

# West Ilsley News

www.westilsley.org

April 2015

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Deadline for the next publication is:

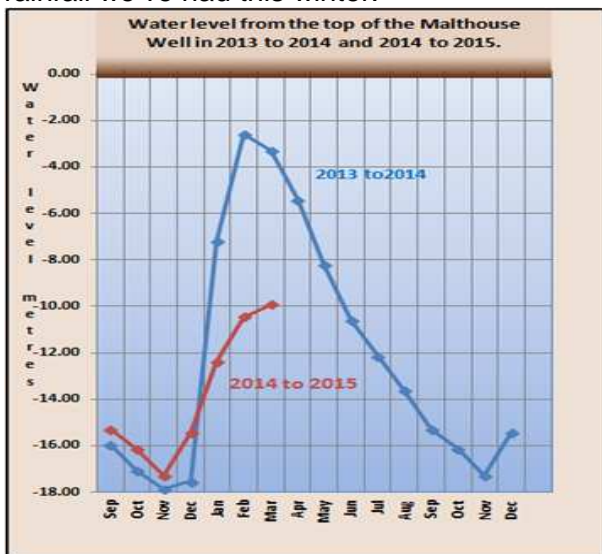
5pm on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April

## DIARY APRIL

11 <sup>th</sup>	Harrow Grand National day
18 <sup>th</sup>	Graveyard working party
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Harrow St George's day
29 <sup>th</sup>	Harrow Quiz night

## MALTHOUSE WELL

At the beginning of April the good news from the Malthouse well continues. In March the water level only rose by about 0.5 metres (20 ins) and it currently stands at about 10 metres (32 ft) below ground level. The graph below really shows the difference between this winter and the last and reflects the lower rainfall we've had this winter.



## DEFIBRILLATOR Alan Beaumont

The defibrillator cabinet has now been installed on the external wall of the Village Hall (near the newspaper store). It is locked for security but in the event of an emergency the code is **C159** to access the defibrillator. Please take the time to familiarise yourself with its location and the opening mechanism.

The defibrillator will be registered with the local ambulance service.

A number of residents (around 40) attended a training session organised by Clive Hooker and run by Tony Whiting last month, which was excellent and very informative. Essentially, in an emergency situation you are advised to call 999 and ask a neighbour to get the defibrillator whilst you perform CPR (primarily chest compressions). The defibrillator has easy to follow instructions with voice prompts throughout the whole process – it will NOT shock unless needed.

We are likely to be running another awareness session and we will keep you informed via the WIN.

Again thanks for everyone's kind and generous donations and the hard efforts by the girls (Adele, Barbara, Clare, June, Louise and Mel) in raising the necessary funds.

## COUNTRY NOTES

14th March

Five hares on Hernehill Down, four males chasing a female.

For ten minutes she led them a merry chase. Running in circles and figures of eight, slowing down, speeding up and sometimes stopping. Playing "hard to get". When her pursuers got too close she kicked out, puffs of white fur dislodged by the sharp claws on her powerful hind legs, blew away in the wind.

Then suddenly they all stopped. She sat on her haunches, her forefeet punching the air in a pedalling motion like a boxer with a punch ball. This behaviour normally involves two animals standing on their hind legs and "boxing" each other, a female fighting off the attentions of the male. On this occasion it appeared to be a warning not to approach any closer.

To see a video of boxing hares: Google *boxende hasen you tube*

All this activity was observed from a distance of forty metres, much closer than one would normally expect to approach active hares. This preoccupation with courtship makes these normally wary creatures seemingly oblivious to the presence of man.

This peculiar behaviour has led to the term "As mad as a March hare" and perhaps the most famous March hare appears in Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland". (*The performance of Michael junior in the recent village pantomime however leads one to believe that perhaps it's The White Rabbit who should receive this sobriquet?*)

Easter Sunday, the date of which is determined by the phases of the moon, occurs on the 5th April this year. This is the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox. Easter is named after the pagan goddess Eostra, the goddess of spring and fertility; feasts were held in her honour on the vernal equinox. Her symbol was the hare and it is this creature and not the rabbit that is the origin of the Easter bunny.

**Perdix**

## SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, GRAVEYARD WORKING PARTY

### Please will you help?

The "green spaces" discussions raised the issue of the state of the graveyard after years of excess chalk from grave digging have been piled up. With the help of Peter Carlisle and his big machine we would like to remove the pile to improve the look of the place.

There are two jobs to be done:

1. Cutting and clearing the blackthorn brushwood from the entry corner right up to the far hedge  
Equipment needed: eye and hand protection, secateurs, loppers, pruning saws
2. Clearing the chalk pile  
Equipment needed: pickaxes, crowbars, spades, shovels, wheelbarrows and/or buckets to move the chalk to Pete's machine.

I've already had a number of volunteers but it's a big task so we could do with knowing a few more will join us. If you're up for it but haven't already done so, please can you give me an early indication (email to WIN) if you think you will be able to help and which job(s) you have the equipment to help with, so that we can plan to get it done as quickly as possible.

Many thanks in advance. Andrea Cook

## VACANCY FOR CLERK TO WEST ILSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Employed by the Parish Council this is an administrative salaried role (£850 per year)

Job description/typical duties:

- ensures that the council conducts its business correctly/lawfully
- administers all the council's paperwork including minute taking and preparing the accounts for audit
- ensures that meeting papers are properly prepared and the public is aware of meeting times
- implements the council's decisions
- oversees the implementation of projects
- keeps asset registers and other legal documents up to date
- training /qualification is available

West Ilsley is a very small council with usually 6 Councillors so paper work and actions are minimal. There are 6 meetings per year on the second Monday of every other month at 7pm lasting 1-1.5 hours. A few hours per week is typical, often less.

*"Being a Clerk puts you in the centre of things".*

It is a rewarding job and includes issues related to our VILLAGE planning, green spaces, transport and safety, environmental, village funding, asset management eg Village Hall and The Church, support to village clubs and donations to good causes. All matters are discussed at the meetings or by e mail. The Clerk has no decision making powers – it is an administrative role only.

If you are interested please contact Alison Banks (outgoing Clerk) on [alison@poplars.org.uk](mailto:alison@poplars.org.uk) or 01635 281705.

## WHATS ON AT THE HARROW

### EASTER WEEKEND

We are open ALL DAY on Good Friday

### EASTER SUNDAY EASTER EGG HUNT

11am - 12 noon

Please let Hayley know that you're joining in the hunt (Weather dependent)

### EASTER MONDAY

We are open from 11am for all you point-2-point goers  
Open ALL DAY

### GRAND NATIONAL DAY

Live on the BIG screen

Saturday 11th April

Racing from 1pm leading up to the big race at 3:30pm

We will be running sweep stakes for all the races  
Lunch served 12-2:30pm



## ST. GEORGE'S DAY

Thursday 23rd April

Celebrating all things truly British

There will be an ale available for

£3.20 a pint

Fish & Chips £9

Beef & Ale Pie £10



## QUIZ NIGHT

Wednesday 29th April

8pm

Food served from 7pm

£3 each to enter



I (Hayley) have bravely or rather, stupidly entered Tough Mudder and am raising money and awareness for the charity Mind. For those of you who haven't heard of Tough Mudder, it is a gruelling 12 mile endurance challenge over obstacles and lots and lots of mud!! Please, please come along and help me raise some money for this great charity.

A massive THANK-YOU to everyone who came along to the Red Nose Day coffee morning and also to those of you who entered the sweep stake in March, we raised a fantastic £122.27 for this worthwhile charity!!

## ALL SAINTS WEST ILSLEY

### April Services

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Good Friday Service of Prayer at the Cross (after Walk)	2.00pm
5 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Day Family Communion	9.30am
12 <sup>th</sup>	BCP Communion	8.30am
19 <sup>th</sup>	*No service in West Ilsley <i>See Café Church below</i>	
26 <sup>th</sup>	Family Service	11.00am

Please see the lych gate notice board for details of other services in the benefice or go online at [www.eastdownland.org.uk](http://www.eastdownland.org.uk)

### Clay Pigeon Shoot

This family day out, organised so brilliantly by Richard and his band of helpers (Steve, Dave and Giles) was a great success and for which we are very grateful. They even organised good weather, the only complaint being the sun shining in shooters' eyes. Over 100 people turned up to enjoy a day of shooting, sustained by a barbecue, with soup, hot and cold drinks and cakes as well, provided by members of All Saints'. All levels of expertise were catered for, with Steve Turner's novice group being well attended. The case of claret for the winning team was hotly contested, with final scores of 126, 127 and 128 from the top three teams, headed by D & J Cole, building contractors from Newbury. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this day in any way.

## Holy Week

There will be a service of Compline (simple evening service of reflection) on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March in All Saints' Church at 8pm. Everyone is welcome to this quiet and lovely service.

### Good Friday Service and Walk

This year we are holding the Service of Prayer at the Cross here in West Ilsley at 2pm. Before that, if you are able, join us for the Walk which starts at



Peasemore Church at 9.15am. We walk first to Beedon, arriving around 10am and leaving there around 10.15am, and hope to reach Farnborough Church by about 12.00pm, where we will have approximately 45

minutes to eat our packed lunches. (Facilities will be available at the Old Rectory, with thanks to Mr and Mrs Todhunter). The walk will continue from around 12.45pm to reach West Ilsley in time for the Service of Prayer at the Cross at 2pm. It is not necessary to walk the whole way, so join or leave us as you wish, but do come. (Further details from Ian on 281625).

### Easter Services

All Saints' is holding a Family Communion on Easter Sunday at 9.30am – we hope to see you there! There are other services in the benefice during Holy Week, on Good Friday and on Easter Day, so do look on the church notice board, on the benefice website or in the benefice Easter card which you should have received by now.

### Café Church

The next one will be at St Mary's Church, Chieveley at 11.00am on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April. It is an informal service for everyone, with live music and an emphasis on families with young children. It has proved to be very popular, so come along at 10.45am for coffee and cake beforehand.

### Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This will be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 7.45pm in the church. We hope you will come and support us.

### 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). To receive by email a copy of the weekly pew sheet, which contains readings, prayers and notices about church events in the benefice, please contact [eastdownland@btinternet.com](mailto:eastdownland@btinternet.com)

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, email Revd John Toogood at [edownlandrector@gmail.com](mailto:edownlandrector@gmail.com) or ring him on 01635 247566.

Kay and Ian Fewtrell-Smith

## PARISH COUNCIL

Read the latest Parish Council Minutes and hear how village matters are being addressed. Visit our village website at [www.westilsley.org](http://www.westilsley.org) - all the latest minutes from our meetings are available under the "Parish Council" tab.

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2015

March 9th, May 11th AGM and Assembly, July 13th, Sept 14th and Nov 9th.

## WHO TO CONTACT

### VILLAGE HALL

Ros Duckworth-Bookings-281471 [rosduckworth@btinternet.com](mailto:rosduckworth@btinternet.com)  
Rates: £10.00/hr Villagers £12/hr Non Villagers

### PRESCRIPTIONS

Prescriptions are now being delivered on Tuesday mornings only and can be collected from Liz Elliott at 2 Morland Close Mon~Thurs 10 till 6. Should you wish to collect outside the above hours, please telephone 281997 to ask if it's convenient.

### PATIENT REPRESENTATION GROUP

Fred Carter [fred\\_kathcarter@btinternet.com](mailto:fred_kathcarter@btinternet.com) ..... 281621

### CHURCHWARDENS

Alexandra Axtell 281306 Ian Fewtrell-Smith 281625

### TENNIS COURT

Membership: Liz Dray - [lizdray@btinternet.com](mailto: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:

Dries Hagen - [dries.hagen@circlepartnership.co.uk](mailto:dries.hagen@circlepartnership.co.uk) 281855

Sean Ryan - [Sean.ryan@sunday-times.co.uk](mailto:Sean.ryan@sunday-times.co.uk) 281336

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Rollo Duckworth - [rolloduckworth@btinternet.com](mailto:rolloduckworth@btinternet.com) 281471

Alan Beaumont - [alan.beaumont@aae-llp.com](mailto:alan.beaumont@aae-llp.com) 07980 875179

Anna Sugden - [annasugden@btconnect.com](mailto:annasugden@btconnect.com) 281784

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