

West Ilsley News

MARCH 2025

www.westilsley.org

Editors

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Deadline for the next publication is:

5 pm on Tuesday 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

28th Explorers quiz night at the Village Hall

FULL COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Tuesday 20th May 2025

7:00 pm Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

8:15 pm Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes

Draft minutes of the February PC meeting are on the website - click [here](#)

CHIEVELEY AND COMPTON SURGERY

Please note that both surgeries will be closed on Thursday 6th March from 1.00pm for training purposes
Joe Clerkin

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Looking for some literary escapism or have your book club read something that you'd love to share with others? Then look no further than the village hall book case! We've given it a spring clean and you can now find the classics to Thursday Murder Club as well as children's fiction. Please share those great reads or

come borrow your next one! Just leave a note of what you've taken so we can see how it's working.

We hope you've all enjoyed the village hall events through the winter! It's been great to see so many of you at our talks, quizzes and parties!

Would you like to get involved and be part of the team behind these informative, fun and engaging events?

Then why not consider joining West Ilsley Village Hall Management Committee?

We have some positions becoming available although any help you think you could give would be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to express your interest in becoming a Village Hall Committee volunteer then please contact Matt Yarnall at matt.yarnall@boehringer-ingenheim.com by March 7th.

MARCH AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Sunday 2nd Family Service at 11.00am

Sunday 9th Communion at 8.30am

Sunday 16th Communion at 9.30am

Sunday 23rd *No service at All Saints'*

Sunday 30th *Mothering Sunday - No service at All Saints' (see below)*

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

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

Café in All Saints' Church

Our next monthly cafe will take place on Sunday 9th 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!

Lent Groups

During Lent we will be holding Lent Groups for anyone in the benefice to attend. These will take place on Tuesdays at 8.00pm starting on Tuesday 11th March at The Glebe House, 3 Drakes Farm, Peasemore with a repeat session on Wednesdays at 10.00am at St Mary's Church, Chieveley. This year the groups will focus on The Nicene Creed and will enable us to understand more fully what we believe as Christians. The evening sessions will finish with a short service of Compline and the morning ones take place before the weekly celebration of Holy Communion at 11am. There will be four sessions before and two after Easter, with scope for questions and discussion. Everyone is very welcome to join either of the groups.

Mothering Sunday – 30th March

At 9.30am there will be a United Benefice Communion which will be followed at 11am by a United Benefice Café Church at St Andrew's Church, Boxford. Everyone is very welcome to either service or both.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 12th April – Biannual Church and Churchyard Spring Clean at 10am

Tuesday 6th May – All Saints' Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 8pm

Sunday 18th May – Rogation Walk from 11am

Sunday 7th September – Pet Service at 11am

Private Prayer

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

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, do contact the wardens or clergy who will do their best to help.

To subscribe to the weekly pew sheet, which contains readings, prayers and notices about church events in the benefice, please go to the East Downland website (see above)

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

THE ILSLEYS NEWSLETTER

Recently, Year 5 and 6s had the opportunity to go to Park House for an archery tournament. When they got there, they enjoyed many activities such as long distance shooting with a bow and arrow where you had to try get your arrow to reach the square which was 15 metres away. At the end of the tournament, they presented us with certificates. The pupils enjoyed the experience and hope to do it again next year.

This month, we were able to take part in some tag rugby matches at Bucklebury Primary School. Six people took part from our school and our team was mixed with children from Hampstead Norreys. We amazingly placed 3rd by the end of the competition! Everyone is very proud of our team and we hope to take part in more events like this!

Recently, some of our Year 5s have taken part in the St Gabriel's Maths Challenge. When they got there, they did activities such as ordering calendars for each month and doing algebra. They enjoyed this a lot and we are proud to say that we came a 4th place out of 23 schools!

In January, Arctic had a visit from Buttercup the cow! During the workshop, they learnt about how milk is made. They said they learnt that, if you own a cow, you have to milk it two times a day! They all had a go at milking the cow and really enjoyed it!

On the first day of the Lunar New Year, all the classes learnt many things about the years and their animals - this year is year of the snake. They all got the opportunity to learn a traditional Chinese dance about how the 12 animals of the calendar came to be. A lady from a company 'West End in Schools' came in to show the children how to express the story through dance. They enjoyed this very much!

The Year 1 and 2s have been trying out speed stacking for the first time at Park House after school. Speed-stacking is when you have to stack a tower of cups into one pile. Then you have to lay them back out again in order of the pyramid. They have been super excited as they have never heard of this sport before and they are looking forward to the next time they can play it! The whole school watched and took part in a Children's Mental Health Week live assembly. There were over 100 other schools also watching this with us and we loved chatting to them using the Zoom chat. This assembly consisted of a variety of activities and questions we had to answer as well as ways to look after your mental health.

On Safer Internet Day, in classes, we watched a BBC Bitesize Scam Smashing Assembly all about how to avoid scams. All the children learnt lots about how to stay safe online so they made posters to show the community how they could avoid scams as well.

Recently, Eco Club have been taking part in 'The Big Schools' Bird Watch' for the RSPB. We will share the amazing things they found whilst doing this project in the next newsletter. We hope you have an amazing half term and we are excited to tell you more next time!

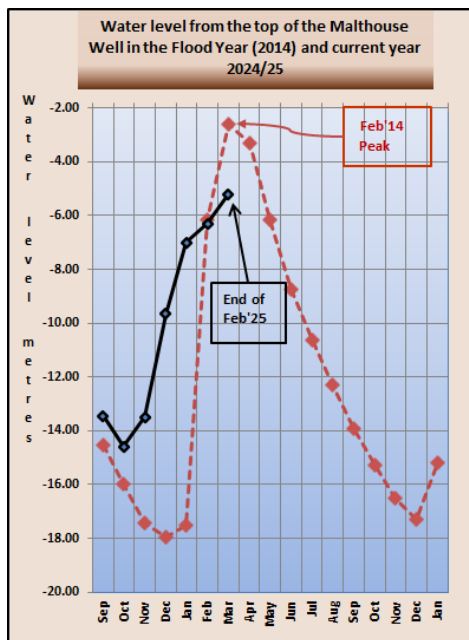
Written by 2 Year 6s and 2 Year 5s



MALTHOUSE WELL

The mild weather has continued in February, and although the automatic rain gauge at Knollend Down has not been working since the 22nd Feb, it seems that the rain this month falls into the average range. This meant that the level of the Malthouse well continued to rise, albeit at a slow pace, during February. It has risen by just over one metre and at the end of the month it stands at about 5.2 metres below ground level.

As the graph below indicates, the groundwater level remains very high for this time of year. Providing the rain in March is in the normal range, the ground water should continue its gentle rise until Spring arrives and the ground warms up.



GreenFest: West Berkshire's Sustainable Event of the Year!

Save the Date:
April 5th, 2025
10:30am to 3pm
St Bartholomew's School
Newbury RG14 6LP

GreenFest is coming to West Berkshire, bringing together local businesses, sustainability experts, and passionate individuals for a day of eco-friendly inspiration.

GreenFest will feature six key themes to help you live more sustainably:

- Food & Farming – Support local producers, zero waste, growing your own
- Home – Make your home more energy-efficient.
- Travel – Discover low-carbon ways to get around.
- Community – Work together for a greener future.
- Nature – Protect nature and fight climate change.

- Stuff – Learn how to reduce waste and reuse, recycle better.

Expect talks, exhibitions, and hands-on workshops covering zero waste, reducing carbon footprints, and living without single-use plastics. Special guests (experts in sustainability) will share their knowledge and inspire you to take action!

Our goal?

To make West Berkshire the Green County of the UK - a place where communities come together for a cleaner, greener future.

Join us - RSVP on Facebook @greenfestwestberkshire

For more info: www.wbge.org.uk/greenfest.html

Follow us on

Instagram @greenfest_west_berkshire

TikTok @greenfestwb for updates!

Let's make GreenFest a turning point for a sustainable future in West Berkshire.

wbgreenexch@gmail.com

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

Katy Morris katy.morris@westilsley.org

Tim Pearey timothy.pearey@westilsley.org

Graham Woods graham.woods@westilsley.org

07905 558884

Rachel Hudson rachel.hudson@westilsley.org

Johnny Rayfield jonny.rayfield@westilsley.org

Sarah Marshman – Clerk clerk@westilsley.org

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 "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>

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

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>