

# West Ilsley News

[www.westilsley.org](http://www.westilsley.org)

December 2008

## DIARY DECEMBER

12<sup>th</sup> Christmas Bingo

## JANUARY

24<sup>th</sup> Burns Night



## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year  
From Denis, Barbara and Charlie Coakley

A very merry Christmas to all and best wishes for 2009 from Mandy, Neil, Andrew and Briony Slater.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New year to all our friends in West Ilsley  
With love from Neil, Cathy, Lucy and Thomas xxx

Yuletide greetings to the merry villagers of West Ilsley with love and best wishes for a cracking 2009 from Will, Alexandra, Henry and Charlie Axtell!

A Very Happy Christmas to you all in West Ilsley Best Wishes from Alison, Steven, Mark and Juliet

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
From Dries, Amanda, Mae & Hugo Hagen  
xxxx

With best wishes for Christmas and a happy New Year Shirley Gore

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and all the very best for 2009! Sue, Andy, Zoe and Lizzie Carrington xxxx

Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year from Mel and Andrea Cook

Wishing our friends in West Ilsley a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. With love from Justin and Rosanne Pilditch

A very merry Christmas to the village from the Scriven family

Merry Christmas to all in West Ilsley and to those further afield.  
Best wishes Adrian, Liz, Hannah, Matthew and Ben Dray

Hugh, Sue, Gee & Harry Evans would like to wish everyone in West Ilsley a very Happy Christmas.

Wishing all our friends and neighbours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year With Love from The Gregory Family

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah!  
Love from Steve, Donna and Toren

THANK YOU to all the above – we've raised £140 for church funds.

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Deadline for the next publication is 5pm on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December

Contributions to the WIN can be made by conversation, phone, email, handwritten or typed copy and "word" file, but most importantly, **please do contribute**. Contact details:

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Please direct your feedback to either of the editors.

To join the email distribution list or for new/changed email addresses, please email [westilsleynews@msn.com](mailto:westilsleynews@msn.com)

## CHRISTMAS TREES NOW IN!

I now have the village Christmas trees in stock. If you would like to come and choose one then please call me to arrange a time or drop by in the daytime where my staff (mummy) will help you!

The trees are locally grown and have only travelled 5 miles to get here! They have non drop needles.

3 – 4ft £20

4 – 6ft £25

6ft plus £30

I will be sending a donation to Macmillan Cancer for every tree you buy – thank you for your support. Merry Christmas Storm Ryan 281500

P.S. I am not doing my Christmas card delivery this year as Sam (my Shetland pony) has been a busy boy and is having a well deserved rest!



## IT'S CHRISTMAS!

Bill De Grey

There may be an element who thought I have been at home with my feet up so allow me to take the opportunity to enlighten you to the fact we have been Christmas shopping. Those of you who are acquainted with this annual spend feast will be well aware of the trauma involved in trying to find



that ideal present which will delight, amuse and hopefully sell at the next W.I. fete so to this end I pose the following. Why in the name of sanity do we submit ourselves to this curse on humanity? Apart from the junior members of the family unit, and they don't do

too badly during the year anyway, and those seeking religious absolution, the stress of trudging round an unfamiliar town (Southampton/Oxford and those in between in our case) along with the great unwashed must rank alongside primitive tooth extraction.

So to those of you who have completed and still retained your sanity I salute you, to those who have yet to embark and find time running out I sympathise, but to the few who have decided to visit Mars till the festivities are over, you have my unbridled envy. Bill

## LUXURY WREATHS & CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

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## HARROW NEWS

The Halloween fancy dress party on Friday 31st October was a huge success and the costumes were great. Doug and family, Isobel Piggot, Adam Nash and Chopsie are just a few that stick in my mind. Well done to all who dressed up, it was a brilliant night. Thankyou to Andy Driver who judged the fancy dress!!

Christmas Quiz Night Wednesday 17th December 8pm. Menu - Turkey Curry, Fish Pie or Bobotie all homemade £9 each. £2 each to enter. Book your tables now !!

Our Christmas Menu is now available to pre order from, drop in and pick up a copy. Served from December 1st through till December 23rd.

BOXING DAY TEST MATCH -Missing cricket, got the winter blues?? Up for hitting a few 6's into the pond?? Come to The Harrow and sign up for The Game of The Year!! (weather dependant)



Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year to all in West Ilsley from The Watling family at The Harrow!!

Christmas and New Year Opening Hours

Christmas Eve - 12pm till 3pm (food 12 till 2pm)  
6pm till midnight (food 7pm till 9pm)

Christmas Day - 12pm till 2pm (no food)  
Closed PM

Boxing Day - 12pm till 3pm (food 12pm till 2pm)  
 Closed PM  
 New Years Day - 1pm till 3pm (no food)  
 Closed PM  
 New Years Eve celebrations. Buffet and Disco,  
 champagne at midnight!! Come along and bring  
 the family, the more the merrier!! 6pm till late

## EVERGREENS

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>  
 December we will  
 leave from outside  
 West Ilsley Church at  
 11.00 am to go to the  
 Windmill Carvery near  
 Burford for the Christmas lunch.



Very Responsible 16 year old available for  
 babysitting on Friday and/or Saturday evenings.  
 Call Shawney on Mobile: 07787 141669  
 Or Tracy Gregory on 01635 281876

## NEWS FROM THE ILSLEYS PRIMARY SCHOOL - AUTUMN TERM 2008

### 100 Years and One month old.

Our week of Centenary celebrations was certainly one to remember, with over 270 visitors to our school, and one that will definitely stay in my memory. After a lot of planning and preparation from many in our community and beyond it proved to be outstanding in many aspects. It has been very touching to receive sincere letters of thanks from some of the people and families that have been involved in the life of the school in some way over the past 100 years. Even more so as a good number of people who travelled from around the country, for our Thanksgiving service and weekend of celebrations, have rekindled old friendships and are now continuing new memories.

It was also a great week for our children to experience a range of active learning bringing our past to life. The Open Box theatre company enthralled us all in a variety of drama workshops. Children and staff enjoyed a day in Edwardian costume and gave a very different feel to our school day. Parents will be able to enjoy reflecting on these as the photographs - colour and sepia - will form a major part of our Year Book. The children also enjoyed learning the crafts of weaving and lace making and we are grateful for the time given by the Bobtails and the Kennet Valley Spinners. We were also able to learn in great detail about the history of our school thanks to the exhibition by the East Ilsley Local History Society.

Our centenary is still very much in our memory. In our hall we are able to enjoy our new stained

glass window - designed by the children with the help of Eric Saxton. This is a constant reminder of the hands of friendship which have lasted across the years and continue today. We start our week with the ringing of our school bell, this has allowed children and staff to use their skills practised in our bell ringing club. Also if you would like to read some of the children's reports on the events of the week go to our school site on [www.westberks.org](http://www.westberks.org) In the months since our 'birthday' we continue to work together. Our youngest class of children, with support from our parents, planned a very successful Halloween Disco - with some amazing carved pumpkins. All of our children have been milking 'Buttercup' the cow and learning more about farming and food production. Our school netball and football teams have started their season and are pulling together in their matches. As the evenings become darker earlier we are using the Road safety week to make sure that as our children gain independence in their travels they stay safe as part of the national road safety week.

We now move into our run up to Christmas celebrations which is always a very busy and special time in a Primary school. Our oldest class of children are planning and preparing for our Ice palace themed Christmas bazaar. We are also rehearsing for our presentation of 'Twas the Night before Christmas'. Some of the songs from this will form part of our contribution to the crib and carol service. We hope many will be able to join us in our celebration of Christmas 2008.

## ALL SAINTS CHURCH Rosanne Pilditch

### December West Ilsley Church Services

Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Holy Communion	8am
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	All Age Communion	10am
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Carol Service with mince pies & mulled wine	6pm
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Midnight Communion	11.30pm
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Dec	All Age Communion	10am

### Winter Warmer

We hope you all enjoyed the transformation of the village hall into a hot beach, complete with parasol, rum punch and hot chilli! Thanks to your support we raised over £700 in aid of the church. A huge thank you to Alexandra and Will Axtell and to Justin Pilditch for making the event possible and to those who kindly cooked the rice for us all.

### Remembrance Day

Many thanks to those who gave so generously at the Remembrance Day service - over £260 was raised for the Royal British Legion.

## Christmas

We are now in Advent and the run-up to Christmas. We very much look forward to seeing you at church over the coming festive period – as always everyone is very welcome.

### Travelling Crib



Mary and Joseph will be travelling through the village on their Advent journey arriving at church on Christmas Eve. If you would like them to spend a night in your home then

please sign up on the list in the church.

### Christmas Giving

The collection from the Carol Service on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December will be going to the local section of the Air Ambulance. The collection on Christmas Eve will go to our church.

As usual you are invited to bring gifts such as toiletries and children's toys to any of the Christmas services for donation to the local women's refuge.

Merry Christmas to you all and wishing you a very Happy New Year.

### Date for the Diary:

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2009:**

Back by popular demand – **Burns Night Dinner and Reeling** in the Village Hall – please put the date in your diary. Further information and tickets will follow early in the New Year.



## ILSLEY UNDER FIVES



Sponsorship monies for the Hallowheelathon are now in. We raised a total of £208! Thank you to all those who took part. We plan to use

the money to take the children on a trip in the Spring term probably to Bucklebury Farm Park or to Thatcham Lakes for a picnic.

November's craft activity combined a firework and autumnal theme. The children made a collage sticking on various leaves and feathers and lots of glue, glitter and other sparkly items were used for the fireworks!

Looking forward, we have another craft activity booked for 10 December with a Christmas theme and our Christmas party will be on 17 December, the last session this term. Father Christmas has assured us that he will drop by early with a few presents for the children!

Ilsley Under Fives meet during term time on Wednesday mornings, 10am to 11.30am, at West Ilsley Village Hall. The session is an informal meeting, providing playtime for the children, an occasional craft activity, a drink and biscuit with tea/coffee and chat for the parents or carers. The

session ends with a singsong! For further details please feel free to contact me on 280622 or any other member of the committee or simply pop along on a Wednesday. New faces are always welcome!  
Louise Taylor

### **Domestic Electrical Installation**

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and certification  
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Tel: 01635-281389 (East Ilsley)  
Mobile: 07985-797333

## ALDWORTH SATURDAY MARKET

We are now able to call ourselves a MARKET! However, we remain a warm and welcoming "Shop and Chat" facility and hope to serve you with fresh fruit and vegetables, local produce, flowers and plants in season, bread and cakes, Fairtrade groceries and refreshments as well as offer occasional craft and gift stalls. We also have new books and postage stamps plus newspapers if pre-ordered.

In January and February we open EVERY Saturday, in Aldworth Village Hall, but only from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Pang Valley Organics will sell their delicious meats on the FIRST Saturday of each month.

New stallholders are welcome to discuss booking a table in advance so that we can publicise your attendance. We also encourage charities to promote themselves and raise funds from selling at our market. Please contact Pauline Sheppard on 01635 578177 for more information or to share ideas on how we can best serve you.

We thank our loyal customers, look forward to making new friends and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

*Aldworth Saturday Market is a Social Enterprise volunteer-run by the community for the community*

## Christmas BINGO

Friday 12th December

In the Village Hall

7.30pm

All the Family welcome

Bingo and Raffle Prizes

Bring your own refreshments

Admission: Adults 20p, Children 10p

Bingo Books 30p

Any donations of prizes to Audrey,

5 Fir Tree Cottages

Proceeds to Village Hall Funds

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Youth Club trip to:  
**ALADDIN - THE CORN EXCHANGE,  
NEWBURY**

**Thursday 11 December 2008, 7pm**

Youth club has booked 40 tickets for this years performance at the Corn Exchange. Those of you who went last year will be pleased to know that Pledsted and Brown are back again. Youth club members are welcome to bring family members. We would be grateful if you could arrange your own transport to the Corn Exchange but do contact us if you are having difficulty. Please contact Paula Oliphant, Tracey Young, Paul and Lorraine Willis or Clare Alexander if you would like a ticket(s).

**WEST ILSLEY TENNIS** Polly Muir

Some short notes (from the secretary), just to tide us over until the next meeting...the handover for the keys, funds, etc took place and we are now in possession of all the important documentation. The new committee meets again at the beginning of December. Please feel free to attend, 1<sup>st</sup> December 7.30 pm at The Harrow. We need to make many plans and, most of all, we need to ensure that the membership and booking systems are in place, along with a good quality court for you all to play on. With so much to consider, we will keep you informed of all the developments. Meanwhile, I think it is unanimously agreed, that the court (contrary to my belief) looks staggeringly good for its new unilateral and on trend tonsure. There are plans to organise for the second side of conifer cutting. The amount of light now shed on the court is to be beheld; I can't believe the difference! Thanks, again, to the Parish Council for their assistance and also to David for his hard work on the facilities. It's a start, but it's going to need continuous effort to keep the surface 'playable' year round, which is our aspiration. If there are any points that you wish to raise, please ring me (281647) or email ([pollyimuir@btinternet.com](mailto:pollyimuir@btinternet.com)) and I can minute it for future meetings.

14 year old Village Babysitter available - Mon - Thurs 6 - 9pm, Fri - Sun 7pm - late  
£4 per hour. Call Georgie Evans on 01635 281763 or text 07784 900335

**Window Cleaning**  
Roger Stowell  
Window cleaning, gutter cleaning and  
general odd jobs  
01869 600628

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH, ALL SAINTS  
CHURCH**

In November the children made their own miniature Advent wreaths and Denise explained the meaning of each of the 5 candles. Please note that our next service, "Christmas", will now be on **Thursday 11 December** at 4pm and not 18 December as previously advertised. The children also signed up to receive Mary and Joseph to stay for a night during December and this list is in the church should anyone else wish to add their names.

Our Afterschool services are held at 4pm in the church and are very informal with songs to well-known tunes, participation from the children and a simple story to listen to. The children have the opportunity to become more familiar with the church and learn about prayer, religious festivals and other topics in a relaxed atmosphere. The services are aimed at all ages from babies to older ones.

The services are well supported but we would love to see new faces or friends from outside the village. Do come and join us if you have a free half an hour.

If you would like any further details please do contact any of us on the following numbers:  
Denise Brown on 01635 281825  
Liz Dray on 01635 281688  
Louise Taylor on 01635 280622.

**WELCOME ...**

To the Beaumont family who have moved into Shoehorn Cottage. They are Alan and Louise plus William and Suzanna.