

# West Ilsley News

www.westilsley.org

April 2016

## EDITORS

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Deadline for the next publication is:

5pm on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April

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lizdray@btinternet.com

## DIARY APRIL

|                  |                                  |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Harrow Grand National sweepstake |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | Harrow coffee morning            |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | Harrow quiz night                |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> | Harrow live musix                |

## MAY

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Harrow bbq |
|-----------------|------------|

## JULY

|                 |              |           |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Village fete | 12-4.30pm |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------|

## COUNTRY NOTES MARCH 2016

12th March

The temperature is around freezing point and a cold clammy fog reduces visibility to seventy five yards, the bare trees in diminishing shades of grey recede into the distance until they blend imperceptibly into the sky. A crow calls unseen, a voice from the mist. Along Hodcott track a pair of ravens, their presence announced by their "kronking" calls, fly from the direction of Folly Farm, they approach unseen until they emerge from the fog, so low they barely clear the thorns alongside the track, they see me at the same moment as I see them, wheel away in surprise and disappear towards the Winter Gallops. Nearing The Furze the fog thickens, visibility now down to twenty five yards. The full, liquid notes of a robin's melodious song contrast with the thin, but still musical, tune from a hedge sparrow. These sounds are joined by the plaintive bleats of recently born lambs and the answering voices of their anxious mothers. Approaching the Ridgeway the eastern sky begins to brighten and a weak sun starts to burn off the mist. Returning home the rookery behind the house is noisy with activity, a stream of birds fly in carrying thin branches to build new nests and to repair the old. A returning bird feeds it's sitting partner, is she

incubating eggs or is this a gift to reinforce the bond between them?

17th March

For some days now the lawn has been the scene of a territorial dispute between two cock blackbirds, both resplendent in their new breeding regalia, sporting bright orange beaks and matching eye rings. The tension has been heightened by the presence of the bird feeder. Both males want access to this food source but the more dominant wants to keep it for himself and his new mate. This morning the dispute was resolved by a third party, a sparrowhawk! The lawn was littered with feathers but a body was nowhere to be found, carried off by the hawk to somewhere more private to enjoy it's breakfast. Perdix

Please join the Village Hall Committee for the:

## West Ilsley Village Walk

Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup> 2016



### 10am start from the Village Hall

(route – turn right from hall, up Cart Track, left onto Ridgeway, over road to summer gallops, finish at The Harrow Pub – approx. 5 miles)

### All welcome-for all or part of the walk

£5 per person or donation (U5s free) to include a bacon roll and hot drink at the start.

Please support the Village Hall and funds raised will go to its continual improvement.



Contact the Village Hall Committee or E mail [Alison@poplars.org.uk](mailto:Alison@poplars.org.uk) or [rosduckworth@btinternet.com](mailto:rosduckworth@btinternet.com) if you think you may come (281705/281471).

## ILSLEY UNDER 5'S

Ilsley Under 5's are looking forward to a range of exciting events, activities and outings for Summer 2016. We are a friendly parent and toddler group who meet every Wednesday in West Ilsley Village Hall, which provides a great place to play in a friendly, safe atmosphere and fun environment. We meet between 9.45 and 11.15am on Wednesdays (running most weeks of the year). Every week we offer activities alongside the regular toys. The children have a snack and a drink mid session, with hot drinks available for mums, dads and carers. We finish the session with a group sing along or dancing session! For the summer term, the second Wednesday of every month will be 'Adventure Week' where we will have an outing away from the village hall. We have also arranged some after school activities to involve older siblings. Please see our schedule of events for details of weekly activities. It's a fantastic way to meet other local families and get together for some valuable play time. To find out more take a look at our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Ilsleyunderfives> and join our group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Ilsleyunderfives/>

If you are planning a party or event remember the small tables and chairs as well as our indoor and outdoor toys are available for hire throughout the year for a donation of £10. Please contact Juliet Ryder for more information - tel: 281555

## WEST ILSLEY CRICKET CLUB

Dear All,

I am writing to you on behalf of the club committee to offer a warm welcome and to herald the 2016 season, and also to outline some of the planning we have been discussing over the winter months. The season really starts for all in mid-April, and all plans and preparations do make for what promises to be a really exciting season for all connected with West Ilsley CC.

I hope that you will have seen the flyer which was produced regarding training nights for all age groups, and following the season starter - the presentation evening on Friday 15th April, the Juniors will be getting ready for the first of over twenty home matches during the season, starting on 1st May. I am delighted to confirm that the Minis will be in Friday evening action for 2016, thanks to a group of parents stepping forward to organise our youngest members.

The senior 1st XI start on 30th April and have nine home fixtures in the re-organised OCA division 4, under the captaincy of John Bowness, and they would really welcome your Saturday support at home - and for that matter away - at some grounds across Oxfordshire which are nearly as attractive as ours! After last year's cup success we venture into that too, with a very tough first round draw away at Eynsham. The Sunday XI, captained by Andy Brown, have ten home fixtures to look forward to, including a series of friendlies with a T20 format, starting on 17th April. Please do make yourselves available to enjoy these opportunities on the field, or just come along for a drink and a cheer.

This season we have also entered a team for the Wednesday evening Red Kite Building Solutions' Downs League - T20 fixtures starting promptly at

6.15pm, with the home team in the field. There are six of these Wednesday night fixtures, starting on 25th May, and it would be great to see the whole village in attendance - by August 3rd we hope to have sealed promotion from Division 4 of this competition. It's always good to have a clear target!

Friday evening will, as ever, be an important social time at the club, and we have planned to bring back the Vicars Game raffle every week, plus a barbecue whenever the weather permits. There has also been some planning for some social events too, including a Quiz evening or two, and a Cheese and Wine party - or similar - which has been much enjoyed in the past. If you have ideas for social events, or could help to run these, we would love to hear your suggestions or have your involvement. Most importantly, come along and support these functions, and bring some friends to become new club social members.

All of the proceeds from the bar, and any profits from such functions as above, will be going towards our project for 2016 - the replacement of the artificial wicket on the square and the resurfacing and refurbishment of the net. We have made applications for some grants and match funding towards this, and we are awaiting outcomes, but we aim to run some fundraising activities, and we will also be actively seeking sponsorships and donations during the year. The committee feel that this particular development project will give most the benefit for cricket from the Minis all the way up through the club.

Joining the club, in all categories of membership, is vital to our success in every way - so please use the website or come to see Justin Pilditch as early as possible in the season and get signed in and paid up. We do need to remind everyone that playing membership of the club is imperative with regard to insurance, and that social membership of the club is also a requisite to use the licensed bar. This is something that we will be reminding you of discreetly on Friday's social evenings - the committee are reminded it is a condition of the licence as a private members' club. During the winter a number of people responded to an invitation to become Vice Presidents of the club, with a donation of £50, and this invitation is now extended to all members of the club. It is certainly not a male preserve, incidentally, and I hope that many of you would think of supporting this club in this way. Vice Presidents do not have to hold any playing or social membership of the club, although they can! Please contact Justin, Neil Fowler or myself with any questions regarding membership or sponsorship for this season.

Work on the pavilion and ground has already started in earnest, and we hope you will have noticed some signs of activity. However, don't just do so from a distance, but please come along to find out how you can join in and help. The second of the Saturday working parties will take place on 9th April from about 9.30 am, when the focus will be on treating the wooden weatherboard cladding at the pavilion. Ladders and brushes can be supplied, but why not bring your favourite creosoting brush with you? Mower blades have been sharpened too, so there will much work going on outside and there will always be something you could help with.

We look forward to seeing you all over the coming months at the cricket club, and a reminder the bar will reopen on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April.

Best regards,  
Richard Barnes Chairman

### THE ILSLEY EVERGREENS

The newly elected Committee held their first meeting on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> March, when final consideration was given in regard to the choices that members had made as to where they would like to go on outings to be planned for the coming year. The trips approved were as follows:

- Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> April - Bristol
- Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> May - Exbury Gardens
- Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June - Cheltenham
- Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> July - Southsea/Portsmouth
- Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> August - Weymouth
- Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> September - Cardiff
- Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> October - Devizes

Any non-member, wishing to join us on one or more of the trips, would be very welcome. Please check with Julia Rockall on 281597 if spare seats are available.

Dates for the proposed Christmas Market Trip in November, and Members' Christmas Lunch in December, yet to be confirmed.

It was agreed to hold this year's Christmas Bazaar at Compton Village Hall as a joint undertaking together with Compton's Autumn Group. A Committee was elected to represent the Evergreens in organising this combined event.

Tony Elliott has arranged a further "Prize Bingo Evening", termed "Spring Bingo" to take place at Compton Village Hall on Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> April. Doors open at 7.00pm with "Eyes Down" at 7.30pm. Donations for the raffle would be greatly appreciated. Refreshments will be available.

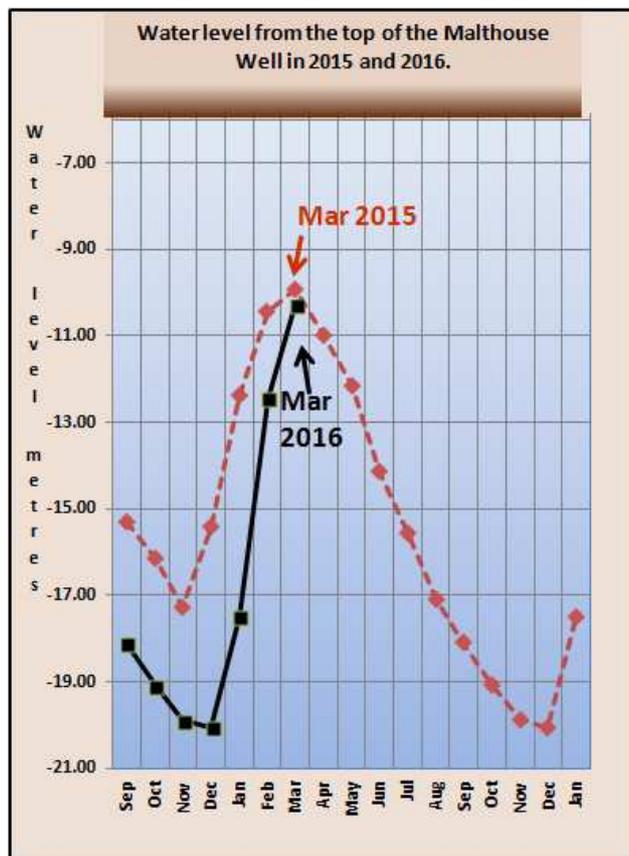
We have all been so saddened to hear of the recent passing of Terry Collier. Terry had been such a prominent member of the Evergreens for many years. Together with his wife Jill, he had been instrumental in organising so many successful outings over a really long period – at least ten years. Our thoughts are naturally with Jill and her family and we again wish to extend to them our deepest sympathy. We shall all miss you Terry.

Terry's funeral takes place at West Berkshire Crematorium, Bath Road, Thatcham on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> March at 12 Noon.

Jim Hughes, Secretary 01235 834487

### MALTHOUSE WELL

As the vegetation takes up water and bursts into life and the warming sun evaporates water directly from the ground, rainfall will stop contributing to the groundwater level which in consequence will start to fall. This year is no different and the Malthouse well level will peak somewhere near to 10 metres below ground level in the next couple of weeks. This is around the same level as this time last year and unless we have a really wet summer it should not start to rise until around the end of November / beginning of December.



### ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

|                  |   |             |
|------------------|---|-------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Family Communion                                    | 9.30am      |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | BCP Communion                                       | 8.30am      |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | *No service in West Ilsley<br>See Café Church below |             |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | Family Service                                      | 11.00a<br>m |

\*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)

#### Easter Weekend

The Bank Holiday weather was kind to those who took part in the Good Friday Walk from Peasmore to Farnborough, via Beedon and West Ilsley. The sky was cloudless for most of the time so nursing sore feet on a wet Saturday didn't seem so bad. Thanks to all who decorated the church so beautifully for our communion service on Easter Day.

#### Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This takes place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April in All Saints' Church from 7.45pm. Everyone is invited to attend, especially those members of the church on our Electoral Roll.

#### Café Church

This delightful and very popular service continues on 17<sup>th</sup> April, at St Mary's, Chieveley. The service starts at 11am, after the United Benefice Communion Service which starts at 9.30am. For Café Church do come at 10.45am for refreshments beforehand. Everyone is welcome at both services

#### Dates for your Diary

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May – Rogation Sunday** - Look out for flyers about a Rogation Walk around the parish.

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June** – We will be celebrating our Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with a special service followed by a Bring and Share Picnic in the churchyard.

#### 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 [eastdownland@btinternet.com](mailto:eastdownland@btinternet.com)

If you would like to organise a baptism, wedding or funeral or would like to talk to a member of the clergy for any other reason, email Revd John Toogood at [edownlandrector@gmail.com](mailto:edownlandrector@gmail.com) or leave a message on 01635 247566. Kay and Ian Fewtrell-Smith

**THE WEST ILSLEY RECREATION AND SOCIAL ASSOCIATION ALSO KNOWN AS THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE IS HOLDING ITS AGM**

Thursday 28th April 7:30pm at the Village Hall

**Agenda**

Report

Accounts

Open Floor - Discussion

Election of Committee members:

Four elected members

Representative members: one representative from each activity, to be as broadly representative of all village activities as possible.

All inhabitants of the area of benefit of fifteen years of age and upward shall be entitled to attend and vote at the annual general meeting.

Secretary

[steve.cobrin@gmail.com](mailto:steve.cobrin@gmail.com)

**WHAT'S ON AT THE HARROW**

**GRAND NATIONAL SWEEP STAKE**

Saturday 9th April 5:15pm

**COFFEE & CAKE MORNING**

Thursday 14th April

10:30am - 12 noon

Pop in for a slice of cake and a cup of coffee.



Money raised from cake sales will be donated to Marie Curie Cancer.



**QUIZ NIGHT**

Wednesday 27th April 8pm  
£3 each to enter, teams of up to 6

Raising money for The Air Ambulance

**LIVE MUSIC**

**MARNIE'S MINSTRELS**

(remember them from the panto?!?)

Saturday 30th April

7pm - 8pm & 9pm - 10pm

Christian, Dewi & Chopsie will entertain you for the evening, playing a selection of music ranging from folk to pop! Come down and have a sing-a-long!!

Raising money for Macmillan Nurses.



**BANK HOLIDAY BBQ**

Sunday 1st May

6:30pm - 8:30pm

We will be cooking a delicious menu with lots to chose from.

WEATHER DEPENDANT

Fancy yourself as a budding Poirot? Come along to our

# Murder Mystery!

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May  
7.30pm at The Crown & Horns

Tickets £10 per person  
to include buffet and deuthing entertainment!

Call The Crown & Horns on  
01635 281545  
to book your place

Performed by Charaderie  
In aid of Chieveley Pre School



**Update from the Royal British Legion (RBL) – Compton, Ilsleys and Norreys Branch**

In our December update we reported that membership of our small RBL branch – Compton, Ilsleys & Norreys – was growing. I am delighted to tell you that this was recognised at the RBL Berkshire County Annual Conference held during January. The branch came runners up in the competition for the Humphries Trophy, awarded to a small branch for the biggest percentage increase in membership during the past year.



Our photograph shows the RBL County Chairman, Angela Logue, presenting a certificate marking the achievement to Steve Allison, our branch's chairman, during our recent bi-monthly meeting. The Branch meets every first Wednesday on alternative months at the Swan in East Ilsley. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May.

The branch is making plans to attend this year's East Ilsley's summer event taking place early in June. We look forward to telling people about the work of the Royal British Legion locally, in Berkshire and nationally – and also raise money for the organisation by playing a silly game! Please do visit our stand to find out more. If readers know of any serving or ex-serving personnel that could do with support from the RBL, please put them in touch with us.

You do not have to be ex services (or a senior citizen!) to join the RBL but only supportive of the charity's objectives of looking after the serving and ex-serving community. The membership annual subscription is small at £16. To join, please contact one of the undersigned. Steve Allison tel 07812 991013 email [steveallison1888@aol.com](mailto:steveallison1888@aol.com) or David Norbury TD, tel 07770 326128 email [davidnorbury@btinternet.com](mailto:davidnorbury@btinternet.com)

### ALDWORTH ART & CRAFTS GROUP

Aldworth's fledgling Art & Crafts Group meets on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. in Aldworth's NEW village hall (RG8 9SE).

We are already enjoying a variety of activities. Each session costs £2.50 and refreshments are provided. You are very welcome to join us, whatever your interest, as we happily support each other in exploring and developing our art and craft skills. We also plan to have demonstrations and workshops and to visit some exhibitions – for these there may be an extra charge. For a programme of activities, or to find out more, please contact Pauline on 01635 578177.

### FALCONRY DISPLAYS AT ALDWORTH SATURDAY 9TH APRIL

**Meet Ray Prior's Birds of Prey and be amazed by Falconry Displays at Aldworth from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday 9th April.**

Organised by Aldworth's community-run Saturday Market (9.30 to 12 noon), with its wide variety of stalls, entry is FREE with a bucket collection for Disabled Parking Area at the new village hall.

Displays will be on Aldworth recreation field, off Bell Lane, with the family friendly market and refreshments in the village hall adjoining the rec. (RG8 9SE).

Details: 01635 578090

### PARISH COUNCIL

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.

2016 MEETING DATES

May 9<sup>th</sup> July 11<sup>th</sup> Sept 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 14<sup>th</sup>

DEFIBRILLATOR CODE: C159

## WHO TO CONTACT

### VILLAGE HALL

Ros Duckworth-Bookings-281471 [rosduckworth@btinternet.com](mailto:rosduckworth@btinternet.com)  
Rates: £10.00/hr Villagers £12/hr Non Villagers

### PRESCRIPTIONS

Prescriptions are delivered from Compton on Tuesdays mornings at 8.30. Please collect yours from 2 Morland Close on Tuesday or Wednesday evening between 6.00 and 7.30. Repeat forms can be posted through the letter box anytime before Monday evening for the following week's delivery. Thank you for your co-operation in keeping to the times listed.  
Tony Elliott

### PATIENT REPRESENTATION GROUP

**Fred Carter** [fred\\_kathcarter@btinternet.com](mailto:fred_kathcarter@btinternet.com) ..... 281621

### CHURCHWARDENS

Alexandra Axtell 281306 Ian Fewtrell-Smith 281625

### TENNIS COURT

Membership: Please email [tennis.bookings@westilsley.org](mailto:tennis.bookings@westilsley.org)  
Play without joining - book and pay via [westilsleytennis.jezzam.com](http://westilsleytennis.jezzam.com) or the link on [westilsley.org](http://westilsley.org)

### PARISH COUNCIL

#### Clerk:

Inna Fowler - [westilsleypc@gmail.com](mailto:westilsleypc@gmail.com) 280501  
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

Alan Beaumont - [alan.beaumont@aae-llp.com](mailto:alan.beaumont@aae-llp.com) 07980 875179

Anna Sugden - [annasugden@btconnect.com](mailto:annasugden@btconnect.com) 281784

Justin Gilbert - [Justin.Gilbert@loudonpartners.com](mailto:Justin.Gilbert@loudonpartners.com)

Justin Pilditch - [justin@pilditch.com](mailto:justin@pilditch.com)

Graham Woods - [gwoods@grwc.co.uk](mailto:gwoods@grwc.co.uk)

Roger Stowell

### Window cleaning

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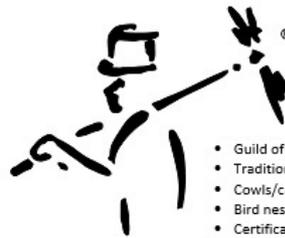
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