

West Ilsley News

www.westilsley.org

January 2014

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Deadline for the next publication is:

5pm on Monday 27th January

DIARY

JANUARY

13th Parish Council meeting
15th Harrow quiz night
23rd Harrow coffee morning
25th Harrow Burns night

MARCH

1st Winter Warmer

RONNIE COOK

We are all very sad that Ronnie passed away on 16th December after a dreadful six months of illness. Ronnie and June moved to West Ilsley in 1999 and he was a familiar sight around the village walking boxer dog Charlie and his two predecessors. Ronnie served on the Parish Council for three years and will be much missed as a friend and villager.

Ronnie's funeral will take place on Friday 10th January, at around mid day – final arrangements will be made this week, so if you would like further information please contact Andrea Cook on 281224 after 3rd January.

TENNIS COURT FUNDRAISER

Many thanks to everyone who attended the Santa's Supper on 7th December. We are delighted to have raised £730 which will go towards the next refurbishment of the court in a few years' time.

The Tennis Management Committee

FINDING THE MONEY WEST ILSLEY NEEDS

Sean Ryan
Chairman of the parish council

A big decision is coming up next month about how to fund the facilities we know and love in West Ilsley — and the parish council wants everyone to have a say. You only have to look at the village hall and the church to get an inkling of how much money's going to be needed. There's also the recreation ground, the tennis court, the play area, the pond, the gazebo and the war memorial, and other commitments besides.

The bills will run into tens of thousands of pounds over the next few years. But the parish council's precept - the part of the council tax that we spend in West Ilsley - is only just over £2,500 a year.

So we face a choice as a village. Do we keep relying on the excellent work of relatively few fund-raisers and expect them to pull off one miracle after another? Or do we spread the load by putting up the precept?

At its November meeting, the parish council adopted a proposal which was supported by most of the people who attended. It calls for the precept to be raised by about £1 per household per week. This would provide something like £10,000 a year to be spent wherever it was needed most, on top of the money from fund-raising social events. It would also allow us to apply for grants on the basis that we could provide matching funds.

We understand that not everyone will welcome the idea of paying £1 a week. But we've kept the precept frozen for seven years and let the various groups and clubs in the village get on with funding themselves. Unfortunately, we don't think we can go on doing this. The scale of the repairs means that far more will be going out than coming in unless we do something about it now. Our precept is smaller than other villages' and we think it's time to put the balance right.

Today marks the start of a debate that will come to a head at next month's parish council meeting. Emails and leaflets will go round with more detail, and we hope that everyone with a view will express it by emailing Alison Banks, the parish secretary, at alison@poplars.org.uk or by writing to her at The Poplars, Main Street. Your views will be taken into account as we finalise our

proposals. You'd also be most welcome to attend the meeting where the decision will be taken. It's at 7.30pm in the village hall on January 13.

CHRISTMAS BINGO

A very BIG thank you to all the villagers who came and supported the Christmas family bingo, all who donated prizes and my trusty band of helpers. We were able to raise £200 for the village hall. Thanks again. Tony Elliott

ALL SAINTS CHURCH WEST ILSLEY

January Church Services

5 th	Family Communion	9.30am
12 th	BCP Communion	8.30am
19 th	*No service in West Ilsley	See Café Church below
26 th	Christingle	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

West Ilsley Christmas Services

It was lovely to see the church full over Christmas. The collection from our Carol Service of £257.50 is being sent to West Berkshire Mencap. Also, thanks to your generous donations, nine bags and one box of food were taken to the Salvation Army Hall for the Food Bank in Newbury.

'A Big Thank You'

Thanks to those who have donated gifts for our local Food Bank over the Christmas period and also to everyone who helped make All Saints' Church look so beautiful for Christmas, as well as 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. Also, many thanks are due to Hayley and her team at The Harrow for their Christmas fundraising events for All Saints and to all of you who continue to support your church in so many ways.

The Church Roof

More correctly, the plaster between the rafters has, as is widely known, been falling without warning, hence the use of the village hall for a few services since October. Mesh has been stapled to the underside of the rafters to prevent any further falls of plaster, although the chancel proved too difficult for the cherry picker to access fully and this area will need to be done off scaffolding as soon as possible in the new year. Thanks to all who gave up a Saturday morning to clean the church ready for the first service in December.

Café Church

The next one will be at St Mary's church, Chieveley at 11.00am on Sunday 19th January. It is an informal service for everyone, with an emphasis on families with young children. Word has got round and it has proved to be very popular. Please come along – you are guaranteed to enjoy it!

Christingle

If you believe that all children deserve a good childhood, we hope you will come and join us at our Christingle. The collection at this service in West Ilsley on 26th January at 11.00am will go to The Children's Society that works tirelessly to free children from violence, neglect, poverty and discrimination in Britain.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 1st March – Winter Warmer.

Please write the date in your diary and come and join us.

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). 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, ring Revd John Toogood on 01635 247566 or email him at edownlandrector@gmail.com

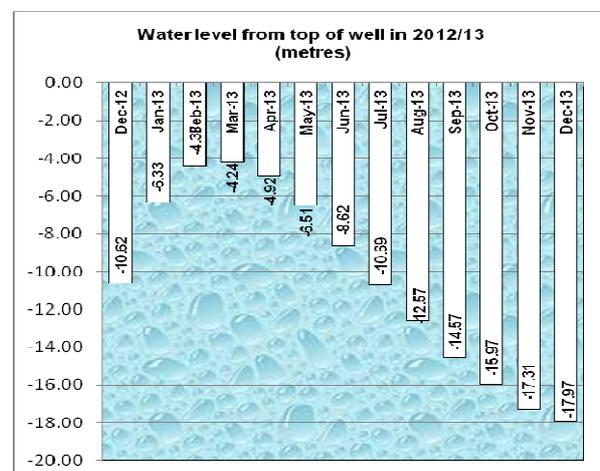
We Wish You All a Very Happy New Year!

Kay and Ian Fewtrell-Smith

THANK YOU FROM THE HARROW

A big thank you to everyone that came and supported Decembers quiz night and the Christmas Jumper Party. We raised a brilliant £345 for All Saints Church. January's Quiz Night is also in aid of the church, so please come down to join in the fun!!

WELL READING



WEST ILSLEY CRICKET CLUB

As we reach the end of 2013, the club would like to congratulate all those junior members who have been selected to join the county & district winter training squads. This is a marvellous achievement and an excellent testament to the tremendous effort put into training by Tony Scriven and the youth management and coaching teams - well done everyone! The full lists can be found here (sincere apologies if I have missed anyone in my edit below):

<http://www.thpsolicitors.co.uk/news/berkshire-cricket-sponsored-by-the-head-partnership-solicitors/>

Wishing all members and friends of the club a very happy new year!

U10 County

Noah Teague

Girls U11 County

Alice Knight

Charlotte Aird

Katie Scriven

U12 County

Hector Chambers

Nathan Hudson

U13 District (West District)

Henry Axtell

Freddie Hanbury

Sam Richards

Girls U13 County

Daisy Chambers

Juliet Banks

Suzanna Beaumont

Girls U13 County (Development)

Mae Hagen

Neamh Pollard

U15 County

Peter Healy

Girls U15 County

Hannah Blatchley

BLEWBURY BRASS BAND

Blewbury Brass Band is a community band who are looking for new members. We have an active learner band for complete beginners and an established senior band suitable for people who've played before. The learner group has expanded to 14 players who are a mixture of adults and children over the last two years due to the enthusiasm of the members and the generous

support of our sponsors. This year we've had significant donations from Waitrose, The Co-op and N-Power which has allowed us to provide better instruments for the players. Several of the learners have graduated into the main band, benefitting from the tuition, supportive atmosphere and the fabulous new instruments. Over the last 12 months the band has been very busy supporting community events with highlights that include:

- concerts with Oxford County Music Service and their primary school players
- supporting St Birinus Secondary school's wind band in Didcot;
- Supported South Moreton and East Hagbourne school PTA's fundraising events, playing with their young players
- adding to the ambiance of family church services in East Hagbourne;
- several "have a blow" sessions with Harwell cubs and Vauxhall barracks;

and

- providing live music at fourteen village fetes.

We meet on every Wednesday evening at our rehearsal room next to the tennis courts in Blewbury and would be pleased to welcome you aboard. See www.blewburybrassband.org.uk for more information.

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.

PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk:

Alison Banks - Alison@poplars.org.uk 281705

Chairman:

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

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

Dries Hagen - dries.hagen@healthpml.com 281855

Alan Bloor - Alanpeter.bloor@virgin.net 281341

John Mountford - jgmountford@btinternet.com 281703

WHO TO CONTACT

VILLAGE HALL

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

PRESCRIPTIONS

Prescriptions can be collected from Liz Elliott at 2 Morland Close, between 10 am and 6 pm, Monday to Friday 281997.

Should you wish to collect outside the above hours, please telephone to ask if it's convenient.

Prescription requests can be put through the door any time. The surgery bus makes deliveries on Tuesday and Friday mornings.

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

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281855

Alan Bloor - Alanpeter.bloor@virgin.net 281341

John Mountford - jgmountford@btinternet.com 281703

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01635 281260 hayleybird22@hotmail.co.uk

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