

West Ilsley News

www.westilsley.org

December 2013

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Deadline for the next publication is:

5pm on Saturday 28th December

DIARY

DECEMBER

7th Tennis court Christmas fundraiser

JANUARY

13th Parish Council meeting

MARCH

1st Winter Warmer

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.

LUXURY WREATHS CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



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VERONICA SMITH
01635 281704

The Downland Lunch Club

Last Friday of the month in Compton Village Hall at 12.30p.m. Two course, freshly cooked meal followed by tea or coffee and a raffle. **Cost £3.00**
New members are always welcome. Transport can be arranged and special diets can be catered for. To find out more, please call **01635 578394**

CHRISTMAS BINGO

The Village Hall Christmas bingo on the 13th December (hope you're all coming!) is looking for donations of raffle prizes! PLEASE. Any and all gifts can be left at 2 Morland Close.

So far we have; £30 voucher for the Harrow, table decoration from Veronica Smith, set of Cath Kidston mugs, bottle of Disaronno liquer, box of 6 special beers and 2 Pooh Bears.

WEST ILSLEY PLAY AREA

Thank you to all the families who came out to organise the new playpark. They did a sterling job and spirits were kept high with hot dogs, cookies and refreshments. Thank you to Pete Carlisle who did pallet transporting to the Play Area and the Active Toy Company for supplying the play park. The Play Area is now looking very smart!



OUR VILLAGE HALL

As villagers of West Ilsley, we are very fortunate to have the many facilities that help to make this village such a special place to live. The Harrow, the Recreation Ground and Cricket Pavilion, All Saints Church and the Village Hall all offer opportunities for villagers to meet and socialise – but we would be wrong to take any of them for granted. Without effort and support from the village, each and all of these important meeting places could be at risk. As was reported in the last issue of the WIN, the Village Hall committee has been reformed to decide on 2 key questions.

1) Do we – the village – need and want a Village Hall, or do the other meeting places serve that purpose, rendering the Village Hall unnecessary? It is currently used by the Under 5's, the Table Tennis Club, for Dance Classes and for Birthday parties, as well as for occasional village meetings and social functions – but this is not enough usage to sustain or improve it.

2) If we – the villagers – decide that we would like the Hall to remain open, then how can we improve it as a facility so that it is appealing to more of the community, both within the village and from

surrounding areas, making it a sustainable, thriving facility that the village can be proud of and which doesn't impose any sort of financial burden on the village to maintain.

To answer these questions, the Village Hall Committee is asking EVERYONE in the West Ilsley community, to give 10 minutes of their time to answer a questionnaire which will be sent to them by email in the next few days. If you are not on email, we will endeavour to post a copy of the questionnaire through your door. When you receive it, PLEASE give it your earliest attention, as your opinion – positive or negative - is important. These are important decisions, which could result in the closure or the significant improvement of the Hall and it is important that the decision is taken with everyone's true feelings understood.

The Committee is convinced that we can significantly improve the Hall, to make it a friendlier, more welcoming and comfortable social gathering point for young and old alike. We would like the chance to apply for grants that are available to help villages like ours – but we are only prepared to do this if we have the support and enthusiasm of the community we represent.

We look forward to receiving your replies to the questionnaire - copies of which will also be available in The Harrow - and to delivering several prizes for the quickest to answer, the most constructive opinions and the best ideas. Thank you. James Hanbury

ALL SAINTS CHURCH WEST ILSLEY

December Church Services

1 st	Family Communion	9.30am
8 th	BCP Communion	8.30am
15 th	*No service in West Ilsley	
22 nd	Carol Service	6.00pm
25 th	Christmas Family Communion	9.30am
29 th	United Benefice Holy Communion	9.30am

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

Church Building

We are hoping that during the next couple of weeks a mesh will be attached to the underside of the church rafters to protect the congregation from the possibility of any falling plaster. We will inform you when this has been completed and when All Saints' church will again be open for business.

Autumn Clear Up

Thank you to everyone who helped rake the leaves from the churchyard the day before Remembrance Sunday. Once the temporary mesh has been attached to All Saints' ceiling, we will need to give the church a good clean. We hope that all our regular supporters from the

Cleaning Rota, together with anyone else who can spare an hour or so, will help us "Spring Clean" the interior. Although a date has not been fixed, please pencil Saturday 7th December in your diaries and we will confirm via WIN emails.

Remembrance Sunday

Our service began with the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial, with a wreath and crosses being laid and this year, the two-minute silence was marked by a trumpeter who played the Last Post and Reveille. We then processed behind Revd Douglas Dales to the Village Hall where we continued our service. The collection from that service of £202 has been sent to our local Royal British Legion.

The Downland Advent Carol Service will be held this year on Sunday 1st December at St Mary's Church, Chieveley at 6pm. Do come along to this lovely candlelit service which marks the beginning of our preparations for Christmas.



West Ilsley Carol Service

This year our Carol Service is on Sunday 22nd December at 6pm, and everyone, no matter what age, is invited to come and join in with our Christmas festivities here at All Saints' Church. This year we will be sending a donation from the collection to our local Mencap to support its work here in West Berkshire. After the Carol service everyone is invited to join us for mulled wine and mince pies in The Old Rectory, by kind invitation of James and Lucy Hanbury. We look forward to seeing you there.

Christmas Services

The Benefice Christmas card will be dropping through your letter boxes very soon, with a list of all the Christmas services throughout our East Downland benefice. Whatever type of service you favour, whether Crib service, Carols or Communion, you will find one in the benefice somewhere at some time during December. All Saints will be holding a Family Communion service on Christmas day at 9.30am, as well as a Communion service for the whole benefice, also at 9.30am., on Sunday 29th December.

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 26th January 2014 - Christingle

Saturday 1st March – Winter Warmer.

Please write the dates 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 Christmas!!

Kay and Ian Fewtrell-Smith

CHRISTMAS
FAMILY PRIZE BINGO
AT
WEST ILSLEY
VILLAGE HALL
FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER
DOORS OPEN 7:00
EYES DOWN 7:30
TERRIFIC PRIZES
&
GRAND RAFFLE
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE
COME & ENJOY YOURSELF

Locally grown **Christmas trees for sale**
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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 will be in stock from Saturday 7th December
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

BONFIRE NIGHT

Thank you to all the villagers who came to support the Village Hall Bonfire Evening - it was dry, the food and mulled wine were plentiful and fireworks superb. Thank you to James and Lucy Hanbury who hosted the event and to Richard Gore for the use of his field. Thank you for the donations for fireworks and especially from the Fete Committee, but also from Mick Channon and donations via The Harrow. Plus of course all the helpers on the night - The Village Hall Committee, Sandra and Peter, Mark and Angela, Louise and Alan, Marnie and Jon, Tony and all the children who rattled tins and sold glow sticks. A great village event and £400 was raised for the Village Hall.

Thanks Alison Banks

ILSLEY UNDER 5'S

This year we have a special Christmas party session which will be held on Wednesday 18th December in West Ilsley village hall with Farms 2 Ewe! Farms 2 Ewe will be bringing their animals along to our festive session which will also include a visit from Father Christmas and festive snacks for the children. Everyone is welcome so please do come along and see us, even if you have never been before – just let me know if you do plan to come so I have a rough idea of numbers.

We have also organised a grown up night out on Thursday 12th December so dig out your party frocks, as always everyone is welcome!!

We are also lucky enough to have been given exclusive access to attend the Ilsleys School Christmas play dress rehearsal on Monday 16th December at 1.45pm. It is a play called Hey Ewe, based on the traditional nativity. Please let me know if you wish to attend, so I can advise the School of numbers.

Take a look at our Facebook page for more information and to see what activities we have organised in the run up to Christmas.

The festive session on 18th December will be our last session before Christmas and we will return to the village hall on Wednesday 8th January 2014.

We meet every week, most weeks of the year, in West Ilsley village hall between 10am and 11.30am. The children have a snack and drink half way through the session, with hot drinks available for mums, dads and carers. New members are always very welcome, just come along to the session and join us. It's a fantastic way to meet other local families and get together for some valuable play time!

Ilsley under 5's is a well established parent and carer play group which provides a great place to play in a friendly safe atmosphere and fun environment. Every week we offer a new activity table; painting, drawing, play dough etc., not forgetting the regular toys that are available and suit all ages of toddler or baby. We finish the session with a group sing along or dancing session!

If you are planning a party or event remember the small tables and chairs as well as our indoor and outdoor toys are available for hire throughout the year for a donation of £10.

Rachel Hudson Tel: 281350

BUS SERVICE 74 WEST ILSLEY TO READING ON FRIDAYS

This bus service is potentially under threat by West Berkshire Council's savings proposals. Public consultation ends on Dec 13th but we need to respond by 5th December latest. Please can you let us have your views regarding this service so we can lobby for its future. Please respond by

3rd December to Alison Banks Clerk to Parish Council on 281705 or alison@poplars.org.uk



The Friends of Ilsleys Primary School would like to invite you to our Christmas Bazaar

Sunday December 1, 2013

2:00 - 4:00 pm

Come and enjoy sweet treats & mulled wine as well as several great events:

Raffle, bottle tombola, spinning jenny, cake raffle and some great craft stalls.

Fun for all ages, everyone welcome!



ALDWORTH SATURDAY MARKET – OPENING TIMES

Please note our **NEW** opening time from 4th January 2014 will be **9.30** a.m. each week throughout the year. Our market will close at 12 noon.

(Currently, ASM opens from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. However, on 28th December 2013 we will only open for pre-ordered breads and papers from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.)

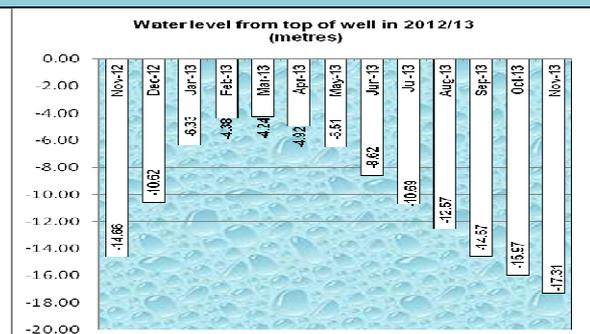
THANK YOU for your custom and friendship. We look forward to your visits.

Our **Aldworth Saturday Market** FACEBOOK page also gives details of “special” events and offers.

Please direct any queries, orders, or requests to have a stall at ASM, to Kathy on 01635 578090.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS from all at **ASM!**

WELL READING



PARISH COUNCIL

Read the latest Parish Council Minutes and hear how village matters are being addressed. Visit our village website at www.westsilsley.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

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@circlepartnership.co.uk 281855
 Alan Bloor - Alanpeter.bloor@virgin.net 281341
 John Mountford - jgmountford@btinternet.com 281703

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 Contact Hayley Watling 07947 188069
 01635 281260 hayleybird22@hotmail.co.uk

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Email: kimchild@me.com

NEW Dance Classes for Children
West Isley Village Hall
Commencing Thursday 9th January
Ballet, Tap and Modern/Jazz
Children from 3years upwards
Exams- Medal Tests - Shows -FUN
Further information and to enroll
Contact Bernadine 01235-510710

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to everyone John Verney

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone in West Ilsley
Mike, Alison, Calum and Drew Farwell

Wishing all my friends a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year
Shirley Gore

A cheerful and fun-filled, ding-dong Christmas to our friends and neighbours in West Ilsley (or elsewhere!). And every good wish to you all for a healthy and fulfilled 2014 Polly and Alan

Andrea and Mel wish everyone in West Ilsley a very Merry Christmas and a great 2014

Happy Christmas everyone.

Love from Daniel, Rachel, Annabelle and Henry Hudson

A very merry Christmas to you all and best wishes for 2014.

With love from Philip, Amanda, Ellen, Alice and William Knight

*Warmest Christmas & New Year wishes to our friends and neighbours of this truly amazing & supportive village community.
Love from June, Ronnie & Charlie (woof) Cook*

Christmas Greetings from The Banks family. We wish you a very Happy Christmas and a happy and healthy 2014.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas a Happy New Year, with love from Jo, Tony, Ellen, Tom and Katie x

**Wishing everyone of West Ilsley a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
All our love Sue, Andy, Zoe & Lizzie Carrington xxx**

With all best wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year from Norman and Anne Carlisle

Fred & Kath Carter wish everybody in the Village A Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year

John and Ally Mountford wish all our friends and neighbours in West Ilsley a very Merry Christmas and prosperous 2014

**A Merry Christmas and a Happy 2014!
Best wishes from Nigel, Alison, Sophie, Adam, Dilly & Rosie!**

Wishing all our friends and neighbours a very Happy Christmas and New Year. From Ralph, Louise and Mark Taylor

Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year
From Dries, Amanda, Mae & Hugo Hagen x

**With best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2014 to you all.
The Patersons**

Wishing you all a very merry, happy Christmas and a fantastic, prosperous 2014!!
Peter, Jacqui, Hayley, Wes, Chris and Freckle.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
WEST ILSLEY
Thanks to all these greetings
we have raised £372 for the
Church Restoration Fund**

To the merrie villagers of West Ilsley Yuletide salutations and festive felicitations for the new year! love from the Axtells

*Wishing our friends in West Ilsley a Merry Christmas.
Love Tracy, Steve, Sam, Alex, Joe and Ollie. XXXX*

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.
Liz, Adrian, Hannah, Matthew and Ben Dray

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and wonderful 2014!
Love Ed, Juliet, Fiona and Holly xx

Dear West Ilsley Friends As we are unable to send personal cards this year please accept our good wishes for Christmas and a very happy healthy and peaceful New Year.
Janice and Colin

**We wish all our friends and neighbours in West Ilsley a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2014
Alan, Louise, Will & Suzie**

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

Wishing all our friends in the village a very Happy Christmas and New Year with love from Justin, Rosanne, Georgia & Honor Pilditch

Wishing everyone in West Ilsley a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. With Best wishes Denis, Barbara and Charlie Coakley