

West Ilsley News

MAY 2024

www.westilsley.org

Editors

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Deadline for the next publication is:
5 pm on Saturday 25th May

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

MAY

14th Parish Council Meeting

JULY

5th Pre Fete Party

7th Fete

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

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE

There is still an amber alert for groundwater flooding in the Upper Pang, and sewage leaks in East Ilsley and Hampstead Norreys. Two of the last three editions of the Newbury Weekly News have featured front page stories about sewage, quoting me and members of the public who have been affected. The BBC interviewed me and residents in Hampstead Norreys in late March, and on Tuesday 16 April French newspaper Le Monde sent a reporter to write a story about it.

On Wednesday 10 April we had Pang Valley Flood Forum, attended by Thames Water and WBC

representatives. On Thursday 11 April we had a public meeting in Hampstead Norreys organised by the flood warden and parish council. On Sunday 14 April the Angling Trust, Action for the River Kennet, the four main political parties, and Extinction Rebellion members came together to protest about sewage in Newbury. More than 250 people attended in Victoria Park. There are plans for more protests across the country.

After the January flooding, WBC commissioned a company called WPS to write a section 19 report about the flooding. This will be coming to Scrutiny Commission in the autumn, and Thames Water and the Environment Agency will be invited to the same meeting.

This problem is not going to go away. Rising temperatures is causing greater rainfall and the chalk aquifer we live on is saturated. If we get a relatively wet summer, we might find ourselves living with the impact of high groundwater for months to come. So, we all need to work together. Nothing should go down the toilet apart from pee, poo, and paper. No wet wipes. No tampons or sanitary towels. WBC and riparian owners need to ensure ditches and drains are clear. There need to be robust sustainable drainage and foul/fresh water connection planning conditions on new housing. Rules about not building on flood plains need to be respected. The list goes on. We all need to do what we can to alleviate the pressure on the system.

Thames Water added insult to injury by telling residents in East Ilsley that they were 'the only person in the village' and therefore it is not a priority to tanker excess sewage out of the village. Thames Water has acknowledged that their automated response system, that says everything is sorted out when it isn't, needs to change.

I asked WBC for the streets to be cleansed. They told me it is Thames Water's responsibility. Then they told me Environmental Health had been out and there wasn't a problem. So then I took more photos and video of the algae in the water and the toilet paper caked on the pavement and sent it to the council. So the saga continues.

Advice about flooding is here

www.westberks.gov.uk/flooding

Sewage incidents can be reported to Thames Water via www.thameswater.co.uk/help/report-a-problem

Report specific problems with drainage and flooding here by zooming in and pinpointing on the map <https://westberks.highway-iams.uk/Live/PBLC/PIP/?cg=Drainage>

You can report a range of problems (unemptied bins, potholes, abandoned vehicles on public highways etc) by visiting www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem

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 your area.

Best wishes

Cllr Carolyne Culver

Ridgeway Ward (Ilseleys, Compton, Hampstead Norreys, Yattendon and Frilsham)

Chairman, Scrutiny Commission

Council Offices, Market Street, Newbury RG14 5LD

carolyne.culver1@westberks.gov.uk

(m) 07976 374146 www.westberks.gov.uk

ILSLEYS NEWSLETTER

Written by 2 Year 6 and a Year 5 pupil

We have been very busy so far this term. We hope you enjoy finding out about our new topics and the learning that we have been participating in so far this term. Atlantic's topic is 'Governments and Leaders', Pacific's topic is 'Beyond the Palace Doors' and Arctic's topic is 'Sea, Sun and Beach'.

On the day before the Easter Holidays, Miss Parsons hosted the Easter Eggstravaganza for the children to enjoy; the year sixes each ran stalls. We had an Easter Egg Hunt for each class, pin the tail on the bunny, guess how many Easter eggs were in the jar, name the bunny and even some fun Easter colouring. Everyone enjoyed this thoroughly!

Every year, we hold an Easter assembly where we sing songs and share the story of Easter, as well as getting our awards. Each class shares something that they have learnt about Easter. The songs that we sing are Easter Jubilation and Spring Chicken - they can be found on YouTube if you are interested!

On March 26th, The Downs School held a netball tournament for the local schools in this area. They competed in friendly matches of netball. The Ilseleys Primary School are proud to say that they came in second place! Hampstead Norreys, our federated school, came first! We all thoroughly enjoyed this experience and hope to participate in it for many years to come.

In PE with Danny, our sports coach, we are learning different sports. This term, Atlantic Class is learning cricket and rounders, Pacific is learning rounders, and Arctic Class is doing football rounders. These are excellent sports, and each class are also doing circuits with their teachers.

MALTHOUSE WELL.

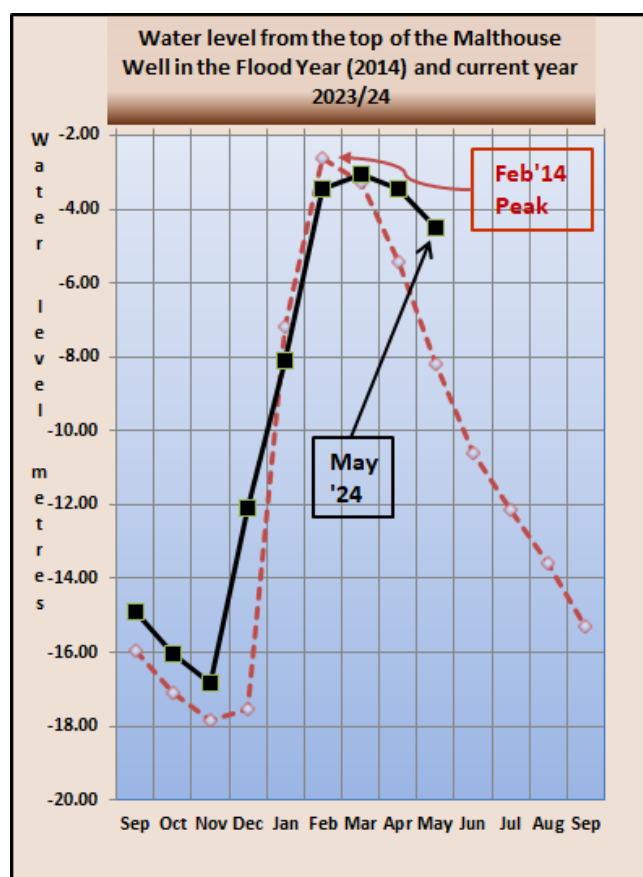
After a very wet start to the year, when we had significantly more rain than average, April has been a little kinder to us where we have had roughly an average amount of rain. As a result, we have been expecting the Malthouse well water level to drop as

usual, but against all expectations it has been rising stubbornly throughout the month of April!

This caused all kinds of consternation and confusion, but finally after the Environmental Agency was contacted they suggested that the engineer they sent to repair the gauge on the 18 January may have connected the gauge wires the wrong way round! So, when the water gauge showed a fall it actually showed a rise and when it rose it showed a fall.

Another engineer will be coming out, but on the basis that the EA suggestion is correct, we have recalculated the data which showed that the ground water peaked at 2.99 metres below ground level on 9th March and by the beginning of April it stood at 3.44 metres below ground level. This fall has thankfully continued during April and the Malthouse well would now read approximately 4.5 Metres below ground level. The recalculated data is shown in the graph below. It will be interesting to see the level when the engineer has been.

The good news is that it is reasonable to assume that the flood risk for this Spring is now over and everyone can breathe a sigh of relief.



COUNTRY NOTES

Towers of yellow flowers along the edge of a ride in the wood, yellow archangel, the lower tiers opening a canary yellow, those above progressively paling to a greenish white at the top. Archangel, a grand name for this humble yellow deadnettle; it's country name of

weasel snout seems more appropriate. Whoever named it had acute observation, a vivid imagination, and a familiarity with weasels unknown today.

A pair of greater spotted woodpeckers fly high through the oaks, chequered backs lighting up as they pass through shafts of sunlight, the pursuing bird, beak half agape, utters no sound. A silent courtship chase carried out in the glare of spotlights.

Along the Copperage Road the hawthorn hedges are in full leaf. In this three-hundred-yard strip, squeezed between sterilised fields and the hard asphalt road, the songs of chaffinch, yellowhammer, dunno, linnet, and goldfinch. How important hedgerows are.

A young robin picks and pecks its way across the Clemenger's gravelly car park, when it turns towards me it vanishes, its speckled breast a perfect camouflage amongst the small pebbles.

Geoff Wond

MAY AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Sunday 5th Family Service at 11am

Sunday 12th Communion at 8.30am

Sunday 19th Communion at 9.30am

Sunday 26th *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-noticeboards/this-week> for other services in the benefice during May.

Café in All Saints' Church

Our next monthly café will be on Sunday 12th May between 10.00am and 11.00am in All Saints'.

Everyone is very welcome. We look forward to seeing you there for coffee, cake and a chat!

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The meeting to which all are welcome will be held on Wednesday 22nd 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.

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

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

VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

Exercise classes

We have been offered the opportunity of exercise/fitness classes in the Village Hall. These sessions will be run by Callum from 'Everyone Active'. The sessions are going to run as a pilot programme of 6 weeks on Tuesday mornings starting on May 7th at 10:30am. It will be a 45 minute session with the chance to stay for a coffee and chat. The classes will consist of circuit-type activities where each person can exercise at their own pace under guidance. The class is suitable for both men and women at any ability level but especially beginners. The aim for these classes is to get more people active, especially those in rural areas.

The classes will be £3 a session (including coffee) and the first session will be free. You should wear comfortable clothing that allows for ease of movement and supportive footwear to make the most of the experience.

We hope to see some of you there!



New Circuits Class!

Specifically designed with low impact moves, achieve a full body workout, involving both cardiovascular and resistance exercises to motivating music to get you real results.

10:30-11:30 Tuesday
West Ilsley Village Hall
Starting 7th May

£3 Per session – First Session Free!

Working in partnership with
everyone ACTIVE 

If you have any questions about the classes please feel free to contact Callum
(CallumYates@everyoneactive.com)

Electric Vehicle Charging

We are investigating the potential of installing an electric vehicle charging point at West Ilsley Village Hall. As part of this, we would like to understand the need from the village and surrounding area, as well as any concerns that people may have in the village. Please complete the following survey to share your views.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ePeEck2j4E6wSifiQUkj00Ql_eEckZdMo0Nv9RioQ7dUMVdRujBVRIQ4NzhDNIVORTA0SFIQUEwxUS4u

The Village Hall Management Committee
(Amanda, Jo, Louise, Matt, Pete and Tegan)

Does any other village throw a party like West Ilsley – nope, didn't think so!

This year's **Pre-Fete party** will take place on **Friday 5th July** from 7pm to midnight.

And the theme.....**Bollywood**

That's right people, it's time to shake down the saree, dust off the dhoti and brace for a bindi. Enjoy complementary welcome drinks and slam a few of Big Will's lethal Jello shots before sitting down to an exquisite curry cooked al fresco. The sensational cricket club bar staff will help you douse the curry flames and get you dancing like a Bollywood superstar. Prizes galore through a fantastic raffle and for the winner of the best dressed and the dance-off champ! Tickets will go on sale shortly but please get the date in your diary (and cancel all plans for the next day).

Phir Milenge -Pre-Fete Party Crew ("PFPC")



The East Ilsley Sheep Fair is back for 2024!

Pre-fair dance on Friday 7th June 6-11pm

Entry £10 for 18s and over

£3.50 for 17s and under

Free for 14s and under

Local Live Band & DJ, with fresh, artisan woodfired pizza and snacks available to purchase

Sheep Fair Sunday 9th June 12-5pm

Millennium Green, East Ilsley; free entry for all (donations welcome!)

Join us on the Sunday for:

- Dog Show
- Ray Prior Falconry Display
- Traditional Sheep Shearing
- The 'Baa' serving local beers & ciders, wine and Pimms
- Tea Tent serving a delicious selection of home-made cakes

- BBQ serving Vicars Game burgers and sausages
- Greek Street Food from John the Greek
- Raffle; win a Dyson vacuum, a tour of the Bombay Sapphire Distillery and much more!
- Family Races
- Tug of War – East vs West Challenge!
- Produce & Craft Tent Competition with over 20 categories to enter
- Bottle Tombola
- Many more stalls and fun to be had for all ages

For more information and updates please follow us on Facebook and Instagram @EastIlsleySheepFair or email eastilsleysheepfair@gmail.com



ILSLEY EVERGREENS

Hopefully the worse of wet weather is behind us, and we can look forward to some brighter days. The Evergreens have arranged for some great days out. The remaining trips for 2024 (all on Thursday unless stated) are;

May 16th ~ Kew Gardens. Group rate admission £16.70

June 23rd ~ The Savill Garden Windsor (group entry £11.50) plus optional 2 hour boat trip with cream tea. £31.50 inclusive

July 18th ~ Bournemouth

August 22nd ~ New Forest Tour to Lyminster & Lyndhurst + cream tea

September 26th ~ Bath

October 10th ~ Worcester
December 3rd ~ Salisbury Christmas Market (Tuesday)
Everyone is welcome to join us on any of our day trips, just call Tony on 07780 994297 or 01635 281997

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



Girlguiding
1st Compton Guides - Mondays
7-8.30pm - Cheselridge Road

We help all girls know they can do anything

Volunteer with Girlguiding

It's totally flexible and there's no commitment too small. You can volunteer in a group or use your skills behind the scenes, you don't need any guiding experience and everyone is welcome!

Find out more
girlguiding.org.uk/volunteer
Registered charity number: Exempted from registration

Girlguiding contact information:
Name: Vanessa
Email: 1stcomptongirlguiding@gmail.com
Call: 07590437113

Rainbows **Brownies** **Guides** **Rangers**

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

Katy Morris katy.morris@westilsley.org

Tim Pearey timothy.pearey@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 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 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/>

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>



STAY AND PLAY
AT THE ILSLEYS ...

10am to 11:30am
At The Ilsleys Primary School

For Under 5's, Parents and carers.... Tea, Coffee Play!
Fun activities every 2 weeks in term time!

Monday 18 th of March	Outer space
	Easter Break
Monday 22 nd of April	Our World (Earth Day)
Monday 20 th of May	Sun, Sea and Sand
	May Half Term
Monday 10 th of June	Minibeasts
Monday 24 th of June	Superheroes
Monday 8 th of July	Traditional Tales

For more information please contact the school office:
Email: office@ilsleys.w-berks.sch.uk
Phone: 01635 281225 Address: Church Hill, East Ilsley RG20 7LP