

West Ilsley News

NOVEMBER 2024

www.westilsley.org

Editors

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Deadline for the next publication is:
5 pm on Monday 25th November

EDITORIAL POLICY

We are editors (though we don't edit unless we have to) – we are not reporters, so we only write something if we want to. We rely on villagers to contribute news and information and welcome updates from groups, committees and businesses to let the village know what is going on in their area of interest. We are always happy to receive feedback about WIN so please get in touch if you have anything to say.

DISTRIBUTION

If you have received a paper copy of this newsletter but have access to email, please join the email distribution list by contacting westilsleynews@westilsley.org – help to save paper and shoe leather!

What's on in West Ilsley

NOVEMBER

- 5th West Ilsley Fireworks
- 12th Parish council meeting
- 22nd Nature talk from Geoff Wond - village hall
- 30th Christmas markets – cricket pitch

DECEMBER

- 7th Lighting of the village hall Christmas Tree and Christmas Jumper Party

JANUARY

- 11th Nutrition talk from Steve Cole – village hall

FULL COUNCIL MEETING DATES

7.30 in the VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday 12th November 2024 7:30 pm
Tuesday 4th February 2025 7:30 pm
Tuesday 20th May 2025
7:00 pm Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
8:15 pm Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes

Draft minutes of the September PC meeting are on the website – or click [here](#)

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

West Berkshire Council is now taking applications to the Household Support Fund.

The Household Support Fund helps people struggling to meet essential housing costs including energy and water bills, food, and wider essentials. There is £695,000 available which includes funding for individuals and families, as well as money set aside to provide free school meals and help for pensioners and young people leaving care.

You can find more information about the Household Support Fund and begin your application here: <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/article/38537/Apply-for-the-Household-Support-Fund>

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS IN THE WIN

It's that time of year again! We are again happy to accept Christmas greetings to appear in the December WIN and to receive donations for the church - here are the arrangements:

Those not on email: if you would like to put a greeting in WIN, please write out your message and put it in an envelope together with your donation, then post it through Andrea's door (Clock Cottage) or ring 281224 and she will collect.

If you're on email: please email your greeting to WIN, and either put your donation through Kay's door (Windrush Cottage, Church Way) or ask WIN for the church bank details when you send your message and you can pay it in online.

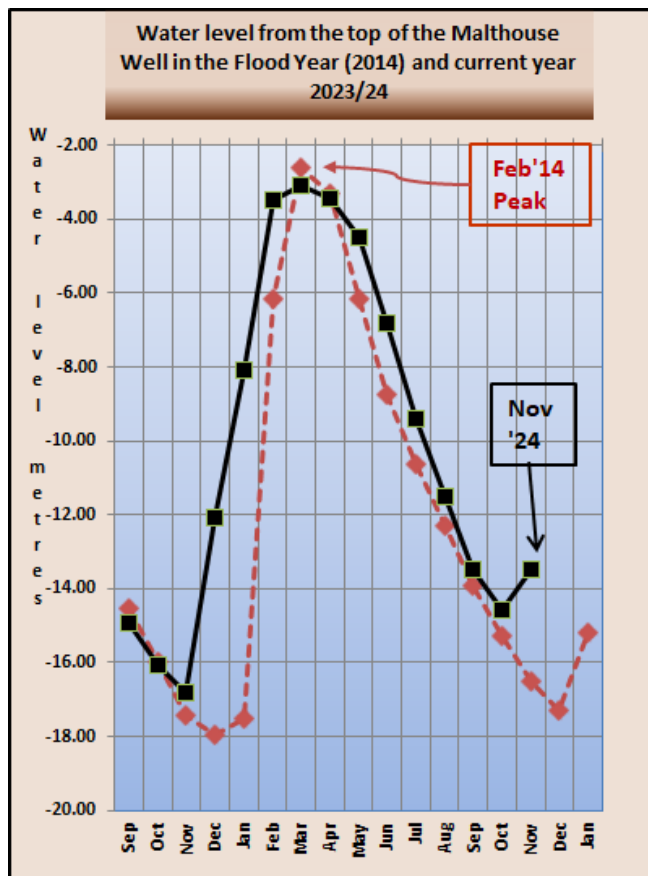
Deadline for everything - greetings and donation receipt is 25th November. Many thanks.

MALTHOUSE WELL

It doesn't take a genius to work out that this year we have had a lot more rain than normal. In fact, September surpassed itself when an amazing 216mm of rain fell. This is about 345% higher than the average for this month. Fortunately, October has been kinder to us and its rainfall has been around 70-75mm, which is around average for the month.

This year's rainfall has had two main effects on the Malthouse well water level. Firstly, it hasn't dropped as low as usual during the summer months. In fact, it bottomed out at the beginning of October around 14.5 meters below ground level. This is about 2.2 metres higher than last year's low point. Secondly it has started to rise about a month earlier than last year.

At the beginning of November, the Malthouse water level stands around 13.5 metres below ground level. This means we will have to hope that November, December, January, and February are kind to us in terms of rainfall if we are to avoid any water problems in the February / March next year.



MACMILLAN FUNDRAISER

A very big thank you to everyone who cooked, baked, bought, donated, ate, drank, helped, washed up and contributed in any way to the magnificent £720 which was raised. Thank you! Andrea

THANK YOU

Cllr Carolyne Culver has been so helpful and kind, achieving a prompt response to a recent problem we had. We cannot thank her enough.

Allan and Maureen Thimbleby

VILLAGE HALL EVENTS:

A big thank you to everyone who came and supported the village hall at the recent quiz night! It was great to see so many of you having fun at the opening of the village hall season.



The annual West Ilsley Fireworks are fast approaching, and we are hoping to see as many of you there as possible!

West Ilsley Fireworks Night

Join us on the recreation ground on
Tuesday November 5th for:

Bar from 5:30pm

BBQ from 6:00pm

Bonfire (subject to weather
conditions) from 6:30pm

Firework display at 7:00pm

Free Entry
Donations greatly appreciated

Don't forget about the upcoming nature talk on
November 22nd by Geoff Wond!

The Village Hall Management Committee

COUNTRY NOTES

The woods smell of fungi, a pleasant warm earthy smell, the smell of woods preparing for winter. Toadstools scattered through the leaf mould, caps the size of old pennies, young one's pink with a hint of purple, shaped like clam shells, older ones flat with fringed, recurved rims, wet with dew, cold to the touch, the cold of dead flesh, I have no idea what they are. A huddle of common puffballs along Old Street have matured, when prodded by a finger, or bombed by a rain drop, the balls live up to their name and puff millions of tiny spores into the air to be dispersed far and wide by the lightest of breezes.

On the floor of a glade the grass has been torn away, exposing dark, damp earth, a patch of urine-soaked mud impressed with a great cloven hoof seal, the signature of a rutting fallow buck. It is from these

scrapes that the bucks proclaim their virility, utter visceral roars, roars that emanate from deep within their guts. No matter how many times I hear this sound it prickles the hairs on the back of my neck.

A raven hangs motionless over the dark firs of Hodcott Buildings, with the slightest movement of wing and tail, it turns, gybes, runs downwind, until lost from sight.

Geoff Wond

THE ILSLEYS' NEWSLETTER

This term, we have been thankful for nine new pupils at our school! The Ilsleys have had 6 children join in foundation and 3 into different year groups. We were very pleasantly surprised with how quickly all of the children have settled in to the school environment and made new friends.

On Friday 28th September, we had a MacMillan coffee morning where we sold tea, coffee, freshly grown school tomatoes, cakes and biscuits with the help of our Year 6s. We were surprised to find out that we made a total of £136 for the amazing charity, thanks to all of the donations made by parents, grandparents and students.

Very kindly, Bucklebury Farm came to visit Reception and Year 1s with some of their animals. They learnt about baby animals and what their names were such as horses, when they are babies, are called foals. They were able to stroke guinea pigs and rabbits and they thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience.

On Friday 4th October, the whole school took part in a sponsored walk to raise money for the Dogs' Trust charity. When the children had completed the walk, our Year 6s and the teachers helped set up activities for everyone to play like: guess the name of the teddy and guess how many dog treats are in the jar. Some children and parents donated for the sponsored walk and the children paid with donations to play the games. Overall, we raised a grand total of £263 for the Dogs' Trust.

Recently, some of the children have joined a rock music club with a company called IRock. In this club, the children are put into their own bands and they get to choose the instrument they would like to play, as well as what song they would perform, which they were very excited about. At the end of the term, they will be able to perform their talent to all of the pupils, teacher and parents.

On 8th October, parents came in to look at their child's books to see all the hard work they have done over the past weeks. This is also a chance to have a chat with the teacher if parents would like to. We also had an Open Morning for upcoming students and parents to look around the school as they may be joining our school in September 2025.

As some of you may know, it was recently harvest festival and our school likes to celebrate this by having

a special assembly where we sing songs and thank farmers and food producers for the harvest. Children bring in donations for our local food bank so we can offer our support to those who are less fortunate than us.

At the beginning of October, one of our pupil's parents was kind enough to bring in their tractor and they let us look around it, sit in it and ask questions about the equipment. Our students and teachers were very grateful for their generosity and our younger class (Year 1 and Reception) learned a lot more about their topic.

The whole school were a part of a big Black History Month assembly online with many other children from all over the country. It was presented by a 13-year-old who is an inspiration to many young people. We then created our own artwork to represent a person who inspires us.

On Friday the 18th of October, the children were very lucky to have a sportsman called Ryan Raghoo come and visit. He held a record for running. Ryan told the school about his life and how he went from being left out in school because of his disability, to a world champion. He taught each class the rules of wheelchair basketball and even got them to play it. The children had lots of fun playing against each other as if it were the Olympics!

Pacific Class have recently had a Stone Age Day where they learnt a lot of new things about what happened in that era. They even got to make their own Stone Age village using clay, sticks, hot glue, cardboard, card and paper. At the end of the day, they were extremely happy with the results. When they had finished, they even got to weave baskets which would have been made in the Stone Age. The class enjoyed this thoroughly!

For the next Stay and Play, the theme will be Toy Story, so the children can have lots of fun while you can enjoy a nice cup of tea or coffee. No bookings are required but the children have to be under 5. To find out more, have a look on our website which is: theilsleysprimary.net. This is a great way to ease your child into the school environment gently and get them ready for when they join our school.

We hope you all have a great half term and we are excited to tell you what we will be up to in the upcoming weeks!

Written by 2 Year 6 pupils

NOVEMBER AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Sunday 3rd Family Service at 11.00am
Sunday 10th Remembrance Service at 10.55am
Sunday 17th Communion at 9.30am
Sunday 24th *No service in All Saints'*

Please look on the notice board in the lychgate or on the East Downland website:

<https://www.eastdownland.org.uk/news-and-notice/this-week> for other services in the benefice during November.

Café in All Saints' Church

Our monthly cafe will not take place on Sunday 10th November due to the Remembrance Service. Last month's donations came to £155 and were donated to Pancreatic Cancer UK in memory of June Cook, so thank you to all who contributed.

Harvest Festival and Lunch

It was good to see so many of you in church at Harvest and after at the lunch. Our thanks go to all those who decorated the church so beautifully, those who helped prepare food for lunch and those who helped in any way to make it such a lovely occasion. Thanks also to those who donated food items for West Berks Foodbank and who gave so generously in the collection. A sum of £225.50 was also sent to the Foodbank.

Working Party Tidy Up for Remembrance Day

We will be holding our church and churchyard working party on Saturday 9th November. We would be grateful if you could spare a little time to join us from 10.00am to tidy up the churchyard before the Remembrance Day Service the following day. Help with giving the church a good 'spring clean' would also be much appreciated. Please come armed with strimmers, rakes, secateurs, dusters, polish, etc.

Remembrance Day Service – Sunday 10th November at 10.55am



We hope you will join us once more in remembering and giving thanks for those who have fought for this country, many of whom have died in action for us, over the years. As usual, we will have

the Act of Remembrance first by the War Memorial and then move into the church for the rest of the service. Please try and arrive in the churchyard before 10.55am as the Act of Remembrance starts promptly. As always, we will be sending a donation to the Royal British Legion.

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 15th December at 6pm - Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Sunday 2nd February 2025 at 11am - Christingle Service
Put these dates in your diary and come and join us!

Private Prayer

All Saints' will continue to open on Saturdays and Sundays for private prayer between 9.30am and 6pm.

Pastoral

If you would like prayer (or other support) for you or someone else, please get in touch. We are happy to be contacted by phone or email using the details of contacts shown below.

If anyone needs help or would just like to chat, do contact the wardens or clergy who will do their best to help.

To subscribe to the weekly pew sheet, which contains readings, prayers and notices about church events in the benefice, please [go](#) to the East Downland website (see above)

Contacts:

Churchwardens: Ian – 01635 281625; Alexandra – 01635 281306

Rector: Revd John Toogood – 01635 247566 or 07748 822336 - edownlandrector@gmail.com

Associate Priest: Revd Douglas Dales – 01635 247404 – revdjdales@gmail.com

East Downland Benefice Office: 07957 458107 - eastdownland@btinternet.com – Usually manned on Thursday & Friday mornings between 9am and 1pm.

Kay and Ian Fewtrell-Smith

Saturday 23rd November

Aldworth Village Hall (RG8 9SE)

10.30 to 12.00

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

FREE Turkey Tasting & Mulled Wine

RNLI Christmas Cards & Gifts

Alexander Devine

Children's Hospice

Handmade Children's Clothes & Toys

Xmas Flowers & Plants

Home-made Preserves


Hand-crafted Cards & Candles

Fresh Fruit & Veg plus Groceries

Refreshments

Details: 01635 578090

My lovely cleaner Karolina is also a qualified Foot Health Practitioner/Chiropodist and offers a mobile service, details below. Victoria Britton




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- Corn Removal
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Something new is happening in West Ilsley for 2024.

Join us for our first ever Christmas markets on Saturday 30th November from 3pm at West Ilsley cricket pitch. There will be plenty for everyone from tasty food and drink stalls to crafty stalls. All money raised will be going directly to the village groups, hopefully we will raise a good amount.



SATURDAY 30th NOVEMBER 3-10pm
WEST ILSLEY CRICKET PITCH
CHRISTMAS MARKETS
LIVE MUSIC > MULLED WINE
MINCE PIES > CHRISTMAS STALLS
CRAFT STALLS > FOOD STALLS
CHRISTMAS CAROLS FROM 7pm


We are looking for stall traders for a Christmas market event over in West Ilsley Berkshire on Saturday 30th November from 3pm-10pm. The event will take place on the cricket pitch, the full address is West Ilsley cricket club RG20 7AT. Stall holders can arrive for set up from 12pm. We can supply lights and we have live entertainment. For more information or to book, email info@gigaevents.co.uk or contact 07506976974. £20 per stall pay on arrival.



CHRISTMAS MARKET STALLS WANTED

SATURDAY 30th NOVEMBER
3pm-10pm
WEST ILSLEY CRICKET PITCH

GET IN TOUCH TO BOOK YOUR STALL
INFO@GIGAEVENTS.CO.UK
07506976974





Prior's Court
Transforming the future for autistic young people with complex needs

Connect
Prior's Court's Networking Breakfast

Enjoy breakfast, forge new connections, and deepen your understanding of autism and complex needs whilst supporting a local charity, Prior's Court Foundation.

When:	21st November 9:00am - 11:00am
Where:	Prior's Court School, Prior's Court Road, Hermitage, Thatcham, RG18 9NU

Book now via our website: priorscourt.org.uk/Event/priors-court-networking-breakfast, or scan the QR code below

Please note bookings are due to close on Tuesday 19 November 2024.

Registered charity no. 1070227

HELP REQUIRED TAKING RESIDENTS TO THEIR MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

You may have heard of the Downland Volunteer Group (DVG) or even used our service. We are a registered charity set up in 1986 to help residents in the Downland villages attend their medical appointments at surgeries, hospitals, dentists etc in the surrounding area. The residents we support are mainly the older members of our community, but we are here for anyone unable to drive or get transport to their appointments. In the period April 2023 to March 2024, we made nearly 1,000 such trips. We are one of a number of volunteer groups around the country assisting the NHS and the local community especially where public transport is limited

Car Drivers

Could you spare a few hours each month? The demand for driving residents in our area to their medical appointments is increasing as the NHS tries to clear the backlog of appointments. We need volunteer drivers, using their own cars to take patients to the surgeries, dentists or hospitals in our area. As a volunteer driver you can claim 50p per mile, tax free, whilst transporting a patient.



Office Volunteers

Could you spare two hours a couple of times a month? We need volunteers in our office in the Compton surgery which is open Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 11.30am. If you are happy dealing with telephone requests for transport to medical appointments, we would love to hear from you.

Volunteer work is rewarding for both the volunteer and those we help. If you can spare some time and want to help others, do please contact us.

Email dvgs.office@btinternet.com

Phone **01635 578 394**

We look forward to hearing from you.

Charity No. 1112181 www.downlandvolgroup.org

WHO TO CONTACT

DEFIBRILLATOR is outside the village hall - code: C159

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR – Carolyn Culver 07976 374146
Carolyn.Culver1@westberks.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCIL

Council members are:

Alan Bloor alan.bloor@westilsley.org

Katy Morris katy.morris@westilsley.org

Tim Pearey timothy.pearey@westilsley.org

Graham Woods graham.woods@westilsley.org

07905 558884

Rachel Hudson rachel.hudson@westilsley.org

Johnny Rayfield jonny.rayfield@westilsley.org

Sarah Marshman – Clerk clerk@westilsley.org

PATIENT REPRESENTATION GROUP rep is Joe Clerkin

(01635) 281150 or joeclerkin@georgeweb.co.uk

PRESCRIPTIONS are delivered from Compton on Tuesday mornings at 8.30. Please collect yours from Ann Barnes, 3 Morland Close on **Tuesdays only between 2 pm and 4.30 pm**. Repeat forms can be posted through the letter box at any time before Monday evening for the following week's delivery.



TENNIS COURT "Pay & Play" is available to non-members for £10 per hour. Non-members can book up to 24 hours in advance. To book the court please use <https://westilsleytennis.jezzam.com> or scan the QR code!

For all enquiries, please contact the

Tennis Committee via

<https://westilsleytennis.jezzam.com/contact>

VILLAGE HALL

Bookings & enquiries:

Any new bookings should now be done via the village

Website: <https://www.westilsley.org/>

Any booking enquiries please contact Louise by email: village.hall@westilsley.org

Anyone without access to the internet can leave a message on: 01635 281762

Rates: £12/hour for villagers and £15/hour non villagers.

WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL – REPORT A PROBLEM:

<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem>

WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL – REPORT SPEEDING:

<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/speedingtraffic>

WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL – REPORT DOG FOULING:

<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/article/36781/Report-Dog-Fouling>