

West Ilsley News

March 2001

The most worrying news topic at this time is the outbreak of foot and mouth disease. Hopefully everyone has stopped going for the lovely walks which we all so enjoy and will think twice about partaking in any activity which has even a remote chance of bringing problems to the village. One feels so helpless, but all we can do is offer our sympathy to those farmers, hauliers, butchers and others who are already affected, and our support to our local farming community in any way we can. Please note the slightly earlier deadline for next month's WIN.

The Editors

Easter Bingo
Friday 13th April
7.30pm
West Ilsley Village Hall.

Bring Your Own Drinks
Raffle prizes welcome
Admission 20p, children 10p
Bingo Books 30p

VILLAGE HALL
PONTOON

Audrey Tizzard

The winners of the 7th Pontoon were:
Postie B Sheppard (Arsenal)
Sam Baggs (Ayr) £14 each
The Booby was shared by
N Carlisle (Brentford)
M Chaney (Northampton)
N Brand (Raith) who won £2.70 each.
£25.50 went to Village Hall funds.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Karl and Loesje Enthoven are pleased to announce the birth of their new daughter Chanine who was born of the 4th of January 2001 in the John Radcliffe. Chanine has a sister, Louisa, who is two.

WEST ILSLEY
PARISH COUNCIL

Linda Gibson
Clerk to W.I.P.C.

The Parish Council met on Monday 8th January with five members of the Council and one member of the public.

Parish Precept A Precept for the year 2001/2002 was set at £1600. A small increase on last year. In recent years annual donations have been made to (amongst others) The Downland Sports Centre and The Downland Volunteer Group. The Parish Council would be interested to know how many Parishioners

make use of these organisations. Would you please tell any P.C.member, The West Ilsley News, or myself (200242) if you are make use of these services.

Affordable Village Housing. The results of the Housing Survey carried out in the village last year have now been analysed. It would appear that there is a need for affordable village housing in West Ilsley. In an attempt to take the matter further, Mrs Deborah King, of The Rural Housing Trust has been invited to the Annual Parish Meeting in May.

B.T. Telephone Box As most people will be aware, this was out of order and caused a considerable nuisance for the period over Christmas and the New Year. This facility is well used by passers by but how many people in the village make use of it? Again, would you please inform P.C. member, W.I.News or myself if you find this a useful facility.

The Chief Executive of West Berks Council, Stella Manzie has agreed to attend the next Parish Council Meeting on Monday March 12th! This is an ideal opportunity to raise issues that concern you. **It is hoped that as many Parishioners as possible will attend,** so please make a note in your diary.

EVERGREENS

Anne Carlisle

Monday 12th March at 2.30 pm is the Annual General Meeting in the Village Hall. New Members welcome.

Saturday 21st April at 2.15, seats have been booked for 'My Fair Lady' at the Corn Exchange, Newbury. Names will be taken at the AGM.

Foot and Mouth Emergency

West Berkshire Council has closed all public rights of way that cross agricultural land as part of a package of measures to help prevent the spread of foot and mouth disease.

The local farmers appreciate everybody's cooperation in trying to stop the spread of this very infectious disease.

VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (formerly West Ilsley Recreation and Social Committee)

Following the AGM last November, this committee changed its name to the above. This was because the Recreation ground now comes under the auspices of the Cricket Club and so our title now reflects our current responsibilities. We shall also have a new constitution to formalise this.

Plans for the future include a renovation programme starting with the kitchen area. Also we have been fortunate enough to recruit a wonderful cleaner and we hope that by offering a clean and pleasant environment many more of you will consider using it for private functions and for village clubs and activities. On a fundraising front the Bingo continues so put the date in your diary now (Good Friday).

BOOK NOW FOR A GREAT NIGHT OUT! Andrea Cook 281224

I'm arranging a West Ilsley theatre night on Wednesday 4th July, to see **The Importance of Being Earnest** by Oscar Wilde. Whether you are a regular attendee at the Watermill, or haven't got round to it yet, please come and join us. I'll do the booking and organizing of tickets, all you have to do is put the date in your diary and phone me to reserve your seats, then pay up and turn up! We like to get the best seats so the deadline for booking with me is Thursday 15th March, by 9 pm – the tickets will be booked next day. Cost will be £15 per ticket – we may be able to get a discount on this if we get enough people. Please phone me or put the booking form at the end of this WIN through our door.

REMINDER Richard Gore

Ms Stella Manzies, the Chief Executive of West Berkshire Council will be attending the next meeting of the Parish Council.

All those who have an issue they would like to raise, either concerning facilities in the village or more general enquiries concerning the West Berkshire area, please come along.

The meeting will take place on Monday March 12th at 7pm in the village hall

MISS TOFFELLEES

January disappeared so fast that I found myself delivering the News the very weekend I was going to write some tattle. Two lots of News to deliver in one month.

I refuse to believe I am the only citizen being driven demented by these replicating supra-later-to-be-subterranean green pipes. They are definitely multiplying because it doesn't seem to matter in which

direction I am travelling from West Ilsley, they are always there! That foot-wide trench hugs one side of the road whilst, on the other side, the verges are broken down as the larger vehicles struggle to pass by. The green light that heralds your passing in your motor, turns to red as the oncoming vehicles cannot get through. There isn't sufficient time for you to make it. You then turn to red with the new light as you wait for yet another cycle of the trafficator. You are now ten minutes later than you should have been. I am definitely NOT into multiple fiberoptic cables, if that is what they are. The trench is then filled in and, depending on the skill of the operator, the end result is either relatively smooth or positively rough, bumpy and holed. Does anybody ever inspect the roads afterwards? I am quite convinced that the council would find all sorts of defects that lead to premature breaking up of the tarmac, either from the defective road surface or the broken-down edges of the grass verges. McVeigh- Parker do a better job than Murphy. Could it be something to do with the name?

It's a bit of a late review, but I shall have to put it on record that I did so enjoy the evening of Scottish Dancing organized by the church. I am so grateful that they have to raise funds, otherwise would we have these splendid soirees to go to? The haggis was particularly good this year, as was the broth, and all washed down with a tad of grape, what more could an Old (or TOG) ask for? Jiggle this around with the odd Strip-the-Willow and Gay Gordon. Well!!!! What a cocktail!

There have been four babies that I know of delivered this year, so congratulations to:

- Karl and Loesje on the birth of their daughter, Chanina Jacqueline Charlotte
- David and Jo on the birth of their daughter, Victoria Clare who tipped the scales at 7lb 3oz (but I'm buying my fruit and veg in kilos, now!) on Thursday 1st. February.
- Another Aquarian (such a good star sign!) for Emily and Scott. A young man, this time, James, born by Caesarian, on Feb 7th (the day after a very monumental anniversary!)

And finally

- Barbara and Dennis. Baby Coatley was born on the night of the 15th/16th Feb (so which day was it?), five weeks early. I do hope that not too much was left to last minute, it cuts the waiting time by one eighth being that prompt!!

PRAM SERVICE, ALL SAINTS CHURCH

The next service will be on Monday 19 March at 11.00am when the theme will be Mothering Sunday. The services are for 0-5 year olds plus parent, grandparent, carer etc and last for approximately half an hour followed by refreshments for the children. We usually have a story or game with lots of singing and musical instruments for the children to play. The April service will be on Monday 23rd again at 11.00am.

New service for young people

The pram service for pre-school children is now in its third year and we have seen many of the original toddlers move on to begin school. It is planned to begin a similar service for children in their early years at school (3-7 years old) and their younger brothers and sisters, who come with them (plus adult companions as well!) These will begin after Easter, once a month on a Thursday afternoon from 4pm to 4.45pm. Dates for the services before the summer break are: 5 April, 17 May, 14 June and 12 July.

If you would like more information or would be interested in being involved with the organisation of these services, please contact Denise Brown on 281825 or Antonia Cretny on 248925.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES

Peter Bartaby

A couple of months ago I wrote about the, generally, very poor bus services out of the village to and from Newbury and Didcot, and I've been pursuing the subject with West Berkshire Council ever since, bearing in mind that they give financial support to a number of Rural services – which money originated, of course, from Council Tax and Income Tax payers ie you and me.

At the moment, it's a Good News and Bad News scenario. The Good News is that there is now an improved service from the Village to and from Reading which runs on Monday, Tuesday and Friday. It leaves at 09.15 and is due to arrive at Reading (St Mary's Butts in the Centre, virtually adjoining the Broad Street Mall and only a few minutes from the Oracle Centre and main shopping streets at 10.25. The Return journey leaves at 13.30 getting back here at 14.40, giving a good 3 hours in Reading. The single fare is £3.00, the return £5.00, but pro temp there is a special Day Return at £3.50 – which is less than the cost of parking in Reading for that length of time!

The Bad news is that WBC have let Stagecoach get away with changing their 234 Service (originally from Newbury to Didcot) so that this now (with the one exception mentioned below) bypasses Didcot and runs from Chilton via Harwell, Rowcross, Steventon and Drayton to Abingdon and Oxford. This means that not only is West Ilsley's prospect of a service to and from Didcot now a non-runner, but also that Hermitage, Hampstead Norreys, Compton and East Ilsley have been deprived of a service they had. This was done by WBC with no reference whatever to at least one of the villages concerned (East Ilsley). Two inexplicable aspects of this are: 1) why WBC want to subsidise a service that does little for Berkshire Villages and quite a lot of Oxfordshire locations already well served by Public Transport and 2) why, when there are something like 150 services per day between Didcot, Abingdon and Oxford, Stagecoach want to add a further 4.

The exception to 234's altered route is that the first Northbound bus of the day (Mon-Fir only) starts from Hampstead Norreys at 06.44, comes through West Ilsley at 07.00 and goes on to Didcot Station, arriving at 07.23. There is a journey back from Didcot Station at 18.15 arriving in the village at 18.38. Try to use it occasionally if times fit in with your rail journey – if only to thwart any intention the operator may have to withdraw the service "because no-one uses it".

I'll keep you posted from time to time as to West Berkshire's progress towards meeting Mr Prescott's pledge in "Our Countryside: the future" "We aim to have an hourly or more frequent bus service within a ten minute walk of a third more rural homes".

Phantom Pavement Fouler (not)

As a new resident to the village (Nov 2000), I thought I might be a suspect. Like Harry I strongly object to this practice. My owners have trained me well and they are always 'picking up' - I can assure you that I am not guilty. Please also eliminate me from your enquiries.



Rhoda the brindle boxer (Fir Tree Paddock)

ROSE RAGE

WATERMILL THEATRE

Steve Price

If, like me, your early experiences of Shakespeare left you with a distinct lack of appreciation of the man and his plays, then "Rose Rage" will probably mark your conversion, such is the power of the performances currently showing at the Watermill Theatre (run ends 17th March so you still have time!)

Set in the bloody era of the Wars of the Roses, this is a two-part adaptation of Shakespeare's Henry VI trilogy – we chose to see the two parts a week apart. For those unfamiliar with the history, Henry V has bequeathed his throne to his rather more politically-correct, kindly and less violent son, in his youth being protected and guided by his appointed mentor and Lord Protector, the Duke of Gloucester; France is lost and the English Dukes, particularly those of York and Somerset, engage in bitter rivalry for opposing sides, the Red and White Roses of history.

The play is set largely in an abattoir, which proves surprisingly effective, though those of a nervous persuasion should perhaps be warned that the play accurately reflects the butchery and violence of the times. Henry marries the scheming and ambitious Margaret of Anjou (played by Robert Hands – this is an all-male cast) and gradually the characters descend into a maelstrom of political rivalry, double dealing, treachery and revenge for past and present wrongs.

Richard, Duke of York, for the toffs, and his agent Jack Cade, acting for the common people, scheme and plot to relieve Henry of his crown and ultimately the Lord Protector is murdered with the assistance of the Duke of Suffolk. Suffolk is banished to France and later murdered himself; Margaret, her French feathers suitably ruffled, bestrides the stage like the massive political and military presence her husband can never aspire to be and gradually the intensity of the rivalry reaches fever pitch. The eventual result is the death of Henry VI and the ascension by Edward, elder son of the late Duke of York, to the throne as Edward IV, with the future Richard III already scheming in the wings!

The cast are – one and all – brilliant; the second “half” in particular marked my conversion from relative philistine (I’d previously *enjoyed* Comedy of Errors and Twelfth Night, for instance) to out-and-out *fan* (or should that be “phan?”) of Shakespeare. If you can – go and see it; make no excuses but **GO** – the Watermill provides one of the very best evenings out and the talent on display deserves all the support it can get if it is to prosper.

Oh – and a final word – I read in the Sunday Times that the Arts Council refused a touring grant for the play. What a wasted opportunity that is, and what a very sad reflection on the Arts Council themselves. It seems the “Art” of unmade beds may be our lot from now on!

ALL SAINTS

CHURCH

Ian Fewtrell-Smith

Church Services for March 2001:

4 th	All Age Service	11.00am
11 th	Holy Communion	8.00 am
18 th	Family Communion	9.30 am
25 th	Mothering Sunday	11.00 am

APCM – 21st March

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in church on Wednesday, 21st March at 8.00 pm. Whether or not you attend church, you are warmly invited. The church is a focal point in the village and your thoughts and comments are needed.

QUIZ NIGHT – 30th March

The date is fast approaching, so get that team together which is going to dislodge “The Three Profits”, winners of the last two quizzes. There will be the usual mix of questions, with a round of current affairs thrown in. That round is usually left until a day or two before the evening, so news is red-hot. £5.00 per team of 4, or £5.00 per head with ploughman’s supper. – same bargain price as last quiz, so even better value! The bar will be open to keep the grey matter lubricated. Please ‘phone me (281625) or Jan Sheppard (281345) for tickets to reserve a table.

ILSLEY UNDER

FIVES

Tracy Gregory 281650

Toddler Group

The Group is for Parent/Carer and baby and/or toddlers up to school age. It is held in the West Ilsley Village Hall on a Wednesday morning from 10.00am to 11.30am during which the adults get to drink tea/coffee and have a good old chat while the children play, hopefully with each other without too much squabbling. This is followed by juice and a biscuit or two and then “Song Time”. New faces are extremely welcome.

Play Group

The playgroup is held in the Main Hall in the Ilsleys Primary School on a Wednesday and Thursday afternoon from 1.25pm until 3.30pm during the school terms. The playgroup is mainly for children from 3 years old until they attend full-time education. There is also a lunch club for those children who are now attending the Ilsleys Primary School part time.

There are a limited number of places for 2½ year olds, at the playgroup leaders discretion, and parents are asked to participate in a parent’s rota to enable this to continue. The 2½ year olds will attend for one afternoon a week only.

If you are interested in your child attending the playgroup please call either Tracy Gregory on 281650 for an application form or Julia (Playgroup Leader) on 281357 to arrange a visit.

WATER LEVEL UPDATE

Our own eyes tell us that “Lake Ilsley” and the “Ilsley Falls” are still very much in evidence between here and Windmill House, and pumps are still operating in the village, but what’s going on under ground? You may recall Alison Bank’s interesting article last month on the well readings at the Malthouse, when she was concerned that “Frighteningly the water levels two weeks ago were only 3m12cm below the ground!” Well, (sorry, no pun intended) Alison reports on 1st March that “the reading is currently 3m, but last week was as high as 2.89m”.

WEST ILSLEY VILLAGE

The 2001

FETE

Fete Committee

A date for your diaries - Sunday 15th July 2001

This is the first monthly bulletin regarding our 2001 Village Fete.

The members of the 2001 Fete Committee are:

Treasurer Ian Burton	
ian@netdra.freemove.co.uk	281536
Secretary Alison Banks	
Alison@Malthouse.org.uk	281705
Produce Show Karen Miller	
Karen.miller@btinternet.com	281876
Publicity Tracy Gregory	
TMGregory@Yahoo.co.uk	281650
Sponsorship Tracey Allan-Jones	
Christopher@allan-jones.freemove.co.uk	281306

Planning just started – but the aims at present are to repeat last year’s very successful formula with the inclusion of more entertainment. The Committee will be pleased to get suggestions from villagers – please contact any member.

Two big hits of 2000 namely the Art Exhibition and 5-a-side Football Competition are again planned.

In the coming months we will be asking for **help and donations**. Any early offers – and a Committee Member will be pleased to hear from you.

We hope to have a **Pre-Fete event** on Saturday 14th July – but as yet we do not have a group (or individual) to organise it.

There will be a **Plant Stall** and we will be asking for donations. Do remember us when planting those seedlings.

Sponsorship – Fete Sponsor's can gain many awareness and publicity benefits in return for a donation of prize-worthy goods/services and money (of course). Please contact Tracey with any offers.

Here’s to a great event in July.

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 Thursday 22nd March 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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To: Andrea Cook, Clock Cottage, West Ilsley

From:

Address:

Phone:

Please book tickets for 4th July. I/we promise to pay up on receipt of the tickets!