

West Ilsley News

April 2001

The annual Parish Assembly will take place on Monday 14th May, so put it in your diary now. The Parish Council hopes to receive reports from all village groups/clubs and associations, so it's a good opportunity to find out what has been, and will be going on. Please will those who are making reports to the Assembly bear in mind that a short report of your activities in the WIN will ensure that no home in the village has an excuse for not knowing what you're up to!

The Editors

Easter Bingo
Friday 13th April
7.30pm
West Ilsley Village Hall.

Bring Your Own Drinks
Raffle prizes welcome
Admission 20p, children 10p
Bingo Books 30p

EVERGREENS

Anne Carlisle

Tuesday 10th April, coach leaves West Ilsley Church at 9.30 am for Salisbury. Cost to members is £4, non-members £6. Names to J Collier, S Gore or A Carlisle.

Saturday 21st April, coach leaves West Ilsley Church at 1 pm to go to the Corn Exchange, Newbury to see "My Fair Lady".

**THE FRIENDS OF THE ILSLEYS
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

We would like to thank the residents of West Ilsley who so generously supported our recent race night. Some of you sponsored a race, others "bought" a horse and many placed bets at the event – a good time was had by all!

The evening was a great success and raised **£500** towards the outdoor area and equipment which is an essential requirement of The Government's Early Years Curriculum. Thanks again.

**THE FRIENDS OF THE ILSLEYS
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Please can anyone help us? Our supply of cups and saucers that we use at our fund - raising events is in desperate need of replacement. Can anyone donate some cups and matching saucers/a set of matching mugs? Why not clear out that cupboard or the attic and see if there is anything that could replenish our stock – all donations gratefully received. If anyone can help, please call Toni Sugden on: 281291.

**WEST ILSLEY PARISH
COUNCIL**

Linda Gibson
Clerk to WIPC

It was good to see so many people turn up to the Parish Council meeting on Monday 12th March. I think most people will agree that it was a lively and worthwhile meeting. Hopefully, the answers and comments from Stella Manzie (Chief Executive W.B.D.C.) and Mark Edwards (Highways Dept) regarding the drainage problems in the village were encouraging. Thanks to all those who made the effort to attend.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday, 14th May at 7.00 pm followed by the Annual Parish Assembly at 8.00 pm.

**WEST ILSLEY MILLENNIUM
COMMITTEE**

Avice Morris

As most villagers will be aware, the Gazebo project by the pond has almost been completed. A horse trough will shortly be installed and we are now looking towards landscaping in April. The Committee has very kindly been offered topsoil by a local resident and once this has been spread turfs will be laid. Because of the cost, this work will need to be undertaken with voluntary labour. If anyone would be willing and kind enough to help the Committee with this task we would be very grateful to hear from you. Please phone Avice Morris on 281341, Colin Sheppard on 281345 or Ian Fewtrell-Smith on 281625 or speak to any Committee member. We will then keep you posted on the date to turn up to help. Once turf has been laid, an official opening of the Gazebo is planned. It is anticipated this will take place at the beginning of May and the Committee will keep the village informed of the date via the WIN.

EASTER LILIES

Anne Carlisle

I shall be pleased to accept donations from anyone wishing to contribute money towards buying an Easter Lily as a token of remembrance.

FOR SALE

Negotiable @£250

Stompa Scorpio Single Bed/Desk/Sofa set.
Finished in Sienna with Maharaja Navy fabric.
Very Good Condition - cost over £700
Telephone 281647

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

Richard Gore

The outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease has caused many commentators to blame modern intensive farming methods and to link the disease with BSE.

The disease had been eradicated from the UK, and thus must have been brought in from another country which still has the FMD. It is not caused by modern farming, if anything animals kept on an extensive system are more likely to be exposed to the virus, and even organic units have been victims. However, once FMD was established in the UK, it was spread much more quickly to all parts of the country than in previous outbreaks because of the vastly improved transport system that we have today - the distances travelled by animals has come as a surprise to many people, even in the farming industry.

The irony of the situation is that British farming is controlled by ever increasing numbers of assurance schemes and codes of conduct relating to welfare and production methods, which obviously increase the costs of production. This makes British produce relatively expensive, and our reaction to this is to import food from parts of the world which have no such standards, and as we have seen to our cost, even from countries where FMD is endemic.

THE USE OF FOOTPATHS DURING THE FMD CRISIS

The farmers of the village would like to express our thanks to everybody for keeping off the rights of way during the Foot and Mouth Disease crisis - we realise it has caused a lot of inconvenience, especially to dog owners.

The measures, and probably a good deal of luck, have so far managed to keep the disease away from the immediate vicinity, although the 'infected area' starts just outside the parish boundaries.

We are hopeful that the situation will ease fairly soon, and we are keen to identify those paths which can be used at minimal risk to livestock. However, at the time of writing, the West Berks Council will not approve the easing of restrictions, although we are expecting guidance in the near future.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Ian Fewtrell-Smith

Church Services for April 2001

1 st No Service	
8 th Holy Communion	8.00 am
15 th Easter Sunday Communion	9.30 am
22 nd No Service	
29 th United Benefice Communion	10.00 am

Coffee Morning – Saturday 19th May

There will be a coffee morning in the church yard (or in the church if wet) at 10.30 am, with plant stall, cake stall and white elephant to raise money for church funds. Please contact Anne Carlisle, Shirley Gore or Ian Fewtrell-Smith with any donations for the stalls.

Please support in any way you can, but especially with your presence!

Church Yard

If you are able to spare a little time helping with the church yard maintenance (cutting grass etc), please contact Tony Scriven (281405)

West Ilsley Show

All Saints church will be running the bottle stall again, so any donations will be very much appreciated.

CHILDRENS SERVICES, ALL SAINTS CHURCH

The next Pram Service will be on Monday 23rd April at 11.00 am with an Easter Theme. The services are for 0-5 year olds plus parent, grandparent etc and last for approximately half an hour followed by refreshments for the children

A new service for slightly older children will start on Thursday 5th April at 4 pm and will be held once a month. The April service will focus on Easter and will last approximately half an hour. We would love to see previous Pram Service participants who are now at school, baby brothers and sisters very welcome too. Watch out for more details through your door. For further information please contact Alison Banks 281705 or Liz Dray 01488 638749.

WEST ILSLEY VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall Committee plan to go ahead with their intentions to upgrade the Village Hall kitchen. The new look servery (it still will only be classed as a servery i.e no food preparation due to Health and Safety Regulations) will be installed in late April and comprises a complete modernisation of the existing units, worktop and sink area. We are also including several lockable wall cupboards and a broom cupboard to complete the refit. We hope that this will further enhance the village hall as a serious venue for parties and events and attract more frequent usage.

PHANTOM PAVEMENT FOULER!

Benson the boxer is my name,
A well trained owner is my claim
Our village walks are very rare
And all 'deposits' are handled with care
My owners with their nappy sack
Do scoop it up and take it back
It is not me who leaves those mounds
So look elsewhere for other hounds



WATER LEVEL UPDATE

The Well at the Malthouse is reading 3m 73cm which is good, i.e. nearly 1m better off than before.

ILSLEY UNDER FIVES

Toddler Group

Wednesday 4th April – Last day of Term

Wednesday 25th April – Start of Summer Term

The Group is for Parent/Carer and baby and/or toddlers up to school age. It is held in the West Ilsley Village Hall on a Wednesday morning from 10.00am to 11.30am during which the adults get to drink tea/coffee and have a good old chat while the children play, hopefully with each other without too much squabbling. This is followed by juice and a biscuit or two and then "Song Time". New faces are extremely welcome.

Play Group

Thursday 5th April – Last day of Term

Wednesday 25th April – Start of Summer Term

The Ilsley Under Fives playgroup was set up by a group of parents to provide a local place for children to play and learn together. The emphasis is on the children having a good time, with lots of games and planned activities, which we feel is the best way for them to acquire vital social skills and learn about the world.

The playgroup is held in the Main Hall in the Ilsleys Primary School on a Wednesday and Thursday afternoon from 1.25pm until 3.30pm during the school terms. The playgroup is mainly for children from 3 years old until they attend full-time education. There is also a lunch club for those children who are now attending the Ilsleys Primary School part time.

There are also a limited number of places for 2½ year olds, at the playgroup leaders discretion, and parents are asked to participate in a parent's rota to enable this to continue. The 2½ year olds will attend for one afternoon a week only (currently Wednesday).

If you are interested in your child attending the playgroup please call either Tracy Gregory on 281650 for an application form or Julia (Playgroup Leader) on 281357 to arrange a visit.

THE WEST ILSLEY VILLAGE FETE

Sunday 15th July 2001 - 12:30pm to 5:00pm

The West Ilsley 2001 Fete Committee

Chair - Vacant

Treasurer: Ian Burton

ian@netdra.freeseerve.co.uk 281536

Secretary: Alison Banks

Alison@Malthouse.org.uk 281705

Produce Show: Karen Miller

Karen.Miller@btinternet.com 281876

Publicity: Tracy Gregory

tmgregory@yahoo.co.uk 281650

Sponsorship: Tracey Allan-Jones

Christopher@allan-jones.freeseerve.co.uk 281306

Members

Laurie Skipper skipper@bioch.ox.ac.uk 281169

Simon Skipper 281169

Sally Shillinglaw

Sally.Shillinglaw@bbsrc.ac.uk 281169

Paul Sugden 281291

The planning for this year's fete is going well and much of the ground work has now been done. This year's fete has been based on previous year's successful formula – offering many fun events and interesting stalls. Stalls this year include:

Art Exhibition	Fun Dog Show
Produce Show	Children's Fancy Dress
Plant Stall	Tug-o-War
Children's Dancing	Face Painting
Bookstall	Hot Air Balloon
Mr Wiggy	Golf
Snake Man & Spiders And many more.

This year the pre-show dance is being organised by Toni Sugden on behalf of "The Friends of the Ilsleys Primary School" and Sandra Carlisle on behalf of Gary Taylor's Football and the village.

HOWEVER, no funds have yet been committed until the committee reaches a collective decision as to whether it would be sensible to proceed under the dreadful cloud of the Foot and Mouth outbreak. We are waiting to see if the outbreak eases and at our next meeting we will make what we feel will be the best decision and would welcome your comments/views on this matter.

Please do call/email any of the fete committee members with your views/comments.

MISS TOFFELLEES

Home Alone! And on the e-mail. Whatever next? I've even found myself using a double space at the end of a sentence...

I don't have a lot of tittle-tattle this month. I don't care to consider the serious nature of the virus holding our farmers and their livestock to ransom. They, along with all the rural related trades and industries, are all existing in a terrible nightmare that I do feel we have, to an extent, brought upon ourselves by driving the open market to provide cheap food. I know that there are many other issues at stake, many of which are exposed as the tales from around the country unfurl. The circumstances are complex and, I daresay, the solutions no less so. I do hope that out of all this despair, misery and uncertainty some good prevails. That we find the silver lining, and perhaps, once again, we will have local abattoirs; that the dairy farmer will receive a fair price for his litre of milk; that the retailers will pass on a fair price for carcasses and that the GREAT will be back in British beef, lamb and pork. There is a need for sunshine and warm weather to exterminate this virus, so I hope that the snow that is currently falling will go from whence it came and forthwith it will look like the first day of spring and less like the first day of winter!!!

On a lighter note....The village is full of celebrities. Mother came to stay for the night whilst The Old Man was away. She offered to do the ironing (and, as is customary, I declined. She insisted. I gave in....). And she likes a little entertainment. On went the tele. Whose face should be smiling at me? Mr. Mick Channon. On This is Your Life! Well, it must have been great fun planning it. It certainly made for great

entertainment watching it, and such a surprise. Now, I don't know if he has a Fan Club, but after the performance he gave I think he could enter a third profession when he finds that the gallops are too cold of a morning. Mick, I'd love to be your Secretary/Manager..... just telephone, anytime.....

Major Dick Hern has also been featured in an article in the Sunday Times, Best of Times, Worst of Times. I do believe that the village profile is high.

And, finally, Meridian wanted some film footage of my mate. I think that, really, to give the documentary a decent angle they should have featured The Family. It wasn't us they wanted, but That's Life.

WANTED

Active home for children's large, wooden
Garden Climbing Fort
New owner collects: 281647

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND THE FUTURE OF YOUR VILLAGE

Saturday 28 th April 2001 at Hambleden Village Hall
(between Mariow and Henley)

The event aims to raise awareness about the need for affordable housing in rural communities across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire and also how to get housing for your community, who can help you and what is involved.

You can visit a recently opened Rural Housing Trust affordable housing project in this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the borders of Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. Also learn how your village could benefit from the government funding for affordable rural housing announced in the recent Rural White Paper and about the types of schemes and types of houses which have been built and how local people can be helped.

You will discover how your parish council and other village groups can identify the needs, and find suitable sites, for local affordable housing. You can get useful practical advice from the Rural Housing Trust, an organisation which specialises in helping communities provide affordable housing for local people, hear of the positive effect on communities in work undertaken by the Housing Enabler in Kent. You will be able to meet other people from villages across Berks, Bucks, and Oxon who are interested in affordable housing.

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 Wednesday 25th April 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:

Andrea Cook
Clock Cottage
☎ 281224
Fax: please phone first
Email: MWandACook@email.msn.com

Website: www.btinternet.com/~ilsley

To book your place or find out more (£5 per person) contact Jane Gilbert, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council on 01865 883488.

This event is organised by: Buckinghamshire Community Action, the Community Council for Berkshire, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, the Rural Housing Trust, the Diocese of Oxford, Churches National Housing Coalition, the Associations of Local Councils in Berks, Bucks and Oxon and the Federations of Women's Institutes for Berks, Bucks and Oxon.

WATERMILL

THEATRE TRIP

Andrea Cook

Twenty two of us have signed up for the trip, and we've managed to get very good tickets at a discount. If you're regretting that you've missed the deadline you can still join us by booking direct with the Watermill on 46044 – we're going on Wednesday 4th July.