

# West Ilsley News

APRIL 2026

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

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Deadline for the next publication is:  
5 pm on Saturday 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

JULY

5<sup>th</sup> West Ilsley Fete

## FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday 19th May 2026 7:00 pm

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

Tuesday 19th May 2026 8:15 pm

Annual Parish Meeting

## UPDATE FROM CLLR CAROLYNE CULVER

There is growing concern about the sell-off of social housing by SNG (formerly known as Sovereign). Homes in the Ilsleys and Compton (five that we are aware of) have either been sold or are currently on the market. SNG cites the cost of refurbishment, but there is evidence that they are also making very subjective judgments about whether 'Homes will be enjoyable to



live in', 'Places will have character and delight', 'Places will be strong and well-integrated' and 'Places will be inclusive'. A bungalow in East Ilsley

was judged poorly, and subsequently sold, to the dismay of local people who think their street is a delightful, well-integrated and inclusive place to live. Furthermore, all the homes that we are aware of already have air source heat pumps, and yet SNG claims it would be too expensive to get them to net zero. I am working with residents to research this issue, and we will be seeking to hold the authorities to account for the steady erosion of social housing stock in our villages. Please contact me if you have concerns about the sells offs or if you would like to be involved in our work on this issue.

Residents can report problems (unemptied bins, broken streetlights, potholes, abandoned vehicles on public highways etc) by visiting

[www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem](http://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.

Information about the three weekly black bin collections is here [www.westberks.gov.uk/3-weekly-collections](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/3-weekly-collections) There is a new electrical reuse scheme at both tips – Newtown Road and Padworth. Residents can now drop off used mobile phones, tablets, laptops, and desktop computers at dedicated collection points at either site, giving their old devices a new lease of life.

Best wishes, Carolyne

**Cllr Carolyne Culver**

**Ridgeway Ward (Ilsleys, Compton, Hampstead Norreys, Yattendon and Frilsham)**

**Chairman, Resources and Place Scrutiny Committee  
Local Government Association Member Peer and  
Member of the Public Service Reform and Innovation  
Policy Committee**

Council Offices, Market Street, Newbury RG14 5LD

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

(m) 07976 374146

[www.westberks.gov.uk](http://www.westberks.gov.uk)

## APRIL AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Easter Family Service at 9.30am

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

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

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> *No service at All Saints'*

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

[https://www.eastdownland.org.uk/news-and-](https://www.eastdownland.org.uk/news-and-notice/this-week)

[notice/this-week](https://www.eastdownland.org.uk/news-and-notice/this-week) for other services in the benefice during April or see the Easter card, which will be posted through your letterbox soon.

Holy Week 30<sup>th</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> April

There will be short reflective services twice a day at 12 noon and at 8pm during Holy Week at different

churches in the benefice – a time to sit quietly and bring a period of calm to our usually hectic lives. Details of all services will be on the Easter card. West Ilsley will be holding a Service of Compline with reflection on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm.

Good Friday Walk – 3<sup>rd</sup> April

This year the Good Friday Service will take place at All Saints', Farnborough at 2pm after the walk, which will again be led by Lesley Chandler. We will start at Peasmore Church at 9am, arriving at Beedon around 9.45am, continuing to West Ilsley where picnic lunches can be eaten in the village hall. We will leave there around 12.30pm to arrive in Farnborough in plenty of time for the 2pm service. All times are approximate apart from the start time and you can join or leave the walk at any time. Don't forget your packed lunches! For further details please ring Lesley on 07767 355435.

Easter Day Service – 5<sup>th</sup> April

All are very welcome at our Family Communion Service on Easter Sunday at 9.30am and we hope to see you there.

#### Café in All Saints' Church

Our next monthly cafe will be on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 10am. There is no charge for refreshments, but each month donations are sent to a different charity. Last month your donations, together with the collection at our Mothering Sunday service, totalling £140 went to the Mothers' Union in Oxford. Through their various projects they aim to support families from different walks of life and in many different ways. Everyone is invited for coffee, cake and a chat, so do come along!

#### Dates for your Diary

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May** – (Note change of date) All Saints' Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 8pm in church.

#### 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, 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 – 07769 645470

**Rector:** Revd John Toogood – 01635 247566 or 07748 822336 - [edownlandrector@gmail.com](mailto:edownlandrector@gmail.com)

**Associate Priest:** Revd Douglas Dales – 01635 247404

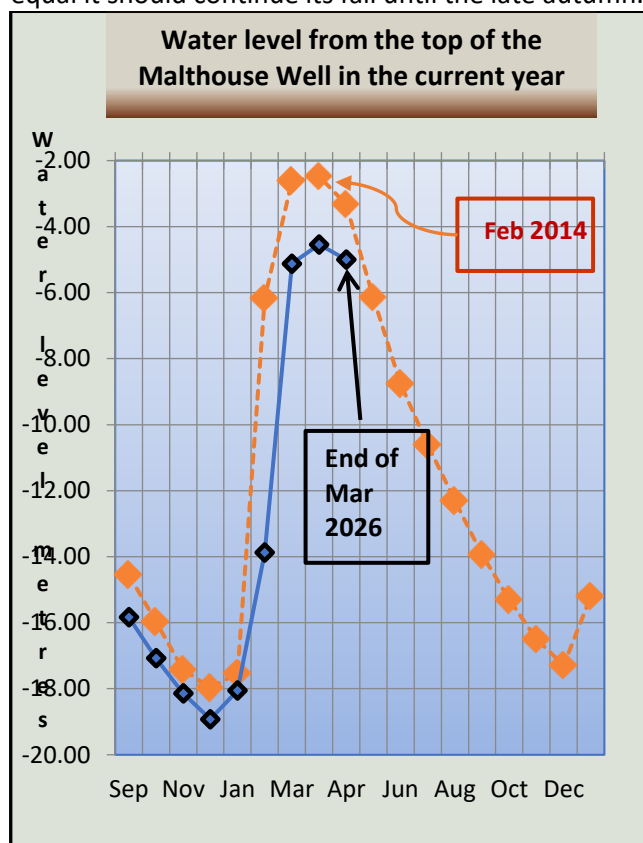
– [revdjdales@gmail.com](mailto:revdjdales@gmail.com)

**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

#### MALTHOUSE WELL

Although rain-wise the weather has been kind to us recently, the Malthouse well level continued its rise in the first two weeks of March to peak at about 4.54 metres on the 16<sup>th</sup> March. Since then it has dropped about half a metre and it is now about 5 metres below ground level at the end of March. All things being equal it should continue its fall until the late autumn.



#### FLOOD WARDEN UPDATE

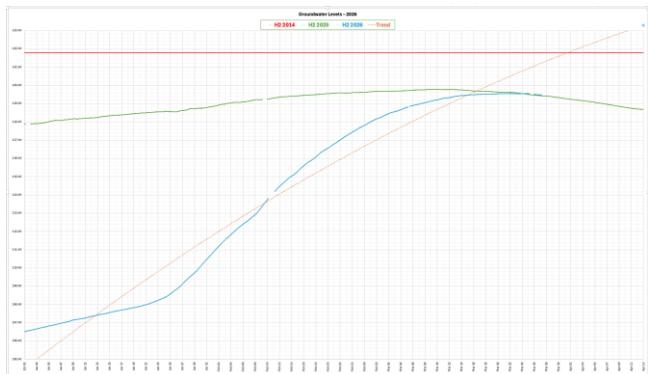
I'm pleased to report that regular monitoring has shown that water continues to flow downstream to East Ilsley & beyond, so thank you to all for your efforts in keeping gutters etc. clear.

Late January showed a rapid rise in rate of increase of water levels but this has been slowing since the beginning of March, finally reaching apogee earlier this week (9pm Tuesday) with a recording of 119.56m which is 22cm lower than last year's high of 119.78 and a full 2m short of 2014's drama filled 121.78m!

'Early' surface water is visible in the usual places alongside the Abingdon Road (A34 southbound slip into East Ilsley) and also the field beside Dennisford Road (the cross roads between East Ilsley & Compton) but the good news is that groundwater levels have

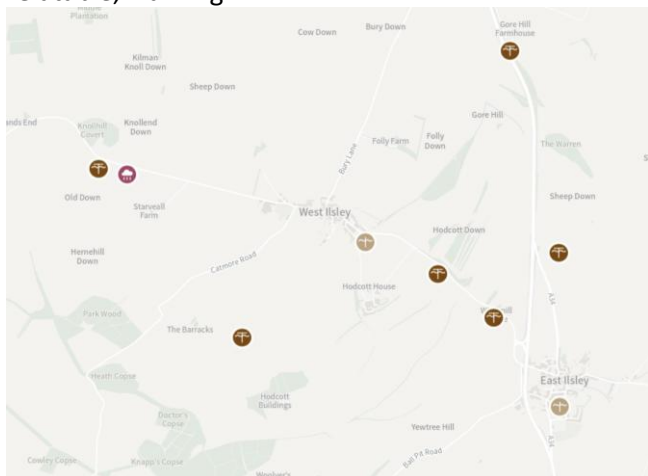
begun to recede and close to West have dropped a whole 8cm since... not a lot, I grant you, but a step in the right direction.

Key: red: 2014 'flood', green: 2025, blue: 2026, orange dotted: 2026 trend line



As you can see from the graph, (Jan 1st to today) this year (blue) started almost 12m lower than last year (green) and we have only just crested the hill, a week or so later than last year. All being well, we should steadily roll down the other side back to the average low around the 106m mark.

As you may know, the Environment Agency has a multitude of boreholes up and down the country to automatically record water levels every hour, 24/7 and in the image below you will notice several in the immediate vicinity that enable West Ilsley's 'condition' to be monitored. I draw from several data points but my focus lies on the borehole beside the road between Hodcott Down and Hodcott House as that physically sits at a similar elevation to the village low point by the Malthouse - my logic being that if things get interesting there we will at least have a real time, and reliable, warning.



As ever, do shout if you have queries or notice anything amiss with ponds, gutters etc. including drain covers, inspection chambers etc. most of which will get passed on to the relevant authorities, but I do need to know about something in order to be able to pass it on- please don't assume someone else has noticed the same issue and *probably* told me...

As you were... carry on! Regards, Justin Pilditch  
Flood Warden, West Ilsley  
T: 07802 895311  
E: [flood.warden@westilsley.org](mailto:flood.warden@westilsley.org)

### HAPPY EASTER FROM THE ILSLEYS!

This half term has been very busy and we can't believe it is time to finish for the Easter Holidays.

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, we had a STEM workshop in school run by a company that make gears for many different cars. We learnt about how the different gears go at different speeds and that they also help with direction. We made a replica of a three in one gear and a two in one gear. At the end, we made a real gear all together (that was a lot more complicated!). It was a very interesting workshop and we hope they can visit again soon.

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March, the children came in as their favourite book character or in pyjamas because it was World Book Day. They had a live lesson with the BBC which included activities to do along the way. These included writing down your reading vibe and, at the end of the day, the children made bookmarks. Overall, this day was very enjoyable for everyone.

On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March, Atlantic Class visited The Base in Newbury. First, we had two sheets of paper with many varied questions on them. The children then had to explore the large art gallery which had different sections of photographs. On the sheets, we had to sketch our favourite part of a photo and various other tasks to complete by looking at them. We also met a lovely artist who shared all her fascinating techniques. After lunch, we made our own piece of art using tissue paper and other materials to make a collage. Atlantic Class had a wonderful time at The Base and would love to go again.

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March, many children from Year 3 up went to the Cross Country Run at Newbury Showground. It was a 2.6 km run and we were all split into four groups. These groups were: -

- Year 3 and 4 girls
- Year 3 and 4 boys
- Year 5 and 6 girls
- Year 5 and 6 boys

There were a great many children in each race and, at the end, we all got a token with our place on it. This was a great event to take part in.

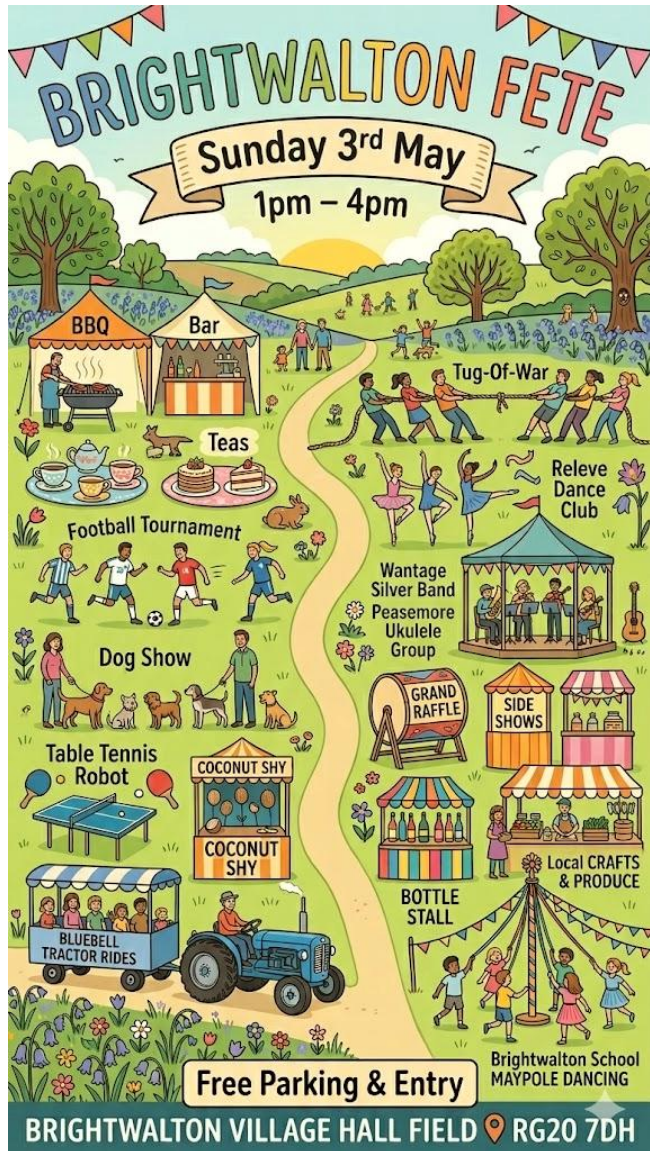
Our Year 6s have been very busy this half term! Every Monday, they have been going to our federated school (Hampstead Norreys) to do revision for their NCTs (their end of Key Stage Two tests). This means that the Year 5s are left to be the oldest in the school which is giving them good practice for next year!

Arctic Class were excited to have visits from a tractor and a police car to support their topic work this term.

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, we supported Comic Relief by wearing our own clothes to school. We are looking forward to showing our parents what we have learnt in our Curriculum Assemblies this week.

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

Written by 2 Year 6 and 2 Year 5



### SAVE THE DATE

### West Ilsley Village Fete

Sunday 5th July

Are there any village groups who would like to run the pre-fete party on Friday 3rd July. It's a great fundraiser and lots of fun.



### WHO TO CONTACT

**DEFIBRILLATOR** is outside the village hall. In an emergency call 999 who will alert the emergency services that are needed and they will also give you the code for the defib. The danger of people knowing the code up front is that they don't call 999 so an ambulance doesn't turn up.

**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT** Olivia Bailey MP

If you want to get in touch with me or book a surgery appointment you can email me at [olivia.bailey.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:olivia.bailey.mp@parliament.uk) or write to me at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. If you want to keep up to date with what I am doing in Parliament and in the constituency, I send out a weekly email newsletter to constituents. If you would like to receive it, you can sign up at <https://shorturl.at/gqoHw>.

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR** – Carolyne Culver 07976 374146  
Carolyne.Culver1@westberks.gov.uk

### PARISH COUNCIL

Council members are:

**Alan Bloor** [alan.bloor@westilsley.org](mailto:alan.bloor@westilsley.org)

**Georgie Carlisle-Smith** [georgie.carlisesmith@westilsley.org](mailto:georgie.carlisesmith@westilsley.org)

**Katy Morris** [katy.morris@westilsley.org](mailto:katy.morris@westilsley.org)

**Tim Pearey** [timothy.pearey@westilsley.org](mailto:timothy.pearey@westilsley.org)

**Rachel Hudson** [rachel.hudson@westilsley.org](mailto:rachel.hudson@westilsley.org)

**Johnny Rayfield** [jonny.rayfield@westilsley.org](mailto:jonny.rayfield@westilsley.org)

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

**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** "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 Jo by email: [village.hall@westilsley.org](mailto:village.hall@westilsley.org)

Anyone without access to the internet can leave a message on: 07958 239891

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>

#### **HOW TO CONTACT WEST BERKS COUNCIL REGARDING EMERGENCIES** 01635 551111

<https://westberks.gov.uk/emergency-contact#reporting%20outside%20office%20hours>