

# West Ilsley News

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

December 2012

## EDITORS

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Deadline for the next publication is:

5pm on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> December

## DIARY

### DECEMBER

14<sup>th</sup> Christmas bingo  
19<sup>th</sup> Harrow Quiz and Pie night

### JANUARY

25<sup>th</sup> Harrow Burns night



## PARISH PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Every fourth

Saturday, starting 1<sup>st</sup> December, 29<sup>th</sup> December, 26<sup>th</sup> January, 23<sup>rd</sup> February & 23<sup>rd</sup> March  
West Ilsley – Main Street - 1505/1525

## PARISH COUNCIL

Sean Ryan, chairman

The white lines in the middle of West Ilsley's roads - including Main Street - will soon be a thing of the past. West Berks Council has decided to let them "fade naturally" on the grounds that doing so has been shown to cut traffic speeds. The council's action (if you can call not repainting white lines "action") is one of a series of measures designed to make our roads a little bit safer. The bend by Morland Close, where there have been a couple of smashes into the wall of Manor Cottage, will be highlighted and the markings at the edge of the layby improved. There'll also be improvements in the coming weeks to the 30mph and "slow" signs on the approaches to the village. All this follows energetic work by Cllr John Mountford on the subject of speeding and the support of George Chandler on the district council. But at

November's parish council meeting, the unanimous view was that more needs to be done. We've now written to ask for the 30mph sign on the East Ilsley road to be moved further up the hill so that drivers have a chance to slow down before they reach the village rather than when they're already in it. We've also called for a white gateway on the road from East Ilsley to give motorists more warning that they're coming into West Ilsley. We want the road markings at the bottom of Bury Lane to be repainted so that nobody coming down that hill is in any doubt that they're about to hit a T-junction. And what about the A34 exit for East and West Ilsley? Is there anyone who hasn't had a near miss as they leave the A34 with cars from East Ilsley swinging towards them on their way to join the dual carriageway? We've asked repeatedly for this to be addressed, but so far in vain. The fear is that West Berks won't come up with the cash to put this right unless the danger is proved by a serious accident.

## THE HARROW

QUIZ NIGHT & PIE NIGHT  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 8pm  
£2 each to enter  
Winning team gets half the takings and the losing team gets a round of drinks on us !!  
Maximum of 6 on a team



## CHRISTMAS MENU

Our Christmas menu is running from Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December through to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December.  
(Excluding Sundays and Mondays)

£22.95 for 2 courses

£25.95 for 3 courses

Complimentary bottle of wine with every booking of 4 or more people!

Menus are now available !!

## Christmas Opening Times

**Christmas Eve** 12 - 3pm (Food 12 - 2)

6 - 12am (Food served 6pm till 8pm)

**Christmas Day** 12 - 2:30pm Closed pm

**Boxing Day** 12 - 3pm (Food 12 - 2) Closed pm

**New Years Day** 1 - 3pm Closed pm

NEW YEARS EVE  
Supper, Music and Champagne at midnight  
7pm till late  
Please book tables NOW as we need to know  
how many to cater for

BURNS NIGHT  
Friday 25th January  
7pm till late  
Haggis, Nips & Tatties and  
plenty of Whisky to wash it  
all down !!  
Get your kilts out !!



**THE HARROW**

Need some extra money for Christmas?  
We are looking for waiters / waitresses for the festive  
season. If you are interested please pop in to see Pete  
or Hayley.  
01635 281260  
07947 188069

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



Sizes and prices:  
5-6ft-£32  
6-7ft-£37  
7ft+-£42

As in previous years I shall be sending a donation  
to Macmillan cancer for every tree sold.  
Trees will be in stock from Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> of  
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  
Merry Christmas from Storm Ryan

**LUXURY WREATHS  
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**



INDIVIDUALLY MADE TO ORDER  
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VERONICA SMITH  
01635 281704

**CHRISTMAS  
FAMILY PRIZE BINGO  
AT  
WEST ILSLEY  
VILLAGE HALL  
FRIDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
DOORS OPEN 7:00  
EYES DOWN 7:30  
TERRIFIC PRIZES  
&  
GRAND RAFFLE  
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE  
COME & ENJOY YOURSELF**

**RAINFALL IN WEST ILSLEY**

Liz and Adrian Dray

**Latest well reading:**

Nov 2011 was 21.03 and Nov 2012 (5 Nov) was  
14.66. Of note is that the reading taken today (26  
Nov) was 12.66. A staggering 2 meters in a month  
compared with a reading of just 10cm between  
the beginning of October and the beginning of  
November.

The readings are in meters and cms, so at the  
beginning of November the level of water was 14  
meters and 66 cm from the top of the well.

**THE ILSLEYS PRIMARY SCHOOL  
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR  
SATURDAY 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

**2pm to 4pm**

**Christmas Grotto with Father Christmas visiting!  
Bottle Tombola, Raffle, Christmas Present Draw  
Teddy Tombola, Spinning Jenny,  
Refreshments with Mulled Wine, Cake Stall,  
Christmas Bauble making and other Children's  
Activities,  
And much more!!**



**Come along for a fun filled afternoon! All  
Welcome.**

## POSTCARD FROM GUERNSEY

Polly Muir

I meant to write months back and just give everyone a peephole view of life on this very pretty maritime island. The first five months have disappeared in that vapour which is life. I cannot believe some 150-odd days have disappeared since my arrival - each one spent happily and to the full. At the risk of boring everyone (especially those who saw THAT episode of Island Hospital on ITV..), I thought you could hear it from the horse's mouth.

Firstly, I must say that I thought I would find life away from West Ilsley, after living here for 30 years, very difficult. You cannot replace very good friends, earned over these years: good friends are hard to find and I loved where I lived. West Ilsley is a very special community, as those who live in it well know (that is why we all play Musical Houses when someone moves!!). So, it was with some trepidation that I moved.

I wasn't prepared for the warmth of Guernsey people, the ease and accessibility around the island, the unlocked doors and the amazing outdoor lifestyle. I did spend the first four weeks getting hopelessly lost all the time. I travelled 90 miles in the first month - 70 miles of which were totally unnecessary! One night, travelling some three miles back from The Boss's house I got bewildered and befuddled - it took an hour and five minutes to do what should have taken five. Without Sat Nav, there were too many small lanes, too few landmarks, too many turns, nowhere to reverse....Thankfully, I arrived in the summer when the days were long and most of the time I could read the map and discover some of the local Ruettes Tranquilles (Guernsey Patois) - the small, narrow lanes. I didn't visit a petrol station for six weeks! An immediate cost saving of £60 a week on fuel. It is peculiar not to travel miles to a supermarket: I can "pop" to a store. Waitrose seems to be no different here - except there is more french wine on the shelves at lower prices.

I walk and cycle to work - I have to. The dairy products here are so yummy I need the exercise. Very shortly, I shall have to revert to type and buy semi-skimmed milk, otherwise it will be death by dairy product: the full fat stuff is so good on cereal and in coffee. I do love going past The Girls (cows... larger and not as picture-book pretty as their Jersey counterparts, rather more Catherine Zeta-Jones than Cheryl Cole, shall we say?). In the morning and evening, they are munching away in the fields, even now - November!!

Full-time work after 20-something years part-time was not as much of a shock as I had anticipated. The camaraderie and cohesion of the team is great and the work ethic is big. This is

compensation in a small way for leaving my work colleagues and friends behind. I did have a small wobble when I came back for a week's holiday, but fortunately firmed up quickly once I was back on the island again. Keeping busy is good, if not hard.

So here comes Christmas. It will be lovely to be home again, but I am sure that Christmas next year in Guernsey will be fine. I am hoping to catch up with lots of old friends over the Christmas and New Year period and appreciate all the kind words and thoughts extended to me this year! Lots of Love and hugga-mugga to everyone.

## FAREWELL TO ARMS.

Most of you are aware of my impending retirement but it looks as though I shall be departing after Christmas . The time line is somewhat vague, as with most things, because of external confirmation. Anyway based on the premise that it will happen I would just like to take the opportunity to say how much I have enjoyed being your postman over the years and though my replacement has as yet to be appointed I am sure life will go on.

Just remains to wish one and all a merry Christmas and to those who I don't get to see in person, goodbye . Bill.

## CHRISTMAS BINGO

Please come along to the Family Prize Bingo on Friday the 14th and support the Village Hall. We have lots of terrific prizes and refreshments are available. If anyone would like to contribute to the Grand Raffle, could you please bring them to 2 Morland Close. Thank you. Tony Elliott.

## ILSLEY UNDER 5s

At the end of October our Halloween party proved to be a great success with all the children dressing up and enjoying the 'scary' pumpkin corner! In November our Link Group, for children over 2 years old, visited The Ilsley's School for an hour to play with children in the reception class there who were very welcoming indeed.

We now have our Christmas party on 19<sup>th</sup> December to look forward to and Father Christmas has even promised to visit us this year! Ilsley Under 5's is a well established parent and carer playgroup which in partnership with Surestart provides a great place to play in a friendly safe atmosphere and fun environment. 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 tea and coffee available for mums, dads and carers. 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!

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. Please call myself for more details.

Donna Vaughan  
820716

Rachel Hudson  
281350

## ALL SAINTS WEST ILSLEY

### December Church Services

2nd	Family Communion	9.30am
9th	Holy Communion	8.30am
16th	*No service in West Ilsley	
23rd	Carol Service and Christingle	6.00pm
25th	Christmas Family Communion	11.00am
30th	*No service in West Ilsley	

\*Please see the lych gate notice board for details of other services in the benefice or go online at <http://tinyurl.com/east-downland>

### Autumn Clean and Clear Up

Thank you to everybody who came and helped clean All Saints' Church and clear the churchyard of leaves prior to Remembrance Day. Surprisingly, we had fun and a lot of work was done to make the churchyard leaf free (well almost!) and the church sparkling for the service next day. Thank you also to those of you who give up your time regularly throughout the year to clean the church, work in the churchyard or decorate All Saints' with beautiful flowers. Unfortunately, we will be losing one or two from the Cleaning Rota at the end of the year, so if anyone feels they could spare an hour or so occasionally (maybe once every six weeks) to vacuum and dust, please do contact us, as soon as possible.

### Remembrance Service

As always the Remembrance Service was very well attended by people from the village as well as a number from other parishes. Our service was taken this year by the Rector, the Revd John Toogood and the wreath laid by a young person from the village. Thanks to everyone's generosity we were able to send a cheque for £263 to our local Royal British Legion.

### Downland Advent Carol Service

You are all invited to this lovely candlelit Carol Service, which is being held this year at Fawley Church on Sunday 2nd December at 6pm.

### Tree of Remembrance

As in previous years, there will be a small Tree of Remembrance, in addition to the traditional Christmas tree, in All Saints' from 2nd December with labels for you to write the names of family members and friends who may be ill or have died.

They will be remembered in our prayers over the Christmas period.

### West Ilsley Carol Service with Christingle

This year we are planning to combine a Christingle service with our annual Carol Service on Sunday 23rd December at 6pm. This means



everyone, no matter what age, is invited to come and join in with our Christmas festivities here at All Saints' Church.

Each child will receive a Christingle and the collection this year will go to the Children's Society to support its work with

vulnerable children and young people. Any children (or adult) wishing to help make Christingles should come to the church on Sunday 23rd December at 10.00am.

Then after the Carol service everyone is invited to join us for mulled wine and mince pies. We look forward to seeing you there.

### Loose Ends

If anyone would like to bring unwrapped gifts of warm tops (2nd hand jumpers or sweat shirts), new gloves or woolly hats, all for men, toiletries for men, or any tinned food to the Carol service, we will pass them on to our local Loose Ends, the charity that meets the practical needs of the homeless in the Newbury area.

### Christmas Church Services

As there are nine churches in our benefice there should be a service just right for you somewhere over Christmas, so do come along and help us celebrate. There is a list of services for the whole benefice on the notice board at the lych gate as well as on the website (see above) and a benefice Christmas card with all the Christmas services shown will be dropping through your letterboxes in the next few weeks.

Midnight Communion this year will be held at Chieveley Church at 11pm and at Peasemore Church, starting at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve. Everyone is welcome.

Don't forget, West Ilsley has a service at 11am on Christmas day this year, so do drop in to All Saints' for an hour while the turkey is roasting.

### Dates for your Diary

Sunday 10th February 2013 – join us for a Pre-Lent Lunch in the Village Hall.

Saturday 8th June 2013 – Concert in church - further details next year.

Please write these dates in your new diaries.

### 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 (our Rector) on 01635 247566 or email him at cwando@btinternet.com

**We wish everyone a very Happy Christmas.**  
*Kay and Ian Fewtrell-Smith*



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 Phone Jolyon Tidmarsh on 07979 031 273  
 Or email him at secretary@blewburybrassband.org.uk  
 Or visit www.blewburybrassband.org.uk

Aldworth Saturday Market "SPECIALS" in December

**EVERY Saturday:** "le bistro mobile"- Jean-marc (previously of The Swan @ Compton) - will bring his delicious, freshly prepared foods e.g. Antipasti: olives etc., cheeses, cooked foods/bistro dishes, salads, breads, herbs & spices etc. See the website: [www.lebistromobile.com](http://www.lebistromobile.com) or contact Jean-marc on 07970 4846 42

Also: Janet & John Allen will have potted plants, Christmas wreaths & trees etc.

**8<sup>th</sup> December:** Lucie will sell her Birch Cottage Breads and Karen will sell her Phoenix Cards.

**15<sup>th</sup> December:** Felicity's preserves & "Christmas gift packs". Also, Twinks will bring her beautiful African Crafts - very special Christmas gifts!

**29<sup>th</sup> December:** CLOSED.

Please support ASM and our stallholders. New stallholders welcome!  
 Details: 01635 578090

Roger Stowell  
**Window cleaning**  
 gutter clearance and general odd jobs  
**Telephone 01869 600628**

## WHO TO CONTACT

### VILLAGE HALL

Ros Duckworth-Bookings-281471 rosduckworth@btinternet.com  
 Rates: £7.50/hr Villagers £15/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.

### 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](mailto: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

Need help looking after the horses?  
 Or a hand taking the dogs for a walk?  
 Cats home alone and need feeding?  
 Ironing pile growing?  
 Going away and want a house sitter?  
 Contact Hayley Watling 07947 188069  
 01635 281260  
[hayleybird22@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hayleybird22@hotmail.co.uk)

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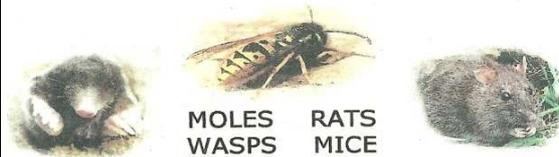
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fitness

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every Thursday from 7 – 7.45pm  
£5 per session  
Please call Mandy on 07782 109410 for further  
details or email [jessie01@gotadsl.co.uk](mailto:jessie01@gotadsl.co.uk)  
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# MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

Many thanks to all of the following for their donations - we've raised £400 this year!

Wishing a Merry Christmas to all our friends and neighbours in the village  
Angela, Mark and Storm Ryan



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



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone  
from  
Mel and Andrea Cook



June & Ronnie Cook, wish all our friends and villagers a very merry Christmas and a happy & healthy new year. xxx



Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a happy 2013.  
Ed, Juliet, Fiona & ? Ryder

A very merry Christmas to all our friends and neighbours in West Ilsley. Best wishes from Ralph, Louise and Mark Taylor.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2013,  
love the Carringtons

Wishing all in West Ilsley a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. With love from Philip, Amanda, Ellen, Alice and William Knight

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year  
From Rollo and Ros Duckworth

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to all our friends in West Ilsley!  
With love and best wishes from Sue, Hugh, Gee & Harry xx

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone  
From Sue, Paul, Tom, Jack and Dan Simmons

Merry Christmas and our very best wishes for 2013  
From Neil, Mandy, Andrew and Briony Slater



Wishing everyone in West Ilsley a very Merry Christmas and a fantastic New Year ahead from  
Peter, Jacqui, Hayley, Wes, Chris & Freckle (The Harrow)

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

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy & healthy New Year.  
From the Beaumont Family xx

Wishing everyone in West Ilsley a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2013!  
Best wishes from Nigel, Alison, Sophie, Adam and Dilly!

Shirley Gore would like to wish all her friends and neighbours a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year

Yuletide greetings to the merry villagers of West Ilsley with love from The Axtells

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all  
from Mike, Alison, Calum and Drew Farwell

Wishing everyone in West Ilsley a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.  
Alec & Wendy xx

We would like to wish all of our friends in West Ilsley a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2013  
Ally & John Mountford

Polly and Alan would like to wish everyone a Bonza Christmas and a Hoon New Year! After all the excitement and change of 2012, we hope 2013 will bring everyone Peace, Health and Happiness. Thinking of you all!



Happy Christmas to all our friends in West Ilsley. Have fun and success in 2013  
Best wishes Alison, Steve, Mark and Juliet



A very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR to everyone in West Ilsley who remember me as a friend and/or the Post Mistress for many years. Our best wishes to all your readers from Audrey T and 'my man' Bill



Wishing everyone in West Ilsley a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. With love from Martin, Zu and Kester xxx

Wishing all our friends in the village a very Happy Christmas and fun-filled New Year. Much love from, Justin, Rosanne, Georgia & Honor Pilditch xxx

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our friends and neighbours. With love from Dan, Rachel, Annabelle and Henry Hudson*

*Happy Christmas and a Good New Year to all in West Ilsley!  
Kath & Fred*

Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2013 to you all. Liz, Adrian, Hannah, Matthew and Ben Dray

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to everyone  
John Verney

*Wishing everyone Merry Christmas & Happy New Year  
From Denis, Barbara & Charlie*



Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2013 to all our friends in West Ilsley.  
Neil, Cathy, Lucy and Thomas



**AND A VERY HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2013**