

# West Ilsley News

## FEBRUARY 2023

[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> February

### 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

Our aim is to reach every dwelling in the village. Most homes have signed up to receive WIN by email, but for those who haven't, the Parish Council produces paper copies which are delivered by volunteers. 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

#### FEBRUARY

17<sup>th</sup> VH survey deadline  
25<sup>th</sup> Project groundwater visit to the village

#### MARCH

5<sup>th</sup> Clay pigeon shoot  
13<sup>th</sup> Parish council meeting

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The scheduled meetings of West Ilsley Parish Council through to May 2023 are as below. The agenda will be available on the village website 3 clear days before the meeting. You can also 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 information from our meetings is available under the "Parish Council" tab. You can see the draft minutes of the **November** PC meeting by looking on the website or clicking: [here](#)

Date of Meeting	Type of Meeting
<b>2023</b>	
Monday 13th March	Full Council
Monday 15th May	Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
Monday 15th May	Annual Parish Meeting

### WIPC UPDATE

Many thanks for the fantastic villagers that have put their name forward for emptying the dog waste bins on the recreation ground and, in doing so, saving the village an annual bill of £500 – any more volunteers would be very welcome! Please email me if you are happy to help. Most will have received the message in the WIN about the vacancy on the Parish Council due to Liz Dray having stepped down. I would like to thank Liz for her hard work and support and in particular her involvement with the Speed Indicator Device (SID) and on speeding, which continues to be an issue within the village. If you are interested in joining the PC please feel free to email or call any of the Parish Councillors who will be happy to provide an insight into what is expected and work involved and remember, the post is open to anyone in the village (who is at least 18 years old and registered to vote in the area or has lived, worked, or owned property here for at least 12 months before an election) – so it would be great to get some younger villagers involved and we will be delighted to hear from you.

Alan Beaumont [chair@westilsley.org](mailto:chair@westilsley.org)

### VOTER ID

With effect from the next elections (4<sup>th</sup> May this year) we will have to produce photo ID in order to be allowed to vote in person. There will be a lot of publicity about this but just in case those of us without access to the internet don't get to hear it, here's some more information:

#### ACCEPTED FORMS OF PHOTO ID

**You can use any of the following accepted forms of photo ID when voting at a polling station.**

##### International travel

Passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country

##### Driving and Parking

Driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state (this includes a provisional driving licence)

A Blue Badge

##### Local travel

Older Person's Bus Pass

Disabled Person's Bus Pass

Oyster 60+ Card

Freedom Pass

### **Proof of age**

Identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)

### **Other government issued documents**

Biometric immigration document

Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)

National identity card issued by an EEA state

Electoral Identity Card issued in Northern Ireland

Voter Authority Certificate

Anonymous Elector's Document

**You will only need to show one form of photo ID. It must be the original version and not a photocopy.**

**Out of date photo ID** - You can still use your photo ID if it's out of date, as long as it looks like you.

The name on your ID should be the same name you used to register to vote.

### **If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID**

You can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate, if:

- you don't have an accepted form of photo ID
- you're not sure whether your photo ID still looks like you
- you're worried about using an existing form of ID for any other reason, such as the use of a gender marker

**For any villagers without the acceptable photo ID and no internet access, or friends or relatives to help them, please ring 281224 and we will find someone in the village to assist you.**

### **VOTING BY POST**

**If you know that you won't be able to get to the polling station on polling day, you can vote by post.**

You can apply for a postal vote because you're away on holiday or because your work schedule means you can't get to polling station. **You can also choose to vote by post simply because it would be more convenient for you.** You will be sent a postal vote ballot pack before the election.

**You will need to fill in a form, and this can be printed out for villagers without internet access if they ring 281224.**

**ACT NOW the deadline to apply for a postal vote for the elections on 4 May 2023 is 5pm on Tuesday 18 April. You must also be registered to vote by 11:59pm on Monday 17 April.**

### **UPDATE FROM COUNCILLOR CAROLYNE CULVER**

Dear Residents

Happy New Year! I hope you had a good Christmas, although unfortunately the vast majority of residents I have spoken to were ill or had a close family member who was ill.

It's been a busy start to the year. I have attended the Autumn Group in Compton to catch up with members,

and four community cafes. I've attended four parish council meetings including West Ilsley's, WBC Executive committee, and planning committee.

In May all West Berkshire Council wards are up for election. The four years since the last one have gone quickly! I will be standing again. Voters will need to take photo ID to the polling station this May. This is a new government law. More information can be found at [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID)

Just before Christmas I secured another £3,000 for community projects from WBC's 'Member's Community Bids' scheme. This included funding for East Ilsley playground, Compton Jubilee Tree and Memorial Garden in Memory of HM Queen Elizabeth II, and deer fencing for the allotments in Frilsham.

If you applied for the Sustainable Warmth grant (the Government grant scheme designed to fund energy-efficiency upgrades for residents in low income households) that I publicised in my recent newsletter and on Facebook, please let me know what feedback you received. I have heard from three residents whose applications were rejected, but I would be particularly interested to know whether anyone was successful!

I am disappointed but not surprised to see the vehicle speed data from West Ilsley and Hampstead Norreys which shows there are a high proportion of vehicles travelling at prosecutable speeds. As anyone who has contacted me about this problem will know, trying to change speed limits and install traffic calming measures is like banging your head against a brick wall. There are still no new measures in West Ilsley despite a building have been driven into at least three times in recent years.

As mentioned previously, the council has an advice website [www.westberks.gov.uk/cost-of-living](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/cost-of-living) There is also a government funded Household Support Fund for individuals or families living in West Berkshire who are experiencing hardship. See [www.westberks.gov.uk/householdsupportfund](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/householdsupportfund) If you have a prepayment meter you should have received information by text, email or post about vouchers which give you a discount on your heating costs. These vouchers need to be redeemed at a post office or PayPoint locations. Apparently only half of vouchers have been redeemed, so please don't miss out! See this article for more information: <https://www.theguardian.com/money/2022/oct/31/uk-government-energy-bill-support-prepayment-meters-vouchers-paypoint>

There are 'warm hubs' open in central Newbury five days per week. I realise this might not be much use to people living in Ridgeway ward, but I thought I'd tell you about them anyway in case you're visiting Newbury. These venues provide a hot drink, and in

some cases hot food too, and somewhere warm and friendly to spend some time this winter.

#### **Monday**

- St George's Church, Andover Road, Newbury RG14 6NU, 8.45am to 12noon
- St Mary's Shaw, Newbury RG14 2DR, 11.30am to 4pm

#### **Tuesday**

- Kennet Christian Centre, 12 Enborne Road, Newbury RG14 6AH, 1-3pm

#### **Wednesday**

- St George's Church, Andover Road, Newbury RG14 6NU, 8.45am to 12noon
- Speen Community Café at the Starting Gate, Brummell Road, RG14 1SG, 2-5pm

#### **Thursday**

- St Nicolas Newbury, West Mills, Newbury RG14 5HG, coffee morning between 10am-noon, warm space between 12-4.30pm

#### **Friday**

- St John's Church, St John's Road, Newbury RG14 7PY, 12-1.30pm

West Berkshire Food Bank provides emergency food to local people. Please see <https://westberks.foodbank.org.uk/> for more details about how to be referred to the service and collection locations. You can also donate to the food bank. Their phone number is [01635 813390](tel:01635813390) and their email is [info@westberks.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@westberks.foodbank.org.uk) information about benefits can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/low-income>

The Citizens' Advice Bureau can also advise you via [01635 516605](tel:01635516605).

Don't forget that you can report problems including fly tipping, unemptied bins, and pot holes via [www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem) There are a lot of pot holes at the moment! Alternatively, email [customerservices@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@westberks.gov.uk) or call [01635 551111](tel:01635551111). If you don't get a satisfactory response let me know. For information about road works (eg utility companies digging up roads) please look at One Network <https://uk.one.network> which contains a map where you can search for details of what is happening in the area.

Best wishes

Councillor Carolyn Culver

Ridgeway ward

Green Party group leader

West Berkshire Council

[carolyn.culver1@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:carolyn.culver1@westberks.gov.uk)

(m) 07976 374146

Written on 25 January

#### **VILLAGE HALL SURVEY**

This survey was put together by the West Ilsley Village Hall Management Committee (WI VHMC) to understand the needs of the community with regards

to use of the village hall. With the information gathered, we aim to tailor the events offered. Please provide one answer per household. Please complete online or deliver paper versions to Hebron Cottage or contact 07929 569 050 to have your survey picked up, by **17<sup>th</sup> February 2023** please. For those who can complete it online, here is the link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/rBAkYugHXL>

Thank you for your support.



The graphic features a large smartphone displaying an 'ONLINE SURVEY' form with a red checkmark and a person pointing at the screen. To the left, the text reads: 'How much do you know about groundwater flooding? Take our survey and share your thoughts today!'. Below this is the 'Project Groundwater' logo with the tagline 'Are you flood resilient?'.

#### **HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT GROUNDWATER FLOODING?**

Project Groundwater is a new project funded by Defra as part of the £150 million Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme which is managed by the Environment Agency to develop and test new approaches to resilience tailored to local communities. We are working to support communities at risk of groundwater flooding in the Chiltern Hills and Berkshire Downs.

Take part in our survey to help us understand the levels of knowledge and concern about flooding in your area so that we can know how best to support you. The results will be used to plan for future collaborative work with you to mitigate local groundwater flood risk.

[www.projectgroundwater.co.uk/CommunityReadinessSurvey](http://www.projectgroundwater.co.uk/CommunityReadinessSurvey)

We will also be visiting West Ilsley, Compton, Hampstead Norreys and East Ilsley on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February, so please come down and complete the survey on our tablet and ask us any questions you may have.

You can also follow us on social media!

Facebook - [@ProjectGroundwater](https://www.facebook.com/ProjectGroundwater)

Twitter - [@ProjGroundwater](https://twitter.com/ProjGroundwater)

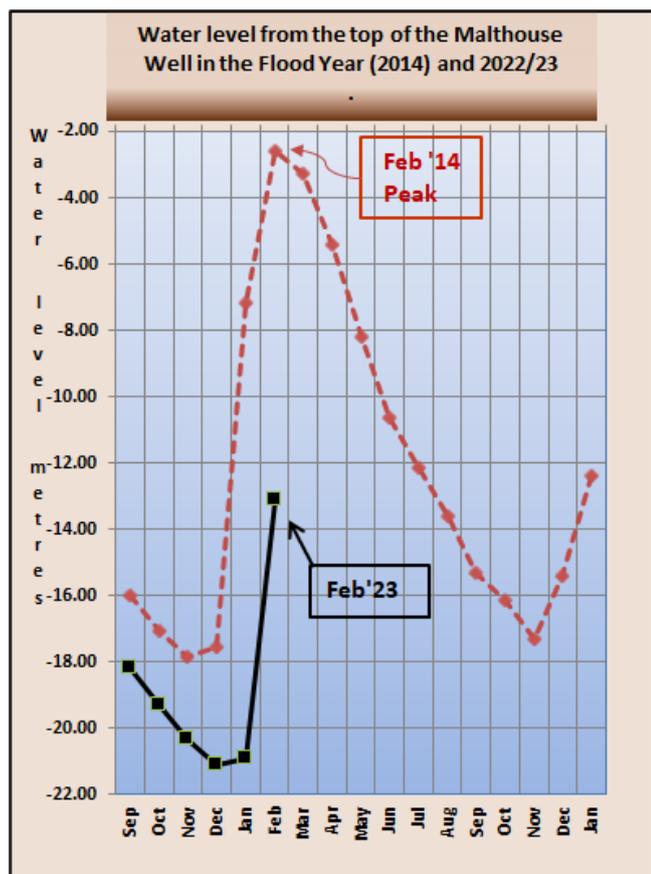
LinkedIn – [Project Groundwater](https://www.linkedin.com/company/project-groundwater)

#### **MALTHOUSE WELL**

The Malthouse well level bottomed out at the end of December at an unusually low point of 21.09 metres below ground level. However, last November and December were wetter than usual in the village and this is now reflected in a more rapid rate rise than usual in the ground water level during January. In total it has risen about a total of 8 metres during the

last month and now, at the beginning of February, it stands at about 13 metres below ground level.

The graph below shows the big difference between now and when we had the floods in early 2014 where the ground water rose about 10 metres in January. Although the rises both then and now were high in January, a key difference is that in 2014 the well reading bottomed out 3 metres higher than this year. Additionally, we had significantly more rain in the autumn months preceding February 2014. As a result we have more headroom this year before we can expect any issues.



## THE HARROW

Dear West Ilsley,

This is to inform you that after more than seventeen years, myself and Jacqui will be leaving The Harrow sometime in the early part of 2023. This is partly to do with our advancing years and ongoing health problems, together with the impact of several consecutive challenging years, ever changing life styles and technological advancements. In short, it has become apparent that the pub is no longer financially sustainable with us operating the site.

I would like to thank the entire village for your support over all these years, where we have enjoyed many memorable occasions, despite the more recent hurdles.

I cannot tell you what the future of The Harrow will be, but the current owners, Admiral Taverns, have

said they would be prepared to answer any questions or queries you may have. Please contact the Business Development Manager:

Paul Barnfather, directly at:

[paul.barnfather@admiraltaverns.co.uk](mailto:paul.barnfather@admiraltaverns.co.uk)

Head Office: 01244 321171

Our exit date is to be agreed, and we will follow up once confirmed. Thanks for supporting our business over the years.

Best wishes, Peter and Jacqui

## SAVE THE DATE

### CHARITY CLAY SHOOT

In aid of All Saints Church, West Ilsley

#### MAIN DRIVE

- Bacon Butty & drinks on arrival
- Teams of 4 guns @ £120 per team
- 50 clays (5 stands of 10)

#### WHERE AND WHEN

Manor Farm, West Ilsley  
(just off the A34 Chilton Waste / Ridgeway roundabout)  
Sunday 5th March 2023

#### BONUS FLUSH

- 50 clay flush
- Teams of 4 guns
- Payable on the day

#### CONTACT

Richard Gore  
07710 171828  
[richard.gore@farming.co.uk](mailto:richard.gore@farming.co.uk)

## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

February at All Saints' Church

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Family Service at 11am

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion at 8.30am

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Family Communion at 9.30am

Sunday 26<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 February.

### Café in All Saints' Church

Our monthly church cafe continues on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February between 10.00am and 11.00am. Donations go to a different charity each month. Everyone is welcome to join us there for coffee, cake and a chat!

### Clay Pigeon Shoot

Plans are underway for a Clay Pigeon Shoot in the not too distant future. Keep an eye out for details when they become finalised.

### Private Prayer

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

### Dates for your Diary

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March** – Mothering Sunday Family Service at 9.30am.

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April** – Easter Church and Churchyard Tidy-up. As well as the usual cutting and trimming, we will need a number of volunteers with

wheelbarrows, shovels and rakes to spread pea shingle on the path.

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April** – Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 7.45pm in church. The meeting is open to everyone, but especially those on the church's Electoral Roll.

#### **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)

**Associate Priest:** Revd William McDowell – [rev.w.mcdowell@gmail.com](mailto:rev.w.mcdowell@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

## **NEWS FROM THE ILSLEYS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Written by a Year 6 pupil**

After coming back from our winter break, Atlantic's new topic was the very interesting topic of World War 2.

In recent weeks, we have taken a trip to Milton Keynes, where Bletchley Park is, so we could learn



about the Enigma Machine, its history and the people who solved it. Our time there was very interesting and full of facts and information. It

helped us learn about what was going on in our home country during the war! All of us in Atlantic Class definitely recommend taking a trip to Bletchley.

Recently, in our Curriculum lessons, we have been learning about the key people and events of World War Two, including Adolf Hitler and the Great Depression. We have all found these lessons very intriguing as we are diving into things we have never done before. After a couple of months, we are happy to have our Gymnastics teacher, Chris, back with us for weekly Gymnastics lessons. Pacific Class and Atlantic Class are taking part in these fun activities this term.



## **ILSLEY EVERGREENS**

I hope you all had a Wonderful Christmas and New Year and are coping with the very chilly weather we are having at present.

The Evergreens will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February at 2pm in the Wilkins Centre, Compton.

All members and prospective members are requested to attend this important meeting, where the election of the management committee, the cost of membership fees and trip seat prices will take place, as well as voting on the destinations for outings in 2023. Refreshments will be served, and we will hold our usual Raffle. (please bring a prize)

There will be a Coffee Morning on Saturday March 11<sup>th</sup> in the Wilkins Centre, and a Prize Bingo Evening in Compton Village Hall on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> of March.

We have 15 seats booked to see the matinee performance of the pantomime "Mother Goose" starring Sir Ian McKellen and John Bishop at the New Theatre Oxford on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 2:30pm. Cost £37+ transport. Call Tony to book your seat now!!

Although these events are arranged by our group, everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy a really good day out at a very reasonable cost.

LOOK OUT FOR DETAILS ON OUR POSTERS

Contact either: Julia - 01635 281597 or Tony - 07780 994297 to book your seat.

Tony Elliott, Secretary

## **WHO TO CONTACT**

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

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR** – Carolyne Culver 07976 374146

#### **PARISH COUNCIL**

Council members are:

**Alan Beaumont** chair@westilsley.org 07980 875179

**Alan Bloor** alan.bloor@westilsley.org

**Clive Hooker** clive.hooker@westilsley.org

**Alan Muir** alan.muir@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 Fred Carter on 281621 or fred\_kathcarter@btinternet.com

**PRESCRIPTIONS** are delivered from Compton on Tuesday mornings at 8.30. Please collect yours from Ann Barnes, 3 Morland Close on **Tuesdays only between 10.30 am 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](mailto: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 ILSLEY (SOCIAL) RUNNING CLUB** meets on a Wednesday evening at 7.30pm at the Harrow. If you fancy joining, come along on Wednesday, or text Matt (Hebron cottage) on 07929 569 050. We've got a WhatsApp group, so we can add you to that even if you're not quite up for joining in just yet.

##### **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>