

SILVER JUBILEE EDITION

# West Ilsley News 1977 - 2002

June 2002

Well, the WIN made it - this is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition. Here's to the next 25 years!

**The Editors**

and John Green-Wilkinson, Geoff Wond, Steve Price, Charles and Maggie Taylor, Alan Muir, and the present editors, Andrea Cook and Steve Price. A sincere "thank you" to them all in this Jubilee Issue. The magazine has come a long way. As my old headmaster would say, keep going - "per ardua ad astra" - through endeavour to the stars!

## THE ORIGIN OF THE WEST ILSLEY NEWS John Clemenger

Andrea has asked me to describe how the News started. Well, you can blame it on the Army. Surprisingly, communication in the Army is largely by the written word. Memos here, memos there, instructions, daily orders etc, etc. Putting pen to paper becomes a natural habit. The Sgt Major alone seems to have freedom of voice!

I had come back from Oman where I prepared a booklet for Arab children on the care of their animals (goats, sheep, donkeys and cows) and with a PhD thesis also to write up, I had thoroughly caught the writing bug. Well, "Clem's Clarion" as it was called by one villager - who, fortunately (for me) has long since departed the village - thus came into being. The children of the village took command of the front page and we had a competition for the best drawings and paintings of the time. Distribution was also done by children - remember, Julie, Paula, Anna, Stephen and Andrew? And sometimes this was rewarded by a bag of sweets, not a very good idea, Alan, Jacky and Polly?!

We had free printing done by a small printer in Abingdon who eventually went bust, but gave us excellent service meanwhile. We had no shortage of copy at the start and the editorial sometimes ran to a page (the Clem's Clarion bit). But it was the gestetner that nearly beat us. Made about 1920 (or so it seemed) it churned out about 100 almost readable copies from 500 sheets put into it! Elaine and I got covered in thick black ink which we spread liberally over the master cut out sheet. Typing was done, one finger, by myself - spelling etc went by the board and sometimes the positioning of the copy left complete words out. "Never mind", the editor said in one issue "You can use your imagination to finish the sentences!"

It was, however, the start of something we can all be proud of today. The West Ilsley News speaks the heart and mind of many organizations and individuals and keeps us well informed. It is beautifully produced and a credit to all who contribute.

So, I would like to give thanks on behalf of the village, to all past Editors who over 25 years have kept the News going and in their various ways have developed it to its present high status. Audrey has been doing some homework and has found out that following the start Elaine and I gave to the News, and in sequential order, editors have been: John Butterworth, Valerie Cocks and Bruce and Gail Wilson-North, Polly Muir

## EVERGREENS

There will be an outing to Southsea on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June. The Coach will leave from outside the Church in West Ilsley at 9.00 am and will depart from Southsea at 4.00 pm. Members £5, non-members £7. Names to J Collier

## PARISH COUNCIL Linda Gibson (Clerk) 200242

The Annual Meeting of The Parish Council was held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2002. Followed by The Annual Parish Assembly.

More volunteers are still needed to help to keep the area around the Gazebo tidy! If there is anyone who can spare an hour or two would they please contact Avice Morris on 281341 who would be please to hear from them.

The Parish Council has heard from Mr. Brennan at 'The Post Office' that the West Ilsley Post Office premises are still available for use as a Post Office at a reasonable rent. Anyone interested should contact him on 0845 601 6260 for more information.

Sergeant Athawes of Thames Valley Police has agreed to attend the Parish Council Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> July. Anyone who has any questions for him - please make a note in your diary.

Much of the meeting was taken up by discussion relating the recently introduced 'Model Code of Conduct for Parish Councillors', that all Parish Councillor Members are obliged to sign up to before 1<sup>st</sup> July. It was agreed to call an extra special meeting to discuss the matter further on 10<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00p.m. in The Village Hall.

Other Parish Council meeting dates for the coming year are: 8<sup>th</sup> July, 9<sup>th</sup> September, 11<sup>th</sup> November, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2003, 10<sup>th</sup> March and 12<sup>th</sup> May.

## WEST ILSLEY IN 1977

Andrea Cook

Thanks to Audrey Tizzard, (who really should be appointed West Ilsley Archivist!) I have had the opportunity to read the very first edition of the West Ilsley News. It was interesting for someone who wasn't around here at the time to be able to get some idea of what the village was like in those days.

The Queen's Silver Jubilee was the focus of attention in early June 1977, and on 7<sup>th</sup> June (the official Jubilee holiday) there was a programme of events which ran from 11.00 am until midnight. The "Comical Cricket Match" kicked off the day, when Messrs Singleton, Verney, Pease, Gilmore, Needham and Co dressed as "ladies with broad backs and bulging muscles"! Paula Rockall was then crowned as Jubilee Queen, there was a display of children's dancing, followed by sports events and the presentation of jubilee mugs to the children. Cream teas were available outside The Harrow, after which there was a short break for recuperation before the barn dance.

In those days, apart from the Cricket Club, Evergreens, Church, Parish Council and Playgroup Committees, there was also a Women's Institute, a Youth Club lead by Phil Tizzard, and a Whist Drive was held every Monday evening in the Village Hall. There was a Village Barbecue at West Ilsley House (it was still one house then), the pond was about to get a face-lift (how many times has that happened in its history?) and the Queen's horse Dunfermline, trained by the late Major Hern, won the Oaks.



### ATTENTION ALL GARDENERS

please don't forget that I need your help - and save and grow on any spare cuttings, plants and seedlings for the Plant Stall at this year's Fete. Thank you, Pia Burton

## WEST ILSLEY FETE

Sunday 14 July 2002

The organisation of the fete is really coming together now and it promises to be bigger and better than ever. Volunteers to man the various stalls are still required and all offers of help will be gratefully received.

I am taking this opportunity to remind everyone about the Produce Show and we look forward to a bumper number of entrants – don't forget that there is NO CHARGE for entry into of the classes. A list of the classes is reproduced and there is still plenty of time to prepare your entries ready for the big day.

### Produce Show Classes 2002

#### Flowers and Ornaments

- 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!

#### 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

The **plant stall** will be as busy as always, so why not take some cuttings of your favourite plants and donate them to a very popular attraction.

Your unwanted items will be welcomed by the **Bric-a-brac stall** so now is a good time for a slightly belated spring clean.

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

Alison Banks  
Ian Burton  
Karen Miller  
Gordon Bewick  
June Cook  
Sally Shillinglaw

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[sally.Shillinglaw@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:sally.Shillinglaw@bbsrc.ac.uk)

## BARN DANCE

Anna, Angie, Susan, Sarah and Janice extend a very huge thank-you to each and everyone who made the Jubilee Hog Roast and Barn Dance such an outstanding success. A particular mention must of course go to the Carlisle family without whose help it just would not have been possible. Help was received in so many ways that to thank everyone personally would take so much time, please, therefore, accept this as a personal thank you.

As a result of this success we are very happy to inform you that All Saints Church and Ilsley's Under 5's will shortly be receiving a cheque for £1,700 each. Thank you all once again.

## EVENING CLASSES

### IN WEST ILSLEY

*Andrea Cook*

The following is an extract from the Newbury College Course Directory 2002/2003, so as you can see, they are offering dance classes in the Village Hall.

#### Ballroom & Latin American Dancing - Beginners

19095A	TBA	Sept 02	12 wks	19:30 - 21:30
	£67.20 L	West Ilsley Village Hall		
19095B	TBA	Jan 03	12 wks	19:30 - 21:30
	£67.20 L	West Ilsley Village Hall		
19095C	TBA	Apr 03	8 wks	19:30 - 21:30
	£44.80 L	West Ilsley Village Hall		

I believe that a copy of the course directory was delivered to each house in West Ilsley, so all you need to do is fish it out and ENROL. The number for Newbury college is 01635 845000 or email: [info@newbury-college.ac.uk](mailto:info@newbury-college.ac.uk) if you didn't receive a Course Directory. We had 11 people who said they were interested, so if we all apply, and a few more too, we stand a good chance of getting it off the ground.

Those who expressed an interest in yoga/keep fit – sorry, not in West Ilsley yet, however, as you will see there are lots of venues available, so if a bunch of you show willing by attending a class which is on the list, maybe we can build up “critical mass” for one here too.

If anyone has any further thoughts on the topic of evening classes, please let me know, and if anyone knows of any keep-fit teachers who might be willing to come to the village, maybe we can fix up some session privately.

## MAJOR DICK HERN

*Richard Gore*

Major Dick Hern, who spent most of his illustrious horse-training career in West Ilsley, died on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, aged 81.

“The Major” moved to the village in 1962 when he took on the yard at Hodcott, succeeding Jack Colling who was retiring. His predecessor retained a lifetime tenancy on Hodcott House, and so Dick and his wife Sheilah moved into the Old Rectory.

During his outstanding career, Dick won 17 English Classics. His most famous horse was probably Brigadier Gerard, who along with Dick's three Derby winners Troy, Henbit and Nashwan, are commemorated by benches outside the Church, on the East Ilsley Road, on the recreation ground (shared with Oaks winner Bireme), and outside the Harrow respectively. In the concrete base of the first three of these benches, three sets of footprints can be seen, belonging to the jockey (Joe Mercer in the first case and Willie Carson in the other two), the head lad, Geordie Campbell and of course the Major.

Dick operated at Hodcott originally under the patronage of the Astors; then of Sir Michael Sobell, with whom The Herts were the main motivating force behind the development of retirement homes at Fir Tree Cottages; and finally as principal trainer to the Queen.

Dick was controversially replaced as the Queen's trainer in 1989, and moved to a new training yard in Lambourn, financed by Sheikh Hamden al Maktoum, where he enjoyed further successes until his retirement in 1997.

In his earlier days in West Ilsley, Dick supervised operations on the gallops on horseback, but that came to an end in 1984 when a hunting accident confined him to a wheelchair. In spite of this handicap, and also undergoing heart surgery, he continued to train successfully.

The Herts were supporters of village activities and major fundraisers for the Church, although Dick preferred to remain in the background in village matters allowing Sheilah to take the more prominent role. Sheilah died in 1998.

## TENNIS COURT

*John Clevenger  
(Chairman)*

A shortened version of the Tennis Court Management Committee's report given to the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May.

1. The court will be open from Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May.
2. Nine bags of moss and conifer debris have been swept from the court in the last week; the moss roots treated, together with the court perimeter. There appears to be minimal invitation of the playing surface by bindweed but players are asked not to “pull” any weeds – they have been thoroughly treated.
3. There are differing opinions about the height of the surrounding conifers. All players continue to say they like the privacy, the wind shelter and relief from bright afternoon and evening sunshine. Another plus is the protection the trees now give to the court surface from frost and ice. Only a few years ago we had to take down the front fence and use the large roller as the surface was lifting and cracking badly under freezing conditions. This year I conducted a little investigation, which could be of interest. The Southern Electricity Board reduced the height of the central conifers on both sides by about 12 ft. (Where the cable traverse the court) This gave a reduction in shadow of only 2-3 ft on the court surface – so to get

more sun on the court the trees would have to be reduced drastically i.e. by one half to two-thirds (15-20ft) Considering the cost (£450-600) and the small amount of extra sun involved this does not seem practical. However, we have to weigh this against potential tall tree hazards, although there is excellent depth of soil for root penetration.

4. There are a number of holes appearing in the front fence and these will be individually repaired with wire – also the gate painted. It is possible that next year we may have to replace the wire fence – hopefully just the front one!

5. We are having TMC meeting shortly and we shall be looking at increasing the booking fees. At present it is £1.50 per hour for adults and 75p for children under 16. We have held the present prices for over 3 years, but are now looking at £2 per hour for adults and £1 for children. Suggestions have been made for a £5 per hour court booking fee. I feel, however, that although this would benefit 4 adult players it would increase the cost for 2 adult players and also children. Newbury District Council pointed out that our fee structure was too low several years ago.

6. Last year's results

Total income £280.05  
Total expenditure £175.05  
Profit for year £105.00

7. The future. We are looking to recruit and welcome some younger members of the Management Committee and also, if there is enough interest, to start a Tennis Club. Our charter of principles emphasizes that the court primarily is an "open" court for this village and surrounding areas but there is room also for a club, which would be responsible directly to the management committee. We are also looking for a new home for booking and key arrangements, the veterinary surgery having done this for the last 3 years. How about it, The Harrow? You might find it would fit in well with your social activities. So... names of interested individuals or groups to John Verney, 281774, Denis Gilmore 281368 or myself on 281344.

## MISS TOFFELLEES

It is rapidly approaching the halfway mark of the year and I still have winter woollies in my wardrobe and on my mind. At least I can clear the ones from my wardrobe and exchange them for T-shirts instead! I can then mentally prepare myself for summer weather. The barn dance was great fun, even if the food took a little long to get to everyone, it gave us plenty of opportunity to catch up with any number of people with whom we had lost touch. Personally, I met a bumper number of blasts from the past- one with whom I rode when I had no kids. It was so good to see Jamey West; I'd almost forgotten just how youthful he made feel. I came down to earth with a thud when he told me that he was working at Terminal 4 in the first class check-in. No wonder he's so charming!! IT brought back memories of Shep, his paddock, Louise's horse, Lou and James. They're not even at home anymore- Lou has a family of her own!!) Am I getting old? Oh! No! Not you! (Maurice Chevalier- Gigi!). Anyway, the barn dance....I enjoyed the dancing and the socialising, Alan enjoyed the beer and the kids amused themselves immensely pottering. It's good when we can all go out together. I do think, though,

that there needs to be a public warning about Tessa and Jemma. Their modus operandi of retailing is distinctly suspect, but nevertheless effective, i.e. waiting until people have had a pint or three before attacking them with raffle strips. This underhand method of sales should be made known to all potential victims at local gigs before the scandal hits the real gossip columns. Daily Mail are you ready for West Ilsley? They got me three times!! However, the raffle prizes were particularly good, it was the first time I had won anything for years. The barn looked unrecognisable with all the bunting and flags, and the neatly laid out tables. I couldn't believe the transformation. A very pleasant evening, thank you for all the hard work All Saint's and Under 5's.

Has anyone besides me heard of the proposals for Wantage town centre; certainly the jewellers shop hadn't when I visited last week. I understand that they are proposing to extend Sainsbury's and on the new enlarged site put Boot's and WHSmith. What effect will this have on Wantage town centre? Death, I suspect. I thought that the government was against destroying the material and fabric of towns, but I really can't see anything else happening if this is the case. Does anyone have any evidence to substantiate this, or otherwise? I love my little potter into Waitrose in Wantage and I know from the number of people from the village I see there that they might feel the same way as well.

## MESSAGE RECEIVED ON OUR WEBSITE

Hello to all the residents of West Ilsley  
We were very saddened to hear this week of the death of Major Hern.  
We enjoyed our association with the Major & Mrs. Hern during the time we all lived & worked in the village & often reflect on our good luck to have been part of the village in the mid 1980's.  
We know that his death will leave a breach in the lives of many in the village & we send condolences to you all.  
Our warmest regards to all who may remember us.  
Pam, Jack, & Nigel Godfrey.  
From Hamilton, New Zealand.

## CRICKET CLUB

Alan Bloor

We haven't really had much good cricket weather during May but that hasn't dented the clubs spirits. The clubs first eleven are currently top of the Berkshire premier division after some sterling performances - long may this continue. The second eleven is languishing in mid table in the third division, they say they haven't had much luck and this will change when the sun shines in June

The club bar is open every Friday evening and when there are fixtures on the recreation ground:

June 1	2nd XL Crown Wood
June 8	1st XL Ibis Maple Durham
June 9	East Wood hay
June 15	2nd XL Embroid
June 22	1st XL Nettle bed and Syncope
June 29	1st XL Yateley
June 30	Berks League Over 50s

## 'ELLO ELLO ELLO' Sergeant Rob Athawes, Community Policing Team, Hungerford

### GENERAL INTEREST

I would like to start this month by thanking everyone who has got into the swing of this community parish magazine entry idea. I have also received lots of E Mails from various parties and I have already seen the benefits of E Mail contacts with Parish Clerks and Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators, in particular. With the general lack of available community police officers on the streets these days, to make the vital contacts, I guess this is the next best thing.

I would like to thank those of you who have sent me personal copies of Parish Magazines. Some of them are very impressive indeed and it is good from my point of view to keep on top of things.

### CITIZENSHIP

A forthcoming item on the horizon, through the education process, is the formal introduction of the citizenship programme, this coming Autumn. The police are, hopefully, by working in partnership with our senior schools, going to have some input into this process. I feel, as I know many of you do, that general behavioural standards have fallen in recent years, particularly with regard to respect for others and others property in the public arena. I can only see that the teaching of citizenship within our schools, is a step in the right direction, which needs to be supported, not just by parents, but by society in general.

### CHANGE

Things are just about to change at Hungerford police station again. Inspector Andrew Talbot, whom some of you would have met is moving on to pastures new after a six month stint here at Hungerford. He is to take over the lead role at Pangbourne and I know he sees this as a big challenge, as there are many crime problems on the sector and considerable differences when compared to Hungerford. Particular problems in the Tilehurst and Calcot areas are street crime and robberies. Turning this around will be a challenge in itself.

### GOOD NEWS

We have had some excellent news in the last two or three weeks with one individual admitting to some very high value burglaries on the Hungerford 'patch' (one of which was valued at £350,000. A lot of time and effort has gone into this investigation and this is precisely the type of work that goes totally unseen by the public. These columns give me the opportunity to crow about our work.

### QUEEN MOTHER

On 9th April, as you will all know the Queen Mothers Burial took place at Windsor Castle. Myself and two other officers from Hungerford were honoured to be involved in policing this sad occasion and we were part of the team lining the route in Windsor town centre. A few days later we received a very complimentary and very unexpected personal letter of thanks from the Queen.

### CRIMES AND ARRESTS

#### Chieveley Parish

Apart from the services area and the Hilton hotel there have been a total of 5 crimes reported in the Chieveley Parish. Overnight 12th/13th April a Renault Espace was entered in the High Street area and biscuits and

sunglasses were stolen. On the same night a birdbath was stolen from a garden in Hazeldene. During the night on 21st of the month an Isuzu Trooper was stolen from outside a house in Hazeldene. On 24th a church in the area was illegally entered and overnight 29th/30th a business premises was broken into off the High Street with computer equipment being stolen. On 23rd of the month some boarding was stolen from a premises in Beedon.

#### The Ilsleys

No offences reported.

#### Hermitage

On 18th of the month a garage of a cottage was broken into in the village and a chainsaw, amplifier and speakers were stolen.

A shoplifting occurred at one of the stores in the village with magazines being stolen. This occurred on 13th and the theft of petrol took place at a garage in Curridge.

#### Leckhampstead

Between 11th and 13th of the month a Jaguar was broken into in the village with a mobile phone and a tax disc being stolen. These items were later found "dumped" in the village by a neighbour and the items were returned to the owner.

Overnight 12th/13th trespassers entered the garden of a house in the Thicket and a Barbecue was stolen.

#### Brightwalton

At about 11pm on 13th April an offender was disturbed stealing garden furniture from a cottage in the village. Unfortunately he made good his escape. This white male was described as clean-shaven with jet-black hair aged between 20 and 30 years and about 6' tall. He was described as athletic in build.

A strange individual was arrested just outside the village in possession of crossbows and knives.

#### Chaddleworth

On 3rd of April a youth was assaulted by two others by a phone box in the village. Both alleged offenders have been interviewed by the police and one of them has received a formal caution.

Between 20th and 22nd a golf buggy was stolen from the West Berks golf club. This was later found abandoned in Great Shefford. If anyone has any positive information on this offence we would like to hear from them.

#### Fawley

On 14th of the month a lawn mower was stolen from a garage in Dog Kennel Lane. This item was seen to be loaded into the rear of a white Ford Transit van. As I write this report two of the Hungerford officers have returned to the same area to take a similar report of more garden equipment being stolen from the same road.

There have also been several arrests for drink driving related crimes throughout the month.

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.

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 25<sup>th</sup> June 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:**

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*West Ilsley  
Pre-Fete Party  
Saturday 13th  
July  
Bar & Disco 7.30 - 12am  
Tickets £10 to  
include supper  
please bring your own crockery &  
cutlery  
tickets available after 10th June from*

<i>Toni Sugden Bramble Cottage. 281291</i>	<i>Sandra Carlisle Rowles Farm. 281220</i>
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*Organised by the Friends of the Ilsleys  
Primary School with Sandra Carlisle*

