

# West Ilsley News

May 2002

Next month's WIN will be the Silver Jubilee edition, as it will be 25 years since the Clemengers started the WIN. Unfortunately, a copy of the first edition cannot be found (do any longstanding residents have one hanging around?) but we do have the July copy which reported on the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations in the village. Clearly, West Ilsley was quite a "racy" place to live in those days, and we don't just mean the horses - the WIN reported on a cross-dressing cricket match - look out for some snippets next month!

Thanks to Sgt Rob Athawes for his police articles - the reports which we receive cover the whole of the Hungerford patch, and for reasons of brevity we edit out references to villages as far afield as, for example, Lambourn and Inkpen. If anyone would like to see the full report, please contact one of us.

## The Editors

### EVERGREENS

There will be an outing to Worcester on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May. The Coach will leave from outside the Church in West Ilsley at 9.00 am, and will depart from Worcester at 4.00 pm. Members £5, non-members £7. Names to J Collier.

PARISH COUNCIL Linda Gibson (Clerk)  
200242

The next Meeting of West Ilsley Parish Council will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2002 at 7.00p.m. in The Village Hall. This will be followed by **The Annual Parish Assembly at approximately 8.00p.m.**

All residents of West Ilsley are welcome to attend this meeting and may raise any relevant matters in the open forum.

### MESSAGE FROM JOHN THE POSTIE

Just a quick message to all my friends in West Ilsley, Lilley and anyone in Peasemore that might read this. I'd just like to explain my sudden departure from the area. I am still at the post office but having to do nights at the moment, due to the fact that my marriage has broken up and I have a 10 year old daughter that I have to get to school. Hopefully I will be back in the not to distant future. I do pop out to Ilsley occasionally but I don't have much time to visit a lot of people but next time I am over I will try and see a few of you. Sorry to have to write this but I know Tony is being asked a few questions but he doesn't really know the "ins and outs" of it really. Thanks to everyone who has sent their kind regards.  
Thanks to everybody in friendship, John

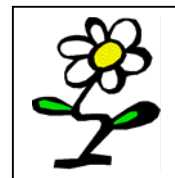
### RURAL TRANSPORT STUDY Andrea Cook

Please will adults over 18 complete a copy of the Rural Transport Study? Here's a bit more information: "For the past few years, the West Berkshire Rural Transport Partnership has been seeking to develop schemes aimed at improving access to jobs, services and social activities. Many of these are funded by grants from the Countryside Agency and other

organizations. The Partnership has commissioned Faber Maunsell to undertake this Rural Needs Assessment Study, so that the results can be used to support applications for these grants. Opinions are being sought from people in West Berkshire Parishes, the results of this study will help to enable improved transport arrangements for the local community."

You may also notice that there's a prize draw for £150 and I understand the return rate has been very poor, so I reckon anyone who enters could stand a reasonable chance of winning!

The deadline for return is 14<sup>th</sup> May - not 8<sup>th</sup> April as on the forms - please put them through my door (Clock Cottage, on the corner of Church Way, or if you are disabled, phone 281224 and I will arrange to collect) and I will post them all off together.



### ATTENTION ALL GARDENERS

please will you save and grow on any spare cuttings, plants and seedlings for the Plant Stall at this year's Show. Thank you, Pia Burton

### VILLAGE HALL PONTOON

The final pontoon of the season went for 5 weeks and was won by:-

J. Denham (Arsenal)	}	
L. Hayes (Grimsby)	}	£8.75
C. Hooker (Queen of South)	}	each
J. Sheppard (West Ham)	}	

The Booby prize of £10 went to:-

D. Rockall (Sunderland)

Many thanks to everyone who took part this season. Over all we made £303.52 towards the upkeep of the Village Hall. We hope to start again at the beginning of the football season, sometime in August. Please let me know if you wish to join and if possible pay at the beginning of the season - £5 per team for the whole

season, or if you prefer I'll collect 50p per team each pontoon.

My phone number is 281646 or you can e-mail me at [audrey.tizzard@btopenworld.com](mailto:audrey.tizzard@btopenworld.com)

## LETTER TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

From A Giglio, Hebron Cottage  
(Copy to the WIN)

Now that the horses have been well looked after, I mean the racehorses from Hodcot when crossing the road to reach the gallops. The crossing has been made very obvious so that we motorists slow down when approaching it, but motorists always slow down when they see a horse anyway. I am sure that all West Ilsleyians know "The Cart Track" leading to the Ridgeway. Many of us who live up the lane always have great difficulties when driving in and out of the lane because the traffic travels fairly fast out of the village and up the hill. I am quite surprised that so far we haven't had any serious accidents, although there have been a few near misses. I am sure that the farmers have the same problem as all of us living in the lane when driving in and out of it. For the sake of our safety I would like to make the following suggestion. Simply, replace the "National speed limit" sign at the bottom of the hill for a 30 mph sign and at the same time place a "national speed limit" sign beyond the racehorse crossing to the gallops. We all should be much obliged to Richard Gore if he would discuss the proposal with the Parish Council members in order to resolve the matter in favour of our own safety. Our official address in the so called "cart track" is Hebron Cottage, Folly Lane, and frankly it is not too much to ask that our lane should have its proper name. Perhaps the Parish Council could make representation to the appropriate authority on our behalf and restore our lane to its rightful name.

## ANOTHER BUS ROUTE Peter Bartaby

For Ridgeway Walkers and of the Countryside lovers, Spring has brought a return of the Ridgeway Explorer Bus Route – now operated by Weavaway Travel.

From now until 27<sup>th</sup> October this will operate 4 times every Sunday and Public Holiday from Reading (Railway Station) to Swindon Bus Station and vice versa. Going Eastwards from The Harrow at 10.16, 13.16, 16.16 and 19.16 the bus will also stop in the Village at Main Street/Bury Lane Junction (By Request) and Bury Down Car Park and then go on through East Ilsley, Compton, Aldworth, Goring and Pangbourne to Reading, arriving about an hour later. The Western route from Bury Down Car Park at 9.38, 12.38, 15.38 and 18.38 goes via Bury Lane/Main Street junction (stopping by request) and the Harrow to Farnbrough, the Ridgeway (Wantage memorial), Wantage, Letcombe Regis, Ashbury and on to Swindon arriving around an hour and fifteen minutes later.

Full details of the services, stopping points and timings are on the Weavaway pamphlet on the Village Notice Board outside the Church.

## QUEEN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

Richard Gore (281241)

The response to last months article has been enough to encourage us to go ahead with plans to celebrate the Jubilee on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. However, as I write this with three days to go to the deadline, the path to my door should be crowded with parents bearing forms to avoid having a lot of disappointed children.

It has been suggested that, rather than having separate parties for children and adults as originally proposed, an all-age party is held in the afternoon, and this may well drift on into the evening!

This will be decided, and positive plans put into action, at the Annual Parish Assembly on Monday May 13<sup>th</sup>, starting at 8pm in the Village Hall. Volunteers are needed to help with catering and providing entertainment, so please come along and give us your input. If you are unable to come on the 13<sup>th</sup>, but are willing to help, please let me know before then.

## CRICKET CLUB

Alan Bloor

The cricket season is now with us and hopefully the club will have a successful season  
The club bar will be open every Friday evening and also on match days. The home events are listed below:

Fri 3 May	Cricket Club Bar
Sat 4 May	League Match
Sun 5 May	Woodlands St Mary's
Mon 6 May	Men's Darts
Fri 10 May	Cricket Club Bar
Sat 11 May	League Match
Fri 17 May	Cricket Club Bar
Sat 18 May	League Match
Wed 22 May	Downs League
Fri 24 May	Cricket Club Bar and QUIZ NIGHT
Sat 25 May	League Match
Fri 31 May	Cricket Club Bar
Sat 1 June	League Match

For those wishing to practice, nets are being held every Tuesday from 7pm onwards.

Please note subscriptions are now due for any Villagers wishing to join the club. Social Member = £5  
Family Member = £10 Junior Playing Member = £10  
Full Playing Member = £40

## THE WEST ILSLEY FETE

Sunday 14 July 2002

### Under 16s Logo Competition

Many thanks and congratulations to everyone who entered the competition. The standard of entries was extremely high and judging was particularly difficult. After much consideration the winner was Jane Wiejak and she will be receiving a Gift Voucher. Two runners-up will also receive Gift Vouchers. Jane's winning entry will be used on all publicity posters and on the front cover of the program.

### PRODUCE SHOW

Many people feel that the produce show is the "heart" of the fete as it embodies the traditions of the rural

community. Following the success of the produce show at the last village fete there will be **NO CHARGE** for entry into any of the classes. We should also have some extra prizes rather than just the rosettes and cups to tempt you to enter. The show will only be a success if as many people as possible take part!

This year we have reduced the number of categories to take out the less popular ones, and introduced some new ones. It would be great to get more entries in the vegetable classes, which have been dwindling over the years. Why not plant a few vegetables amongst your flower beds? The red stems of rhubarb chard look wonderful and dwarf beans crop prolifically. Even leeks look great amongst the flowers! Due to popular demand, the men only classes remain, and I have already witnessed some early plots of revenge.

We really want the Produce Show to be a big success this year, so take a look at the classes and start your preparations now!

### Produce Show Classes 2002

#### Flowers and Ornamentals

- 1 Roses – 3 blooms of any variety/varieties
- 2 3 blooms of any flower
- 3 Patio pot – minimum 3 plants, foliage and/or flowering
- 4 House pot plant – flowering or foliage
- 5 Pot of herbs – minimum 3 plants

#### Fruit and Vegetables

- 6 One dish of soft fruit, any variety
- 7 Collection of any 3 types of vegetable, 3 of each
- 8 Potatoes – 3
- 9 Carrots - 3
- 10 Onions – 3
- 11 Shallots – 6
- 12 Beans/peas – 3 pods, any variety

#### Flower Arranging

- 13 Arrangement to be viewed all round, max 24w x 24d x 36 inches high
- 14 Arrangement in a basket, max 24 x 24 inches
- 15 Miniature flower arrangement, max 6 inches overall
- 16 Arrangement in a beer can – men only

#### Home Cooking

- 17 Jar of jam or marmalade
- 18 Jar of chutney
- 19 Savoury flan
- 20 Fruit pie
- 21 Shortbread
- 22 Man made scones – ie made by the men!

#### Handicraft

- 23 Specimen of needlework, eg article of dressmaking, patchwork, weaving or any other needlecraft
- 24 Specimen of knitting or crochet
- 25 Upholstered item
- 26 Specimen of handicraft, eg pottery, corn dolly, whittling or any other handicraft

#### Photography

- 27 Views of West Ilsley, place or people
- 28 Photo of a pet
- 29 Photo of your garden
- 30 Holiday photo

#### Children's Classes

- 31 A miniature garden, not exceeding 12 x 18 inches
- 32 A decorated digestive biscuit
- 33 A painting or drawing of parents or family
- 34 Food face on a paper plate
- 35 Specimen of needlecraft / home made toy
- 36 Stencil picture, eg potato stamp

#### Best Kept Garden

Best kept garden as judged from the road – Country Gardens Cup

#### Best Hanging Basket

Best hanging basket as judged from the road – Millennium Cup

#### 5-a side Football

East Ilsley has challenged West Ilsley to a 5-a-side tournament in the following age groups; under 7, under 9 and under 12. Anyone who would like to take part in the tournament should contact either Toni Sugden on 281291 or Lindsey Storton on 281420.

## FOR SALE

**Richardson Double Horse Trailer**  
**Good Condition**  
**Tel: Polly Muir 281647**

### ALL SAINTS CHURCH, WEST ILSLEY

Ian Fewtrell-Smith

Church Services for May:

5 <sup>th</sup> May	All Age Service with Baptism	11.00 am
12 <sup>th</sup> May	Holy Communion	8.00 am
19 <sup>th</sup> May	Family Communion	9.30 am

#### Bring and Buy Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> May

This will take place in the churchyard (or in the church if raining) on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> May starting at 10.30 am and finishing at 12.00 noon. Money raised will be in aid of All Saints church. There will be stalls for bric-a-brac, cakes, plants and refreshments, as well as a raffle and a children's stall. If you are able to make a cake or two, please contact Janice Sheppard or Wendy Coles. Any plants you are able to provide for sale, speak to Sarah Allendale or Veronica Smith. Bric-a-brac should go to Tony Scriven. But most importantly, bring yourselves on the day!!

### PRAM SERVICE AND AFTERSCHOOL SERVICE, ALL SAINTS CHURCH

At the April services the theme was "Easter" and the afterschool children looked at different stages of plant growth to see new life whilst at the pram service they heard the story of the hungry caterpillar.

The dates of the forthcoming services are as follows:

Afterschool Service		Pram Service 11am
4pm Thursdays		Mondays
16 May	Sowing and Seeds	20 May
20 June	Crossing the Red Sea	24 June
18 July	Holidays	22 July

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. If you would like more information please contact Denise Brown on 01635 281825, Antonia Cretney on 01635 248925 or Liz Dray on 01488 638749.

## ILSLEY UNDER FIVES

### Jubilee handprints

We will be selling handprint kits in presentation boxes at a cost of £4 to mark the occasion of the Golden Jubilee. These will be available at Toddlers and Playgroup, the church plant sale (11 May) and the Sheep Fair (2 June).

### 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 Tracy Gregory on 281650 for more details.

Any Mums-to-be finding themselves at home for perhaps the first time may like to come along for a coffee and a chat. We also have some baby equipment in good condition looking for a home in return for a donation to Toddlers. Please call Jo Gore on 281618 for more information.

There will be no Toddlers on Wednesday 5 June (half-term).

### Playgroup

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 on 281650 for an application form to register your child or if you would like to arrange a visit. Half-term for Playgroup will be Wednesday 5 and Thursday 6 June.

### Dates for your diaries!

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Saturday 18 May | <b>All Saints Church and Ilsley Under 5s Barn Dance.</b> See ad under Pram Service section.   |
| Sunday 2 June   | <b>Sheep Fair, Puzzle Meadow, East Ilsley,</b> 1pm-5pm – The Under 5s will be manning the bookstall – please come and support us! Entry £1.50 to Sheep Fair, children under 14 and OAPs free.<br>Fancy Dress competition – 1.30pm – Theme – “The Golden Jubilee”. Age ranges 2-4 years and 5-7 years. Free entry. Prizes. |
| Sunday 14 July  | <b>West Ilsley Village Fete</b> – The Under 5s will be running afternoon teas – all hands on deck!  |

## MISS TOFFELLEES

Good news to report this month from the Michelin hunters in The Harrow. An excellent meal was enjoyed by Him and Herself at the inn amidst a goodly crowd of locals coiffing and nattering. It was a very different Harrow to the one experienced previously: pleasant to meet the landlord who provided a hospitable front and great food and wine. How nice!! We will return when time allows and circumstances permit. I want to know exactly what happens to all the leisure time I am supposed to experience, now that new woman is freed from the drudgery and tasks that I am expected to perform. Anyway, going to The Harrow is a great way of sciving from the kitchen - and sooo close!

The Santa has been removed from the end bungalow and now The Old Man informs me that the couple who lived there have moved to The West Country. I am going to miss the Christmas scene outside, it was very cheering on a wet winters night (don't even think about it now when 'tis nice and sunny!) I wish them both well in their new home and I hope that the decorations will be as much appreciated.

All the other tittle-tattle I have at my disposal is not repeatable, or uninteresting to the general public. I do hope to catch up with idle gossip at The Barn Dance. I'm looking out my best Jolene outfit, even if I can't manage Dolly Parton accessories.

## DOG WALKERS Alfonso, Hebron Cottage

It is not the first time, nor the second or third but it happens fairly regularly. What does? You may ask, “dog fouling” that's what. Dog fouling always happens on somebody else's front lawn and never at the front door of its owner. We are blessed in this village to have plenty of green spaces where dog walkers could take their dog for the obvious purpose. Some people who take their dogs for the proverbial walk are very considerate, they keep their dogs on the lead until they are well clear of the village houses. However, there are some dog owners who, for one reason or another, do not consider other people's feelings and who leave others to clean up the mess every time. Now, do not think for one moment that I am blaming the dog for doing his natural deed. The blame rests with its owner for not being in control of his dog. I have had dogs in my days and can honestly say that they are the most wonderful friends one could wish to have. They are part of a family set up and take great interest in everything that goes on. They play like children and with children, mine used to play football with us, he was a very good dribbler. If dogs could talk they would, but they do talk with their eyes and body. Without doubt, they are the most loving and friendly companion that man has had the fortune to have. So, dog walkers, it is you that I am disappointed with, and not the dog. Dogs are very intelligent animals and can be taught almost anything, but, can one teach a dog owner to make sure that they are well clear of habitation before letting their dog loose for a joyous romp. I am an optimist even in my old age.

**“STOP PRESS”  
LAST CHANCE TO BUY YOUR  
TICKETS FOR THE**

Ilsey Under 5s and All Saints Church Joint  
Fundraising Jubilee Barn Dance Saturday 18 May

£10 per adult to include live band, raffle, hog roast supper  
with salad and dessert.

£4 for children aged 2-12 to include burger. Licensed bar.  
7.00pm at Harcourt Barn, West Ilsey. Children's dancing  
from 7.30pm.

Tickets from Anna Sugden on 281784

Janice Sheppard on 281345

Angela Hyde on 281500

**PLEASE SUPPORT US AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS!  
TICKETS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR**

**'ELLO ELLO ELLO' Sergeant Rob Athawes,  
Community Policing Team, Hungerford**

**GENERAL INTEREST**

Car crime is at the forefront of crime in the Hungerford and Downlands area this month so I would remind you all to remove valuables from your car, particularly at night, make sure alarms are set (if you have one) and if possible, lock your vehicles away in a garage at night. There are also additional things you can do if you haven't got a garage e.g. park under a security light, not in dark corners, use locking wheel nuts on alloy wheels etc.

The main crime area this month has been in Kintbury village and we have seen a rise in crime in Hermitage, indeed, there has been more crime in Hermitage than Chieveley this month which is a first since I started these articles, some 18 months ago.

**GOOD NEWS**

We continue to strive to provide the best possible service with the officers we have available and we have recently made, what I feel is a strong, business case, for getting additional resources based at Hungerford. We are still waiting to hear if that bid has been successful, but the distribution of manpower comes down to so many factors and I know all areas are trying to up their manning levels so I await the result with interest. I will update you all when I have news.

**CRIMES AND ARRESTS**

**Chieveley Parish**

Crime in Chieveley is, once again, very low this month with only 3 reported crimes for the month of March.

A Ford Fiesta was stripped of many of its assets in Bardown on 19/3/02.

A front door was smashed in the Hazeldene area of the village overnight 15th/16th of the Month.

A deception took place at a garage in Curridge village where the offender used what was believed to be a stolen credit card to try to purchase petrol, but was thwarted by the alert cashier. Unfortunately the offender made off in a white van. This occurred on 18/3/02.

**The Ilseleys**

Extensive damage was caused to fencing and fence posts on farm land in the West Ilsey area. This was almost certainly the work of illegal hare coursers who continue to blight the countryside.

An Austin Montego was stolen from a pub car park in East Ilsey on 16th of the month.

**Leckhampstead**

On 9/3/2002 a pair of gates were stolen from farm premises on the Chaddleworth road in the village.

On 30th of the month an extremely worrying burglary occurred at a house in Manor Lane when the householder had a big shock upon returning home when she confronted a burglar in her house. The offender became aggressive but fortunately no one was injured and the offender got away with electrical goods. He is described as a white male 25 - 30 years of age, fairly short in height. He made good his escape in a small white hatch back with registration number similar to H---HBL. If anyone can help at all please contact Detective Constable Chris Pullen at Newbury police station.

**Hermitage**

Hermitage has received a good deal of interest this month from the criminal fraternity!!

On 9/3/02 between 2pm and 3.30pm a car was broken into at school premises off the Newbury road and a handbag and contents were stolen. Some of the contents were later found strewn on Bucklebury common.

On 5th of the month a car was attacked outside a pub in the village with various bits of damage being caused.

Overnight 13th/14th March a theft took place at a garden centre where an attempt was made to steal a Transit van but the thieves made do with a trailer instead before stealing electrical goods.

On 16th a Ford Escort was broken into on Slanting Hill but the thieves made off empty handed and a Nissan Primera was also broken into in the same area the following day at lunch time.

**Great Shefford.**

There have been many incidents reported of a petty nature in Great Shefford, some of which have been associated with two or three individuals in the village. Without naming names, I believe many of you will know who I am referring to and to some there appears to be little doubt that these individuals are causing a deal of misery with their antics. I will make a plea for all parents to please be vigilant and be aware of what your teenagers are up to at any given time. Parental responsibility is an important key here because, without doubt, WE can't be in the village 24 hours a day so we need your help!!

Having said all that there have only been 2 reported CRIMES in the village this month. Sometime in March an outbuilding was broken into just off the Lambourn road and a snooker table was stolen.

On 29th March an assault occurred at a premises in the Wantage road and the female offender was arrested and dealt with.

Please continue to report ALL crime.

**MORE NEXT MONTH**

## A NEW PROJECT TO HELP YOUNG HOMELESS PEOPLE IN THE NEWBURY AREA

An exciting new project is being developed in Newbury called West Berks Nightstop. This scheme is affiliated to the national branch Nightstop U.K. and is managed by Newbury YMCA. Its development is born out of the necessity to make an impact on the unacceptable state of youth homelessness in the U.K. today. This is seen as a response to homelessness, not a solution.

About one third of the population is under 25. Families are far less stable than they used to be, with the result that parents and relatives are often less willing to house young people. The causes of homelessness are varied but can be as a result of family breakdown, living in care, financial hardship or eviction. Occasionally, young people become homeless because of sexual abuse or violence.

West Berkshire Nightstop is in the process of recruiting a network of agencies, such as the housing department, social services and the YMCA, who are able to refer a young homeless person to Nightstop. A risk assessment is always carried out as Nightstop does not accept any young person who has a history of violence or is under the influence of drink or drugs. Assuming the referral is accepted a volunteer host is found to accommodate the young person that night. This gives the young person overnight shelter while the Nightstop worker and the relevant agencies work towards a more permanent solution. This also provides a breathing space for the young person to consider his/her options. Nightstop workers can help with mediation, which may allow resolution of the original problems (e.g. a breakdown in family communication).

West Berks Nightstop is looking for people who are sympathetic to the needs of young homeless people and are willing to do their bit by helping one of them stay off the street at night. These people will have a spare room - (maybe they use this room when grandma or guests come to stay). These volunteer hosts will be given full training and support. (Naturally there is a rigorous vetting of potential hosts for their own protection and that of the young people and not everyone is automatically accepted). They will offer an evening meal and breakfast, bath or shower and possibly the use of a washing machine for which expenses are paid. They will also specify how often and when they host.

If anyone is interested in knowing more about the project please contact Maggie or Melissa at West Berks Nightstop c/o West Berkshire YMCA, Craven Dene, London Road, Newbury, Berks. Tel.0778635561 (Mobile).

### West Berkshire Parent Partnership Service – working together

An interesting opportunity to work as a volunteer!

We are looking for people to be Independent Parental Supporter volunteers. It may seem quite a mouthful to say, but volunteers provide parents of children with special educational needs with valuable support.

As a volunteer you will give parents the opportunity to talk through their concerns and to help them in talking to professionals.

Volunteers and families are matched so that your skills and expertise are used to provide information and support. Working with parents you will empower them to be more confident in their dealings with their child's school and other professionals in understanding how educational processes and services work. Training and support is given by the Parent Partnership Service.

If you want more information please contact Karen or Elaine, Parent Partnership Service on 01635 519 779 or email: [eenglish@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:eenglish@westberks.gov.uk)

## MARATHON EFFORT

Sean Ryan

I'd like to say a big thank you to all the generous people who sponsored me in the London Marathon. I staggered home in 4 hours 45 minutes, narrowly

beating a rhinoceros and three Wombles, and raised more than £3,000 for the Silver Star special baby unit at the John Radcliffe hospital, where our daughter, Anna, was born after a long series of miscarriages.

I was slightly unnerved by two fellow runners staying at the same house as me the night before. One was an elderly woman from the One Hundred Club of runners who have completed 100 marathons. She'd run one in Snowdonia last autumn and then got on a ferry at Holyhead to run the Dublin marathon the next day. Her (much younger) boyfriend had done the "South Downs Eighty" - an 80-mile run over the Sussex Downs in which the competitors set off at 6pm with lamps fixed to their heads and run all night - and a 105-mile race from Belfast to Dublin. Their stories over dinner made me wonder if I was really up to all this.

I paced myself through the early stages, though. It was going like a dream at the 20-mile marker, which I reached 90 seconds ahead of schedule for my target of a 4.30 finish. I sailed past monkeys, fairies, Queens and Dukes of Edinburgh and a vicar dressed as a lavatory shouting "We've all got to go some time!" But at 22 miles I suddenly found I could barely put one foot in front of the other. Although I carried on "running", it was painfully obvious that some of the people around me were going faster just by walking.

As we came on to the Embankment, I was overtaken by a man with an artificial leg and only one arm, which both humbled me and spurred me on - if he could make it to the end, so could I. Batman, Superman and the Grim Reaper may have passed me in the last mile, but while my head was down and it was all I could do to stay upright, the crowds seemed to be shouting "Come on Sean" non-stop. Carmel explained later that this was because there was another runner just behind me who had the letters SEAN sewn across his chest, but at the time I thought all the encouragement was for me and it kept me going. I arrived at the finish sandwiched between a man with a broken hip and a woman with terminal cancer and just thought: what an incredible privilege to have been part of this amazing event. I was completely exhausted but of course got no sympathy from Carmel. She claimed she'd done the really heroic running in and out of Tube stations in new shoes to find me at various points along the course - and oddly enough, she had the bigger blisters!

## FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Steve Price

Last year the "West Ilsley Mob" attended the Watermill's productions of "The Importance of being Earnest" and "Piaf" and a good time was had by all. It is a pity, therefore, that the "Mob" last night - supplemented by visitors from the next County - was rather fewer in number, for those who took the few seconds required to contact Andrea for tickets went away very happy indeed. "Fiddler on the Roof" is probably one of the most familiar musicals to Western audiences due to the early 70's smash-hit film and the massive West-End success, repeated in New York, of the Stage version. Perhaps in a way that is a pity, because you tend to know the story so well and thus anticipate rather than speculate, but the trials and

tribulations of a poor Milkman on the Russian steppes form the basis of a marvellous musical production that had the audience enthralled from start to finish.

The action centres around Tevye, the milkman, his dominant wife, and his three wilful daughters. It opens with probably the most forceful musical number "Tradition" - which lays the foundation for all that happens after. The village matchmaker (an inspired performance) spends her life gossiping and finding matches for the three girls, but unfortunately there is a new way of life in the air and each of the three girls in her turn rebel against that tradition in order to follow their hearts. This causes no end of problems for Tevye, who has the ability to see both sides of the argument and thus spends a lot of time saying "but on the other hand" in a bemused fashion. Towards the end of the play, when the family are split apart by the love of each woman for her man and the Tsarist pogroms which clear their Village, the overwhelming sense is of loss for a way of life that, though dreadfully spartan and not by any means perfect, was in many ways preferable to the early 20th Century lifestyle that replaced it. The cast as usual were simply excellent - mutli-talented both on instruments and vocally as is

ever the case with these productions. Particular praise in our group went to Lesley Young (middle daughter Hodel) who has a beautiful singing voice; so too Paul Harvard (poor tailor Motel), and Karen Mann, whom we have seen so many times before in so many excellent productions, who was once again brilliant. On occasion I felt that the plethora of instruments somewhat overpowered the singing voices, particularly in the dream sequence, but overall we loved the songs, the production, and the atmosphere that both created. A gem - yet again. If those that didn't manage to drag themselves to the phone to order tickets via Andrea can manage it, go and see it - you will enjoy the Show and, as an added bonus, support a local asset that is much under-appreciated.

**(P.S. from Andrea – box office number is 46044. If you would be interested to join future Watermill trips, please let me know (281224) and I might have another go, however, it seems the initial surge of enthusiasm has dwindled to the extent that it's not worth my while organising trips as we didn't even have sufficient numbers to get a decent discount on tickets.)**

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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 Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 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.

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*West Ilsley  
Pre-Fete Party  
Saturday 13th  
July  
Bar & Disco 7.30 - 12am  
Tickets £10 to  
include supper  
please bring your own crockery &  
cutlery  
tickets available after 10th June from*

<i>Joni Sugden Bramble Cottage. 281291</i>	<i>Sandra Carlisle Rowles Farm. 281220</i>
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Organised by the Friends of the Ilsleys  
Primary School with Sandra Carlisle