

# West Ilsley News



www.westilsley.org

December 2014

## EDITORS

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Deadline for the next publication is:

5pm on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December

Liz Dray  
The Malthouse  
☎ 281688

## NOVEMBER NATURE NOTES

A month that perhaps can be summed up by the words of the 19th century poet Thomas Hood, these are the first and last verses from his poem November

No sun, no moon

No morn, no noon

No dawn, no dusk, no proper time of day

No sky, no earthly view

No distance looking blue

No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease

No comfortable feel in any member

No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees

No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds

November!

In a similar vein my notes for the 16th November:-  
A misty morning. Grey wood pigeons fly unheard across a soft, damp grey sky. Invisible horizons, the land diffusing seamlessly into the sky. The few remaining yellow blackthorn leaves dot the hedgerow resembling a pointillist painting, these merge with neighbouring rusty brown leaves of oak interspersed with the bare boughs of ash. Condensing mist drips onto already sodden bracken, no longer the burnt sienna of September but a dark, rusty iron oxide colour. All is very still. On an overhead wire a kestrel peers down through hunched shoulders, feathers fluffed against the damp. The bridleway is carpeted in fallen leaves in various stages of decay. The skidding hoof prints of ponies and the precise slots of fallow puddling the leaves into the mud, all to be recycled and resurrected into future new life forms. A light breeze springs up from the north dislodging fresher leaves which form a sprinkled pattern of brighter colours over the dark mire.

We do have a very rare winter visitor in the parish. A great grey shrike has been with us since the end of October and has been spotted several times throughout November, south of the Ridgeway. A distinctive black, white and grey bird a little smaller than a blackbird but with very different habits, this is a predator! It's latin name is *Lanius excubitor* after the imperial guards of the Byzantine emperors and sentinel like it perches conspicuously on top of trees and bushes where it

## DIARY

### DECEMBER

13<sup>th</sup> Church Five Voices concert

### JANUARY

10<sup>th</sup> Village panto 4pm & 7pm

## VILLAGE PANTOMIME

The panto "Once Upon a Portaloo" is planned for January 10th. A matinee at 4pm and evening performance at 7 pm.

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Thank you to everyone who chose to send WIN greetings to their village chums – we raised £520 this year – our best ever effort! Merry Christmas!

Locally grown Christmas trees for sale  
Nordman blue spruce non-drop variety

**Available from Sunday 30th November**



Sizes and prices:

5-6ft-£32 6-7ft-£37 7ft+-£42

As in previous years I shall be sending a donation to charity for every tree sold.

Trees now in stock

To order or make an enquiry please either phone or email

Phone: 01635281500

Email: mark.balloon@btinternet.com

or call in to see me at Forge Cottage, Main Street, West Ilsley, Berks, RG20 7AJ

can spot it's prey of small mammals and birds. These are dispatched with it's strong bill and then they are often impaled on a thorn or barbed wire fence where they are dismembered. This habit lending it the name of "Butcher Bird". It is possible that this bird may stay with us all winter before returning to Scandinavia in the spring? For pictures Google great grey shrike images  
Perdix

## NOVEMBER'S FARMING NEWS

The crops that are in the ground are doing well with this mild weather albeit rather wet. The wheat and barley is still being loaded from the barns to different parts of the UK.

Our priorities at the moment are looking after the cattle and sheep and maintaining fences around next year's grass fields. We are currently cutting a lot of hedges that we are able to get to with the current soft ground conditions.

Peter Carlisle

**Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and happy New Year**  
With love from Angela, Mark, Storm and Florence

**Happy Christmas to All**  
With lots of love  
Ed, Anna, Caspar, JJ and Jonty xxx

**Happy Christmas to all**  
And to all a Good Night  
Greetings from  
Gail North

**Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2015**  
From Mandy, Neil, Andrew & Briony Slater

Christmas cheer and a merry HoHoHo! to everyone  
Kath and Fred Carter

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year  
Love from Ian, Kay and all the F-Ssxx

**Yuletide greetings to all & Best Wishes for 2015!**  
**Adrian, Liz, Hannah, Matthew and Ben Dray**

**Carol and Joe at The Retreat would like to wish their friends and neighbours in West Ilsley a very happy Christmas and good health and happiness for the New Year**

**Merry Christmas and best wishes for a fantastic 2015 to all our friends in the village!**  
With love from Dan, Rachel, Annabelle and Henry Hudson x

A Very Happy Christmas and New Year to all in the village, Best wishes  
Alison, Steve, Mark and Juliet

**With best wishes for a very Happy Christmas and New Year from all the Duckworths**

**Merry Christmas and a 'Portaloo-free' New Year To our friends and fellow villagers in West Ilsley**  
From Alan and Avice

Wishing all of our wonderful friends in West a fabulous Christmas and New Year from snowy Calgary. We miss you !!  
With love, Sue, Hugh, Harry and Gee xxxx

**Christmas greetings from the Patersons!**

Yuletide Salutations to the merry villagers of West Ilsley!  
with love from Will, Alexandra, Henry and Charlie Axtell

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Mike, Alison, Calum and Drew Farwell**

*Wishing everyone a  
very Merry  
Christmas and a  
Happy New Year  
With love  
from, Jo, Tony, Ellen,  
Tom and Katie xxx*

**Thank you  
West Ilsley, I  
had over £200  
in my box – so I  
wish you all a  
Merry  
Christmas and  
a very Happy  
New Year from  
the poppy  
appeal and  
myself. John  
Verney**

**We wish  
everyone in  
West Ilsley a  
very Merry  
Christmas  
and a Happy  
New Year.  
Martin, Zu and  
Kester xxx**

**Best wishes to all for a Happy  
Christmas and a healthy 2015  
From the Beaumont family x**

Christmas Greetings.  
Hello one and all. Having bumped into  
one or two of you in Sainsburys I  
thought it an update would not go  
amiss at this festive time. Though  
retirement has certain drawbacks, (No  
money for luxuries such as food,  
heating etc.) , it does at least offer the  
advantage of assessing the residential  
homes in the area before suffering the  
ignominy of being put in one .Those  
members of my family whom caused  
my premature departure are still  
requiring my attention but at least I am  
in a position to respond .  
Wishing you all a pleasant Christmas.  
Bill

**A merry  
Christmas and a  
happy and  
healthy 2015 to all  
of our friends and  
neighbours in  
West Ilsley from  
John & Ally  
Mountford**

**A very merry Christmas to all in  
West Ilsley and best wishes for  
2015 from Philip, Amanda, Ellen,  
Alice and William Knight**

**Here's wishing you a  
wonderful Holiday Season,  
And a New Year filled  
with Peace and Happiness.  
May your Christmas be  
Happy and Bright!!  
Robert, Lindsey, Harry &  
George Storton Xx**

**May the spirit of Christmas  
bring peace, hope and love  
to all my friends,  
neighbours and villagers.  
Love June & Charlie (the  
boxer) X**

**Wishing all  
friends and  
neighbours  
in  
West Ilsley  
a very  
Merry  
Christmas  
and best  
wishes for  
2015  
Wendy and  
Alec**

**Merry  
Christmas to  
everyone.  
Hope you  
have a  
wonderful  
Christmas  
and joyful  
New Year.  
Love Roger,  
Flick, Hugo  
and Emilia  
Lucas.**

**Wishing everyone in West  
Ilsley a very happy Christmas  
and good New year! Love the  
Carringtons xxxxx**

**To all our  
friends and  
neighbours  
in the village  
- wishing you  
a fabulous  
Christmas  
and New  
Year. Ralph,  
Louise and  
Mark  
Taylor.**

**Wishing all of West Ilsley a very, merry  
& jolly Christmas & a prosperous,  
exciting 2015 Cheers !!  
With love from Peter, Jacqui, Wes,  
Hayley, Chris & Freckle**

**A Happy Christmas and  
prosperous New Year  
With best wishes  
From Denis, Barbara &  
Charlie**

**Merry Christmas  
and a happy and  
healthy 2015 to  
everyone  
Mel and Andrea**

**Wishing you all a merry  
Christmas and a very happy 2015.  
Juliet, Ed, Fiona and Holly xx**

**Wishing everyone a very Happy  
Christmas and New Year  
With love from Justin, Rosanne,  
Georgia and Honor Pilditch xx**

#### **ALL SAINTS WEST ILSLEY**

##### **December Services at All Saints' Church**

7 <sup>th</sup>	Family Communion	9.30am
7 <sup>th</sup>	Café Crib Service	4.00pm
14 <sup>th</sup>	BCP Communion	8.30am
21 <sup>st</sup>	Carol Service	6.00pm
24 <sup>th</sup>	Midnight Communion	11.30pm
25 <sup>th</sup>	*No service in West Ilsley	
28 <sup>th</sup>	*No service in West Ilsley	

\*Please see the lych gate notice board for details  
of other services in the benefice or go online at  
[www.eastdownland.org.uk](http://www.eastdownland.org.uk) There will be

numerous services around Christmas in all nine parishes of our benefice and you are warmly invited to attend any of these. Very soon the Benefice Christmas card will be dropping through your letterbox with details of all the services on it.

### “Spring” Clean

A big thank you to all those who gave up their Saturday morning, (and to those who couldn't make the day but worked the previous week), to tidy the church and churchyard for Remembrance Sunday the following day. It seemed that half the village was there at one stage. David Carlisle provided the long ladder to replace the broken bellrope so all complaints regarding disturbed Sunday mornings are to be directed up Bury Lane!

### Café Crib

Café Crib is coming to West Ilsley church at 4pm on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December and will be at Winterbourne church at 4pm on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December. CDs of the songs are available from Alexandra Axtell on 01635 281306 and at the rehearsals. You are all invited to come and hear the Christmas story in a new way.

### All Saints' Carol Service

We invite you to come and sing your heart out at our Carol Service, which this year is on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 6pm in All Saints' Church. Our frustration with the surplus of water seen in West Ilsley earlier in the year pales into insignificance



when considering those parts of the world where water is lacking or polluted.

This Christmas, we plan to support Water Aid. Also, any food items brought to services up to and including

the Carol Service will be taken to our local Food Bank before Christmas. If you are able and would like to, please check on the local Food Bank website (<http://westberks.foodbank.org.uk/>) to see which foods are particularly needed. As usual, after the service we hope you will join us for mince pies and mulled wine, again at The Old Rectory.

### Five Voices Concert – “A Dickens of a Christmas”

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm “Five Voices”, back by popular demand, will bring you an extravaganza to remember. We will be entertained with seasonal songs and readings from the works of Charles Dickens. Those who have been to their previous concerts will know the humour as well as their beautiful singing. Tickets cost £10 for adults, £7.50 for concessions and £5 for children and can be obtained from Rosanne on 280553 or [rosanne@pilditch.com](mailto:rosanne@pilditch.com)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:edownlandrector@gmail.com) or leave a message on 01635 247566.

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS!!**

*Kay and Ian Fewtrell-Smith*

## WHAT'S ON AT THE HARROW

Firstly Merry Christmas to everyone!!

Throughout December there will be no pie night

### CHRISTMAS QUIZ NIGHT

Wednesday 17th December 8pm

Food served from 7pm

£3 each to enter Teams of up to 6

Winning team gets a round of drinks on us!

Raising money for local charities

### CHRISTMAS JUMPER

#### PARTY

Saturday 20th December

6pm till late

Mulled wine, mince pies and carol singing

Guitars & Carol singing from 8pm

### NEW YEARS EVE

Nibbles & champagne at midnight

Come and welcome in 2015 !!

**Our Christmas menu is available from**

**Tuesday 2nd through till Friday 19th**

**December**

Available by advance booking only

One complimentary bottle of wine for tables of 6 or more people

### CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

Christmas Eve - 12pm till 4pm & 6pm till

Midnight

Christmas Day - 12pm till 2:30pm

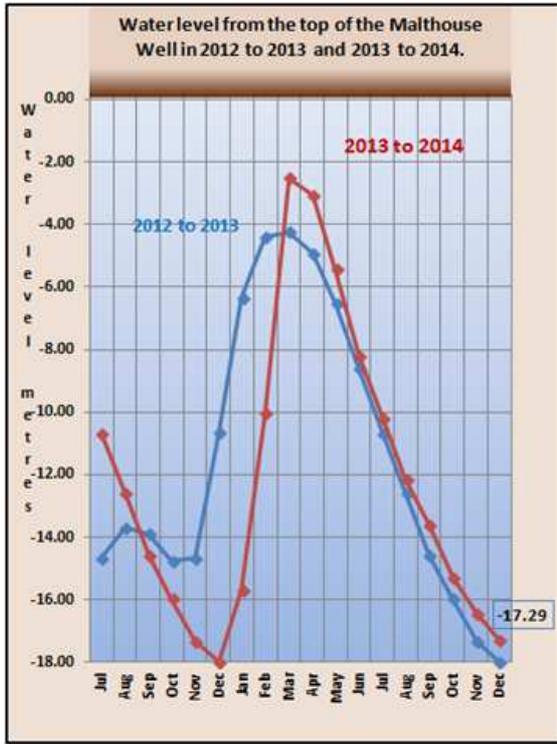
Boxing Day - 12pm till 4pm

New Years Day - 1pm till 3pm



## WELL READING

The Malthouse well level has dropped 0.85 metres since last month, but the rate of fall has now declined to about 15mm per week. It will probably bottom out around the middle of this month when it will be within 0.5 metres of last December's low reading. So as long as we don't have a winter like the last one...



**CHRISTMAS**  
**FAMILY PRIZE BINGO**  
**AT**  
**WEST ILSLEY**  
**VILLAGE HALL**  
**FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**  
**DOORS OPEN 7:00**  
**EYES DOWN 7:30**  
**TERRIFIC PRIZES**  
**&**  
**GRAND RAFFLE**  
**REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE**  
**COME & ENJOY YOURSELF**

## PARISH COUNCIL

Read the latest Parish Council Minutes and hear how village matters are being addressed. Visit our village website at [www.westilsley.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:fred_kathcarter@btinternet.com) ..... 281621

### CHURCHWARDENS

Alexandra Axtell 281306 Ian Fewtrell-Smith 281625

### TENNIS COURT

Membership: Liz Dray - [lizdray@btinternet.com](mailto:lizdray@btinternet.com) 281688  
 Play without joining - to book: Amanda Knight - 281609

### PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk:

Alison Banks - [Alison@poplars.org.uk](mailto:Alison@poplars.org.uk) 281705

Chairman:

Dries Hagen - [dries.hagen@circlepartnership.co.uk](mailto:dries.hagen@circlepartnership.co.uk) 281855

Sean Ryan - [Sean.ryan@sunday-times.co.uk](mailto:Sean.ryan@sunday-times.co.uk) 281336

Jo Scriven - [Jo.clifton@tynan-darcy.com](mailto:Jo.clifton@tynan-darcy.com) 281405

Alan Bloor - [Alanpeter.bloor@virgin.net](mailto:Alanpeter.bloor@virgin.net) 281341

John Mountford - [jgmountford@btinternet.com](mailto:jgmountford@btinternet.com) 281703

Rollo Duckworth - [rolloduckworth@btinternet.com](mailto:rolloduckworth@btinternet.com) 281471

Alan Beaumont - [alan.beaumont@aae-llp.com](mailto:alan.beaumont@aae-llp.com) 07980 875179

Anna Sugden - [annasugden@btconnect.com](mailto:annasugden@btconnect.com) 281784

Roger Stowell

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[roger.stowell@ntlworld.com](mailto:roger.stowell@ntlworld.com)

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