

West Ilsley News

www.westilsley.org

January 2015

EDITORS

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Deadline for the next publication is:

5pm on Tuesday 27th January

DIARY JANUARY

10 th	Village panto 4pm & 7pm
12 th	Parish council meeting

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, WEST ILSLEY

January Services at All Saints' Church

4 th	Family Communion	9.30am
11 th	BCP Communion	8.30am
18 th	*No service in West Ilsley	
25 th	Family Service	11.00am

*Please see the lych gate notice board for details of other services in the benefice or go online at www.eastdownland.org.uk

'A Big Thank You'.....

to everyone who helped make All Saints' Church look so beautiful for Christmas, as well as to those who spend time flower arranging and keeping the church and churchyard looking lovely throughout the year. Many of those attending the Carol Service ended up next door enjoying mulled wine and mince pies, courtesy of James and Lucy, so many thanks, once more, to them. We would also like to thank everyone who donated via WIN with their Christmas Greetings and of course to Andrea and Liz for making that possible.

West Ilsley Christmas Services

It was lovely to see so many of you at church over Christmas. As usual, the collection from our Carol Service was donated to a charity decided on by All Saints' PCC. This year, thanks to your generosity, we were able to send £204 to Water Aid. Thank you to those who kindly donated food for the West Berkshire Food Bank. Those of you who took part in the Café Crib service before Christmas contributed over £90, which will be donated to the charity New Day, South Africa, specifically for their toy library.

5 Voices Concert

What better way to have entered the Christmas spirit than to hear beautifully sung carols and Christmas songs interspersed with Dickens read with such passion and humour? The "12 Days of Christmas", complete with ever increasingly exasperated letters to the sender of those bizarre gifts, made an hilarious ending to an excellent concert.

Café Church

The next one will be at St Mary's church, Chieveley at 11.00am on Sunday 18th January. It is an informal service for everyone, with an emphasis on families with young children. It has proved to be very popular, so come along at 10.45 for coffee and cake beforehand.

Contacts

If you have anyone or anything specific you would like mentioned in church prayers at services throughout the year, do speak to either Ian (281625) or Alexandra (281306). To receive by email a copy of the weekly pew sheet, which contains readings, prayers and notices about church events in the benefice, please contact eastdownland@btinternet.com

If you would like to organise a baptism, wedding or funeral or would like to talk to a member of the clergy for any other reason, email Revd John Toogood at edownlandrector@gmail.com or leave a message on 01635 247566.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Kay and Ian Fewtrell-Smith

NATURE NOTES

14th December

The low angle of the winter sun shining through the white, fluffy seed heads of the wild clematis light up the hedgerows.

It is these seed heads that give our only native clematis species the name Old Man's Beard. Its other popular name is Traveller's Joy, probably because in July and August it is covered with lovely little cream flowers; these are not only a joy to the eye but are also a popular nectar source for insects. There is an abundance of this around the village; our chalky soil is its preferred location.

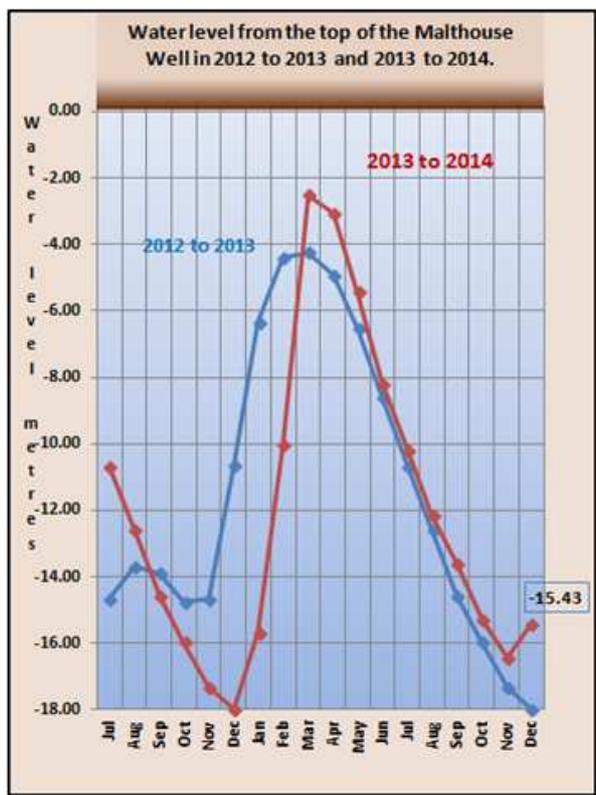
21st December

The winter solstice, longest night of the year, sixteen hours and eleven minutes to be precise. A time for owls to hunt, the tawny owl in the garden was hooting last night as if to acknowledge the

turning of the year. Now the days will start to lengthen, less than one minute per day initially but gradually increasing to ten minutes a day by the summer solstice in June. Perdix

WELL READING

Since the flooding in February and March 2014 the well level has steadily dropped until it bottomed out at -17.33 metres at the end of November/beginning of December. Since then the water level has risen just under 2 metres and it now stands at 15.43 metres. This is some 2.1 metres higher than the reading at the end of December 2013. However unlike last year, December 2014 has been quite a dry month and as long as the coming January and February aren't very wet, I don't think we need fear a repeat of the floods in the coming months - the Pang will stay safely underground! Mel Cook



WHAT'S ON AT THE HARROW

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL !!

PIE NIGHT

Tuesday is pie night
Pie & a drink £12



BURNS NIGHT

Friday 23rd January
7pm till late

Join us for haggis, neeps and tatties and maybe a whisky or 2
Please let us know if you are joining us!!

QUIZ NIGHT

Wednesday 28th January 8pm

Food served from 7pm

£3 each to enter

Teams of up to 6

Raising money for local charities



CHIEVELEY PRE-SCHOOL

Chieveley Pre-School has had a chance to reflect over the festive holiday on what a whirlwind time was had by children, parents and staff pre-Christmas. The children put on a fabulous show as they performed the 'Chieveley Christmas Cracker', a great mix of jokes and songs and then enjoyed a host of merry activities, from making their own reindeer food, Christmas trees and decorations, 3D snowflakes and so much more, culminating in a wonderful Christmas party where Santa made a guest appearance.

The New Year doesn't see us slowing down! 2015 will see Chieveley Pre-School revving its engines as we begin our term looking at Transport, we'll then be talking nineteen to the dozen as we take-up the 'I CAN's Chatterbox Challenge', an annual sponsored sing-along. This year's theme 'Garden Adventures with Ben & Holly' encourages children to develop their communication and language skills by having adventures inside and outside. This couldn't tie in more appropriately, as at the end of 2014 we announced that Chieveley Pre-School had achieved the accolade of becoming a Gold Green Trees School and this year we embark on a new outdoor adventure with Chieveley Primary School, as part of our Nature Detectives Club. For parents, we're holding our termly Cuppa & Cake at Chieveley Village Hall on Thursday 29th January at 9.15am and a fun social evening on Tuesday 3rd February at The Fox in Peasemore, where we'll be hosting a pub quiz starting at 8pm, with fun rounds including CBeebies and playdough!

We'd welcome the opportunity to share our goings on with parents from any of the surrounding villages, looking to place their child at pre-school, simply get in touch to come and look around. A date for the diary - we're holding an Open Day on Tuesday 3rd March at 10am-11.30am, so feel free to drop in and join us for an informal chat and a cup of tea.

Chieveley Pre-School is a parent run, charity based pre-school. We provide a large, bright and airy indoor space and covered outdoor area. We deliver stimulating and inspiring resources and equipment to offer children the very best chance to learn through play. For enquiries, please contact chieveleypreschool@gmail.com or visit www.mychieveley.co.uk for more information.

Juliet Ryder, Chairperson Chieveley Pre-School

PARISH COUNCIL

Read the latest Parish Council Minutes and hear how village matters are being addressed. Visit our village website at www.westilsley.org - all the latest minutes from our meetings are available under the "Parish Council" tab.

WHO TO CONTACT

VILLAGE HALL

Ros Duckworth-Bookings-281471 rosduckworth@btinternet.com
Rates: £10.00/hr Villagers £12/hr Non Villagers

PRESCRIPTIONS

Prescriptions are now being delivered on Tuesday mornings only and can be collected from Liz Elliott at 2 Morland Close Mon~Thurs 10 till 6. Should you wish to collect outside the above hours, please telephone 281997 to ask if it's convenient.

PATIENT REPRESENTATION GROUP

Fred Carter fred_kathcarter@btinternet.com 281621

CHURCHWARDENS

Alexandra Axtell 281306 Ian Fewtrell-Smith 281625

TENNIS COURT

Membership: Liz Dray - lizdray@btinternet.com 281688
Play without joining - to book: Amanda Knight - 281609

PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk:

Alison Banks - Alison@poplars.org.uk 281705

Chairman:

Dries Hagen - dries.hagen@circlepartnership.co.uk 281855

Sean Ryan - Sean.ryan@sunday-times.co.uk 281336

Jo Scriven - Jo.clifton@tynan-darcy.com 281405

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Rachel Chandler BSc (Hons)

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