St	East bound	35.31	28.6	2961
High St	West bound	33.52	28.27	3581

NB the 85th percentile speeds are a commonly used statistical measure which is intended to show the speed of the majority of the cars.

On the face of it whilst some of the data shows fairly high speeds, overall the picture looks better than we expected.

However the devil, as ever, is always in the detail. Having been supplied with the data on each car speed (although regrettably not their reg number) we have done some further analysis. This shows a far from satisfactory situation with a large number of cars driving well in excess of the 30mph speed limit in particularly dangerous parts of the village.

The highlights, or rather, low lights include:

145 cars driving past the old Post Office in excess of 40mph, including 5 cars doing more than 50mph.

510 cars going past the phonebox on the High Street in excess of 30mph. This is particularly shocking given the fact that this is round a blind bend in a built up area. Five cars managed to go past doing more than 40mph.

The majority of cars going along Copperage Road, by the cricket nets exceed the speed limit, that's nearly 3,000 drivers!

This data collection exercise is the first stage in our analysis of the problem in the village. It is our view that it is only a matter of time before there is a serious accident in the village and that far from the statistics suggesting no problem, they actually show a quite serious situation. We will be spending the next few months considering how we can address the problem and would welcome your support and suggestions at future Parish Council meetings. It really is a matter of life and death and we are determined to make the roads through West Ilsley as safe as we possibly can.

In the meantime we urge you to take direct action yourselves by driving at 20mph whenever you go through the village.

Remember 20s Plenty!

John Mountford and Philip Knight, West Ilsley Road Safety Team.

BROADBAND UPDATE

Well where the WIN leads, Computeractive magazine and Ofcom follow. Some of you might have seen that, surprise, surprise, in a survey of over 3,000 readers the magazine found that hardly anybody was getting anything like the full advertised speed on their broadband connections. See news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/7003113.stm for the full story. Of particular interest in the story is a link to a little bit of software which when installed enables you to build up a log of speeds over time. I have this running and intend using the data (which currently shows download speeds of c. 1.3Mb) to beat up BT. I'll keep you posted as to how I get on.

On the subject of computers I am going to start up a West Ilsley links page of websites which I think

might be of interest or use to villagers. The site will use the Yahoo del.icio.us blogging engine. I am a bit new to this so bear with me whilst I get it to work! The address is <http://del.icio.us/Westllsley>. Philip Knight

PLAY AREA - SEAN RYAN, Chairman

Building work finally began in late September on the new play area, which should provide a terrific amenity on the Recreation Ground for the village's burgeoning number of children under 12. It's due to be finished in early October. Once the equipment has passed a safety inspection by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, the orange fencing around it will be removed and that'll be the signal that children can start playing there. Autumn is not the ideal time of year but we hope that by the time the good weather returns in the spring, the play area will be well-established and popular with the little ones.

It's been a long time coming. The Parish Council first proposed a play area three years ago. A survey of opinion in the village showed strong support for the idea, which then won approval from West Berks District Council last year. Fund-raising began with the Nativity last Christmas, followed by our Winter Warmer, and then came the news that the Big Lottery Fund, urged on by West Berks, had decided to pitch in with most of the money we needed. The Local Network Fund for Children and Young People came up with some extra funds and, after consultation with the Lockinge Estate, the Carlisle family, the Cricket Club and the owners of the nearest homes, the plans were finally agreed by the Parish Council during the summer.

This has been a big team effort. I'd like to thank the parish councillors - particularly Dries Hagen - and clerk who put so much time and effort into the planning, the mothers (and fathers) who joined forces for fund-raising, the Lockinge Estate and the Carlises, who couldn't have been more helpful, Cllr George Chandler and David Hogg, the head of children's commissioning at West Berks, for backing our application for lottery funding and of course the Big Lottery Fund itself and more than 80 people in the village who have contributed in one way or another.

I'd also like to thank not only the 34 families who registered their support, but also the residents of nearby properties who had their reservations but expressed them so courteously that reaching an accommodation over the location of the play area and the size of the equipment was a much less painful process than it might have been. In particular, it was a delight to chair such a well-attended and well-informed debate about the pros and pitfalls at our Parish Council meeting in July.

It was a credit to West llsley's wonderful community spirit that we ended up more united about this project than some of us had dared to hope.

Once we've paid for the equipment, we expect to have enough money left over to cover insurance, maintenance and an annual safety inspection for the first three years or so, after which we'll be fund-raising again to make sure that the play area is self-supporting and doesn't eat into Parish Council funds intended for other uses. A rota of parents will be drawn up to ensure that a weekly check is made on the equipment and any problems are reported and rectified without delay. A dozen parents are needed to make weekly checks for one month each, so please contact Alison Banks, the parish clerk, on 281705 if you'd be willing to help with this. Alison's number, along with those of two parish councillors, will be displayed at the play area so that any problems arising between checks can be notified immediately. If anyone has any worries at the outset, please let us know.

At some stage we'll be having a formal opening with a children's party. Watch this space!

FLOODS, SUMMER 2007 Dries Hagen

For those who hadn't noticed, there was a fair amount of water in the village during July 2007. I happened to be in the village on the day of the flooding and was able to look around at the various causes and consequences. It is apparent that a tremendous amount of water is channelled into the duck pond from the Catmore Road and the ditch next to the recreation ground. Some of you will be aware that the duck pond does have an overflow pipe but this pipe is only marginally higher than the back end of the pond bordering the paddock. On the day of the flooding I checked that the overflow pipe was not blocked but the vast quantity of water simply overwhelmed this safety feature. The result was that water flowed into the paddock to the rear of the duck pond and eventually ended up in Clive Hooker's garden. From there it made its way through and around the village hall and back into Main Street. There was also significant build up of water outside Forge Cottage. Furthermore, vast quantities of water ended up in the garden of The Poplars and Mick Channon's stables.

One potential solution could be to raise the bank to the rear of the duck pond to force the water back into Main Street as opposed to the paddock, so as to avoid flooding of the properties adjacent to the paddock, including the village hall. We however need to consider that solving the problem around the duck pond would only result in the water reaching Forge Cottage and The Poplars much quicker with a far greater potential for flooding of these dwellings.

Following the floods of July, the parish council wrote to Mr Graham Wallace of Highways and Transport, West Berks District Council, seeking advice and assistance. We have as yet not received satisfactory response from West Berks and will continue to pursue the relevant officers as we believe the drainage system of West Ilsley needs a complete and integrated review so as not to compromise the delicate balance that currently exists, albeit far from satisfactory. We are fully aware that certain parishioners have grave concerns about the frequency of this flooding in that it also occurred in May this year, although not as significantly as in July. It would be most helpful if parishioners could assist the parish council in building up a dossier of events and history regarding drainage/flooding in the village. If you therefore have any records, photographs new or old of areas such as the duck pond or other events within the village, as well as old Ordnance Survey maps, I would be most grateful if you could get in touch on 281855. Please be assured that the parish council is making work of what we believe to be a very serious matter.

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Name	E mail	Tel
Alison Banks	Alison@Malthouse.org.uk Mob: 07710 791631	281705
Sean Ryan	Sean.ryan@sunday-times.co.uk Mob: 07831 350233	281336
Philip Knight	philipknight@yahoo.co.uk Mob: 07795 153022/ 07747 571884	281609
Dries Hagen	Dries.hagen@capiro.co.uk Mob: 07753 684248	281855
Sue Simmons	suesimmons@toucansurf.com	281460
Alan Bloor	Alanpeter.bloor@virgin.net	281341
John Mountford	jgmountford@btinternet.com	281703

MANUAL LABOUR REQUIRED TO HELP IN WEST ILSLEY WOODWORKING 'ENVIRONMENT'.

Work will mainly be scrubbing furniture for that Farmhouse/Country look. Heavy lifting. Hours to suit.

Please call Marnie on 01635 281786
(1 Catmore Road, West Ilsley)

FOR SALE

Reclaimed Pine Single Bed £100 complete
(including mattress if wanted)
Laura Ashley White Wood Ornamental Mirror
(27" by 23") £30
Pine Mirror (42.5" by 30.5") £30
Pine Overmantle Mirror (W 49", H32") £30
Gilt Mirror (52" by 40") - free to a good home
with donation to one of the village's good causes
All can be viewed at Whickens Barn after
7.00pm any evening or at the weekend
(T:281362) David Savage

VOLUNTEER FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER - ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

THE OPPORTUNITY

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service are recruiting a number of community volunteers across West Berkshire to help promote their fire safety initiatives within their own communities through talks and manning their presence at events. In this completely new position you will work in pairs to be a bridge between your village and their services, raising awareness and accessing otherwise difficult to reach sections of society such as the isolated, the elderly and low income. They hope that with our help they can offer free home safety advice to these groups which will result in a drop in house fires across the region. They expect further opportunities and developments to occur over the coming months so there is scope for this role to develop as much or as little as you wish.

The organisation

Reacting to fires and other emergency situations. Educating people about fire safety. Encouraging the values of the fire service in young people.

Skills/Qualifications

Volunteers need to be confident and friendly. Enjoy communicating with individuals and groups. Must have own transport and have regular access to email. They are initially looking to recruit in these key areas - Lambourn, Hungerford, East/West Ilsley and Compton. Ideally volunteers will live within these communities and they are hoping to recruit a pair to serve each area.

Please contact the Volunteer centre West Berkshire for further details on **01635 49004** or email jobshop@nvb1.fsnet.co.uk

PAWSWOOD CANINE MASSAGE THERAPY

Canine massage therapy can be an important tool in the management of joint dysplasia, arthritis, back injuries, muscle wasting/ spasms / cramps and general muscular pain and tension.

Treatment is aimed at:

- Relieving spasm and pain
- Warming and relaxing muscles to increase flexibility

In addition to treatments aimed at specific conditions or problems canine massage therapy can assist in the management and treatment of a variety of conditions:

- Reducing stress and promoting relaxation
- Promoting a healthy coat and skin



For appointments or further details contact:
Katherine Gibbs
 07737 943 878
 or email: pawswoodtherapy@yahoo.co.uk

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH
 News from The Ilsleys Primary School
 - September 2007 - Felix Rayner

The autumn term has begun very positively and the children have all come back with a great attitude towards learning. We welcome all the new children and families who have started this term. They have all fitted in extremely well – it's great to have you on board.

The end of the summer term was full of fun. With our annual 'Day of Sport', school trips and summer choir concert. The term ended with a wonderful play performance written by the year six children. Also The Friends of The Ilsleys Primary School organised a stunning 'Leaver's Prom' for the children. It sent the school leavers off with happiness in their hearts and a smile on their face!

During the summer term we were awarded 'Investors in People' status and are proud that we have reached this standard. The people who work at The Ilsleys really are focused on working towards our aim of providing a school second to none. I thank everyone for their support.

It is this commitment from staff, children and parents that makes it such a joy to work at The Ilsleys. It is also the reason I can report the following year six SAT results:

	Level 4+	Level 5+
English	100%	100%
Maths	100%	50%
Science	100%	83%

With level four being the average level for an 11 year old and level five being the average level for a 13 year old, these are outstanding results indeed. I though you might like to celebrate for the children who have worked so hard through their time at The Ilsleys and have really reached their

true potential. Well done one and all.

That said, here at The Ilsleys it's not all about SAT results, it about fun and giving the children exciting opportunities to become life long learners. We have lots of exciting events happening over the coming term. After school clubs begin soon. Children have an amazing choice of over seven clubs from Choir to Football, from Gardening to Drama – I'd like to thank all staff and parents for giving their time to run these. We have also carried out our first 'Themed Week' focusing on our new class names – Artic, Pacific and Atlantic. We are looking forward to new curriculum ideas based on reading groups and times tables groups. There is never a dull moment at The Ilsleys.

The staff and I are very optimistic about the coming term and know it will be a success. If you have any queries concerning the school don't hesitate to contact me on 281225.

Domestic Electrical Installation

"Bright sparks" are all well and good on Bonfire night but when it comes all electrical work, installation/inspection/ testing/fault finding and certification. Insist on a local electrician who is, "Building regulation Part P Compliant". And P.A.T., full Portable Appliance Testing @ 110/240 VAC.
 Contact Keith Pentecost
 Tel: 01635-281389 (East Ilsley)
 Mobile: 07985-797333

Events at The Harrow

Live Irish Music - Saturday 6th October

Following the success of our last **Country & Western evening** we will be having another!! So everyone pull on your cowboy boots and stetsons and come on down!! Country & Western / 60's & 70's Live Music at The Harrow on Saturday 27th October 9pm. Food will be served before 9pm - Chilli, Curry or Bobotie all at £8 each

Good bye and good luck to Sally Pigott, Jess Liddle and Lizzie who are all off to university. They will be greatly missed as friends as well as waitresses at The Harrow!! Good luck Sal, Jess and Lizzie. See you all at Christmas xx

Live Irish Music at The Harrow on Saturday 1st December 9pm. Food will be served before 9pm.

Christmas Menus are now available and bookings are being taken at The Harrow.

Quiz Night Wednesday 17th October at 8pm (ish) Menu - Shepherds Pie, Chicken Curry or Lasagne all at £8 each. Book your tables now!!

West Ilsley Village Hall Committee
Bonfire Night Fireworks

(kindly paid for by WI Trust Funds)
All villagers and their friends and families
welcome to join us for a fun evening on

Monday 5th November
(next field but one to the pond)

BBQ from 6pm
Bonfire lit at 6.30pm
Fireworks at 7pm
BBQ (Hot Dogs and Burgers) and
Refreshments available for sale from 6pm
plus
Glow sticks for sale
The Cricket Club bar will be open afterwards

ALL SAINTS

CHURCH Will & Alexandra
Axtell

Church Services for October:

Sunday 7 th	Harvest Festival (and lunch)	11am
Sunday 14 th	Holy Communion	8am
Sunday 21 st	Songs of Praise	6pm
Sunday 28 th	No service	

Harvest Festival and Lunch – 7th October

This will take place on Sunday 7th October at 11am followed by the usual Harvest Festival lunch in the village hall. All are very welcome and no need to get tickets in advance. Thank you in advance to Ian and Kay for the organisation and those who generously



contributed the homemade treats!

Children are welcome to bring suitable harvest produce to be distributed to the Willows Edge nursing home in Newbury.

Valete

After several years of penning the church's report we are handing over to Rosanne Pilditch next month. It's been emotional...

Clay Pigeon Shoot – 21 October

Richard Gore is kindly organising a clay pigeon shoot on 21 October in aid of general church funds. Should be a great day – for further details please contact Richard on 281241 or Ian on 281625.

WEST ILSLEY CRICKET CLUB

Ian Osbourne

END OF SEASON SOCIAL 'DO'

Where? The Harrow, West Ilsley

When? Friday October 12th, 7.30PM for 8.00PM
Buffet+ Disco (I'm told), and end of seasons presentations (Chairman's speech will be brief, so don't be put off)

Tickets? £15 per head from Hugh Evans
(hevans17@BTinternet.com or 281763)

Tickets are limited to c 60, first come first served, and Hugh tells me over half are already sold

GROUND WORK PARTY

Sunday October 14th, 9.00am

We need as many helpers as possible to prepare the square and outfield for the winter, so please try to spare an hour

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday October 28th at 7.30pm prompt in the Pavilion

ILSLEY UNDER 5s Amanda Knight

The Toddler Group has begun meeting again following our summer break and it has been a pleasure to welcome some new faces to the group. We began the term by organising a group outing to Bucklebury Farm Park on 26 September. Despite a distinct autumnal chill in the air, the children enjoyed meeting the animals and scrambling over the play equipment. Our thanks to West Ilsley Fete Committee for providing us with the funds to enable us to provide this treat. We have also had our AGM at which Debra Jones stepped down as Treasurer following her youngest daughter's progression to pre-school. Debra has been on the Ilsley Under Fives committee for 4 years and we are enormously grateful to her for all she has done for the Toddler Group in that time. Likewise, Alexandra Axtell has also stepped down from the committee. Many thanks to her for organising some very popular craft sessions. Louise Taylor has kindly agreed to join the committee as Treasurer for the coming year and Amanda Hagen and I are staying on as Secretary and Chair.

Looking forward to the rest of the term, we are planning Halloween and Christmas parties during our sessions on 31 October and 19 December respectively. We are also planning a visit from Phoenix Cards in early November. We will be inviting villagers to come along for a coffee and to stock up on Christmas stationery. Details will follow in next month's WIN.

(Ilsley Under Fives Toddler Group meets on Wednesday mornings: 10:00 am – 11:30 am in West Ilsley Village Hall (term time only). We have heaps of toys, ride-ons and a baby area for the

littlest ones and tea and coffee for the parents/carers. New faces always welcome! For further details please feel free to contact me (281609).



Indulge Yourself In Gorgeous Products From Virgin Vie At Home

Shopping should be a pleasure, not a chore – Virgin Vie At Home will bring a small selection of gorgeous products to the comfort of your own home. Look like you've walked off the catwalk with hot off the press exclusive Autumn/Winter colour collections, stunning trend-inspired Jewellery, and get a private viewing of our exquisite New! Homeware collection so your home is the ultimate in chic and contemporary interior design. If you would like me to visit you then please call me on the number below.

Alternatively I am holding a couple of coffee mornings to launch the Virgin Vie Homeware range. The first of these will be in Brightwalton Village Hall on Tuesday 2nd October from 9.00 – 10.30am and I would love to see you there. The second will be in West Ilsley Village Hall at a time to be arranged so please keep an eye on the noticeboards. Please feel free to come along to view these fabulous new products and have a coffee with me.

Tracy Gregory on 07766 291952

CHILDREN'S CHURCH, ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Afterschool Service

The dates for the forthcoming services will be as follows:

Thursday 18 October – The story of Abraham

Thursday 15 November - Remembrance

Thursday 13 December – Advent – travelling to Bethlehem

Our Afterschool services are held at 4pm in the church and are very informal with songs to well-known tunes, participation from the children and a simple story to listen to. The children have the opportunity to become more familiar with the church and learn about prayer, religious festivals

and other topics in a relaxed atmosphere. The services are aimed at all ages from babies to older ones.

The services are well supported but we would love to see new faces or friends from outside the village. Do come and join us if you have a free half an hour.

If you would like any further details please do contact us on the following numbers:

Denise Brown on 01635 281825

Liz Dray on 01635 281688.

WEST ILSLEY YOUTH CLUB

The youth club is open to children from West Ilsley and Farnborough between the ages of 8-15.

Dates for the coming term are;

JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB (ages 8 -10)

Thursday 4th Oct

Thursday 1st Nov

Thursday 6th Dec

SENIOR YOUTH CLUB (ages 11-15)

Thursday 27th Sept

Thursday 18th Oct

Thursday 29th Nov

Thursday 13th Dec

Any Queries or further information please contact Clare Alexander 281254 or Paul Willis 281185.

MACMILLAN BIG COFFEE MORNING

Liz Dray and Sue Carrington

A huge thank you to everyone who supported us at the Macmillan Big Coffee morning on Friday 28 September. We were delighted that so many of you kindly came along and were also very grateful to the absentees who were so generous in their support even though they didn't get to have coffee and cake! A big thank you also to Andrea, Tracy and Lizzie for helping us with the baking - what a wonderful choice we had!

Thanks to your generosity we raised an amazing total of £372.76p which will go towards providing practical, emotional and medical support to people living with cancer.