

# West Ilsley News

www.westilsley.org

February 2017

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Deadline for the next publication is:

5pm on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February

## DIARY

### FEBRUARY

- 4<sup>th</sup> Winter Warmer
- 14<sup>th</sup> Harrow – Valentine's day
- 16<sup>th</sup> Harrow – coffee and cake morning
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Harrow – quiz night
- 24<sup>th</sup> Harrow – kids' club

### MARCH

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Harrow – rum tasting
- 13<sup>th</sup> Parish Council meeting

## FARMING NEWS

This year has started with a cold, dry spell of weather in the South which has been good for all aspects of the farm.

The cattle (along with numerous members of the West Ilsley community) suffered with colds, coughs and pneumonia over the Christmas period due to the extremely damp spell of weather. However, we are pleased they have now recovered and helped by some antibiotics, which when administered, proved successful.

The early lambing ewes are already inside the barn at Folly Farm receiving hay and sheep concentrates preparing them for lambing in six weeks' time. The next batch are coming in this week and they have been happily munching grass and haylage on Old Down enjoying the lovely frosty weather.

The younger, replacement ewe lambs and last year's fat lambs unfortunately had an appalling incident with Hare Coursers one night. They drove through two fence lines to get to the sheep at Land's End, ran over and killed two, broke a leg on a third and two others were mauled by their dogs. The injured sheep are now recovering at Folly Farm. Let us hope that this sort of incident does not happen again?

During the heavy frosts we have been spreading a fertiliser called Triple Super Phosphate on some Winter Wheat crops then Kieserite containing Magnesium and Sulphur on all Winter Oilseed Rape crops.

We are now waiting for the ground to dry before we start planting Spring Barley. Peter Carlisle

## MEXICAN WINTER WARMER



SAVE THE DATE!  
SATURDAY  
4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY

8PM  
CASA VILLAGE HALL

DINNER + CASH BAR

PRIZES FOR BEST HAT  
AND BEST MOUSTACHE!

## 6 The Maltings

4 bedrooms

We are planning to put our house on the market in the near future but wanted to make villagers aware first in case anyone currently living in or near the village is looking to move.

The house has been valued at £750,000.

For more information please contact me on

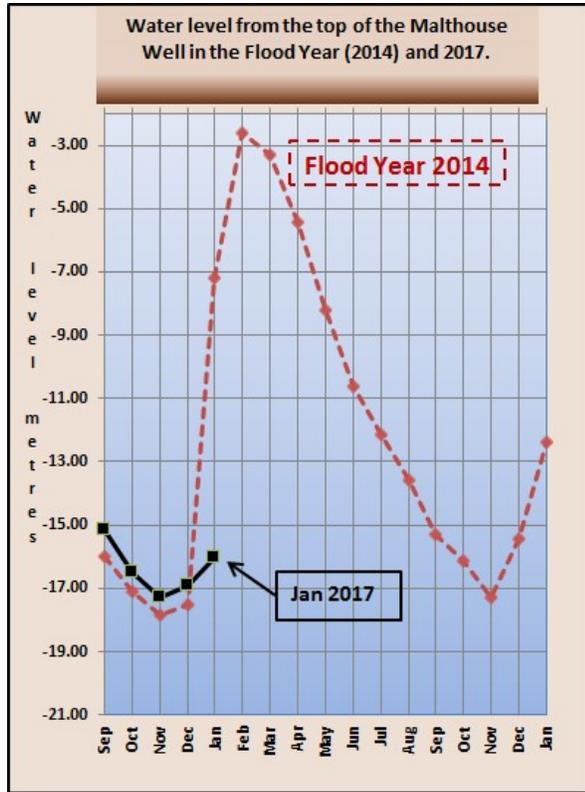
01635 281460/07901931921

Sue Simmons

## MALTHOUSE WELL

As predicted the Malthouse Well water level started to rise in January, but quite slowly compared to normal. During the month it rose slightly less than a metre (3.3ft) from its low point at the end of December and now stands at approximately 16.0 metres (52.6ft) below ground level. In fact, although

we have not had much rain in the last three months, this is slightly above the level this time last year (16.5 metres). Thankfully, as the graph below shows, it is way below the February 2014 level of about 6.6 metres.



## ALL SAINTS CHURCH WEST ILSLEY

February Services at All Saints' Church

5 <sup>th</sup> Family Communion	9.30am
12 <sup>th</sup> BCP Communion	8.30am
19 <sup>th</sup> *No Service in West Ilsley	
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)

### Café in All Saints' Church

On Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup>, and on subsequent second Sundays, there will be a Café in All Saints' Church from 10am to 11am, after the usual 8.30am service. Our first one in January got off to a great start, so if you feel like a coffee, cake and a chat, with crafts for the children, just drop in during that time. We would love to see you there. There is no charge, but any donations on the day will go to charity.

### Mexican Winter Warmer



There are still tickets for this event on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February in the Village Hall, so do contact Rosanne on 280553 or email [rosanne@pilditch.com](mailto:rosanne@pilditch.com) immediately

to get yours. Mexican dress is optional, but there is a prize for the best outfit or accessory. Cash bar and Raffle Tickets only £10 or £8 for concessions, for a two course supper.

### \*Café Church

This delightful and very popular service continues on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February at St Mary's, Chieveley. The service, which follows a United Benefice Communion Service at 9.30am., starts at 11am, but do come at 10.45am for refreshments beforehand.

### Date for your Diary

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017 – Clay Pigeon Shoot from 10am. Start assembling your team and contact Will on 281306 or email [williamaxtell@me.com](mailto:williamaxtell@me.com) to book your place now.

### 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 the East Downland Benefice Office on [eastdownland@btinternet.com](mailto:eastdownland@btinternet.com) or phone 07957 458107 and leave a message. The office is usually open on Thursday and Friday mornings and can be contacted in the first instance for information about baptisms or weddings. For any other reasons, you can contact Revd John Toogood on 01635 247566 or email him at [edownlandrector@gmail.com](mailto:edownlandrector@gmail.com)

Kay and Ian Fewtrell-Smith

## WHATS ON AT THE HARROW

### VALENTINES DAY

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February

We will be serving dinner from 7pm

Complimentary bottle of wine for couples ordering 2 or more courses.

Book your tables NOW.

### COFFEE & CAKE MORNING

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February

10:30am

Pop in for a slice of homemade cake, a coffee and a chat.

### QUIZ NIGHT

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

8pm

Raising money for HELP FOR HEROES

Book your tables NOW!!

### KIDS' CLUB

We will be running a kids club on the last Friday of each month, 4:30pm till 6pm. Shepherd's pie or chicken nuggets, chips and peas and a glass of squash for £5 per child. Colouring



books and other activities will be available too. Please let Hayley know if you are interested and book the kiddies in. This month it will be FRIDAY 24th FEBRUARY.

#### **THE OVER 60's CLUB**

On Thursday lunchtimes we will now be serving a senior menu, which will include a drink of your choice, all for £12. If you're lucky enough to look under 60 then ID will be required.

We are thinking about starting a breakfast club with a reward scheme which will be on the first Saturday of each month. 10am till 11:30am. Please let Hayley know if this is of any interest to any of you.

#### **RUM TASTING**

Friday 3rd March

After the success of our Gin tasting night we thought we would try a Rum tasting night. Neil from Oxford Wine will be here again sampling and talking to you about the different rums. £20 per couple. Spaces are limited so please let Hayley know if you would like to join.

Hayley Morrnick 07947 188069

### **COUNTRY NOTES**

As I walk along the footpath behind the Maltings a red legged partridge hurtles across Newtons just three feet above the field and disappears into the "gardens". Looking in the direction from which it came I spot the reason for its haste, an immature peregrine falcon quarters the field on rapid, shallow, wing beats. Then a chocolate brown buzzard flies in, lands just out of my sight beyond the brow, and is immediately set about by the falcon which, accompanied by much screaming repeatedly stoops at its adversary. I presume the buzzard has taken over the young falcon's kill and all this fuss is an attempt to drive off the interloper? In spite of keeping up the "attacks" for almost a minute the buzzard refuses to give way, finally the falcon reluctantly gives up and speeds away over the village. I can no longer see any action so I continue my walk towards the Black Barn, this provides a better view, I can now see the buzzard on the ground, it is pinning down something with its feet, probably a partridge, and tearing at it with its beak. As I watch, another buzzard, this one much paler with a white chest, glides in and alights ten feet from the feeding bird, there is no argument, the incumbent immediately relinquishes its booty without a fight, flies off, leaving its meal. This drama is unfolding a quarter of a mile away and is viewed through field glasses. At this distance I cannot be certain of the new bird's identity but it's pallor and boldness suggest that this may be a rough legged buzzard? It too rips and tears and

then, holding its prey in one foot, it starts to hop on the other foot as if trying to remove a toffee paper, perhaps it's talons are caught? During this slightly comical performance three crows arrive and I think they are about to mug the buzzard, they land five yards away, close but not too close, the pale buzzard ignores them and continues its meal, the crows maintain a respectful distance, no doubt they will get the last pickings when the buzzard is replete. In the space of fifteen minutes this unfortunate partridge will have provided a meal for a peregrine, two buzzards and three carrion crows. Perdix

### **THE ILSLEY EVERGREENS**

Preparations are now being made for our Annual General Meeting to be held in West Ilsley Village Hall on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 2pm. Jim Hughes is standing down as Secretary after several years of service and Committee Members Avis Dockrill and Sonia Wilkie are also not seeking re-election. Members are being invited to make nominations for these positions.

Our first Committee Meeting of the year was held on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> January, in which Tony Elliott agreed to hold a "Prize Bingo Evening", which would take place at Compton Village Hall on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> February. Much appreciation to Tony for organising these events, which always produce a welcome boost to Evergreen Funds.

A proposed list of outings for 2017 was agreed at the Meeting. Locations included Wells in Somerset, Basingstoke, Worcester, Gloucester, Westonbirt Arboretum and the Compton Acres Gardens near Bournemouth. Seaside trips envisaged for July and August included Poole and Weston-Super-Mare. A Christmas Market visit is also planned.

Tony has made provisional bookings for the following future productions at the New Theatre, Oxford:-

#### **Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2017**

Matinee Performance of "Sunny Afternoon".

This show depicts the rise of "The Kinks".

Cost: £35.00 + Transport.

#### **Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2017**

Matinee Performance of "Evita".

Cost: £20.00. + Transport.

#### **Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2017**

Matinee Performance of "Grease".

Cost: £19.00 + Transport.

#### **Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2017**

Matinee Performance of "Sister Act".

Cost: £28.50 + Transport.

Anyone interested in taking up these opportunities should contact Tony on Telephone Nos. 01635.281997 or Mobile 07780.994297.

Jim Hughes, Secretary, Tel. 01235 834487

# Open Day



## Chieveley Pre-School

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Alexandra Axtell 281306  
 Ian Fewtrell-Smith 281625

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 Mobile: 07778093931  
 Chairman: Rollo Duckworth - [rolلودuckworth@btinternet.com](mailto:rolلودuckworth@btinternet.com) 281471

Alan Bloor - [Alanpeter.bloor@virgin.net](mailto:Alanpeter.bloor@virgin.net) 281341  
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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.

**2017 MEETING DATES**  
 13 March, 15 May, 10 July, 11 Sept, 13 Nov

**DEFIBRILLATOR CODE: C159**

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**WHO TO CONTACT**

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 Thank you for your co-operation in keeping to the times listed.  
 Tony Elliott

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