

West Ilsley News

www.westilsley.org.uk

January 2007

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Correction to the money raised – the final figure was £155! Many thanks to all who contributed.
Andrea Cook



WINTER WARMER!

Saturday 27th January

8.00 pm in the village hall

Tickets £12.50 with first drink free!

Winter chill getting you down?

Warm up with a delicious curry

Then cool down with something refreshing
from the bar

All funds raised will go towards a children's
play area for West Ilsley

Tickets from Amanda Knight (281609) or
Amanda Hagen (281855)

**Computer desk and office
chair for sale. Sorry but
computer goes too! £25
tel 281600**

WEST ILSLEY TRUST

BARN DANCE 19TH MAY 2007

The West Ilsley Trust (the new Charity for West Ilsley) is planning a Barn Dance for next May, 2007. This is when we shall raise funds for good causes within the village - none of which are allocated or specified now.

To launch the Charity and to charge the funds, the Parish Council are organising a Barn Dance to be held in Harcourt Farm Barn (by kind permission of the Carlisle Family) on Saturday 19th May. This we hope will bring the village together for one of the biggest parties of the year but will also raise an impressive amount of money.

Now is the time to start organising and with lots to do to ensure the party goes ahead, and on behalf of the Parish Council, I plan to form a Barn Dance committee. Anyone who would like to help and has some spare evenings for meetings, some ideas and/or would like to meet new faces please come to the first meeting on Tuesday 16th January at The Poplars at 8pm.

Thanks in advance

Alison Banks Tel 281705

DIARY

JANUARY

9th Parish Council Meeting

27th Winter Warmer

MAY

19th Barn Dance

Deadline for the next publication is 5pm on Thursday 25th January.

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:

Andrea Cook

Clock Cottage

☎ 281224

Email: westilsleynews@msn.com

Liz Dray

The Malthouse

☎ 281688

Email: Ejwizzy@aol.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

Parish Council Update

many parishioners may not be aware this work is to commence on the 15 January 2007 and be completed by the end of March 2007. Information has been obtained from the Highways Agency with regard to the effects this maintenance will have on West Ilsley and the surrounding villages, some of this information is contained in a document supplied by Peter Scott from the Agency.

A map is also included which shows the extent of the contra flow.

We have been having regular dialogue with the Agency to ensure they have made everyone aware, this includes, local schools, bus services and yes West Berkshire Highways. They have said they will provide regular updates that can be issued via the West Ilsley News and they have provided contact details as follows:

Peter Scott 01306 878402 www.highways.gov.uk/A34Chiltern also 08700 660 115 for traffic information.

In order to keep residents of West Ilsley informed regarding the forthcoming A34 Chilton major maintenance scheme, we've compiled below a Q&A list which we hope will answer any queries you may have.

What is being done?

The Highways Agency will be undertaking essential road maintenance works on the A34, between the West Ilsley Interchange and the A417 overbridge near Harwell.

The scheme includes partial reconstruction to both the northbound and southbound carriageways and the renewal of road markings and studs. Drainage works, parapet replacement, sign replacement and safety fence works will also be included.

The scheme will ensure the road is maintained in a good condition and will improve the surface condition of the carriageways, resulting in a smoother and quieter ride.

Why are these works taking place?

This stretch of the A34 is in need of essential maintenance works in order to continue to ensure it is kept serviceable and more importantly, safe for road users.

What traffic management will be used?

Whereas there are usually two lanes open both north and southbound on the A34, only one lane will be open in both directions during the scheme, when one of the carriageways is closed. This method of traffic management is known as a

Ron Cook and Alan Bloor attended a meeting on behalf of the Parish Council held by the Highways Agency on the A34 essential road maintenance. As

contraflow system, and allows our workforce to undertake the required maintenance safely, whilst still allowing for traffic to move along the A34.

In order to enhance safety for drivers and workers in this environment, the speed limit along the works will be reduced to 40mph.

When is the scheme happening?

The contraflow system is being put into place on 15th January 2007. Work will be undertaken 24hours a day, seven days a week to ensure we complete the job as soon as possible.

The works are scheduled to be completed by mid March 2006. The estimated date is of course weather permitting.

What delays are expected?

There may be delays of approximately 20 minutes or longer both north and south bound.

Will traffic be diverted through the West Ilsley village?

No. The diversion is in place for local residents only to access their village, and not for A34 traffic.

We appreciate the concern that HGVs and normal traffic will try to use this road as a "rat-run" to get ahead of any traffic, and will be doing the following to help prevent this from occurring:

- 1) A sign will be put up at the northbound A34 East Ilsley exit slip with a message stating that access is only for local traffic.
- 2) We will be talking to the Road Haulage Association and the Freight Transport Association to ask their members not to use this route for their own safety (as it could be argued the road is not suitable for large HGV traffic), as well as the safety of others.
- 3) We will be contacting the satellite navigation companies, to request they do not divert traffic via the West Ilsley village.

But, in addition the West Ilsley entry slip road will not be open for the first four weeks of the scheme – which means that traffic will not be able to join the A34 northbound from this junction, and therefore during this period, the route cannot physically be used as a "Rat-Run".

Will I be affected by noise from the works?

We always strive to ensure that any works noise are kept to a minimum, and we have agreed all noise levels with your local authority. We will also be issuing local residents with a formal letter in advance of the works, which will have a dedicated telephone number that you can call in order to speak directly with our site office, if you are disturbed by noise during the evening. The duty agent will then see if anything can be done to alleviate any disturbance you may be experiencing.

The carriageway maintenance itself will include noise-reducing surfacing, so the sound of vehicle tyres on the A34 will be reduced once the scheme is complete.

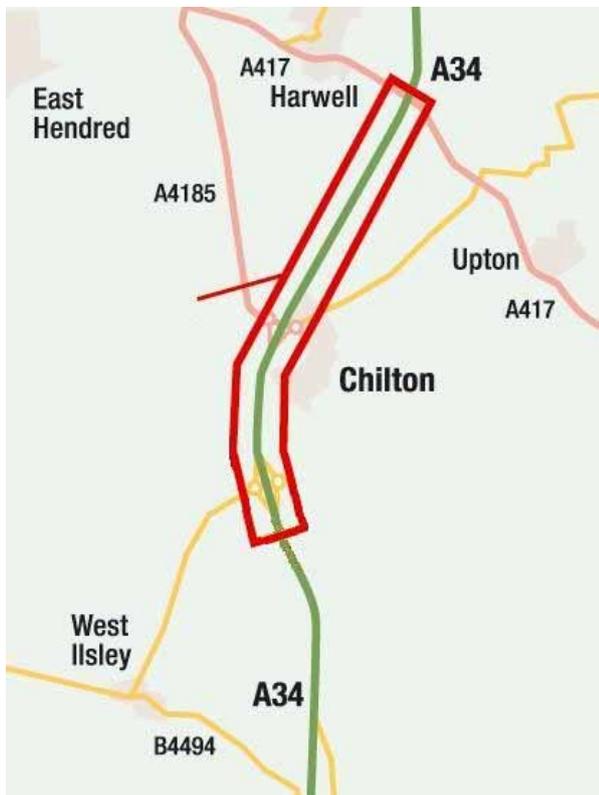
How can I be kept up to date with the scheme's progress?

We will be releasing regular information via the local press as well as this publication to keep you all informed of our progress.

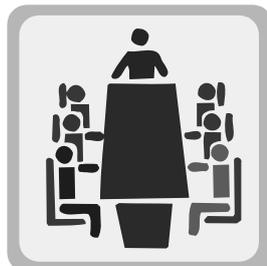
But, if you have internet access, you can sign up for our free email progress reports, as well as being able to find all required information relating to the scheme. Simply go to www.highways.gov.uk/a34chilton and follow the on screen instructions.

I hope this information has been useful to you, and look forward to updating you with our progress in Jan/Feb 2007.

Yours sincerely,
Peter Scott
Project Sponsor



A34 Chilton essential maintenance on A34 between the West Ilsley interchange and the A417



SALE OF TITLE

My name is Clarissa Grainger and I am the Lord of the Manor of West Ilsley. I used to live at Manor Cottage in the village and I inherited the title from my mother Rosina McFie. I now live in the West Country and am unable to visit the village very often so I feel that the title would be more suited to somebody local. I am therefore selling the title and if anyone is interested please telephone me on 01752 267946 or send an email to cmsgrainger@msn.com. I will then be able to put you in touch with the people who are dealing with the sale for me.

TITTLE TATTLE

Polly Muir

I didn't have time to write this before I left, and it's going to be a very quick T-T now...I am in Melbourne, Victoria, (Australia).

As I type, the Melbournians are exceedingly excited at the prospect of rain and a little excited about Christmas... I must say that I'm far less excited with the rain bit, but the fix of sunshine on my brain, so far, has been pleasing: the Christmas excitement and frenzy is about right. I am with Tessa and being joined later by the other men: I merely represent The Advance Party. Wellington would have been proud of my efforts in the war, so far - a short shopping trip and an evening at 007 at the cinema (Daniel Craig is the best Bond EVER!) - interspersed with a short, two-hour snooze on account of jetlag! The 24 hours on the aeroplane passed quickly and uneventfully! I read, slept, watched (more) films, shopped from my armchair and wrote the Australian Xmas cards: the UK ones will have to await my return. For one who rarely manages to watch a movie (never mind uninterrupted movie!) to catch up on three in 72 hours is bliss.

I need to record a couple of things for January:

Congratulations to Lew and Joyce Hayes. I happened to be passing, one morning, and discovered that they were celebrating their 67th wedding anniversary. 67 years of marriage...is there any answer to that? How did they achieve that? Should I have pressed them for more of an answer. I think it lies in cups of tea and a chat. But, in this day and age with one in three bust-ups, it is surely a most remarkable record? I am going to try more char and chat!

Secondly, and the worst news for users of the A34 (and, I suspect, the village), is the closure first of one carriageway and then of the second carriageway, and of the slip roads at Chilton and West Ilsley from mid-January. The contraflows with their single-line lanes, 24/7, are going to make life less than tolerable for regular users of the road. I understand BMW are re-routing their transporters (for the mini) to Southampton on another road,

such is the anticipation of delays. Shall we all hibernate for two months? We are going to need to be patient, as I anticipate that we will be surrounded by a car park, miles of tail-back of stationary vehicles and rat-running on the minor roads (horses, walkers and cyclists, BEWARE!). Perhaps some enterprising local should provide teas and refreshments during those worst moments.....and gin and tonic for the better ones.

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

ALL SAINTS WEST ILSLEY

William and Alexandra Axtell

Church Services:

31 st	Family Communion (United Benefice)	10.00am
7 th	All Age Worship	11.00am
14 th	Holy Communion	8.00am
21 st	Family Communion	9.30am
28 th	No Service	

Christmas

We had a lovely carol service in the church, which raised £121.80 and got everyone in the Christmas spirit. £60.90 was donated to our local Macmillan Nurses at Newbury Hospital and £60.90 went to the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust. Thank you to all those who created the wonderful Christmas flower displays and the splendid Christmas tree in the church.

United Benefice

We have the United Benefice service at West Ilsley this Sunday (31st December) – it should be well attended and it will be a good opportunity to thank Denise, Trevor, Olive and the whole ministry team for all their fantastic work in 2006. Best wishes for a happy and peaceful 2007!

ILSLEY UNDER FIVES Amanda Knight

The Toddler Group got into the spirit of Christmas at our last session in December with a Christmas tree, Carols and a visit from Father Christmas. It was also really lovely to have three of the Dads there (and the end of session singing was undeniably improved!). The Toddler Group will start to meet again on 3 January. A copy of the

new rota should have been delivered to you but if you have not received one please give me or Amanda Hagen a call (first on the list are Amanda H. and Jacky).

(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).)

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
ITEC Dip. VTCT Dip. IHM

Tel: Compton 01635 578446

CHILDREN'S CHURCH, ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Afterschool Service

In December Denise used the wooden Godly play figures to tell the story of the journey to Bethlehem which the children enjoyed. Our next service will be on Thursday 18th January where the children will have the opportunity to make a Christingle orange.

Our Afterschool services are held at 4pm in the church and are very informal with songs to well-known tunes 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.

Mums and Tots Coffee morning (for the very young and their carers)

This is a monthly get together at The Rectory in Peasemore from 10am – 11.30am. It is an informal gathering where the Mums and carers have a chance to have a coffee and a chat and the children to play and sing. Forthcoming dates are as follows:

Thursday 4 January

Thursday 1 February

If you would like more information about either of these services please contact Denise Brown on 01635 281825 or Liz Dray on 01635 281688.

TAKE CARE ON THE ROADS THIS WINTER

Winter is upon us again and West Berkshire Council is urging all motorists to take extra care when driving in adverse weather conditions. The Council's Highways & Transport Department have released their annual Winter Service advice leaflet entitled 'Safer Driving this Winter on West Berkshire Roads' with information on salted routes in the area and road safety advice.

Leaflets are available from the Council offices, local libraries or to download from the road safety pages of the Council's website www.westberks.gov.uk

Essential Winter Driving Tips:

- Keep the following items in your vehicle
 - Additional warm, high visibility clothing & waterproof footwear
 - A torch, a shovel, a de-icer and a scraper
 - Chocolate or energy bars, in case of emergency
 - Plan your route carefully using the Council's Winter Service leaflet, which shows a map of routes that will be salted.
 - Check the weather forecast before starting your journey and listen to local travel bulletins
 - Take a fully charged mobile phone (for use in an emergency – not to be used while driving)
 - Ensure windows, wipers, lights and indicators are clean and in good working order
 - Check tyre treads and pressures and keep your car battery charged
 - In snow drive slowly and in as high a gear as possible.
 - In icy conditions avoid harsh braking and steering. Increase your stopping distance by 10.
 - In rain, fog and snow use dipped headlights for better visibility
 - Beware of the road surface on bridges becoming icy before the approach roads to and from them, due to cold air or water underneath.
 - Combat low Winter sun by using your sun visor.
- If you cannot see properly slow down!

West Berkshire Council's Winter Service leaflet is now available. For more information contact the Streetcare Team on 01635 519080. For further road safety advice email roadsafety@westberks.gov.uk



Do you know of any young person or group of young people aged 8 – 19 who have a good idea for a project that will make a real difference to their

community, school, church or youth group? If you do why not let them know about the

BIG BUZZ CHALLENGE 2007

We have grants of between £50-£1,000 to help develop those ideas!

Closing date for applications 5th February 2007

Ring Community Action West Berkshire on:

01635 523857 or email: info@cawb.org.uk or look on www.ba4all.org.uk/bigbuzz for further details

What kind of projects did the Big Buzz Challenge fund in 2005?

Spurcroft Primary School wanted to develop a vegetable garden and apple orchard alongside their local community. They were awarded £600 to start their project. All the children contributed ideas for the design with the support of their teacher.

Roland and Ryan are aged 13 and live in Aldermaston. They talked to other young people in their community and identified the need for a small skateboard ramp. They made a short video telling us their story and were awarded £1,300 towards the new ramp.

Leckhamstead Lizards Youth Club decided to enter the challenge because they needed some new equipment for the club. They acted out a small play to express their needs and they were awarded £300 to help them.

Total Eclipse is a local drama group who wanted some funds to help them work with a group of young carers. They were awarded £300 to help them in their project.

Young people in Great Shefford have led the way in identifying what young people in their village want. They know that there is a need for a drama group and new football goalposts – this is just the kind of project the Challenge would like to fund.

We want to hear from young people who have good ideas and who have support in realising their dreams.