West Ilsley News

www.westilsley.org.uk

July 2004

Bad news, good news this month! Bad news - after a four-year second stint as editor of the WIN, and a move out of the village, Steve Price has decided to relinquish his editorial and publishing responsibilities for the WIN. I'm sure you will join me in thanking Steve for his editorial and financial support over the last four years, and in wishing him and Alison the best of fortune in the future. Good news - Lynne Smith has agreed to join me as joint editor/proof reader/flak handler, so - thanks Lynne. Will readers please note that we are both happy to hand over to a new team at any time, so don't hang back if you are thinking of volunteering! On the production front, we've received offers of free photocopier use if we supply the paper. Cost-wise, this means the £50 per annum which the Parish Council contributes will now easily cover the expenses, as the improved technology of double-sided copying will halve the paper costs. In recognition of the changes, it's a very slightly new-look WIN this month - don't miss half of it ... it's double sided!

Andrea Cook

VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Activity Club Report – May 3rd

This event went well with 25 village children enjoying activities led by villagers.

12 played Cowboys and Indians in the woods, 8 got very muddy on the bike trek and 7 enjoyed silk painting in the Hall. Our thanks to our leaders – Peter Carlisle, Mark Ryan and Kath Carter and to all our helpers who gave up their time. Alison and Angela **Thanks**

The Village Hall Committee would also like to thank the 5 volunteers who have made new curtains for the Hall. They certainly look good and are a great improvement. Thanks to Jill Wiejak, Jane Carlisle, Sue Carrington, Andrea Cook and Alison Banks.

Camp Out report - 19th and 20th June

Once again many village children took part in the Camp Out. About 25 enjoyed an afternoon of fun in the woods involving treasure hunts, orienteering and fire making. Then the real camping started as tents and parents arrived. Our camp site of 16 tents was perfect, as was the weather, bar a quick shower, and we all enjoyed a family BBQ and more fun in the woods. After an early start, cooked breakfast was most welcome and we returned to the village dirty and tired.

Many thanks to the Carlisle family for the use of the woods and to the Village Hall Committee who made it happen. See you next year!

EVERGREENS

Anne Carlisle

There will be a Mystery Trip on Thursday 8th July. The coach will leave from outside West Ilsley Church at 1.00 pm. Names to J Collier 281283 The Evergreens have a cake stall in the Marquee at the West Ilsley Fete on Sunday 11th July. We would welcome gifts from anyone living in the village. Anything edible – cakes quiches, jams etc.

DIARY

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Deadline for the next publication is 5pm on Wednesday 28th July **Contact details**:

Lynne Smith Ridgeways 281163 Email: lynnesmith@palgo.u-net.com



ROAD SAFETY AND ANONYMOUS ARTICLES

Note from the editors:

We have an anonymous note this month about children with ponies walking in the road in West Ilsley, and the suggestion that they should walk to face the oncoming traffic. We're not sure this is correct road practice - surely they should do as the racehorses do, but then again, if they're leading the ponies are they pedestrians and should walk to face the traffic - can anyone enlighten us here please?

We don't publish anonymous articles, but will withhold a writer's name on request if we feel comfortable to do so. So, Anon – please let us know who you are if you want continue the correspondence!

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Fred Carter

The first meeting of the West Ilsley NHW group was held on 22nd July. I received apologies from June Cook and Sue Evans.

The group agreed to divide the village into 7 schemes with each of the volunteers namely Lynne Smith, June Cook, Carol Clerkin, Alison Banks, Sue Evans, Andrea Cook and Fred Carter being scheme co-ordinators.

We discussed the functions of NHW etc which we agreed the following

The Function of NHW

Share in a caring community

Help reduce crime

Maintaining a safe area to live in

A NHW Scheme

A scheme consists of a group of neighbours in a locality joining forces to keep an eye out for each other in the interest of neighbourliness and crime prevention

Aims of a scheme

Reduce the opportunities for crime

Deter thieves

Protect property

Note and report suspicious activities

Benefits of a scheme

Crime prevention advice effectively spread Reduced insurance premiums

Creates a safe and friendly area to live in.

Things to watch out for

Strangers calling at houses when the occupier is out. Loiterers around schools, parked cars and secluded areas. Offers of bargains from doorstep salespersons. Someone tampering with parked cars. Casual strangers looking into cars, garages, sheds. outbuildings, yards and gardens. Strangers changing or abandoning vehicles.

Reporting procedures

If you think that a crime is:

- about to be committed
- or is in progress
- or has just been committed **Ring 999**

If you are suspicious but need further advice:

Ring the police Control Room 0845 8 505 505 If you have information about a crime that is to be committed but prefer to remain anonymous.

Ring Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

For NHW general enquiries Ring Angela Money on 01635 264718.

West Berkshire Police have asked me to inform you that over the last two months there has been a crime series across the Hungerford and Downlands area, also Speen. The series involves burglaries to homes where good quality jewellery is the main target. Please ensure you are aware and take steps to lock jewellery away securely. Please also photograph any unusual or valuable items and keep the photos in a safe place. Please be extra vigilant and watch your security. If you see anybody acting suspiciously or have any information, please contact the Police on 0845 8 505 505 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. To ensure that quick action is taken on any information, can you please also contact the Watch Office on 01635 264718.

FOR SALE

Richardson Supreme 2000 2-horse trailer, 3 1/2 years old Blue, double wooden floor Front & rear load Immaculate condition. £2,500 Tel: Mr./Mrs Bickerton 01865 863925

WEST ILSLEY CRICKET CLUB

Home Fixtures for July Sat 3 July First XL v Swindon Nalgo Second XL v Yately Sat 17 July Sun 16 July Sunday XL v Chelsea Nomads Sat 24 July First XL v Mortimor West End Sat 31 July Second XL v Harlington The club bar is open during the match and from 7.00 pm every Friday night.

Thanks to all those who supported the Race Night.

THE DOWNLAND PRACTICE PATIENT REPRESENTATION GROUP

This group consists of representatives from each parish council served by the practice. Meetings are held quarterly. The purpose of the group is to act as a forum for the two-way flow of information between patients and the practice regarding the day-to-day delivery of services provided. Should you have a need to voice an opinion either positive or negative, please forward details to Ron Cook (West Ilslev representative) April Cottage, Fir Tree Paddock, or telephone - 281565, or e-mail ron1.june2@virgin.net marking the subject 'Patient Representative Group'.



ALL SAINTS WEST ILSLEY William and Alexandra Axtell

Church Services for July:

4 th July	Barn Service, Chapel	6.00pm
-	Farm, Hill Green	
11 th July	Holy Communion	8.00 am
18 th July	Family Communion	9.30 am
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Downland Festival of Faith (2-11 July)

Lots of events are planned in the United Benefice this month for the Downland Festival of Faith including the Barn Service and bring your own BBQ at Chapel Farm, Hill Green at 6.00pm on 4th July. For more information please see the church noticeboard.

Raising the Roof

Thanks to Anna and Amanda for organising the children's tea party in the village hall last month. It was great fun and raised a good amount for the Raising the Roof campaign.

Pre-Show Dance (10 July)

Tickets are on sale for this popular event with funds going to the appeal. Tickets are £12.50 and are available from Ian Fewtrell-Smith (281 625) and Anna Sugden (281 784).

PRAM SERVICE AND AFTERSCHOOL SERVICE, ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Due to lower numbers attending the pram service and the planning for the interregnum, it has been decided to suspend this service for the time being. However, if numbers of babies rise again we will review this! In the meantime the Afterschool services are still well supported and we are delighted that Denise is happy to help us continue with these in the autumn.

In July we will have an end of term combined service with games on Thursday 15 July followed by a "bring your own" picnic tea. Weather permitting, this will be

held at the cricket pitch at 4pm. Drinks will be provided for the children.

There will be no service in August and we will recommence in September with the Afterschool Service on Thursday 16 September.

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

WEST ILSLEY ANIMAL KEEPER COURSE AT BEALE PARK, NR PANGBOURNE

Angela Ryan

Thursday 22 and Friday 23 July

Many of you know that I run Animal Keeper Courses at Beale Park throughout the year. The courses are always popular and get booked up very quickly so I am running one for West Ilsley children and their friends. The children are dropped off (and left with me so you get a few days off) at 10.30 and collected at 4pm. We'll spend our time feeding and mucking out Baxter's Farm, from ponies and donkeys to chickens and ducks. All the animals need their daily exercise and grooming. During the two days the children not only develop their knowledge of animals but also the confidence to handle them correctly. Wear old clothes and wellies and bring a picnic lunch. If the weather is good then we often take a dip in the paddling pool at the end of a hard day's work!! Be prepared to work hard and have lots of fun. The course is ideal for children from 7 - 14 but that is a guideline only so please call me if you have a child slightly older or younger who would like to come. The cost is £40 per child for the two days and £38 per child for 2 or more children. Please call me on 281500 if you would like a place!

FETE UPDATE

By the time you are reading this, the fete is only one week away. This year's fete promises to be the best ever. New attractions, old favourites, some wonderful prizes and lots of stalls.

Produce Show

Don't forget, it is free to enter and the produce show is the heart of the village show, so please make an effort. It is very easy to register your entry. All you need to do is turn up at the marquee between 11am and 1pm and write down the category number and your first name and surname on the labels provided. Stick the label on the underside of your entry and place on the tables by the relevant category number. Children should put their age on the label too. The category lists will be posted in the marquee, so don't worry if you forget, and the labels and pens will be provided. Entries will not be accepted after 1pm and judging will be completed by 2pm. There will be prizes for the best children's exhibits. Cups will also be awarded for the overall winners in the homecrafts, flowers and ornamentals and fruit and vegetables categories. Will last year's cup winners please return their cups to Tanglewood, preferably before the show.

This year's categories are printed at the end of this WIN, along with details of this year's Men Only Challenge.

Best Garden and Hanging Basket Competition

It is worth making sure that your garden is looking good as there will be a cup and a cash prize for the **best garden** and **best hanging basket** in West Ilsley. In the past, only those gardens and baskets that could be seen from the road were judged. However, we have had a number of requests from people with gardens hidden from the road to be included in the judging. We are happy to do this, but we obviously want to respect peoples' privacy. So, if you want to invite the judge into your garden, then please leave a sign by your gate. You don't need to enter for this competition, just make your garden and hanging baskets look extra special! Judging will take place during the weekend before the show.

A reminder about the Children's Fancy Dress competition

The theme is "Reach for the Sky"

2 age groups; 0-5 years and 6 years and up. Prizes for the best entries.

The **bookstall** is always a good place to get your summer reading, any donations should be delivered to Paul and Lynne Smith, Ridgways, 1 The Maltings. Tel 281163

The **bric-a-brac stall** is always a favourite and is a wonderful place to snap up a bargain. If you have items that you no longer use, please deliver them to Sue Evans at Wheatfield Barn. Tel. 281763.

If any of the gardeners in the village have any spare plants, the **plant stall** will be delighted to take them off your hands. Please bring them to the fete as early as possible.

The fete always depends upon the **volunteers** who give of their time to ensure that everything runs smoothly. If anyone is able to help on Friday 9th July, please meet at Rowles Farm at 4.30pm.

CHILDREN'S TEA

The Children's Tea in the Village Hall on Friday 11th June was a great success – 35 or so children wolfed down shepherds pie and chocolate crispies and the took turns at having their faces painted, and the Lucky Dip. Even the Newbury Weekly News turned up! Just over £100 was raised for the Raise the Roof Fund. Anna and Amanda would like to thank Eric Stevenson, Lady Sarah Allendale, Tony Scriven and Wendy Hordern for their invaluable help and also a big 'thank you' to everyone who came to give their support.

Diary Date RAISING THE ROOF CREAM TEAS at the VILLAGE HALL on SUNDAY 15TH AUGUST

ILSLEY UNDER FIVES

We had a very good day at the Sheep Fair and raised £140, thanks to everyone who baked cakes or cleared out garages and sheds for toys, books etc to enable us to have such a successful stall and to everyone who manned it in the baking hot weather.

On 23rd June we held a our 'Pampered Chef' evening at the Crown & Horns which was partially a social evening for the mums and also to help raise more funds for the Under Fives. Unfortunately there were only 7 of us there but we had an enjoyable evening and managed to raise £28 to add to the Ilsley Under Fives fund. We even had a few people booking their own parties! Many thanks to Sarah McNaught who arranged the evening for us.

We are keen to keep the IIsley Under Fives running for the benefit of the villages and more than anything we need your children to attend Toddlers and Playgroup to make this happen. It also means that your child will make friends early on with the same children that they may end up going to school with and also have friends their own age in the villages. Playgroup is especially beneficial as it's a precursor for joining the IIsleys school and means that your child should settle in very easily, in familiar surroundings when they eventually start.

We are pleased to welcome Cathy Paterson who will be officially joining the committee as our Playgroup Rep from September. She takes over from Jess Logan who returned to full time employment.

Playgroup

Playgroup's theme for this term is 'Under the Sea' with lots of craft activities planned such as sponge painting, clay sea pictures and fish and octopus mobiles. The term ends with a Teddy Bears' picnic and a trip to the Active Toy Company.

Playgroup runs on Wednesday & Thursday afternoons at the Ilsleys school but at present is not running to capacity. 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. We are currently looking at different ways of perhaps offering more sessions and also ways to raise funds. If you are interested in your child attending the playgroup or if you would like to attend a session to see what the children get up to please call Tracy Gregory on 281650 to enrol.

Toddlers

If you're new in the village and feel like meeting some new friends, we'd be very pleased to see you and your little ones. We get together on Wednesday mornings – 10.00 -11.30am in West Ilsley Village Hall. (Term time only). We have heaps of toys, a 'baby area' and lots of Mums who love a chat over a cup of coffee, so come along. For further details – ring Penny Dillon (281375)

Dates for the Diary:

End of Term: Thursday 15th July.

Start of Autumn Term: Wednesday 8th September West Ilsley Fete – Sunday 11th July: The Under Fives will again be running the Teas in the Cricket Pavillion, so please do come and join us for a cuppa and a slice of home-made cake. There will also be squash and biscuits available for the children.

The Ilsley Under Fives AGM will take place on Monday 6th September in The Star in East Ilsley at 8pm. If you are interested in joining the committee or just want to see what goes on then please come along.

We are having 50/50 sale of baby equipment on Saturday 25th September in West IIsley Village Hall. More details will follow.

Friday 29th October we will be having a 'Halloween' Childrens Fancy Dress Tea Party in West IIsley Village Hall and then on Saturday 30th October we will be holding an Adults 'Halloween' Party. More details on both of these to follow.



Information, Advice & Guidance in Berkshire

Newbury Executive Job Club

Are you a manager or professional who has been made redundant?

Are you looking for advice, support and the opportunity to network with like minded people?

The Newbury Job Club meets on Wednesday mornings between 10.30 and 12.00 at Business Focus, 24 Cheap Street, Newbury (above the Kennet Centre – entrance opposite the old Beatties toy shop). There are regular sessions on CV's, interviews and career planning plus individual support. Members can also use Birchin Lane, a daily updated jobs database. The job club is funded by Berkshire Information Advice

and Guidance.

For further details phone Chris Brear on 01635 41722, email cbrear@cfbt-hq.org.uk

THE ILSLEYS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Julia Reveler

RETIREMENT OF MARK JONES

After 21 years of being head teacher at the Ilsleys Primary School, Mark Jones is retiring.

As Chairman of the Governors I would like to say, on behalf of the governors, a big THANK-YOU.

I'm sure that there are a lot of families who have been connected with the school one way or another over the years, and will agree that Mark has done a sterling job for the children. I have always found it to be a happy, caring and friendly school with a strong ethos of looking after each other and looking out for each other. The children benefit from such a caring atmosphere and thrive; this is due to Mark and all of his staff working very hard to achieve this every year.

I have been speaking to ex-pupils and include a memory from Helen Saxton -

"If there is one thing I remember most about Mr Jones it's that he was the one teacher who taught me to love reading. He gave me a copy of The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole to read when I was about 11 years old,

saying that he thought it would appeal to my sense of humour - he was right and I haven't stopped reading since! Thank-you."

All the time that I have been a governor Mark has been helpful, kind and supportive, so I also would like to say a personal 'Thank-you'.

Mark Jones leaves a legacy of happy children and a thriving school, and I'm sure that we all wish him well in the future in whatever he chooses to do.

THE ILSLEYS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Helen Pearce

Speaking on behalf of the staff of the Ilsleys Primary School we will all be sad to see Mark leave after so many years of loyal and devoted service to the school. A farewell family barbeque will take place on Sunday 18th July commencing at 12pm, if you would like to attend it is open to anyone who has known Mark as a teacher or colleague during his time at the school. There will be a presentation to Mark at 2.30pm to which anyone who does not wish to attend the actual barbeque is invited. If you would like to contribute to Mark's farewell gift please send it to the school in an envelope marked for the attention of Helen Pearce (cheques payable to The Ilsleys Primary School

We would like to give Mark a good send off and hope that the arrangements for his farewell will give everyone the opportunity to wish him well for the future.

PANG & KENNET VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE PROJECTS

The Friends of the Pang and Kennet Valley Countryside Project has been set up to represent all of the people who care about the countryside in the two valleys. The events below are co-ordinated by The Friends and give you the opportunity to come out on practical tasks, learn new skills, meet new people and, above all, enjoy yourself. The tasks usually begin around 10am and finish by 4pm but you are very welcome to come for as much time as you wish to give during these hours. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing, and bring a packed lunch if you are coming for the full day. Hot drinks are usually provided, as are the necessary tools.

Thursday 8thth July

Nightjars and Glow worms at dusk

8.30pm – 10pm Bucklebury Common

Join BHCG leader Tim Culley for a late evening walk looking at heathland restoration and some of the specialised wildlife associated with the habitat, including Nightjars and Glowworms. Stout footwear is necessary. Meet at Angel's Corner, by the Scout Hut on Bucklebury Common at 8.30 p.m. SU 550 688. Sunday 11th July

Meadow Management Ashampstead Common

Come and help Dick Greenaway clear invasive Ragwort from open areas in this beautiful woodland. Meet at Ashampstead Common car park Grid ref: SU 587 751 at 10am.

Sunday 11th July 10am - 4pm Pond Training day

Rushall Manor Farm

A biodiversity course aimed at local people who manage or would like to know more about ponds. The course covers pond ecology, species identification and management. To book a place contact the Project office on 0118 930 5336. Meet at Black Farm, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10am, please bring a packed lunch. Grid ref. SU 583 723.

Tuesday 13th July Footpath Work

Improve access in the parish by helping to clear encroaching vegetation on its 45 miles of off-road rights of way – but not all of them! Meet at the Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm * at 10.00 am. Grid ref. SU 583 723.

Thursday 15th July

Nightjars and Glow worms at dusk

8.30pm – 10pm Bucklebury Common

Join BHCG leader Tim Culley for a late evening walk looking at heathland restoration and some of the specialised wildlife associated with the habitat, including Nightjars and Glowworms. Stout footwear is necessary. Meet at Angel's Corner, by the Scout Hut on Bucklebury Common at 8.30 p.m. SU 550 688.

Sunday 18th July

Down the Pang Bradfield

Come and enjoy a 4.5-mile circular walk along the Pang to Bradfield and back via ancient woods and a SSSI Chalk pit with walk leaders Dorcas Ward and Dick Greenaway. Bring a packed lunch, sorry, no dogs are allowed on this walk. The walk will start at Rushall Manor Farm (Grid ref: SU 584 722) at 11am. Numbers are limited so please contact the Project office to book a place. There is one modest hill and a couple of stiles on this walk.

Tuesday 20th July from 1.30pm Best Practice Grassland Management Day English Nature/ PKVCP (FWAG)

Home Farm, Sulham Lane, Pangbourne

Demonstrating conservation designed equipment for farmers and landowners. Introduction by Richard Benyon. On demonstration the spray free Ecopuller for wildlife friendly control of ragwort, thistles and docks. Please contact the Project Office for further details.



WEST ILSLEY FETE

Produce Show Classes 2004

- Flowers and Ornamentals
- 1 Roses 3 blooms of any variety
- 2 3 blooms of any flower
- 3 Houseplant, flower or foliage

Fruits and Vegetables

- 4 One dish of soft fruit, any variety
- 5 Potatoes, 3
- 6 Onions, 3
- 7 Beans / peas, 3 pods any variety

Flower Arranging

8 Arrangement in any container, max 24w x 24d x 36 inches high

Home Cooking

- 9 Jar of jam
- 10 Jar of marmalade
- 11 Ginger cake
- 12 Man Made Scones ie made by the men

Handicraft

- 13 Specimen of needlework
- 14 Specimen of handicraft

Photography

- 15 Views of the countryside
- 16 Photo of a pet
- 17 Photo of a flower / flowers
- 18 Photo of family or friends
- 19 Holiday photo

Children's Classes (under 7)

- 20 A drawing or painting of family member
- 21 A drawing or painting of your pet or an animal
- 22 Food face on a paper plate
- 23 Home made article; toy, needlecraft, handicraft
- 24 Sprouting seeds in a jam jar

Children's Classes (7-12)

25 A miniature garden, not exceeding 12 x 18 inches

- A painting or drawing of pets or farm animals
- 27 Hand made article; toy, needlecraft, handicraft
- 28 Mosaic; picture or decorated object eg plant
- pot
- 29 Hand made greetings card
- 30 Picture created on a computer

The Great Men Only Challenge!

The challenge is on! The West IIsley Show 2004 menonly competition is to make SCONES. Any flavour you like, but please take pity on the poor judge who will be tasting them. No scone will be wasted – those not consumed will be sold off as door stops or paper weights. There will be a tenner for the best entry so strap on your pinnies! Don't worry they are dead easy to make, and the less time you spend on them, the better they usually turn out. The stakes are already hotting up. There is talk of revenge, secret recipes, spoiling tactics, bribery and corruption....... As usual, I will give you a head start with a recipe and a few hints and tips for the perfect scone. You need to bring at least four scones for judging – paper plates will be provided.

Traditional Scones

225g (8oz) self raising white flour

pinch of salt 5ml (1tsp) baking powder 40g (1 1/2 oz) firm butter or margarine cut into pieces 150ml (1/4 pint) milk beaten egg or milk to glaze

Method

Sift the flour, salt and baking powder together into a bowl. Rub in the butter, or whizz in a processor until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Mix in the milk to form a soft dough, or whizz briefly in a processor until a dough ball forms. Take care not to over-mix. Roll out dough on a lightly floured surface to 2-3cm thickness. Cut out rounds using a 6cm pastry cutter. Press down with the cutter and try not to twist it, or the scone will not rise as well. Gently push the scone out of the cutter on to a greased baking sheet. Re-roll the trimmings to make as many as you can. Brush the tops with beaten egg or milk and bake in a pre-heated oven at 220 deg C, 210 deg C if you have a fan oven, or gas mark 7 for 12 to 15 minutes until golden brown and well risen. If you want your scones to rise well, handle them gently and resist the temptation to open the oven before they are cooked!

For cheese scones, sift 5ml(1tsp) of mustard powder with the dry ingredients. Then stir in 50g (2oz) finely grated cheddar cheese just before you add the milk to make the dough. After glazing, sprinkle the tops with a little extra cheese.

So, good luck, no cheating by getting the wife or mother in law to make them, and may the best man win.

