

West Ilsley News

JANUARY 2024

www.westilsley.org

Editors

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Deadline for the next publication is:
5 pm on Thursday 25th January

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

JANUARY

19th Village hall - Ugandan School talk
20th Pang Valley flood exhibition (see WIN 12/23)

FEBRUARY

8th First aid training in hall (see WIN 12/23)

FULL COUNCIL MEETING DATES

7.30 in the VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday 20th February 2024
Tuesday 14th May 2024, 7:00pm - Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
Tuesday 14th May 2024, 8:15pm - Annual Parish Meeting

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

We kindly ask residents to report any potholes they come across to West Berkshire Council. Your assistance in identifying and reporting these issues will contribute to the maintenance and improvement of our local roads. These can be reported through the council's 'report a problem' page

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

Dr. Sarah Marshman PSLCC

Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

COUNTRY NOTES

The resident birds are quiet, except for the robin who has persisted with its warbling subsong throughout the winter, cheering us during the shortest days. Beyond the garden it is the winter visitors that are prominent. Fieldfare and redwing haunt the hedgerows, a small flock of golden plover wheel across the sky between Abbot's Heath and Sheep Down, short-eared owls sleep away the short daylight hours in the long rough grass between the racehorse gallops, awaiting the return of the half-light to resume their hunt for voles.

Ruddy topped stubble turnips bulge from the earth, the skin of their bellies a pallid white that have never seen the sun, now pushed into the light by rain swelled roots. I cut a slice; it tastes of rain with a hint of white pepper. Along the dark edge of The Heath a pale shape, wraith like in the predawn light, binoculars reveal a white fallow doe, she senses my presence and without appearing to move, melts into the wood and is gone.

A barn owl, tinged orange by the light from the newly risen sun, flies low over the rough grass alongside Park Wood, a silent buoyant flight, a brief hover, an unrewarded swoop and then, passing low over my head, crosses the road to continue its hunt. From just inside the wood a willow tit scolds, tzi tzi tzi tzi. Along Old Street a small party of long tailed tits bobble through the thorns, continually calling to each other as they go, like so many small children anxious not to become separated, "wait for me, come this way".

Geoff Wond

JANUARY AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Sunday 7th Christingle Service at 11am
(see below)

Sunday 14th Holy Communion at 8.30am

Sunday 21st Communion at 9.30am

Sunday 28th *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-notices/this-week> for other services in the benefice during January.

Carol Service

The church was filled for our annual Carol Service this year, where items were brought for Eight Bells Mental Health and the collection, which amounted to £197.50, was sent to Home-Start West Berkshire for the Baby Bank in Newbury. Thank you to all of you who gave so generously.

A Big Thank You

As always, we would like to thank all those who have contributed to All Saints' in any way this year, whether financially, in beautifully decorating or cleaning the church or keeping the churchyard tidy. Also, to our

sidesmen, church wardens and organist who keep the services running smoothly and of course to our wonderful clergy who are happy to come in all weathers.

Christingle

Although this service actually starts at 11am on Sunday 7th January, you are invited to come at 10.30am for coffee and to create your own Christingle, if you would like.

Change of plan.

Although we had originally intended to hold a Winter Warmer in February, it has now been decided to hold a Church Walk in March, instead. Watch out for further details, although it's likely that bacon butties will be involved!

Private Prayer

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

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.

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 – revdidales@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

FOREIGN COINS

A big Thankyou to everyone who dug out their old foreign coins for [Family of Hope](#), which included 2 anonymous bags in my letter box. We made £164.43 in total, and I'm sure it'll go to good use! Andy

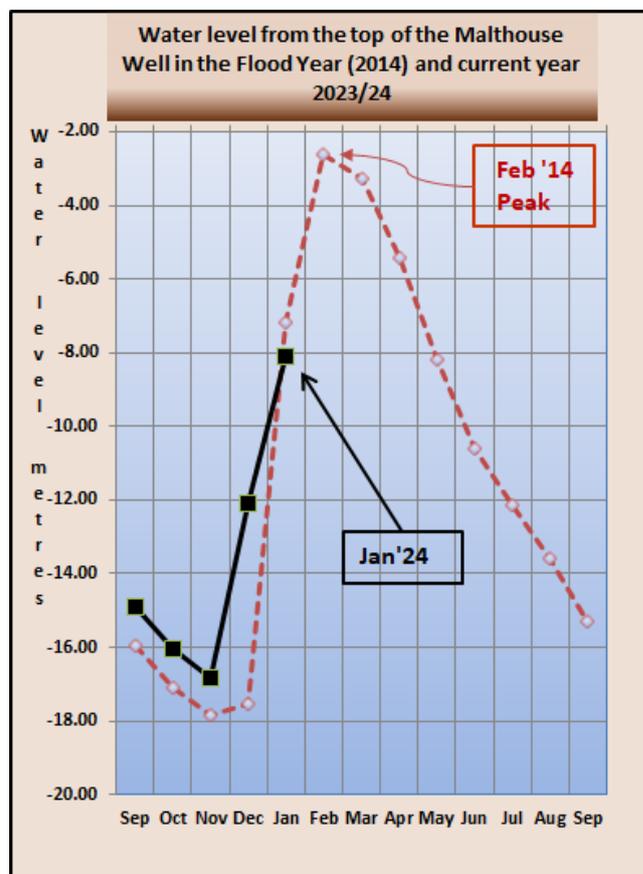
MALTHOUSE WELL

Drama occurred at the Malthouse well in December when the measuring gauge appeared to be giving false readings and was stuck at around 12 metres (approx. 39.4ft). Experts had to be called in mid-December to recalibrate the entire gauge mechanism. As a result the well reading appears to suddenly jump to about 8 metres (approx. 26.3 ft) below ground level. Following the very wet Autumn we've had this is quite a

significant rise, and gives us less headroom when considering the 5.5 metre (approx. 18.1ft) critical level when some cellars may start to get wet.

Thankfully the rainfall in December has been around its average range of about 70mm (approx. 3in) and this has helped to slow the ground water rise somewhat. We also need the January weather to be kind to us rain-wise and the Met Office long term forecast for January is currently not indicating that we should expect a mega amount of rain in January. For those amongst us who were here in January 2014 they may remember that we had well over double the average rainfall in that month and this boosted the ground water level to give rise to the flood conditions.

The graph below shows the difference between now and when we had the floods in 2014. The groundwater level is currently about 1 metre (3.1ft approx) lower now than back in January 2014 and provided the rain gods are kind to us hopefully we will be OK.



ILSLEYS NEWSLETTER

Written by two Year 6 and a Year 5

The Year 6s were given the opportunity to enjoy Bikeability level two this month. It was a two day course where they were out on the roads, practising and developing their skills. They learnt about all the different positions they needed to know about and more. They all very much enjoyed this learning experience.

On the 1st December, some of the classes watched an assembly about the NSPCC pants rule. Pants stands for: privates are private, always remember your body belongs to you, no means no, talk about secrets that upset you and speak up - someone can help you. This let us understand the rules to keep us safe and to make sure everyone feels comfortable.

Every class has been working very hard so, in a curriculum assembly, each class had the chance to demonstrate all the hard work they had been doing over the last two terms. All the other classes, teachers and parents really enjoyed listening to these. It is great to see what each class has been learning!

On 8th of December, we had a Christmas day where all the children came in with a festive jumper to welcome the Christmas season. We wanted to remember all of our jumpers so we took a whole school photo of them. The pictures can be found on the Ilsleys blog; it was great to see all the jumpers and to raise money for Save the Children.

As part of our 'The Apprentice' topic, Year 5 and 6 were honoured to have six inspirational women come in to talk about what jobs and businesses they all had. Each child was put into groups of two or four and rotated around the hall to learn about each woman's job. It was really interesting for the class to learn about all the various jobs you can have.

Every year, the school goes to the Corn Exchange to see a fantastic Pantomime. This year's production was Beauty and the Beast. We went on 12th of December and thoroughly enjoyed it all. In the interval, we even got ice cream!

On 14th of December, we had Parent Welcome where parents looked at our school books. Parents of all classes came in for ten minutes after school to examine their child's books. It was great for the parents to see their children's books.

On the 15th of December, it was Christmas Carousel Day where we enjoy lots of Christmas activities. We went around the classrooms in our school houses enjoy cooking, arts and crafts. It was a great day to bond with the new receptions and have a day of Christmas fun.

For a few weeks, Arctic Class have practised the Nativity. This year, the play was called Prickly Hay. On the 18th of December, the play was performed and lots of parents came to watch the children perform. The parents loved it!

The children were very lucky to have a whole school Christmas lunch on 19th of December. The options for the lunch were: turkey or veggie and the choice of pudding was apple crumble with mincemeat or ice cream and cookie. Later that day, the children in Year 5 and 6 created a pop up shop to sell a product of their group's choice. This is because their topic is 'The Apprentice' and they learnt all about money

management and how to start a business. Therefore, they ran their own shop at the end of the day to sell the things they had made!

On the last day of school this term, the classes participated in a whole school assembly where they each shared a Christmas presentation. Each class shared a song or poem for the parents.

From the whole of The Ilsleys Primary School, Happy New Year!

WHO TO CONTACT

DEFIBRILLATOR is outside the village hall - code: C159

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

PARISH COUNCIL

Council members are:

Alan Bloor alan.bloor@westilsley.org

Clive Hooker clive.hooker@westilsley.org

Katy Morris katy.morris@westilsley.org

Alan Muir alan.muir@westilsley.org

Tim Pearey timothy.pearey@westilsley.org

Graham Woods graham.woods@westilsley.org

07905 558884

Sarah Marshman – Clerk clerk@westilsley.org

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT – Laura Farris

laura.farris.mp@parliament.uk 01635-551070

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 membership and enquiries email -

tennis.bookings@westilsley.org

Book and play without joining via

westilsleytennis.jezzam.com

VILLAGE HALL

Bookings & enquiries:

Any new bookings should now be done via the village

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

Or by email to: village.hall@westilsley.org

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

Rates: £10.00/hour for villagers and £12/hour non villagers.

WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL – REPORT A PROBLEM:

<https://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>