

West Ilsley News

www.westilsley.org.uk

August 2006

SAD NEWS

We lost a current and a past villager on the same day last week. Jim Gore from Manor Farm was known to all. Pru Green-Wilkinson, who, with here husband John had for several years lived in The Maltings, but had lately moved to Winchester, will be known to those who have been around here for a few years – Pru and John continued their interest in West Ilsley by receiving the WIN by mail, and regularly attended the village fete even after they had moved. We send our condolences to both families.

JIM GORE Richard and David Gore

Jim Gore came to Manor Farm in 1947 at the age of 22 starting the association with the Loyd family, Lockinge Estate and West Ilsley that lasted for the next 59 years. Times must have been hard during the war because when he arrived the lounge was being used as a chicken coop. The farm then had 14 employees including a pensioner who worked a horse and cart picking stones. The highest wage in his first week was £5 17s 1d and the total cost for all of them was £50 4s 10d. West Ilsley was also a bit different as there were only three other cars in the village and any travel was very difficult. The grain drier at Manor Farm was at Hodcott where the buildings were shared between the farm and the racing stables. The trainer was Jack Colling and a much more modest enterprise than now. All the grain was then stored in sacks which were all moved by hand. In 1963 Hodcott was

bought by Jackie Astor and the drier relocated to the village.

Jim was very active outside of the farm serving on numerous committees of agricultural societies and becoming especially involved with the National Farmers Union. For many years he was an assessor for the insurance branch of the NFU travelling widely mainly assessing fire damage.

It is more than 20 years since Jim was first diagnosed with Parkinson's disease starting a long battle for his health. Since then he has shown enormous strength and resolve, refusing to be defeated or succumb to his problems. With Shirley's tireless work in looking after him and refusal to concede that it would change their lives they have continued on as normal against enormous odds. Throughout it all he was never heard to complain.

The family would like to thank everybody for their kind thoughts.

DIARY

SEPTEMBER

11th Parish Council Meeting

OCTOBER

1st Harvest Lunch

Deadline for the next publication is 5pm on Monday 28th August (bank holiday)

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

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Liz Dray

The Malthouse

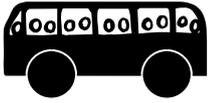
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Please direct your feedback to either of the editors.

To join the email distribution list or for new/changed email addresses, please email
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ILSLEY EVERGREENS Anne Carlisle



On Tuesday 15th August there will be a coach trip to Stratford upon Avon, leaving from outside the church in West Ilsley at 9.30 am. Members £7, non-members £10. Names to J Collier 281283.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Fred Carter

Prevent crime with consideration for you neighbours.



Everyone wants to protect their home from the threat of burglary as best they can. To this end many people install burglar alarms, CCTV and security lighting. However, when using this equipment it pays to be

considerate of your neighbours.

For example, when installing security lighting, consider how bright the light is and where it is shining. Will it be shining in your neighbours home and keeping them awake? Security lights which use infra red sensors and come on only when movement is detected are recommended (providing this does not constantly switch on and off due to wildlife or pets passing). If you already have an existing outside light you can buy sensors separately to convert them into a security light.

If you live in a terraced house, you may be able to discuss security lighting with your neighbours and share the costs and the benefits.

Burglar alarms can also cause a nuisance for your neighbours. Make sure you use your alarm responsibly and try to ensure that it does not go off unnecessarily. A common complaint from neighbours about noise nuisance is burglar alarms sounding at night. Furthermore if your alarm goes off all the time then people will take less notice of it if it goes off for real as they will think it is another false alarm. It may be an idea to ask your neighbour to be a key holder for your alarm, if you trust them. Otherwise do your best to make sure alarms only go off in a real emergency, and apologise to your neighbours if you do set it off in the middle of the night

With CCTV you should remember to respect your neighbours privacy. Make sure that cameras are not pointing on their property or into their home. If you have a motion detector camera, then check the range, to make sure it will not focus in on your neighbours home.

As with security lighting, CCTV is something that you and your neighbour can set up jointly, especially if you have a shared entrance

Avoid Car Crime

Car crime is a local issue being tackled by your local police and west Berkshire Council.

A lot of vehicle crime results from criminals seeing opportunities and taking them. You can easily outsmart the thief by following the simple advice below, which you should remember even when your car is parked outside your house on the road or driveway.

- Always lock all of your doors, close the windows and sunroof every time you leave your car unattended. – however briefly.
- Always remove your car stereo if you can – it's one of the most sought after items in your vehicle. All car equipment – whether you can remove it or not – should be permanently marked in a visible place, with the cars registration number.
- Don't leave any other items on display in your vehicle. There are a number of objects that are particularly desirable to the thief, including mobile phones, laptop computers, cash and credit/debit cards, vehicle registration documents and private mail – especially with your address on it. However even an old coat on the back seat is a temptation for someone to 'smash and grab' they steal first and think about value later.
- Activate any security device on your car before leaving it unattended.
- Try to park your car in a safe location, a garage is best, if not, on your drive or a well lit location. If your car is 'hidden away' in a quiet location a thief will feel safer when trying to break into it.
- If you have a garage use it and make sure you lock the garage and the car in the garage.
- Keep you car keys safe, when you leave your vehicle always remove the key from the ignition and lock the doors. At home always keep your keys in a safe place which is out of sight of windows, doors, letterboxes, and cat - flaps.
- Be vigilant and report suspicious activity to the police.
- If you have any information relating to vehicle crime contact the police on 08458 505 505, or call CrimeStoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.
- Do not buy stolen goods, the next victim could be you.



WEST ILSLEY TENNIS COURT

Is now open for the 2006 season

£2 per hour per adult

£1 per hour for children under 16

To book please call 281344

ALL SAINTS WEST ILSLEY

William and Alexandra Axtell

Church Services for August:

Sunday 6th No Service
Sunday 13th No Service
Sunday 20th United Benefice 10.00
Service (West Ilsley) –
venue is Village Hall
due to roof repairs
Sunday 27th No service

Church Roof

As you will no doubt have noticed Kevin and his team have started the re-roofing of the church, which is great news. Whilst this work is being carried out services are being held in the village hall.

PARI SH COUNCIL UPDATE

We welcome two new Councillors (Alan Bloor and John Mountford) to join West Ilsley Parish Council. Both were co-opted at last month's meeting.

The Council comprises the following:

Chairman:	Sean Ryan	281336
Deputy:	Philip Knight	281608
Treasurer:	Dries Hagen	281855
Councillors:	John Mountford	281703
	Alan Bloor	281341
	Ron Cook	281565
Clerk:	Alison Banks	281705

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the above with any matters concerning West Ilsley and its parishioners.

THE OLD POST OFFICE Alan Bloor

The Parish Council has been approached by several parishioners to try and establish what is happening at the Post Office, if anything? In particular they are concerned about the outside appearance of the Post Office, which has become unsightly. Before the Parish Council approached the agents, it felt it would be prudent to ask parishioners if they had any views on the future use of the Post Office. It would seem highly unlikely that it would ever reopen as a Post Office again, but someone may be looking for a small office/studio/workshop etc. The agents on the other hand may wish to incorporate the area into the adjoining residential premises. If you have any views please contact a member of the Parish Council as soon as possible.

BROADBAND IN WEST ILSLEY

Philip Knight

I am interested in finding out what speed other broadband users are getting on the connection to the East Ilsley exchange. I originally signed up to

a 2Mb line when the exchange was first enabled, but had some problems with the connection crashing which BT blamed on the quality of my line. The 'solution' was to downgrade my connection speed to 1Mb and to be fair it has been virtually problem free since then. However from conversations with some neighbours I have heard mention of speeds as low as 512K up to the aforementioned 2Mb and BT's own website suggests that the exchange could deliver up to 3Mbs.

With apologies to any BT employees reading this, I am afraid that many years of dealing with them have made me extremely cynical in respect of anything they tell me they can and can't do and the reasons why they can and can't do it.

On the basis that I am paying for up to 8Mb and the exchange can do 3Mb I would like to satisfy myself that 1Mb is as fast as it will go; as indeed might those who may have also been fobbed off with 1Mb or less.

If you have broadband and would like to participate in my little survey please go to: www.adslguide.org.uk/tools/speedtest.asp where you can do a speed test of your line. Copy the result and paste into an email to me at broadband.20.rattlebox@spamgourmet.com it would probably be useful, but not essential, if you could let me know who your broadband supplier is in order that we can identify a good one which is familiar with our exchange. Who knows, it might be BT.... I'll ask the WIN to publish the result in the next edition. Happy surfing! Philip Knight

PS the funny email address is a special temporary antispam one. If you are interested in these things then go to: www.spamgourmet.com

The early autumn village event! VILLAGE HARVEST LUNCH



EVERYONE WELCOME

Sunday 1st October

12 o'clock in the Village Hall

£5 adults, £3 under 12s

Bar and Raffle

Tickets from:

Liz Dray 281688 and

Jo Scriven 281405

CRICKET FIXTURES FOR AUGUST

1st XI SATURDAY

05 August	2pm	Hailey	Away
12 August	2pm	Chalgrove	Home
19 August	2pm	Chalbury 2ndXI	Away
26 August	2pm	Britwell Salome	Home

2nd XI SATURDAY

05 August	2pm	Shrivenham	Home
12 August	2pm	Marsh Gibbon	Away
19 August	2pm	Marcham	Home
26 August	2pm	Freeland	Away

SUNDAY

06 August	2.30pm	Donnington	Home
13 August	2.30pm	Philistines	Home
20 August	2.30pm	Aldworth	Away

ILSLEY UNDER FIVES

Amanda Knight

The Toddler Group does not meet at the Village Hall during August but we have organised a garden rota so that members of the group can host informal get-togethers in their gardens on Wednesday mornings during the summer holidays. Copies of the garden rota and also the rota for setting-up duties in September are available from Katharine Young (katharineyoung@supanet.com) up until 6th August and thereafter from me (amandacknight@yahoo.co.uk). Our first session back at the Village Hall will be on 6th September.

On behalf of everyone at Toddlers I would like to thank Katharine Young for all her hard work and enthusiasm as Toddler rep. this past year and wish her and her family all the best for their forthcoming move.

(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).)

TITTLE TATTLE Polly Muir

As I write this, on the stoop, there is a large combine reversing along a field adjacent to the house. Ah! Now it goes the right way...now it stops, to off-load the grain...it's a very busy time of year for the farmers and particularly dry this year. The grain dryers have been quiet, though tonight I think I heard the Manor Farm one in action. The rape is critically dry - much drier and it will not be any good. I found a dessicated worm lying on our

soil today and there are tales of dead, dehydrated frogs, so I guess much of the countryside is struggling with drought. The little bit of rain we experienced last night has made a pleasant and refreshing interlude from the heat. It is quite extraordinary how slow and sluggish the heat makes you feel. Great if you're on holiday, but rather less great if you are trying to work in a stuffy office with no windows and air-conditioning.

The chaps who were working on the electricity cables in the village (Southern and Scottish) were having a welcome drink in the Harrow last week. Dressed in their full navy protective kit, they must have been feeling the heat. I didn't quite get to the bottom of exactly what they were up to, but it must be an improvement, eh? The vagaries of The Electricity Cut in the village seem to be a source of frustration. Take the one the other morning. I discovered our lights were out when I woke up at 04.30hrs. The Old Man wanted to know why I hadn't reported it, as he had to ring and inform the Electricity Board at 05.00hrs (insomniacs in our house!) and they didn't know about it. He even spoke to a real person and not a machine. Fancy!! (Thank heavens I didn't have the number, I don't make sense at that time of day!) It was a generator failure apparently. Precipitant cessation in thy flow of electricity always happens when the weather is at its Siberian coldest or in the searing heat of high summer!

Now, I can confidently report that other maintenance in the village is happening (apart from the sterling work that has been put on the ironmongery around West Ilsley House garden) I caught someone scrubbing the Post Box with wire wool, in preparation for a coat of red paint! First time I've ever seen that!

Didn't the Cricket Club do a great job of the pre-fete bash: and wasn't the show a grand effort? Thank you to both committees for all their hard work. The Show itself appeared to be very successful. I couldn't stop laughing at Clive's great and lengthy commentary. How did he impart so much information over such a sustained length of time in such a humorous fashion? And I had a fanatastic time bopping to the band at The Strawberry Ball. I can give anyone (who wants it) a comprehensive list of desirable dancing partners. I hesitate to list them here for fear of offending any untried Patrick Swayzes out there, but you know who you are!! We (T.O.M.) and I met some new playmates. It's amazing in a village this small that there should be people that you never meet, but there just are!!

And three people said how much they liked the Tittle-Tattle - I should make more of an effort, more often to write, even just a little!

Sadly, it was the last time I was to see Pru Geen-Wilkinson. For those of you who knew her, Pru passed away some nine days after the West Ilsley Show. Pru used to live next door to us in The

Maltings and was such a fantastic neighbour. She babysat in moments of crisis, she provided cups of tea in other moments of crisis, food and recipes were abundant; in fact, she was always there! She was a great character and will be missed by her very dear family. And by me.

It is also with sadness that I must report the death of another resident of the village. There are people who will know Jimmy Gore much better than I, but his passing cannot, and will not, go unnoticed. He had not enjoyed the best of health recently, but his passing was very sudden and unexpected. Jimmy was another of life's interesting chaps. I always seemed to meet him on social occasions in the village, and we often ended up talking about the family and the farm! I will leave those who know him best to tell his other stories and secrets. My deepest sympathy goes to Shirley, David, Richard and Andrew and the family.

P.S. Don't think about it too much but, by the time we get over Harvest, it's that next large church festival!!

P.P.S. Just a little more gossip... have just learnt from one of the villagers that The Generator (is that the same one that failed the other morning?), presumably the placenta of the community at the moment whilst the maintenance is being carried out, is keeping all the residents awake at the South West end of West Ilsley. In order to have some relief from the heat they sleep with windows open, but end up being deafened by the sound of the generator. Lack of sleep either way by heat and suffocation or noise: which is it to be? There is a price for everything!

And...some beggars have attempted to break into the cricket club in the small, wee and dark hours. I wonder if crime is more common on fine moonlit nights? Neighbourhood watch being what it is up that end meant that the troops rallied speedily but, unfortunately, no-one was caught. I understand that the major troop involved had to stop to put garments on (it being another warm night). At least, I am led to understand, the thieves didn't get away with anything. However, there is still the cost to the Club for the repairs and of the nuisance value!

WEST ILSLEY FETE

The West Ilsley Fete Committee would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Fete a huge success. After the rain in the morning we were all very worried, but lady luck smiled on us and it was warm and dry in the afternoon. The wind gave us a few difficult moments though! The best part of the fete is being able to donate the money that we have



raised to local worthy causes, and this year we will have in the region of £1600 to hand out. Once again we would like requests for donations to be given **in writing** to anyone on the Fete Committee (Karen Miller, Gordon Bewick, Sue Evans, Kath Carter, Sue Simmons, Andy Pigott) **by no later than Friday 18th August**. It would be helpful if you could state the name of the worthy cause, how much is being requested and what the money would be used for. Please also do not forget to leave a name and contact number so that we can get back in touch with you!

Preparations will begin soon for next year's fete, and several of the committee are standing down. If you would like to volunteer to be on the committee, please let Karen Miller know on 281876.

Domestic Electrical Installation

"Bright sparks" are all well and good on Bonfire night but when it comes to all electrical work, such as installation, inspection, testing, fault finding and certification, insist on a local electrician who is, "Building regulation Part P ELECSA scheme compliant".

Contact; Keith Pentecost
Tel / ans: 01635-281389 (East Ilsley)
Mobile: 07985-797333

MASSAGE THERAPIST IN COMPTON MASSAGE THERAPY TO REDUCE STRESS AND AID RELAXATION



MASSAGE TREATMENTS TARGETTED
AT SPECIFIC PROBLEM AREAS ON THE
BODY, USING SPECIALLY BLENDED
MASSAGE OILS
FULL BODY - 1 HR
NECK, BACK AND SHOULDERS - 30 MINS
INDIAN HEAD MASSAGE - 30 MINS

Dianne Beechey
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