

West Ilsley News

www.westilsley.org

November 2008

DIARY NOVEMBER

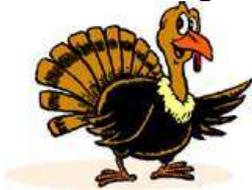
1 st	Winter Warmer
7 th	Christmas Shopping event
15 th	Evergreens Bazaar 2pm
24 th	WIN Christmas Greetings deadline

Domestic Electrical Installation

Building regulation Part P Compliant
installation/inspection/testing/fault finding
and certification
Portable Appliance Testing @ 110/240 VAC
Contact Keith Pentecost
Tel: 01635-281389 (East Ilsley)
Mobile: 07985-797333

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EVERGREENS BAZAAR West Ilsley Village Hall Saturday 15th November at 2 pm.

Tombola
Cake stall
Raffle
Gift stall
Books and games
Tea and biscuits

CALLING ALL RESIDENTS !!

We are in the process of electing the new West
Ilsley Fete Committee & seem to be rather short
of people (so far 3 people have come forward).
To enable West Ilsley to continue with its annual
event we require some volunteers. If you would
like to become part of our team & help organise
the fete, please could you contact either Helen
Tallant on 07788 527381 or email -
htallant@tiscali.co.uk OR Katherine Gibbs on
07737 943878.

Deadline for the next publication is 5pm on Tuesday 25th November

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

CHILDREN'S CHURCH, ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Afterschool Service

In October we heard the story of "Ruth" and the children enjoyed using the instruments to accompany their singing. Our next service will be at 4pm on **Thursday 20 November** when we will be talking about "Advent" and making advent wreaths.

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.

EVERGREENS

On Tuesday 11th November, the coach will leave from outside West Ilsley Church at 8.30 am to go to Coventry. Members

£7, non-members £10. Tokens can be used.

Names to J Collier 281283



Window Cleaning Roger Stowell

(previously working as Abingdon Window Cleaners
- the same man)

Window cleaning, gutter cleaning and
general odd jobs

01869 600628

ALL SAINTS CHURCH Rosanne Pilditch

Winter Warmer – Saturday 1st November at 8pm

Blow away those winter blues and come and enjoy a warming evening at the Village Hall, (plus) and Rosanne Pilditch (280553).

All proceeds will go to the church.

ALDWORTH

“Turkey & Tinsel
Christmas Bazaar”

Saturday 22 November

9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

in Village Hall

Charity Stalls & Cards

Produce, Cakes & Gifts etc.

TURKEY TASTING

& Free Mulled Wine

Christmas Draw 12 noon

with Father Christmas!

Organised by Aldworth Saturday Stalls' volunteers

Contacts: 01635 578090 & 578177

USE IT OR RISK LOSING IT!

Shopper bus (16 seater) goes to Reading every Friday. Leaves West Ilsley at 9.30 am and departs Reading at 1.15 pm. Tokens and bus passes can be used.

COURTING EXCELLENCE

A new era for the tennis court was ushered in last month when John and Elaine Clemenger stepped down from the management committee after 26 years of distinguished and dedicated service, and a fresh team took their place with a brief to get more of us playing. Among the proposals discussed at a meeting of the parish council and the tennis committee were coaching for children and adults, a West Ilsley tournament and a new system for booking the court. More than 20 people contributed their thoughts for the new committee of Amanda Knight, Andy Driver, Sue Evans and Polly Muir to mull over. These included setting up a club with an annual fee while ensuring that non-members still have a chance to 'pay and play', obtaining tickets for Wimbledon and replacing the surface of the court in a few years' time. The parish council applauded the Clemengers for the huge amount of painstaking work that has gone into maintaining the court over so many years, and wished their successors well in ensuring that more tennis is played on it from next spring onwards. We also decided to make a start on cutting back the trees around the court, particularly on the side where they overshadow the gardens of the adjacent cottages. If all goes according to plan, this year's bonfire on November 5 will be even bigger than usual!
SEAN RYAN, Chairman, Parish Council

WEST ILSLEY TENNIS COURT

Following an EGM Parish Council meeting four (later to be Five!) members of West Ilsley volunteered to serve on the new committee. The five of us reconvened at The Harrow (where else?) to discuss certain urgent matters (trees, keys, use of court, etc.) with Elaine Clemenger. We shall, henceforth, of course, be known as The Famous Five (only joking!)

Andy Driver (Solid citizen and Chair),

Amanda Knight (Secretary)

Polly Muir (Treasurer)

Sue Evans

David Gardhouse

It was agreed that John and Elaine would hand over the relevant paperwork and details formally at the beginning of November. The Clemengers were offered lifetime membership access in recognition of all the work they have done: they have declined, graciously, to take up this offer.

There were many issues that we wished to discuss, some of which will need to be tackled in the future: at the moment we need to take one step at a time. Anyone wishing to see the minutes of the meeting is, of course, most welcome to approach the secretary.

The committee is very keen that the use of the court is maximised: the chairman reiterated that he was wanting to encourage all ages and abilities to play, especially the younger ones. The idea is to make the club inclusive, not exclusive, for both the serious and occasional player, as well as fun and sociable (with the cricket club as a role model we have a very high bar!). To this end we propose to change both the booking system and the access to the key.

PAYMENT: we decided that membership would be a fairer and easier way of paying, endeavouring to keep prices competitive, but at the same time sufficient to cover the considerable overheads of the court. These we will need to review on an annual basis (suck it and see basis!). Proposed fees as follows:

- Household rate: £40
- Individual membership £25 (Junior and Concessions £20)
- The court should also be available to hire on an hourly basis (?charge£6.00/hour)

BOOKING: Sue has set up an on-line booking system (details will be delivered by way of the WIN), but, additionally for those who don't have internet access, there will be a notice put up, ? outside the village hall). Clearly, there may be some trial and error involved here, as we haven't had a similar scheme running before and we may not cover all eventualities.

ACCESS: we thought that a combination lock would provide security with accessibility (possible

periodical change of number), but conveyed to all who pay.

It is possible, if there are enough keen players to run tournaments...tone up your batwings and thunder thighs...

The trees will, by now, have had their grade one short back and sides on the eastern perimeter. What it will look like is anybody's guess. If three of the committee go missing it looks bad (they voted one way for the trees): if two disappear, then it is the other way round: if all five disappear someone else will have the problem of burgeoning conifers. Let's hope they make a good bonfire great!

We are going to be meeting monthly, so if you have any requests please do contact any one of us. We are keen to get some ideas for the younger members of the community, so we would love to hear from you i'il and not so small fellas out there. If there are youthful tennis players out there with ideas, we would like to you to attend the meetings (you needn't stay!).

NEXT MEETING MONDAY 1st DECEMBER at THE HARROW

Polly Muir (Tennis correspondent...)

A NOTE FROM JOHN CLEMENGER, RETIRING CHAIRMAN OF THE TENNIS COURT COMMITTEE

Suffice to say, that after 26 years on the management committee I have some "thanking" to do. Thanks, firstly, to Norman for agreeing to give up some of his land for tennis; to Jan Wiejak , a past chairman who masterminded the resurfacing of the court in 1992 (incidentally, the cost now £26,000?); to John Verney and Denis Gilmore, two stalwarts on the committee for almost the life of the court. Also , not forgetting our own Julia Rockall who was Booking Clerk when she ran her much loved (and missed!) General Stores in the village. I also thank Jackie Atkins for her support throughout, as one of the Guarantors to the court. Finally I must say a big "thank you" to my wife, Elaine, for her unstinting and loyal work as Booking Clerk for many years. A great one for supporting the youth of the village, I have often marvelled at the ease with which she can communicate with the young people when they present themselves for 'the key'. A mixture of humour, discipline and a real concern for the individual seems to be her style.

So, the future looks bright for the court. The tall leylands have been cut on the west side, for reasons I will let others explain. The other two sides will follow as and when finance allows. The Parish Council and West Ilsley Trust have generously agreed to pay for this. Our own finances will be needed for renewal of fencing in the future.

It may well be that in years to come the court may become a multi-sports facility. Meanwhile, Carole Driver and her small group of regular players might well decide to form the nucleus of a Tennis Club. I am assured that the court will remain an 'open' court and that all youngsters keen on playing will be well catered for also.

**THE ILSLEY PRIMARY
SCHOOLS WINTER
WONDERLAND/ CHRISTMAS
BAZAAR**

Sunday 23rd November
between 2pm & 4pm

If anyone is interested in running a stall
please contact Donna Cobrin on 280546

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

If you would like to send Christmas greetings to friends and neighbours in the village via the WIN and donate a sum towards Church Funds rather than sending cards, let me have a note of what you want to appear and your donation - any time from now up until 25th November and it will appear in the December edition. Andrea Cook



ILSLEY UNDER FIVES

In October the children took part in the Ilsley Under Fives HALLOWHEELATHON! – a sponsored bike ride and pram push at Snelsmore Common. We could not have asked for better autumnal weather – a crisp morning with plenty of blue sky and sunshine. A little parky however for the children to dress up in Halloween costume as planned – hats, gloves and wellies were the order of the day! 10 children took part – 4 on bikes, 3 on scooters and 3 in pushchairs. Sponsorship monies are yet to be collected but all funds raised will be used to provide a trip out for the children as well as additional craft materials and toys as required. Many thanks to those who supported the children taking part.



October also saw the children undertaking a Harvest craft activity – mess was made sowing seeds (with glue!) onto a "tractor in a field" scene. Needless to say more seeds ended up on the floor and in clothes and hair – a good time was had by all though! Thanks to Zu Kingdon for taking responsibility for craft activities at future sessions.

We now also have a new member on the committee. Vikki Morse is a very welcome addition making a strong team of 5.

Ilsley Under Fives meet during term time on Wednesday mornings, 10am to 11.30am, at West Ilsley Village Hall. The session is an informal meeting, providing playtime for the children, an occasional craft activity, a drink and biscuit with tea/coffee and chat for the parents or carers. The session ends with a singsong! For further details please feel free to contact me on 280622 or any other member of the committee or simply pop along on a Wednesday. New faces are always welcome! Louise Taylor

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Locally grown 'non-drop' Norwegian blue spruce trees

3 – 4 FT £20
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6 FT AND ABOVE £30

The trees will be available to buy and collect from early December. If you know what you want then order now by email:

Mark.balloon@btinternet.com

or drop by to choose your tree!

Happy Christmas from Storm Ryan
Forge Cottage
West Ilsley
281500

Village Hall Committee AGM

Wednesday 26th November, 2008

At WI Village Hall 8pm

New faces welcome. We maintain and manage the Village Hall for the benefit of Village residents. In addition we run annual fun events such as the Summer Camp Out, The Village Fireworks, Bingo Nights and a stall at The Fete all to replenish our funds.

We meet 3-4 times a year to discuss and organise the above.

New committee members most welcome and needed. Please call Angela (281500) or Alison (281705) if you are interested.

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

Wednesday 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

THE SUMMER OF 08

Bill de Grey

Postman

Little doubt countless articles will find their way into the mass media regarding the summer that never was, but in geological terms we are bearing witness to a period of change that occurs with a degree of regularity. Comprehensive weather records go back less than 100 years so we tend to compare with what we know, but we are aware of severe winters and wet summers from the Middle Ages on, peaking in the 18th century with what is best described as a mini ice age. Compared with a temperate climate a millennium prior to that saw grape vines flourish in southern England

The reason I'm waffling on has more to do about our future than the present - and our ability or lack of it to adapt. The farming members of this village were no doubt fed up to the back teeth with me inquiring on a daily basis about the progression of their harvest, but it is a matter that may well have to be addressed not only locally but globally if we are to feed the developed world let alone the third. We are, as a species, pretty adept at meeting future needs and little doubt varieties of grain will be developed to meet changing climate, but it doesn't happen over night and I'm not a little concerned about the interim. I am writing this in the middle of a world wide financial breakdown which will effect some more than others but the bottom line to all life subsistence is food, nothing else matters, but the body politic is concentrated on matters fiscal at the expense of the real issues of agricultural self sufficiency in a country that once nearly was and now sadly isn't - and as much as I would like to remain "A political", the question we must ask of our elected (present or future) representatives is not so much what they are going to do (heaven forbid) but if they are aware of the problem. This may or may not have anything to do with greenhouse gas emissions, personally I think it has not, at least not in the sense we can do anything to combat its inevitability other than meet the challenge before it meets us.

**DOWNLAND VOLUNTEER GROUP
WANTED - VOLUNTEER CAR
DRIVERS**

We are a friendly group of people who use their cars to provide a service to people in the Downland villages who need help to get to local surgeries, hospitals, dentists and opticians or sometimes to go shopping. We would love to hear from you if you occasionally have some spare time during the week and would like to help.



Appointments are normally during the day between Monday and Friday. Our office staff take requests from clients and ring to ask about your availability. It's up to you how often you drive. Some of us do it just once or twice a month, some more regularly. Some of our drivers also run the Handybus to take people on regular shopping trips or visits to the surgeries.

We pay you a mileage allowance to cover fuel costs and reimburse any other out of pocket expenses. Our clients are usually very grateful for what we can do for them and we do find the job very rewarding.

If you are interested, please do call us at the **Downland Volunteer Group office** on **01635 578394** between 10 and 12 a.m., Monday to Friday.

**CHRISTMAS SHOPPING
EVENING
7TH NOVEMBER
WEST ILSLEY VILLAGE HALL
3pm to 8pm**

Lots to buy
Christmas Fare
Cards
Fairies
Handbags
Tombola
Embroidered towels
Raffle

In aid of West Ilsley village hall
Father Christmas will be there 4 o'clock to 6 o'clock
Refreshments
Telephone Julia 01635 281597

LOOKING FOR FUNDING?



A grants scheme operated by The North Wessex Downs AONB is available to help deliver local projects that have a positive impact on the environment of the North Wessex Downs.

Grants up to 75% of the total cost are available from the Sustainable Development Fund.

These grants can fund a range of projects that must be located within the North Wessex Downs, that raise awareness, understanding and appreciation of the unique qualities and sensitivities of the North Wessex Downs; for example:

- Recording, promoting and celebrating local biodiversity
- Training in rural skills
- Restoring local features or viewpoints
- Developing the use of renewable energy in the community or on the farm
- Promoting the consumption of local produce
- Producing parish plans
- Installing village gateways
- Developing markets for woodland products

Who can apply?

- Community and voluntary groups and groups working in partnership
- Charities
- Local authorities and Parish Councils
- The private sector

Larger grants, over £5,000, will require a comprehensive business plan.

If you are interested in applying, visit www.northwessexdowns.org.uk for more information or contact John Tabor at the North Wessex Downs office on 01488 685 440.

We're waiting to hear from you!

Any project supported by this scheme must be fully completed

**LUXURY WREATHS
CHRISTMAS
DECORATIONS**



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**The Village Hall Shopping Evening
Friday 7th November
3-8pm**

**West Ilsley Village Hall
Children welcome**

Alison Banks Tel 01635 281705

www.bewitched-accessories.co.uk

**Fund raiser for West Ilsley
Village Hall**

