

West Ilsley News

November 2003

A landmark - to let you know you are almost home - is Didcot Power station; hardly a thing of beauty, but the sight of it after a journey is really rather comforting. Similarly, wildlife can also mark one's imminent arrival in the area - we get quite used to the buzzards and kites around the village, and notice a lack of them when traveling further afield. To be heading home and see one of these beautiful birds, set against the clear blue skies and wonderful Autumn colours this year, gladdens the heart (and turns one quite poetical - sorry!).

The Editors

West Ilsley Village Hall Committee

Fireworks

(kindly paid for by Fete Funds)

Wednesday 5th November

(next field but one to the pond)

Bonfire at 6.30pm

Guys needed – Guy Competition – prizes for all.

Fireworks at 7pm

BBQ in aid of West Ilsley Village Hall

The Cricket Club bar will be open afterwards

EVERGREENS

Anne Carlisle

There will be an outing on Thursday 13th November to Milton Keynes. The coach will leave from outside the Church at 9.00am. Members £6, non-members £8. Tokens can be used. Names to J Collier.

Names will be taken on the coach for the Christmas lunch at the Swan at East Ilsley on Saturday December 13th. If you are going, names and £5 towards the lunch will be collected.

EVERGREENS BAZAAR

Saturday 22nd November 2003

In the

Village Hall at 2.30 pm

Tombola

Bric a brac

Cakes etc

Books & Toys

Raffle

Tea

www.westilsley.org.uk

Andrea Cook

I'm happy to announce that Martin has agreed to take over www.westilsley.org.uk. Martin will be keeping the site up to date with the latest editions of the online version of WIN and (time permitting) will be looking into ways of enhancing the site and keeping a foot for the village firmly placed in the 21st Century!

If you have any suggestions for the site or digital photos of the village to upload please contact Martin via suggestions@westilsley.org.uk

And here's an email we received:

Dear West Ilsley News

I was doing some surfing and came across your site. Some people may remember me - Martin Harrap son of Bernard and Peggy and "little" brother Tim. Well, Tim I think keeps in contact with some people in the Village, or he used to anyway. Me - well for the past 16 years I have been living in Auckland, New Zealand! We now run a catering company called Indoor Dining - you can find us at www.indoordining.com

I found it great to have a look though the old pages of the West Ilsley News. A lot of work to say the least, also great to spot a few names from when I lived there some 35 years ago. An email or two would be fun to have if anybody has time. My email address is indoordining@clear.net.nz - I have set aside the web page and will have a look back later.

All the best - Martin F Harrap

Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday 29th November

1 – 4 pm

West Ilsley Village Hall

All crafts hand-made here in the village

A great opportunity to buy unique

Christmas presents

In aid of the Ilsleys School

Further details, Jill Wiejak or Toni

Sugden

PRAM SERVICE AND AFTERSCHOOL SERVICE,
ALL SAINTS CHURCH

It was lovely to see so many at the Afterschool service on the theme of Harvest in October. The children learned about Harvest by sorting different foods into piles of those for animals and humans.

The November dates are as follows:-

**Afterschool
Service**

4pm Thursdays

17 November

The Good
Samaritan

Pram Service

11am Mondays

13 November

The Pram Service is aimed at 0-5 year olds and the Afterschool Service for the slightly older ones as well as the babies. The services are well supported but we would love to see new faces or friends from outside the village. Each service lasts approximately half an hour followed by drinks for the children. If you would like more information please contact Denise Brown on 01635 281825, Antonia Cretney on 01635 248925 or Liz Dray on 01488 638749.

Crib Service – This will be held this year on Saturday 20 December at 4pm. Children are invited to come dressed as angels, shepherds and wise men.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Yes it really is nearly a year since our intrepid band of roving Christmas carol singers entertained, (or was it disturbed) the unsuspecting residents, around the streets of West Ilsley to raise funds for our church. Well, speaking as one of only two instrumentalists who endeavoured to support the multitude of singers, I can tell you I need more help! Rumour has it that the village harbours a number of capable musicians, (I have heard woodwind with my own ears!) so what about it? It will only be one evening sometime in December (with maybe one rehearsal beforehand to sort out the music). Why not drop me an e mail or give me a call (singers as well as musicians). Paul Smith, tel. 281163, e mail: paulsmith@palgo.u-net.com.

TREAT YOURSELF THIS CHRISTMAS TO A TRADITIONAL



FARM FRESH TURKEY

PE and JM Walters have been local producers for over 30 years, serving individual and corporate orders. Choose from

**Barn-reared White turkeys
from £1.85 per lb**

Or

**Free Range Bronze Turkeys
at £2.75 per lb**

Phone TODAY for your Christmas order

01635 578251

Bower Farm

Aldworth

Reading

Berks RG8 9TR

ILSLEY UNDER FIVES

Ilsley Under Fives AGM

We had several changes at this year's AGM and our new committee is as follows:-

Chairman	Ali Allan
Treasurer	Debra Jones
Secretary	Paula Finch
Toddler Reps	Jess Logan and Penny Dillon
Admissions	Tracy Gregory
Publicity	Liz Dray
Social Secretary	Sarah McNaught

A big thank you to the outgoing committee members:- Sue Carrington (Chair), Paula Oliphant (Treasurer) and Alison Banks (Secretary) for their hard work and commitment during their time on the committee.

Half Term

There will be no Playgroup or Baby and Toddler Group during the half term week commencing Monday 27 October.

Tempest Photographs – 12 November – 1.15-2pm

The Tempest photographer will be at Playgroup on the above date. Toddlers, siblings etc all welcome to go to Playgroup for photos. Prices are very reasonable and photos will be back in time for Xmas. Please note the photographer has to leave promptly at 2pm.

Baby and Toddler Group

The Baby and Toddler Group meets on a Wednesday morning, 10.00am – 11.30am in the village hall. There are lots of toys plus a climbing frame, playhouse, slide etc for the children and coffee and a chance to chat for the Mums. If you are interested in coming along please contact Jess Logan on 281670 for more details.

There will be a selection of cards available to purchase on Wednesday 5 November at Toddlers.

Playgroup

We said goodbye to Alex Gore, Abi Osborne, Georgia Ryan, Piran Aston, Sam Curson, Tom Scriven, Holly Rogers, Lucy Paterson, Mark Banks and Charlotte-Ann Cope at the end of the summer term. We welcome our new joiners Katie Kendik, Matthew Dray, Mackenzie Spearing, Alexander Young, Elizabeth Carrington, Storm Ryan and Jordan Heap. We had a busy term last term with lots of fun activities. For Comic Relief we did Jake's "Big Hair Do" pictures which parents paid to come and view. They also bought drinks, cakes and biscuits (which the children decorated). In addition, we had a teddy bears picnic, a sponsored walk for Barnardo's and an end of term party with lots of games and fun. Unfortunately, due to bad weather, the outing to the Active Toy Company was cancelled.

This term we will be doing :-

- Sponsored caterpillar for Childline
- School Bazaar
- Photographer
- Christmas party with visit from Santa
- Pantomime

The playgroup is held in the Main Hall at the Ilsleys Primary School on a Wednesday and Thursday

afternoon from 1.25pm to 3.30pm during the school terms. The numbers at the playgroup have risen suddenly and we are currently only accepting 3 year olds if a place is available. If you are interested in your child attending the playgroup please call Tracy Gregory on 281650 for an application form to register your child or if you would like to arrange a visit.

VILLAGE HALL PONTOON

The results of the first two pontoons of the season are as follows:

1st Pontoon - 3 weeks to 30/08/03

WINNER

J. GORE (Rangers)

G. WILSON-NORTH (Swansea) £10 50 each

BOOBY

Jem. GORE (Brentford)

C. CHITTY (Carlisle)

R. WILLIAMS (Forfar) £2.00 each

2nd Pontoon - 3 weeks to 20/09/03

WINNER

G. CRAMP (Chelsea) £21.00

BOOBY

D. TIZZARD (Chesterfield) £6.00

£56.00 profit went to Village Hall funds.

WEST ILSLEY CLAY PIGEON SHOOT SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER

Very many thanks to all the 70 guns and their families who took part in the Clay Pigeon Shoot and supported the West Ilsley Village Hall Committee. We raised about £1200. This will go towards the ongoing maintenance of the Hall and to run the regular activity clubs for children in the village.

Special thanks to Richard Gore, the Rockall family and Paul Willis who organised the shoot side superbly and even sorted out some sunshine. Also to Ian Wilson who taught the novices and allowed some new faces to take part.

Many thanks to Toni and Sue who gave up their day and to all the other cooks and helpers – Paula, Sandra, Sue, Angela, Cathy, Ali, Tracy, Audrey, Alison, Avice, Lorraine and Shirley. We received many compliments and the chilli followed by apple pie went down well. Thanks to John who ran the bar.

The prizes for best gun was shared by 2 who shot an impressive 50 clays each, the best team was Malcolm's and the best novice cup went to a visitor from London! But the fun was taking part and catching up with old friends!

Thanks for the support – The Village Hall Committee

For Sale

Baby Budgies

several colours/markings

Contact: Pauline van Diemen

1 Downside

01635 281252

(evenings)

ERIC BANKS

I would like to thank those of you from the village who drove to Basingstoke to attend Eric's cremation in August, and to Antonia Cretney for her services. My thanks also for all the help and support given to me by so many of you during Eric's illness and afterwards. Thanks too to Polly for her kind words in last month's WIN, but a couple of corrections to her report. Eric was a professional footballer with Charlton Athletic Football Club and afterwards, when we moved from London, he was a player, captain, and manager of Basingstoke Town FC not, the Woolwich Arsenal.

Eric also played squash at county level for many years, after he'd hung up his football boots. This is something our daughter Dawn has taken over from him – she has just recently been invited to play for Berkshire Ladies team. Eric would be so proud of her.

Eric and I enjoyed, during our retirement, long walks on the Ridegway, and around the village. His ashes have been scattered where the bluebells grow their thickest in Park Wood. Say hello to him next time you're there.

Amy Banks

ALL SAINTS WEST ILSLEY

Ian Fewtrell-Smith

Church Services for November:

2 nd November	All Age Service	11.00 am
9 th November	Remembrance Service	10.55 am
16 th November	Family Communion	9.30 am
30 th November	United Benefice Communion	10.00 am

PETER RENOUF

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of Peter Renouf recently from a stroke. Often controversial, he cared passionately about his ministry, always willing to help in whatever way he could. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jennifer and their children and grandchildren.

HARVEST

As usual, the church looked beautiful, with displays in just about every window. After the service, we held a lunch in the village hall, where those able to join us enjoyed huge quantities of shepherd's or cottage pie, followed by apple pie with cream as well as cheese and biscuits (for those who could still find a space). All for a fiver!! As is our established tradition, the produce went to Willows Edge nursing home in Newbury, where it was gratefully received.

"RAISING THE ROOF"

You will have seen from the booklet recently through your door that the church roof is in a desperate state, with about 80% needing to be renewed. Preliminary estimates have placed the work at about £45,000 and a small committee, chaired by Will Axtell, has been formed to raise the money. The appeal was launched at the harvest lunch and already there has been a most generous response. The task is daunting but we remain hopeful that all the money needed will be raised. There will be a variety of fund-raising events over the coming months, all designed

to entertain and inspire. I hope you will all support as much as you are able.

PARISH COUNCIL

Linda Gibson - Clerk - Tel 200242

By now you will all be aware that extensive drainage works have been carried out in the village. Derek Crouch attended the September meeting to explain what had been done. I have a detailed plan of the 'before and after' drains if anyone is interested in the detail. The Highways Department and the Parish Council have asked me to appeal to you all to help keep the drains clear by carrying out some simple tasks such as sweeping leaves from your drives and clearing away debris from the front of your properties etc.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 10th November at 7.00p.m. in the Village Hall. *An extract of the minutes of the September meeting is at the end of this WIN – some items have already been flagged for the agenda - Ed*

NEW AT THE BARRACKS

Matthew and Amanda Brown and family have moved into the Barracks. We welcome them to the Village and hope they will be happy here.

Come and join us at
Village Hall Committee AGM
Thursday 20th November 8pm
At WI Village Hall

New faces welcome

YOUR PALS IN THE NHS

Listening to the patient's voice is an important part of NHS improvements. If local people have questions about the NHS or its services it can be difficult to get an answer, hard to track down the right person and a complex system to understand. With the introduction of the Patient Advice and Liaison Services (PALS) all this has now changed.

The PALS service is intended to provide friendly support for those with issues to do with the NHS from first contact in the community to hospital care. It does not deal with complaints and for that very reason many users prefer to contact PALS because they are more concerned about changing what is going on than making a fuss. The service aims to work speedily and informally. The PALS service is an important part of making the NHS more accessible to patients - it has worked with great success in Royal Berkshire and Battle Hospitals where it has been in place for some 2 years and the Newbury Primary Care Trust is keen that patients or their carers should feel able to use the service.

The NHS can be a confusing and complex organisation to the outsider - but PALS can help to signpost the routes through. PALS works at the heart of the NHS so it can influence how services are provided to patients and act as a patient voice where services are not meeting patient needs. We are keen to recognise that not everyone wants to make a formal complaint and this provides an accessible and friendly alternative.

Judy McCulloch is the manager of the Patient Advice and Liaison Service in Newbury and can be contacted on 01635 32500 ext 2231 or by dropping in to her office at Newbury Hospital (ask at reception) or for the IT minded by emailing judy.mcculloch@berkshire.nhs.uk Leaflets are now available in GP surgeries, the hospital and many other places patients may visit.

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 25th November 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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South Stanmore Barn
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Fax: 281838

Email: ilsleyfinance@aol.com

Extract from the Minutes of West Ilsley Parish Council

Thursday 25th September, 2003 at 7.00p.m.

Present: N.Carter (Chairman), A.Day, D.Holling, L.Gibson (Clerk), and 4 members of the public.

Matters Arising

Flooding. Derek Crouch of West Berks Highways Dept gave a detailed report of the recent works carried out in the village to the drainage system, which should considerably reduce the risk of flooding in the future. All drains had been surveyed with a CCTV camera and any problems corrected. Amongst other works, new soakaways had been dug and old ones cleared. Some £25,000 plus has been spent and Highways are confident that this will have much improved the drainage system. He passed over a plan of the system as it was and another of the system as it is now. These are available for inspection by contacting the clerk. Many thanks go to Norman Carlisle who generously allowed much of the waste from the works to be disposed of on his farmland. (Thereby avoiding a costly disposal bill). Parish Council Vacancies. Again there have been no candidates applying for the position. The vacancies will next be advertised on 16th October and the date of poll will be 11th December. David Holling noted that it had now been more than a year since the previous council resigned, Andy Day suggested that maybe it was time to consider other options such as merging with another local Parish Council i.e. East Ilsley, thereby returning control to local people. It was agreed to discuss this further at the November meeting. Formal Naming of Main Street, all three nameplate signs are now in position and the process is complete.

Correspondence received.

Downlands Area Forum will take place on Tuesday 14th October at 6.30p.m. in Compton Village Hall, program available from the clerk. Consultation draft of W.B.C. Bus Information Strategy, copy with the clerk. Newbury & Community Primary Care Trust, Annual Report available from the clerk. Fly Tipping. The Rural Action Group are compiling an up to date list of the worst affected areas and would like to hear of any local problems. More details from the clerk. Village Post Boxes. A parishioner has suggested that for safety reasons it would be sensible to have both post boxes moved to the opposite side of the road where there is a footpath. Clerk to write to Royal Mail with the suggestion.

Speeding in West Ilsley

Over recent weeks W.B.C. Speed Management Co-ordinator has visited the village and speed checks have been sited at Main road and Bury Lane. The average speed of cars travelling through the village was within the speed limit. It was therefore considered that no further action need be taken. West Berks Council are running training sessions on the use of S.I.D.s (Speed Indicator Device), which may be hired by Parish Councils.

West Ilsley Village Hall and Recreation Field

David Holling reported that he had consulted The Legal Team at West Berks Council regarding charges should legal representation be required over the ongoing dispute with the Charity Commission. The hourly charge is £60.00. Clerk to seek quotes from local solicitors.

A Parish Plan for West Ilsley.

No interest from the village had been expressed therefore no progress.

Audit 2002/2003

Following a successful Internal Audit by Ian Priestley, David Holling proposed that the Chairman sign, 1). The Statement of Accounts year ended 2003 and, 2). The statement of Assurance year ended 2003. Andy Day seconded. David Holling further proposed that the Annual Return and associated documents be submitted to the external auditor Hacker Young. Andy Day seconded, all in favour. Clerk to action.

Administration Charges

Further to advice issued by the Democracy and Local Governance Division of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, West Berkshire Council have proposed that an hourly rate of £29.08 per Officer will be charged for Officer attendance at meetings together with preparation as from 1st October 2003, (Copy Attached). David Holling Proposed, Andy Day seconded. All in Favour. The Chairman indicated that these costs would come from reserve funds.

Planning Applications

No. 03/01714 The Harrow. Partial demolition, new opening to enlarge trading area, repair outbuilding. As Local Government officers, all members declared an interest and did not comment.