

West Ilsley News

MARCH 2024

www.westilsley.org

Editors

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Deadline for the next publication is:

5 pm on Monday 25th March

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

MARCH

3 rd	Charity Clay Shoot in aid of All Saints Church
17 th	Village walk
22 nd	Bingo in the village hall

FULL COUNCIL MEETING DATES

7.30 in the VILLAGE HALL

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

Tuesday 14th May 2024, 8:15pm - Annual Parish Meeting

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

1. There is a vacancy on the Parish Council. You can read the [formal notice](#) on our website. This notice allows the parish to call for a by-election should the electors wish to do so. If a by-election is not called within the timescale given below, the Council will be able to co-opt an individual to fill the vacancy. Should this happen, the Council will advertise the vacancy.
2. Update from West Berkshire Council: On Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 March 2024 there will be a soil

conditioner giveaway event at the Padworth Integrated Waste Management Facility (IWMF), Padworth Lane, RG7 4JF, between 10am and 4pm where residents will be able to pick up Veolia's locally produced soil conditioner for free! In addition, we will have recycling collection points for old or unwanted vapes, small electricals and batteries. For more information please see the [West Berkshire Council website](#).

3. There is now a second vacancy on the Parish Council. You can read the [formal notice](#) on our website. This notice allows the parish to call for a by-election should the electors wish to do so. If a by-election is not called within the timescale given below, the Council will be able to co-opt an individual to fill the vacancy. Should this happen, the Council will advertise the vacancy.
4. Information from West Berkshire Council: There is something called the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF), which is a Government fund for small rural businesses. Businesses can apply for between £10k - £40k to invest in a project that will help stimulate growth, diversification and employment in our rural communities. The scheme is open for a year, and the Council will be allocating funding on a competitive, rolling-programme basis, to the best applications every couple of months. To read more about the scheme and apply see:

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

Kind regards,

Sarah

Dr. Sarah Marshman PSLCC

Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

West Ilsley Parish Council

Correspondence address: Wilkins Centre, Burrell Road, Compton, Newbury, RG20 6NP

COUNCILLOR CAROLYNE CULVER UPDATE

I'm writing this on 19th February. The biggest issue at the council now is the budget for 2024/25. The draft budget was discussed in detail at Scrutiny Commission in early February and will be debated and voted on at Full Council on 29th February. There was a good response to the public consultation and as a result the council has decided not to go ahead with cutting funds for bins and gully clearance. I think the flooding concentrated people's minds when it came to the latter proposal! There is still a longer-term debate to be had about the bins. There is some support among town and parish councils to take over the litter and dog bin contracts because of dissatisfaction with the company running the WBC litter bin contract. I made the point at Scrutiny Commission that if this happens it needs to be planned for so that town and parish

councils have time to factor it into their annual precept setting.

The council also decided not to close one of its three care homes, but it is still considering offloading them all to a private company. I have heard claims that the private sector can run them more efficiently, but the case against is that if the council has no care homes of our own in the future, we will have no choice but to pay whatever the private sector decides to charge. The budget for adult social care already far outstrips what the council spends on any other service. I often talk to councillors from other parts of the country and they have told me we should keep hold of our care homes because if we don't we will pay the price in the long term. This is the challenge for councils across the country – funds are tight so there is a pressure to cut spending now, even if that creates challenges for the future.

The council has started work on documenting the damage caused by the recent flooding and learning lessons for the future. It is still trying to identify at least 50 properties that were affected by internal flooding so that it can qualify for a government grant to distribute to those houses. The irony is that some people could really benefit from such funding, but other people don't declare that they were affected because they don't want it to increase their insurance premiums. If there wasn't the 50-property threshold set by the government, it wouldn't be a problem. More information here:

<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/flooding#flood-recovery-grants>

If you own property next to a ditch in an area liable to flooding, it is worth reading the 'Ditches Explained' pdf on this page <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/flood-risk-management> It doesn't sound terribly exciting but you might be surprised to learn that you have some responsibility for the ditch maintenance. This doesn't necessarily come up in house surveys and residents can be happily oblivious to this issue until there is a problem with flooding and they find out that they should have been looking after the ditch.

Best wishes

Councillor Carolyne Culver, Ridgeway Ward, West Berkshire Council

Chairman, Scrutiny Commission

07976 374146

Carolyne.culver1@westberks.gov.uk

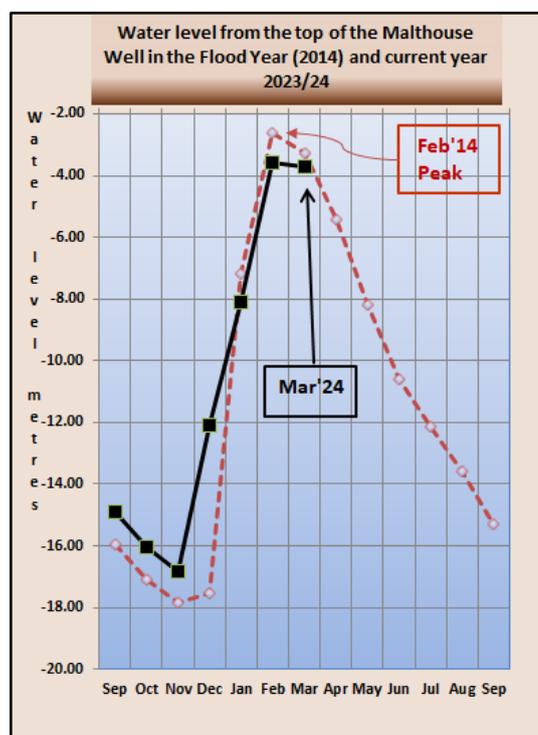
MALTHOUSE WELL.

Well, the rain in February wasn't kind to us and we had over 90+mm rain in the month. This is about a third more than the long-term average for the month and it made its presence felt in the Malthouse well readings which didn't drop much at all during February. At the beginning of the month the Malthouse well level was

around 3.6 metres (approx. 11.8ft) below ground level and at the end of the month it had dropped by only about 100mm (approx. 4in) to around 3.70 metres (approx. 12.1ft) below ground level.

Thankfully, we haven't equalled (yet?) the high ground water level reached in 2014, and although the level has slightly dropped during the month it hasn't helped those in the village with cellars, which can still be seen periodically pumping out water. So far, our sewers and surface water drainage systems seem to be coping. However, the situation is much more serious in East Ilsley where, as we go to press, it is touch and go as to whether their sewerage system will be overwhelmed by ground water. If so, they will have a distinctly unpleasant situation with sewage flowing out of their sewers and into the streets.

Hopefully as we go into March the weather will get warmer and the vegetation will start growing which will remove water from the ground. This will help ameliorate the effect upon the groundwater level.



COUNTRY NOTES

March is the month of the hare. An animal of the chase, elevated by law to the status of game, a level above the vermin status of its cousin the rabbit. Over the centuries it has been coursed with gaze hounds, hunted by beagles, and shot. Fortunately hares are fecund, if the habitat is suitable, they will give birth to three or four litters per year, averaging three in a litter, so between nine and twelve leverets can be born to a single jill in one year. The death rate is high, foxes and cars the main predators. The brown hare is in decline in England, but these Berkshire Downs are an exception, Jacks and Jills thrive on these hills.

The hare figures large in folklore. Seventeen Devon churches have a motif of hares carved into their roof bosses. The motif depicts three hares running in a circle, they share three ears which form a triangle at its centre, there is a paradox here, although only three ears are depicted each hare has two. Ironically Devon is a county where the hare may now be extinct. Some think this motif represents the holy trinity, others that it originated in China and travelled west along the Silk Road, on its journey it appears in the religions of Buddhism, Paganism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Geoff Wond

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Thank you to everyone who came to the Everyday First Aid Training organised and delivered by Connecting Communities Berkshire (CCB) on Thursday 8th February. This informative, engaging and potentially lifesaving training event was fully booked with many residents of West Ilsley in attendance as well as some participants travelling from as far afield as Reading to attend. A range of scenarios were covered which included burns, bleeding heavily, choking, unresponsive and breathing, unresponsive and not breathing and how to use a defibrillator.

If you were unable to attend you may find it useful to download The British Red Cross app to keep handy on your phone. It gives clear and up to date advice on how to deliver everyday first aid (some advice has changed since previous training attended by some people).

Connecting Communities Berkshire (CCB) and The British Red Cross may be able to deliver further training sessions, possibly in the Autumn if the demand is sufficient so look out for further training opportunities in the WIN.

On Friday, 9th February, it was wonderful to see West Ilsley Village Hall jam-packed, with standing room only, as over 70 people were in attendance for Geoff Wond's captivating and fascinating talk about Owls- Facts, Fiction, Myths and Legends.



There were many interesting facts shared by Geoff such as that an owl's eyes weigh up to 5% of its total body weight; this may not sound like a lot but for comparison the

equivalent of this would be that a person weighing 80 kg would have eyes that weigh 2kg each! Geoff also discussed the five types of owls found in Britain: The British Barn Owl, Tawny Owl, Short-eared Owl, Long-eared Owl, and the Little Owl and the sad fact that all five species are causing some degree of concern to conservationists. We are very lucky to have someone living in our village who is so knowledgeable about these magnificent creatures as well as being passionate and proactive about their conservation and we are grateful to Geoff for the time he took to share his knowledge with us.



The bar was busy and it must be said that Matt's 'Owld Fashioned Cocktail' went down a 'tweet'! Half of the bar profits went to the Bucks, Berks and Oxon Wildlife Trust. Thank you to everyone who came and donated so generously to this very worthy cause. If you were not able to attend and would like to find out more or give a donation their website is:

<https://www.bbowt.org.uk/>

Thank you for your continuing support and look out for further Village Hall events in the WIN and also on our Facebook page: West Ilsley Village Hall Events The Village Hall Management Committee (Amanda, Jo, Louise, Matt, Pete and Tegan)

DEFIBRILLATOR

Louise Beaumont

Just a few words to add regarding the defibrillator in our village.

Following on from the British Red Cross First aid course recently held in the village hall we were informed about a link to 'The Defib Finder' a link to which you can find your nearest public Defibrillator should you ever need one or just familiarise yourselves with where local ones are:

<https://www.defibfinder.uk/>

One important thing to bear in mind (which was emphasised on the first aid course) in the event of an emergency YOU ARE ADVISED TO CALL 999 BEFORE DOING ANYTHING AND THEY WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE CODE OF YOUR NEAREST DEFIBRILLATOR (so you don't need to memorise it).

Thank you to the Parish Council for paying for the maintenance of the defibrillator and to the Village Hall for providing the electricity, both ensuring that it is ready for use in an emergency.



MARCH AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Sunday 3rd Morning Service at 11am
Sunday 10th Holy Communion at 8.30am
Sunday 17th Morning Service at 9.30am
Sunday 24th No service in All Saints'
Monday 25th Service of Compline at 8pm
Sunday 31st Family Communion at 9.30am

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

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

Lent Groups

These take place on Tuesdays at 8.00pm (continuing on 5th March) at The Vicarage in Chieveley with a repeat session on Wednesdays at 9.45am at St Mary's Church, Chieveley. This year the groups will focus on the book written by the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, 'Exploring God's Mercy'. The evening sessions will finish with a short service of Compline and the morning ones take place before Holy Communion. Everyone is very welcome to join either of the groups.

Clay Pigeon Shoot

The Clay Pigeon Shoot will take place on Sunday 3rd March. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Richard Gore on 07710 171828 or email him on richard.gore1@outlook.com for further details.

Café in All Saints' Church

Our monthly church cafe continues on Sunday 10th March between 10.00am and 11.00am. Donations go to a different charity each month. Everyone is welcome to join us for coffee, cake and a chat!

Village Spring Charity Walk

Bring your family and friends for a circular route up and along the Ridgeway on Sunday 17th March. Meet at Downs View at 10am for hot drinks and bacon butties before walking at 10.30am. Contact Alexandra at aleaxandeaxtell@me.com or phone 201306 to help with catering. Donations will go to Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

Saturday 23rd March – Easter Church and Churchyard Tidy-up at 10am. As usual we hope you can spare a little time to help with cleaning, cutting and trimming, in time for Easter.

Holy Week 25th - 28th March

There will be short reflective services twice a day at 12 noon and at 8pm during Holy Week at different churches in the benefice – a time to sit quietly and bring a period of calmness to our usually hectic lives. Details will be on the Easter card, which will be coming through your door soon, but West Ilsley will be holding a service on Monday 25th at 8pm. (See services above).

Good Friday Walk

This year the Service of Prayer at the Cross will take place at Peasemore at 2pm after the walk, which will again be led by Lesley Chandler. We will start at Farnborough Church at 9am and for further details please ring Lesley on 07767 355435.

Easter Services-31st March



All Saints' will be holding a Family Communion service on Easter Sunday at 9.30am – we hope to see you there! There

will be a variety of services here and in the rest of the benefice during Holy Week, on Good Friday and on Easter Day, so do look on the church notice board, on the benefice website (see above) or the Easter card for times and places.

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.

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

ILSLEYS NEWSLETTER

It's February and The Ilsleys have been busy with lots of new activities this month. We hope you enjoy reading about this as much as we enjoyed participating.

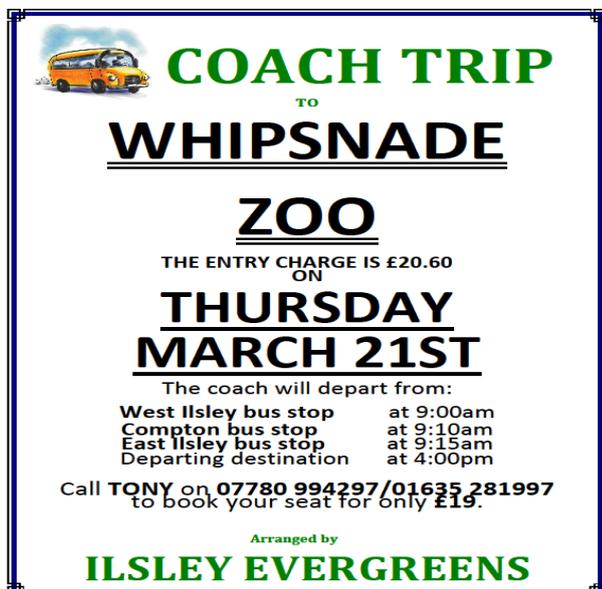
On 2nd February, some Year 4s were selected to participate in a Maths Challenge at St. Gabriel's school. They had multiple questions to answer in a limited amount of time in pairs. They all enjoyed this opportunity thoroughly. Also, some Year 5s took part the following week but the questions more difficult.

As you may know from previous newsletters, every two weeks our youngest class offer parents with younger children the chance to come in and enjoy a 'Stay and Play' morning in Arctic Class. This is a great opportunity for the children to get used to their new surroundings and learn about their future school! If

you are wondering when our next 'Stay and Play' is, it will next take place on the 4th March, and the theme will be 'In the Garden'.

On 23rd February, Atlantic Class (our oldest class) were invited to Hampstead Norreys for a day based on the Ancient Mayan civilization; this is both Kestrels' and Atlantic's topic. There will be lots more about this in our next newsletter so watch this space!

Written by 2 Year 6 children and a Year 5



COACH TRIP
TO
WHIPSNADE
ZOO
THE ENTRY CHARGE IS £20.60
ON
THURSDAY
MARCH 21ST
The coach will depart from:
West Ilsley bus stop at 9:00am
Compton bus stop at 9:10am
East Ilsley bus stop at 9:15am
Departing destination at 4:00pm
Call **TONY** on **07780 994297/01635 281997**
to book your seat for only **£19.**
Arranged by
ILSLEY EVERGREENS



Ilsley Evergreens Annual General Meeting took place at the Wilkins Centre in Compton on Wednesday the 21st of February.

The attending members voted in a new management committee and discussed the coach trips for this year. The first three trips will be;

March 21st ~ Whipsnade Zoo. Group rate £20.60

April 17th ~ Wells

May 16th ~ Kew Gardens. Group rate £14.90

The dates for the further trips will be confirmed at the Management Committee meeting on the 7th March.

A Family Bingo Evening is booked for Friday the 8th of March in Compton Village Hall starting at 7:30pm, so why not come along and enjoy the Best of Bingo with Great Prizes and a Super Raffle. Please look out for the Ilsley Evergreens Posters in Compton Village Shop, Compton Village Hall, Wilkins Centre and on Notice Boards in your area.

Hoping to see you soon!! Tony Elliott ~ Secretary

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>



EASTER
FAMILY PRIZE
BINGO
WEST ILSLEY VILLAGE HALL
FRIDAY 22nd MARCH
DOORS OPEN 7:00
EYES DOWN 7:30
GREAT PRIZES
AND A
SUPER RAFFLE
COME ALONG AND ENJOY
THE BEST OF BINGO