

# West Ilsley News

APRIL 2024

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

## Editors

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Deadline for the next publication is:

5 pm on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April

## 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](mailto:westilsleynews@westilsley.org) – help to save paper and shoe leather!

## What's on in West Ilsley

### APRIL

18<sup>th</sup>

Parish Council co-option meeting

## 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

Dear all,

Following the advertising of the two vacancies on West Ilsley Parish Council, the council is now able to co-opt to fill these vacancies.

The council intends to hold a meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> April to co-opt to the council. If you would like to apply to join the council, please could you email some information on why you would like to join the council and what life experience you could bring to the council by 5pm on 11<sup>th</sup> April.

Please also check you meet the following criteria:

## Legal qualifications for being a Parish Councillor

To qualify you must be able to answer 'Yes' to both of the following questions:

- Are you a British or Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of a European Union country?
- Are you 18 years of age or over?

To qualify you must be able to answer 'Yes' to at least one of the following questions:

- Are you on the Parish electoral register for the Parish of West Ilsley?
- Have you lived in the Parish of West Ilsley, or within 3 miles of its boundary, for at least a year?
- Have you been the owner or tenant of land or other premises in the Parish of West Ilsley for at least a year?
- Have you had your principal or only place of work in the Parish of West Ilsley for at least a year?

## DISQUALIFICATIONS

You must be able to answer 'No' to all of the following questions to be eligible to serve as a Councillor:

- Are you the subject of a bankruptcy restriction order or interim order?
- Have you, within the last five years, been convicted of an offence in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, which resulted in a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of three months or more without option of a fine?

Disqualification from being elected a member is set out in Section 80 of the Local Government Act 1972. Please email [clerk@westilsley.org](mailto:clerk@westilsley.org)

Kind regards,

*Sarah*

Dr. Sarah Marshman PSLCC

Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer  
West Ilsley Parish Council

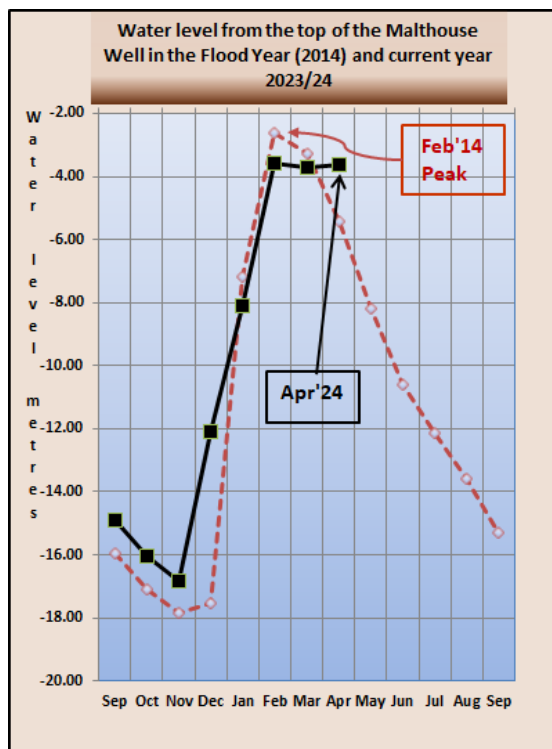
Correspondence address: Wilkins Centre, Burrell Road, Compton, Newbury, RG20 6NP

## MALTHOUSE WELL.

After a very wet February, when we had 44% more rain than average, March has been a little kinder to us with around 89mm of rain which is quite close to its long-term average. However, the Malthouse well water level has not gone down as expected. At the beginning of the month it read around 3.90 metres below ground level, and for some reason it has even risen slightly during March. As we go to press on 25<sup>th</sup> March it reads 3.63 metres below ground level. As the graph below shows this is very different to 2014 where, once the groundwater level had peaked in February 2014, it descended steadily without any fluctuation as we progressed into Summer. Whereas

in 2024 the graph shows the water level is stubbornly flat-lining throughout February and March.

The good news is that some, but not all, cellar owners have been able to stop pumping out their cellars in the last few days. Hopefully we'll have a warm April, the ground water level will drop, and all the owners with still wet cellars can stop pumping. Roll on Spring...



## COUNTRY NOTES

You may be aware of the amazing and mysterious lifecycle of eels? Born in the Sargasso Sea in the Bermuda Triangle, they swim and drift thousands of miles to end up in the rivers of Europe, where they stay for 5 to 20 years before heading back to the Sargasso Sea to spawn, finding their way to a place where they started life as an egg.



Eels were once super-abundant in Europe and a major food source. When William the Conqueror invaded England in 1066 and set about trying to work out exactly what he owned he found that people were paying the rent on their property to the church and noblemen in

eels. This practice continued for hundreds of years, until England had a proper currency.

Eel populations have been in decline for about 40 years. Since the 1980s we have been receiving less than 5% of the baby eels compared to the period between the 1960s and 1980s. This is a pretty

catastrophic decline, and the eel is now considered to be Critically Endangered. The reason why eel populations crashed is still unclear. It is probably down to several things: over-fishing, predation, physical barriers stopping them reaching habitat, pollution and pumping stations sucking in eels ...and the inevitable climate change.

For the last 20 years, all around Europe, people have been working to try and improve eel stocks by building eel passes around physical barriers. One thing that they do in Germany and France, but which we haven't done in England, is stock eels. In principle this should be a good idea because you are spreading eels around, putting them upstream of weirs.

This week I helped to introduce 162 elvers (young eels) into the River Pang between Tidmarsh & Pangbourne. Another 850 have been released upstream near Bradfield & Englefield. Over the next four years the eels will be monitored each autumn to check on how they are progressing. **Geoff Wond**

## APRIL AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Family Service at 11am**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Communion at 8.30am**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Communion at 9.30am**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> 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-noticees/this-week> for other services in the benefice during April.

## Clay Pigeon Shoot-Thank You

Our particular thanks go to Richard and Giles for once again organising another excellent Clay Pigeon Shoot in aid of All Saints' Church. This took place on a beautiful spring-like day at the beginning of March, when around 100 people met up on the Ridgeway to enjoy some shooting. Thanks also to their brilliant team of volunteer trappers for all their hard work to ensure a most enjoyable morning for all. Bacon baps and coffee, thanks to some of All Saints' PCC and helpers, were welcomed by those taking part beforehand, whilst hot drinks and a plentiful selection of cakes were on offer afterwards. Thanks also to the generous sponsors and shooters and those who turned out to cheer them on. Proceeds of just over £2,880 will be a wonderful boost to church funds.

## Charity Walk

Around 25 people and an assortment of their canine friends met up at Downs View recently to enjoy bacon butties and a hot drink, before making the most of yet another spring-like morning in March with a lovely walk over the Ridgeway together. A thoroughly happy time was had by all and £230 was raised for The Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

### **Easter Church and Churchyard Tidy up**

A sunny morning greeted about a dozen villagers who set about giving the church and churchyard its springclean. The grass had its first cut of the year and shrubs and roses were pruned. The roof valley was swept clear of the accumulated moss, whilst inside the brass gleamed and pews shone. Thank you to all who gave up their time to help.

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

The meeting to which all are welcome will be held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 8.00pm in church. We hope you will come and hear the review of your church over the last year.

### **Private Prayer**

All Saints' will continue to open on Saturdays and Sundays for private prayer between 9.30am and 6pm.

### **Date for your Diary**

*Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – APCM in church at 8pm.*

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

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

### **EASTER GREETINGS FROM FR. MATTHEW**



#### **Christ is Risen! Alleluia!**

All around us the world is bursting forth into bloom (cold showers permitting!), the darkness is lifting, and the days are lengthening. There's deep wisdom in the Church's celebration of the Resurrection at such a time, when nature herself prompts us to rejoice and anticipate that yet-more-glorious Spring ripening to an eternal Summer without end in the Kingdom of the Father. The flowers thrusting themselves up from the warming earth will, we know, wither and fade, as we will ourselves, in time. But the eternal life Jesus won for us on the Cross, whose mysteries we've celebrated in Holy Week, will never fade: there we will be warmed by no faltering English sunshine, nor overshadowed by those to-

present English clouds, but we will rejoice in the radiance of the Father Himself, "Who dwells in unapproachable light" (1 Tim. 6:16).

We anticipate that eternal festival by prolonging our Easter celebrations for 50 days – longer than Lent! – with a succession of feasts to keep up our festal cheer. This year the Annunciation (normally 25<sup>th</sup> March) finds itself shifted all the way to 8<sup>th</sup> April, a reminder of where this great story began. Our great patron, St. George, and the holy Apostle St. Mark enliven the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of April. Easter Sundays succeed each other until The Ascension of Our Lord, this year on the 9<sup>th</sup> May marking 40 days since the Resurrection. The great Feast of Pentecost falls on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May, and Trinity Sunday the week after, on the 26<sup>th</sup>. We celebrate the great missionary to these lads, St. Augustine of Canterbury, on the 27<sup>th</sup> May, before we prepare for Corpus Christi – the Feats of the Body and Blood of Jesus – on the 30<sup>th</sup> May (often celebrated on the Sunday following).

What a burden of feasting, rejoicing, and praise! We hope very much that you'll join us in celebrating! Sunday Masses in the parish are at St. Mary's, East Hendred, at 9.30am (with children's liturgy in term time), St. Patrick's, East Ilsley, at 11.15am, and back in East Hendred for 6pm. Full details on our website, [hendredcatholicparish.org.uk](http://hendredcatholicparish.org.uk).

### **VILLAGE HALL ACTIVITY**

An **Exercise/ Fitness class** is being offered to the residents of West Ilsley (and surrounding areas). This is part of an outreach programme run by 'Everyone Active' (Leisure provider) on behalf of West Berks.

The class would be held in the village hall and is aimed at both men & women who are retired but as we are a small community it is also open to all age groups. The day & time being offered is **Tuesday mornings** at 10.30 and it would be a 45 minute session with the chance to stay for a coffee & a chat afterwards.

The instructor is proposing a circuit-type activity class where each person can exercise at their own pace and ability under guidance. This is for anyone & any level but particularly beginners. The **main aim is to get more people active** particularly for those living in areas with little access to leisure facilities. The classes are being offered at a subsidised rate of only £3 per session (including coffee). These classes are being offered to start after Easter.

So if you feel that you would benefit from some light exercise then please either respond to me (Louise)

at: [village.hall@westilsley.org](mailto:village.hall@westilsley.org)

or respond direct to Callum at Everyone Active:

[CallumYates@everyoneactive.com](mailto:CallumYates@everyoneactive.com)

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

I guess they would need at least 6 people to make this viable to run so please speak to your friends or just come & meet some new ones!

West Ilsley Village Hall Committee



The days are getting longer, the weather is, hopefully, getting warmer (and drier!) and it's a new year at

the tennis court. Why not dust off your racquet, dig those shorts and trainers out and enjoy the fresh air? Membership for the year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 is just £45 for a family, £25 for a single adult and £15 for a single junior (under 18).

This gives you access to easy online booking and you can book and play as many times during the year as you like for no additional fee. Members can make bookings up to 3 months in advance.



"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>

## HAPPY EASTER FROM THE ILSLEYS!

### Written by Two Year 6s and a Year 5

It has been a very busy half term and we can't believe it is already time to finish for the Easter break!

This half term, Atlantic Class has been given the opportunity to expand their knowledge of the Ancient Mayan civilization. They went to Hampstead Norreys – our federated school - and a company named Mexicolore were there. They had an amazing interactive workshop led by a man called Ian and his granddaughter. It was a fascinating experience, and they learnt lots of new information about their new topic.

This term, each class has been given a new topic to learn more about. Arctic Class has been learning about Food and Farming, Pacific Class has learnt about Inventors and Inventions and Atlantic Class is the Mayans. They are very interesting topics to learn about.

On March 9th, our football team took part in a match against Bucklebury Primary School - in the first half, there was some great playing, as well as the second half, but the final score overall was 1-1. Our PE coach, Danny Williams, was referee.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> March, fifteen children were nominated to take part in a cross-country run at the Newbury

Showground in the afternoon. Each age category took part in different races. In every race, there were approximately 500 children and all of the children who competed for The Ilsleys came in an outstanding position. All of the participants were very tired so went home for a well-earned rest!

Every year, the whole school holds World Book Day when the children can come into school dressed as a character that they love. This gives the children a chance to express their passion for books and reading. This year, it was amazing to see what characters the children have taken inspiration from.

Red Nose Day this year was a great way to raise money for the charity Comic Relief and make people laugh. The children were able to come in with non-school uniform and wear their red noses. It was a fantastic day!

On the same day as Red Nose Day, it just so happened that we would be learning about Ramadan and what Muslims do during this special period of time. The whole school engulfed their brains in activities related to Ramadan. It was a great learning experience and we learnt so much!

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> of March, our youngest class (Arctic) had the privilege of going on a class trip to Farmer Gows farm. They got to feed animals such as: pigs, goats, turkeys and sheep. At the end of the day, they had an animal scavenger hunt on hay bales! They also had the opportunity to feed some lambs their milk. It was a great experience for the class to enjoy.

Our Year 6s have been very busy this half term! Every Monday, they have been going to our federated school (Hampstead Norreys) to do revision for their SATS. This means that the Year 5s are left to be the oldest in the school!

Every term, each class showcases what they have been learning over the past two months in their own Curriculum Assembly. Each class' performance was phenomenal and it was a very interesting experience to listen to all the classes perspectives.

We are wishing you a very Happy Easter from everyone at The Ilsleys Primary School ☺



## ILSLEY EVERGREENS

At the Ilsley Evergreens Annual General Meeting which took place at the Wilkins Centre in Compton on Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> of February. The attending members voted in a new management committee and discussed the coach trips for this year. The list of trips for 2024 is;

April 17<sup>th</sup> ~ Wells with street market. (Wednesday)

May 16<sup>th</sup> ~ Kew Gardens. Group rate admission £15

June 23<sup>th</sup> ~ The Savill Garden Windsor & Boat trip.

(Choices available)



July 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Bournemouth

August 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ New Forest Tour to Lymington &

Lyndhurst + cream tea

September 26<sup>th</sup> ~ Bath

October 10<sup>th</sup> ~ Worcester

December 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Salisbury Christmas Market (Tuesday)

A Family Bingo Evening is booked for Friday April 19th in Compton Village Hall, doors open at 7pm, eyes down at 7:30pm. With a Coffee Morning on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> in the Wilkins Centre, Compton at 10am.


Please look out for the Posters in Compton Village Shop, Compton Village Hall, the Wilkins Centre and on Notice Boards in your area.

Hoping to see you soon!! Tony Elliott ~ Secretary

For further information, please text Danni on 07825819355

## Come and join the West Ilsley Willows!

Ladies 'Soft ball' and 'Hard ball' cricket



**First Training session:**  
Thursday 18th April  
6:15pm - 8:00pm



**Location:**  
West Ilsley Cricket Club, Catmore Road, West Ilsley



**JOIN NOW**

## FAMILY PRIZE BINGO



## COMPTON VILLAGE HALL

### FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL

Doors open: **7:00PM** Starts at: **7:30PM**

**GENEROUS PRIZES  
SUPERB RAFFLE**

**COME AND ENJOY THE BEST OF BINGO!**

Refreshments available

## BRIGHTWALTON FETE

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May

**1pm – 4pm**

**free entry**

BBQ \* Bar \* Teas  
Family Football \* Tractor Rides  
Table Tennis Robot \* Coconut Shy  
Dog Show \* Pet-a-Pony  
Tug-Of-War \* Revelle Dance Club  
Wantage Silver Band  
Peasemore Ukulele Group  
Grand Raffle \* Side Shows  
Bottle Stall \* Local Crafts & Produce  
Brightwalton School Maypole Dancing  
...and Lots More

**Free Parking & Entry**

**BRIGHTWALTON VILLAGE HALL FIELD**  
RG20 7DH



'Guides is the most adventurous thing... It gives you the opportunity to meet people and see things you wouldn't normally see, and it's just an amazing experience'  
Bryony



## Guides

1st Compton Guides  
Mondays 7-8.30

### Girls laugh, learn and expand their horizons

for ages 10 to 14

At Guides, all girls are welcome to enjoy our fun-filled space, where she'll make good friends, learn to be herself, explore what she loves and do stuff she's never done before!



Registered charity number: Exempted from registration

Join a local Guides group [girlguiding.org.uk/joinus](http://girlguiding.org.uk/joinus)





# COACH TRIP

TO

# WELLS

INC: OPEN AIR STREET MARKET  
ON

# WEDNESDAY

# APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup>

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

To book your seat for only **£19**  
Call **TONY** on **07780 994297/01635 281997**

# ENJOY A DAY OUT!

## WHO TO CONTACT

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

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR** – Carolyn Culver 07976 374146  
Carolyn.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

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

**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT** – Laura Farris  
[laura.farris.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:laura.farris.mp@parliament.uk) 01635-551070

**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** membership and enquiries email -  
[tennis.bookings@westilsley.org](mailto:tennis.bookings@westilsley.org)  
Book and play without joining via  
[westilsleytennis.jezzam.com](http://westilsleytennis.jezzam.com)

### 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>