

# West Ilsley News

JANUARY 2025

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

Editors

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Deadline for the next publication is:  
5 pm on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 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

A big **thank you** to Alan Beaumont who, for another year, has printed off the monthly WIN and delivered it to those households which aren't on the WIN email list. 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](mailto:westilsleynews@westilsley.org) – help to save paper and shoe leather!

## What's on in West Ilsley

### JANUARY

10 <sup>th</sup>	Nutrition talk from Steve Cole – village hall
19 <sup>th</sup>	Village Hall committee AGM 4.30pm in VH

## FULL COUNCIL MEETING DATES

**7.30 in the VILLAGE HALL**

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 November PC meeting are on the website – or click [here](#)

## INFORMATION FROM SCOTTISH AND SOUTHERN ELECTRICITY NETWORKS.

Do you need extra support in a power cut?

Do you live with a chronic illness, care for young children or someone with dementia, or have communication needs?

Register for free Priority Services and we can provide you with:

- Regular updates
- Safety advice
- Communication in large print, Braille, alternative languages or BSL
- Dedicated 24-hour helpline

Visit: [thepsr.co.uk](http://thepsr.co.uk)

or call on: 0800 294 3259

## NOTE FROM WEST BERKS

Recycling household batteries

We now collect the following household batteries from the kerbside: D, C, AA, AAA, AAAA (1.5-volt), A23 (12-volt), PP3 (9-volt), CR2032 (3-volt), and LR44 (1.5-volt).

Put your used batteries in a see-through bag and place them sealed on top of your black wheelie bin ready to be collected on your relevant collection day. Our new waste collection vehicles have special compartments designed just for these batteries, ensuring they're safely recycled. (NiMH battery terminals should be taped over because they may not be fully discharged.)

## VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

Happy New Year from all of us on the village hall committee - we hope you all had an amazing Christmas!

Thank you so much to everyone who came along to the Christmas Jumper Party at the beginning of December - it was great to see so many of you getting ready for Christmas. Whilst we couldn't light the Christmas tree together because of the weather, I'm sure everyone still had fun celebrating together.



We look forward to seeing many of you in the New Year for our first event of the year! - A nutrition talk from Steve Cole.

If you are interested in nutrition and gut health, this will prove to be a fascinating evening!

Steve's talk at 7:30pm on Friday 10th January will attempt to distinguish aspects of nutrition science that are based on research from now widespread misinformation, and which are not. In this context, he will also discuss the evolving science of the gut microbiome.

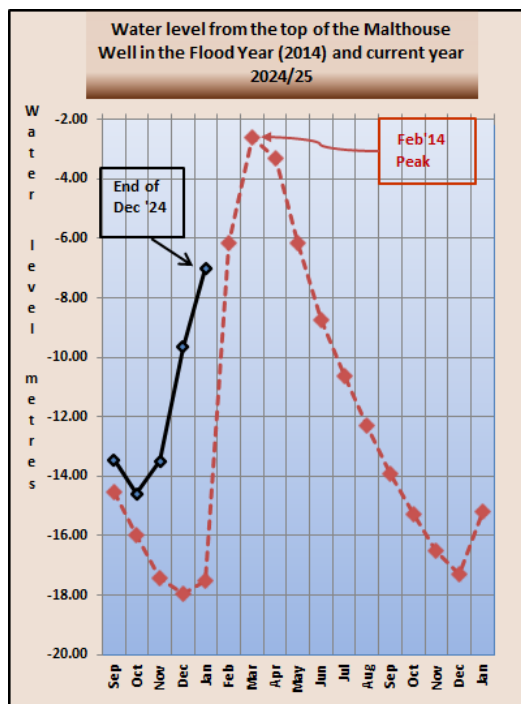
We hope to see you there.

The Village Hall Management Committee  
Amanda, Jo, Louise, Matt, Pete and Tegan

## MALTHOUSE WELL

Unlike the drama we had in December '23, the well measuring gauge is still working normally at the moment. At the end of December '24 the Malthouse well water level reads about 7.0 metres below ground level and so it has only risen about 2.66 metres during December. However, the rise over the month has not been consistent and during the first week of December the groundwater was rising at a rapid rate of about 1.25 metres a week, but by the last week of December this increase had reduced to around 0.25 metres per week. This suggests that the September rain deluge has worked through the system and at the beginning of the New Year we are back to a more normal increase for this time of year.

As the graph below shows the ground water level is still very high for this time of year and certainly much higher than it was at the end of December '13. It really shows that we need the weather to be kind to us in January and February. We are not out of the woods yet!



## JANUARY AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Family Service & Baptism at 11.00am**  
**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Communion at 8.30am**  
**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Communion at 9.30am**  
**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> No service at 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 January.

### Carol Service

The church was filled for our annual Carol Service held just before Christmas, ably taken by church warden Alexandra, with readings from members of the community. Baby items were brought for Home-Start West Berkshire Baby Bank and the collection, which amounted to £222.45, was also donated there. Thank you to all of you who gave so generously.

### Café in All Saints' Church

Our next monthly cafe will take place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January between 10.00am and 11.00am. Donations go to a different charity each month. Last month we supported Home Start-West Berkshire Baby Bank and £75 was donated. Everyone is welcome to join us for coffee, cake and a chat!

### Confirmation Service

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January the Deanery Confirmation Service will take place at St Lawrence's Church, Hungerford at 4pm. Two members of our community will be confirmed and it would be lovely if you were able to go along and support them.

### 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.

### Dates for your Diary

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025 at 11am - Christingle Service  
Put this date 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 dusk.

### 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](mailto:edownlandrector@gmail.com)

**Associate Priest:** Revd Douglas Dales – 01635 247404 – [revdjdales@gmail.com](mailto:revdjdales@gmail.com)

**East Downland Benefice Office:** 07957 458107 - [eastdownland@btinternet.com](mailto:eastdownland@btinternet.com) – Usually manned on Thursday & Friday mornings between 9am and 1pm.  
Kay and Ian Fewtrell-Smith

#### **COUNTRY NOTES**

The day dawns grey, windless, the air cold thick with moisture. Mist settles on the pendant twigs of a weeping birch, travels unseen down to the twig tips where it coalesces into crystal balls full of reflections, balls that grow imperceptibly until they reach a critical mass, succumb to gravity, and fall to the ground. Shed tears taking their predictions of the future with them to the earth where, in the spring they will be drawn in by the tree's rootlets, transported up to new spring leaves that will return this moisture back into the air, purified, pristine water, cleansed in the eternal process of natural recycling. Geoff Wond

PS Pleased to say that we raised £150 for the Berkshire Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust, half from donations and half from bar takings. Geoff

#### **WHO TO CONTACT**

**DEFIBRILLATOR** is outside the village hall - code: C159

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR** – Carolyne Culver 07976 374146  
[Carolyne.Culver1@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:Carolyne.Culver1@westberks.gov.uk)

#### **PARISH COUNCIL**

Council members are:

**Alan Bloor** [alan.bloor@westilsley.org](mailto:alan.bloor@westilsley.org)

**Katy Morris** [katy.morris@westilsley.org](mailto:katy.morris@westilsley.org)

**Tim Pearey** [timothy.pearey@westilsley.org](mailto:timothy.pearey@westilsley.org)

**Graham Woods** [graham.woods@westilsley.org](mailto:graham.woods@westilsley.org)

07905 558884

**Rachel Hudson** [rachel.hudson@westilsley.org](mailto:rachel.hudson@westilsley.org)

**Johnny Rayfield** [jonny.rayfield@westilsley.org](mailto:jonny.rayfield@westilsley.org)

**Sarah Marshman – Clerk** [clerk@westilsley.org](mailto:clerk@westilsley.org)

**PATIENT REPRESENTATION GROUP** rep is Joe Clerkin  
(01635) 281150 or [joeclerkin@georgeweb.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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://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>