

**ISSUE
108**

EAST ILSLEY COMMUNICATOR

Est. 2003

**Welcome to the March 2022
Edition of the EIC**



Guest Editor:
Mrs. Sally Allsop
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Tales from your Parish Clerk



Welcome to issue 108 of the EIC, the spring edition!

It has been a busy couple of months for the Parish Council since we last wrote for the Christmas edition. We have had a successful playground inspection with no repair work needed with the equipment. The fencing around the outside perimeter of the recreation ground is in need of some TLC, so we will be looking to repair that over the course of the spring.

After a cold and wet meeting in the Swan car park back in January we successfully agreed our annual budget for 2022 / 2023 and the Precept request to West Berkshire Council. We also approved a temporary scheme of delegation to allow us to meet remotely again for certain meetings. This was implemented in the main to help the School whilst Omicron was on the rampage, but also for you and us in terms of meeting face to face. There are some things we are unable to do remotely but for most general business items, we are back on Zoom. It is up for review in May so we suspect we will be back in the School hall again in time for the annual meeting.

The great news is that the pond silt has finally dried up enough to be legally transported away for recycling at a plant in Reading. Huge thanks to Ian Wilson for the extended loan of his field for the drying process. The weather hampered our efforts in mobilising it earlier but at last, the field has been returned. Fingers crossed it will be at least another 10 years before we have to worry about that again!

If you are out and about in the village at night you may have spotted some scary eyes watching you... we have teamed up with Keep Britain Tidy and their new campaign 'We're Watching You' to tackle the ongoing issue of dog waste on the pavements and footpaths. Dotted around the village are six 'glow in the dark' signs that remind you to 'scoop that poop' when you are walking your dog. It will be interesting to see how successful the campaign is... the signs are fully moveable so if you spot an area that could do with being 'watched' do let us know and we can adjust the positions of the signs. We would like to thank Brian Woodley for helping Fen master making cable ties longer on a freezing afternoon!



We are still a member down on the Council. Our 'Casual Vacancy' notice did not generate the need for a by-election so we are free to co-opt a new member to the Council. If you have lived here for more than 12 months, are on the Electoral Roll and over eighteen we would love to hear from you.

As we near the end of the financial year, the Clerk's workload will ramp up with the annual Year End processes and Audit, also we are attempting to put together an interesting and varied program for our Annual Meeting of the Parish in May. We have not had one since 2019 due to the pandemic so the plan is to make it an informative, useful and fun event, where we will lure you in with drinks and nibbles! Put the 10th May in your diaries, we would love to see you there.

Enjoy the edition, and we hope to see you at a meeting (either virtually or in person!) very soon.

Thanks

Fen



Future Meeting Dates of the Parish Council

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday 10 th May 2022	7.30pm	School Hall

How to contact the Parish Council:

Phone: 01635 228104 or 07912 565665

Email: clerk@eastilsley-pc.gov.uk

Post: Swimbrels, Newbury Hill, Hampstead Norreys, Berkshire, RG18 0TR

Facebook: @eiparishcouncil

Twitter: @eastilsleypari1

Instagram: @eastilsleypc

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8ba375kx9qqSeeEpPgyCLw/>

Website: www.eastilsley-pc.gov.uk



East Ilsley Parish Council Member Responsibilities as of February 2021:

Chairman: Cllr. Mike Lewis

Vice Chairman: Cllr. Andrew Sharp

Allotment Officer: Cllr. Stephen Meadows

Common Field Officer: Cllr. Stephen Meadows

Playground Officer: Vacant

Digital Officer: Cllr. Mike Lewis

Footpaths Officer: Cllr. Mike Pembroke

Pond Officer: Cllr. Nick Watkins & Cllr. Stephen Meadows

Traffic & Highways Officer: Cllr. Andrew Sharp

Conservation Officer: Vacant

Community Engagement Officer: Vacant

All serving Councillors will manage the Village Design Statement.



HIGH STREET SAFARI

We are very excited to partner up with High Street Safari to offer families a free Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon Trail over May half term! It is all part of our Jubilee celebratory offerings, so turn the page to find out what else we are planning!



Platinum Jubilee Celebration Plans for East Isley Village

All Half Term Week

Free fun for all the family
with our incredible
augmented reality Jubilee
village safari walk!

Follow the map with your
smart phone and meet the
Jubilee characters who will tell
you the story of our Queen!

Thursday 2nd June @ 2pm

Head up to the Recreation
Ground to hear our Village
Crier read the official
Proclamation for the
Queen's Jubilee

followed by the opening of the
Jubilee Copse, part of the
Queen's Green Canopy



Thursday 2nd June from 3pm onwards

Afternoon Tea will be available from
the Crown and Horns, followed by:

9.35pm – The playing of 'Div Regnare'
on the Pipes

9.40pm – Official Bugle call of 'Majesty'

9.45pm – 'Song for the
Commonwealth' performed by the
Village Choir followed by the official
lighting of the Beacon!

Sunday 5th June from 12.30pm

Join us in the Recreation
Ground for the Big Jubilee
'Bring your Own'
Picnic Lunch



Your Village needs you!

To stand for election on a parish council, you must:

- ★ be a UK or Commonwealth citizen
- ★ be a citizen of the Republic of Ireland
- ★ be a citizen of another Member state of the European Union*
- ★ be at least 18 years old

To be eligible to stand for an election for a particular parish, you must:

- ★ be an elector of the parish
- ★ for the whole of the previous 12 months have occupied (as owner or tenant) land or other premises in the parish
- ★ during the previous 12 months have worked in the parish (as your principal or only place of work)
- ★ for the whole of the previous 12 months lived in the parish or within three miles of the parish boundary

If you do become a parish councillor you will have to sign up to the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.

** possible amendment due now we have left the EU*



The Seven Principles of Public Life:

- ✓ Selflessness
- ✓ Integrity
- ✓ Objectivity
- ✓ Accountability
- ✓ Openness
- ✓ Honesty
- ✓ Leadership



Do you have these qualities? We would love to hear from you!

Your route to becoming a Parish Councillor

Are you passionate about where you live? Do you want to help shape the future of East Ilsley? Read on to find out more...

East Ilsley Parish Council is an elected body in the first tier of local government, supporting the democratic process by holding Elections every 4 years. The role of the Parish Council is to represent the interests of the whole community they serve and improving both the quality of life and the local environment.

We are a corporate body, and a legal entity, separate from that of its Members, and are accountable to the local community. Our decisions are the responsibility of the whole body and are made collectively by a majority vote.

We have powers granted by Parliament, including the authority to raise money through taxation, known as the precept, and a range of powers to spend public money. We are an employer with our Parish Clerk working for, and with, the Council to action the decisions made.



Councillors are elected representatives, not volunteers or employees, and serve for a 4-year term, unless co-opted or elected in a by-election when they serve until the next election. They can be nominated by electors or approach us directly.

A Parish Councillor represents the views of all residents within the Parish and listens to, and understands, the views and needs of the differing groups within the community. As a Councillor, there is a responsibility to be well-informed, especially in relation to any diverse local views. Councillors cannot assume they represent the interests of electors without consulting them.

If you think you can contribute to the work of the Council by suggesting ideas, influencing policy, engaging in constructive debate, and responding to the needs and views of the community then please get in touch with the Parish Clerk by emailing clerk@eastilsley-pc.gov.uk

Electors - use your voice to vote for Councillors that will best represent your needs!



East Ilsley's Jubilee Copse!

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee the Parish Council are planting a 'Jubilee Copse' at the recreation ground. So far, three ornamental cherry trees were planted by Cllrs. Stephen Meadows, Mike Pembroke and Nick Watkins at the end of January. These trees were gifted to us by West Berkshire Council and the plan is to add more trees over the next few months.

We are hoping to be awarded a number of free trees by Greenham Trust as part of their 'Queens' Green Canopy' offering, later this spring, the clerk is keeping watch of when they launch the next allocation and will be putting in a request for a number of native trees. It is hoped that we can officially open the Jubilee Copse during the Jubilee celebrations in June with a plaque and even bury a time capsule there as well.

If you would like to help out with tree planting, wish to donate a tree or have ideas about what to put in the time capsule please contact the Clerk.



Events Committee

Do you like organising events? Have you got good project management skills? Are you great at engaging with the community? If so, the Parish Council would like to set up an Events Committee. This would be a formal committee that would work on providing events for the village at key seasonal points throughout the year.

Working in collaboration with councillors and the clerk, associate members would join the committee to provide assistance, advice, knowledge and general support for projects.

We proposed this at the meeting in March, but after discussing it, all were in favour of postponing this until the Annual Meeting in May.

We would love to hear from interested people and if you come along to the annual meeting on 10th May we can tell you all about it.





From the Guest Editor...

Welcome to the 108th edition of the EIC.

Yay! Spring is on the way!

Firstly, a quick apology, (for those of you that noticed), about the delay to the production and distribution of this edition of the EIC. We made a decision to delay production until after the El Parish Council meeting so that we could bring you full information on the Jubilee Celebrations. I hope that you agree that this edition is worth waiting for. After the few years we've had - it's fantastic to start seeing our village celebrating in the ways only a village like ours can - so please support the various events if you are able.



This edition has some fabulous news about upcoming events that are happening to support our various local charities, information about what's happening in and around our locality and the normal news (hot off the press) from the latest Parish Council meeting.

Now I don't know about you, but with the easing of restrictions, I'm hearing about more Covid cases than ever. Admittedly, and thankfully, those I'm hearing about are not getting seriously ill, with most only suffering from flu-like symptoms. I'm very relieved, but also I'm still being vigilant when out and about - Let's keep ourselves safe whilst enjoying our return to near normality.

I can't write this forward without mentioning the horrific situation in Ukraine. It is wonderful to see how our community is pulling together with various initiatives to raise money and send aid to people in need. I was particularly moved by the efforts of the "muffin men" - if you know... you know ☺.



Finally, this is my final appearance as Guest Editor. It's been fun but my time is done! I want to thank everyone who has contributed to the last 6 editions, it is our contributors are who make this publication an entertaining and enjoyable read.

If you would like to have a go at wielding the editors pen, please contact Fen Woods, Clerk to the East Ilsley Parish Council. Until our next editor is in place, forward your contributions to clerk@eastilsley-pc.gov.uk It has been agreed that the EIC will now be a quarterly parish magazine; dates for distribution will be March, June, September and December, aiming for mid month arrival on doormats. Fen will be in touch with contributors about the June edition soon, as the Jubilee will lead the main copy deadline.

Wishing you all a summer of sun and fun,

Sally. Xx



Introducing the Anne Robson Helpline - If you or someone close to you is dying, we are here for you.

At the Anne Robson Trust we believe that everyone deserves support and having somewhere to turn to if they or a loved one is dying. We know that facing the end of life can leave you isolated and alone.

Our free national helpline is confidential - **0808 801 0688**. Lines are open Mon - Fri (12 - 6pm)

Our volunteers are here for you to offer vital confidential support, a listening ear and a lifeline when you may need someone to talk to. We are also here if you want to start having conversations with your loved ones about your wishes but might not know where to start. Please visit www.annerobsontrust.org.uk to find out more.



**News from your West Berkshire councillor.
Representing West Ilsley,
East Ilsley, Compton,
Hampstead Norreys,
Frlsham and Yattendon**

Dear Residents

On Wednesday 23 February the Compton Institute planning application was approved by the Western Area Planning Committee. The vote passed 4-3. I voted against the planning application because in my view it didn't give sufficient attention to the policies in the Neighbourhood Development Plan that was approved in a referendum only a fortnight previously.

These policies include the number of houses (they now have permission for 160 instead of 140), the retention and renovation of the hostel to provide one and two bed accommodation (they now have permission to demolish it) and the fact that the Pickled Pig/Piglets Day nursery building will be offered to the community for sale in its current condition with no guarantee there will be any money to buy, renovate and maintain the building.

I secured a condition that NO homes should be occupied until the fresh water and sewage infrastructure is updated to accommodate the additional flows. (Thames Water had proposed a phased approach where some of the site is occupied before upgrade.) It was still absolutely worth doing the NDP because it will help Compton in the long term. For example, when it comes to the protection of existing green spaces, the design of properties, etc. It also means that they will now get 25% rather than 15% of all 'community infrastructure levy' monies to spend in the community.

The applicant now has permission to demolish the site, but the government's Casework Unit is deciding whether the application should be called in by the Secretary of State. S/he uses this power pretty sparingly so we shouldn't get our hopes up that anything will change. When demolition of the site eventually begins it will take around 18 months. I raised concerns about the extra vehicle movements through East Ilsley - especially HGVs negotiating the narrow roads - so we will need to keep an eye on this as a community and report any problems to WBC when the time comes. I secured a condition that HGVs shouldn't be coming through the villages during school bus times. The full planning meeting is available to view on West Berkshire Council's YouTube channel search for Western Area Planning Committee on 23 February. I've called in the new sports hall at Downs School at the request of Compton Parish Council because, among other reasons, they are concerned that there is no mention of future public use of the gym facility.

On Thursday 3 March West Berkshire Council had its annual budget meeting. Council tax will go up by one per cent. All the Liberal Democrat and Green amendments (including money for the food bank) were rejected as usual.

Thank you to West Berkshire Healthwatch who visited again recently to offer covid testing kits and assisted testing to residents at Hildesley Court and Church Side.

On Thursday 17 March we will be holding a protest about Thames Water discharging sewage into our local rivers. 6pm at West Berkshire Council offices on Market Street.

My crisp packet collection (for recycling) service ends on 31 March. Terracycle will no longer be processing crisp packets because they can be recycled at most supermarkets. I've checked the list and they can definitely be recycled at Tesco, Sainsburys and the Co-op in Hermitage. You can report problems including fly tipping, unemptied bins, and pot holes by searching for 'West Berkshire Report a Problem' on the internet or visiting www.fixmystreet.com If it's urgent please email customerservices@westberks.gov.uk or call 01635 551111. If you are not happy with the response you receive please contact me.

Every week residents contact me about planning applications, road and verge management, waste and recycling, etc. I can't solve every problem but I always try. I can get information for you, identify a council officer who can help you, and hold the council leadership to account.

Best wishes

Councillor Carolyne Culver
Ridgeway ward (including East Ilsley)
carolyne.culver1@westberks.gov.uk
(m) 07976 374146



THE BASE'S FESTIVAL OF ARTS & Crafts

ARTS & CRAFT FAIR
Sat 9 – Sun 10 Apr
Sat 16 – Mon 18 Apr
10am – 4pm
FREE ENTRY & PARKING

TASTER WORKSHOPS
Mon 11 – Fri 15 Apr

Join us at The Base Greenham this Easter for a 10-day celebration of arts, crafts and artisan food and drink from local makers and creators.



THE BASE Greenham
GREENHAM BUSINESS PARK
COMMUNICATIONS ROAD
GREENHAM RG19 6HN

SUPPORTED BY
CORN EXCHANGE
NEWBURY

Greenham Trust

WWW.THEBASEGREENHAM.CO.UK



Sheep Fair & Platinum Jubilee Weekend 2022

After much consideration and debate, the Sheep Fair Committee has made the sad decision that due to the on-going Covid situation and the cost of putting it on, the Sheep Fair will not take place this year.

We had planned to put on a full- scale event as normal, but the outlay and being unable to get Covid insurance, makes it too risky for us to suffer a financial loss, meaning we would be unable to run it next year. We are as disappointed as I'm sure many of you will be.

HOWEVER,

We are proposing to partially fund and put on a village celebration for the Jubilee in the form of a 'Picnic on the Green' on Sunday 5th June on the Millennium Green.

We would be interested in hearing from anyone who would like to be involved in running some games, a treasure hunt, a tea tent, we are open to ideas....

The 'FIP's' may like to organise something or the Toddler group, some of the 'Mums' or 'Dad's'? Please get in touch with us with your ideas and we can get a group together to pull this off, after the last couple of years, it would be good to have a village celebration of some sort and get together with friends.

Please get in touch with us via email - eastilsleysheepfair@gmail.com

Look forward to hearing from you

Ali, Hayley & Paula





@ Volunteer Centre West Berkshire
Charitable Incorporated Organisation No: 1156302

Latest volunteer opportunities bulletin – March 2022

Contact us for more information on these or for free interviews, help and advice about volunteering.

www.volunteerwestberks.org.uk

01635 49004

info@vcwb.org.uk

Broadway House, 4-8 The Broadway, Northbrook Street, Newbury, RG14 1BA

Driver Recruitment Event

Saturday 2nd April 2022, 10am - 2pm

Volunteer Centre West Berkshire has recently taken delivery of a fantastic new Handybus, Jubilee. On the 2nd April, our team will be in Newbury town, giving you the chance to see our shiny new bus and find out about becoming a volunteer driver.

Our Handybus service provides regular transport for elderly and disabled people, mostly in and around Newbury and Thatcham, as well as one-off trips and excursions. We are always looking for friendly new volunteer drivers to ensure the continuity of this service on which so many people depend.

We are also looking for volunteer drivers for our car scheme in Newbury, which helps people who are unable to use public transport to get to essential appointments.

We will be located outside Marks and Spencer on Northbrook Street - please stop by for a chat if you would like to learn more about volunteering as a Handybus or car driver. We look forward to meeting you!

Warehouse Volunteer

A local organisation provides model making activities for former and current Armed Forces and emergency services personnel. It also promotes model making hobbies as a way of improving wellbeing and mental health.

They have a warehouse and storage container for their stock of donated model kits (tanks, aircraft, ships, submarines, artillery, figures, cars and trucks and tools).

A volunteer is needed to restock the shelves which are 6ft high with cleaned complete model kits, moving models from the warehouse and storage container and back. You could also be providing administrative support to the organisation where needed and other general duties.

Ref NY2245

Shop Volunteer

A charity maintains a documentary and photographic record of textiles located throughout the UK. The charity is running a 'pop up' shop in Newbury selling donated items of a specialist needlecraft nature, textile books, kits, rug making items and promotional items.

Volunteers are required to assist with customer service, stock display and control and preparation of items for sale. The charity is also interested in hearing from you if you can undertake repair and cleaning of vintage sewing machines.

The role would suit friendly and reliable volunteers who can give a few hours a week.

Ref NY2235

Volunteer Face to Face Befriender

Isolation has become more prevalent over the Covid period and some local people who are blind or visually impaired need support to get out and about.

In this role, you will encourage a visually impaired person to get out and socialise or to engage in face-to-face friendships at home. You may go for a walk, to a coffee shop or do other activities in the local area. Mileage and limited expenses are paid.

The role would suit friendly volunteers with empathy and good listening skills. Training will be provided.

Ref NY2224

Club Members

The world's largest service club organisation has a branch in Newbury and would welcome new members who would like to volunteer their time to help humanitarian causes in their local and global communities.

Whilst service is the club's main function, for example through putting on fundraising events, it also offers networking, social activities and monthly meetings.

Members from all backgrounds and with different skills and interests are welcome – the club believes everyone has a contribution to make!

Ref NY817



Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum

Agent Sonya - A Soviet Spy in Oxfordshire

- Online Talk available on the museum website from 7pm, Tuesday, 29th March 2022
- Ursula Beurton, Soviet 'Agent Sonya', lived in North Oxford, Kidlington, Glympton and Great Rollright during the 1940s
- Speakers Professor Anthony Glees and Patrick Marnham
- Free to view on the museum's website, with donations welcome.

Video Link: <https://www.sofa.org.uk/whats-on/agentsonya/>

Join Professor Anthony Glees and Patrick Marnham and discover the Oxfordshire life of Soviet 'Agent Sonya'. Born Ursula Kuczynski, Agent Sonya lived in many places under many names, including nearby Oxfordshire villages of Glympton, Kidlington and Great Rollright as Ursula Beurton



She was described by historian and author Ben McIntyre as a 'lover, mother, soldier, spy' - but Anthony and Patrick will examine the question of whether she was really also a double-agent for MI6, or only ever gathered intelligence for the Soviet GRU (Main Intelligence Directorate).

Embedding herself in the local community, she was living on the doorstep of MI5 HQ; which was at that time located in Blenheim Palace to avoid the risk of wartime bombing in London.

She was twice awarded the Order of the Red Banner for her services to the Soviet Union, her spy work having sped up the development of Soviet nuclear weapons. On bike rides she would meet physicist and atomic spy, Klaus Fuchs, who was working on the development of the atomic bomb, so that he could secretly disclose details of his research.

Join us for this online talk and live Q&A as the full story of 'Agent Sonya' is revealed.

Anthony Glees is an internationally published expert on European affairs and Security and Intelligence questions. The author of numerous books and scholarly studies in this field, he is very frequently quoted in the national and international media, with recent appearances in the news providing commentary and analysis of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Patrick Marnham is a journalist, biographer and screenwriter. His biographies have covered subjects as diverse as Diego Rivera, Georges Simenon, Mary Wesley and French resistance figure Jean Moulin. His latest book, *War in the Shadows*, covers resistance, deception and betrayal in occupied France.

Prof. Glees also wishes to acknowledge the painstaking archival research undertaken by Dr Tony Percy which led to this story being told; it is his story as well Anthony's.

Those watching the talk on the night will be able to post their questions and get them answered live by Anthony and Patrick, but a recorded version of the talk will also remain available to view on the museum website indefinitely. Those wanting to watch again, or catch up at a later date, can do so using the same link as the live event.

Donations given help support the museum care for its collections as well as running further events like these.

About the Soldiers of Oxfordshire (SOFO) Museum

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock, OX20 1SN

Registered Charity No. 1145408

www.sofa.org.uk

frontofhouse@sofo.org.uk

01993 810 210

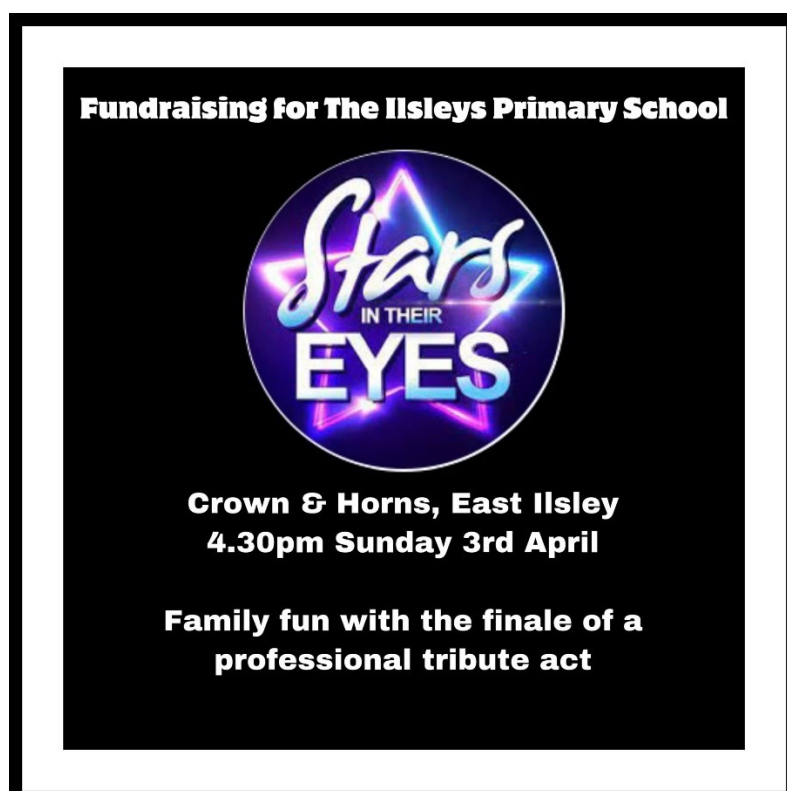
SOFO Museum first opened during the summer of 2014, tucked away in the beautiful gardens in the grounds of The Oxfordshire Museum and Woodstock Library, and just on the doorstep of Blenheim Palace.

More than a local military museum, SOFO is a museum that everyone can enjoy, from kids to parents and grandparents. We tell stories of how conflict has affected the county and its people, from soldiers serving on the front lines to ordinary people living on the Home Front.

On top of a range of ever-changing displays and events, our permanent exhibits explore topics that you'll find surprising and moving in equal measure, such as raw accounts of the liberation of Bergen-Belsen from both camp survivors and Oxfordshire soldiers.

Battles of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry puts you on-board a Horsa Glider as it prepares to land in Normandy in the early hours of D-Day 1944, while Secret War explores the world of spies and espionage and lets you try your hand at sending and decoding secret messages.

SOFO holds a collection of over 3,500 objects and 7,500 archive items from two county regiments, the Queens Own Oxfordshire Hussars (QOOH) and the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. These are our starting point for reflecting on the county's rich and diverse military heritage.





The Friends of The Ilsleys Primary School (FIPS) welcome you to a
Preloved boutique @ Cricket Pavilion, West Ilsley

Opening times:

Exclusive preview evening - Wednesday 16th March 7.30-9pm @ £10 per ticket,
to include canapés and a glass of fizz.

(Proceeds of ticket sales will be donated to the Disasters Emergency Committee)

Thursday 17th March 10am-5pm and 6.30-9pm (free entry, browse at your leisure!)

Friday 18th March 9.30-11.30am (free entry, time to bag some last-minute bargains!)

We look forward to seeing you there!

Time to get walking again!



At this time of year, we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Berkshire www.walkinginengland.co.uk/berks has hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (the custodian of the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Bedfordshire (part of the Walking in England website - one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So, home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk
john@walkinginengland.co.uk



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - COMPTON ILSLEYS & NORREYS BRANCH POPPY APPEAL - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking to recruit Poppy Appeal Organisers in Compton, East and West Ilsley, and Aldworth for this much loved and important charity.

Can you spare just a few hours a year? The duties are not arduous! Tasks are to order Poppy Appeal stock when necessary; prepare the collecting boxes and poppy trays and distribute them in your village at the start of the Poppy Appeal; collect them in after Remembrance Sunday; count and bank the money. Paperwork is minimal and consists of sending in a form showing how much was collected in your district.

Please contact one of the undersigned:

Steve Allison - tel 07812 991013 email steveallison1888@aol.com or

David Norbury - tel 07770 326128 email davidnorbury@btinternet.com





Autumn Group incorporating the Hobbies Club



What a busy and enjoyable few months it has been since the last time of writing in spite of this apparently never-ending pandemic, although we all have just been given the green light.

This year we held our Christmas Day Lunch it was a struggle and on a much smaller scale, but at least we managed one and I must pay thanks to my band of regular and loyal volunteers several of whom are not even members of the group. To them we must say a big THANK YOU.



In the weeks leading up to the lunch we ran some seasonal sessions on Flower Arranging and creating Christmas Wreaths. It is really amazing to see what talent exists within the group.



After Christmas things really got moving with a very busy calendar. With the pandemic effecting our numbers we decided to merge the Hobbies Club into the main group for the time being. This has really helped with not only numbers starting to recover but a steady trickle of new members joining.

We have had some really interesting talks, practical sessions and demonstrations about:

- The Lloyd Insurance Market - Yes that was really interesting.
- Creating Mosaics, a presentation about the Compton NDP - what a lot of work that group had put into that project.
- Mind Set Massage. That was truly "mind blowing" and I believe several of our members are now attending their regular sessions.



So, what have we in store for March and April?

Already booked we have a presentation by the Downland Practice followed by a discussion. Then we have arranged a visit by popular request of a local Hypnotist, the Dogs Trust who will bring some of their charges and what sounds to be a very interesting session by Mencap (The Yume Project - who will talk and show us how they offer life skills for those with complex physical needs, learning disabilities, autism, dementia etc).

We always have the quiet corner for those that want to make their own entertainment. Boy are we going to have a party when this jigsaw is finished.

We also plan to run so more craft sessions this time with an Easter theme.

Again, I would like to say thank you to all those members both on the committee and not who have put in so much help to keep the Group so vibrant.

Finally, just to remind everyone that we are open to all, not just residents of Compton. We currently have members from many of the surrounding villages and would be pleased to see many more.

Don't forget please feel free to bring a friend along.

Patricia, Chairman 07786 856 440







**We Do
So
Much
More
Than
Tractors!**



General Public Welcome

We are open Monday to Friday 08:00 - 17:00 Saturday 08:00 - 12:00.
Please bring along your mask we're Covid Safe!

Oakes Bros East Ilsley depot does much more than just tractors.

Our fully stocked store can provide you with a variety of products, which include:

- Footwear & Clothing
- Tools & Hardware
- Batteries
- Paint & Polish
- Toys
- Oils, Grease and Adblue
- Lighting & Trailer Spares

Pop in store today to see the range for yourself.

Please quote 'E I 10' for 10% off Toys, Clothing, Tools & Footwear!





Oakes Bros. Ltd.
Ridgeway Works
Ball Pit Road
East Ilsley
RG20 7DJ

Tel: 01635 281222
Email: sales.admin@oakesbros.net
Web: www.oakes.uk.com



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Downland News - Dr James Cave.

I start this update with some bad news. Dr Ben Curtis, who has been a partner for over 10 years will be leaving us in July. Ben is looking to have a change in career, and we wish him well. There will be a book at reception in Chieveley later in the month if you wish to leave a few words for him.

Which brings me onto another piece of bad news. Sanjay Desai, our pharmacist has resigned. We are very sorry to see him go as he was instrumental in improving both the pharmacy and the dispensary. We have started the recruitment process and, in the meantime, will continue to run dispensing at both Chieveley and Compton. However, there may be days when we are unable to find a locum pharmacist, and this will seriously impact on our service. Just like GPs there is currently a shortage of Pharmacists too!

We are pleased to welcome Dr Tosin Akin-Komolafe, Mike Essery and Debbie Green to the team this month. Dr Akin will be taking on most of Dr Haider's work. Many of you will have met her before as Tosin has worked for us in the past. Mike is a paramedic with decades of experience and joins us to help with the demand for on the day urgent appointments. He will work with the duty doctor in dealing with all our on the day demand. Our commitment to see anyone that feels their problem is urgent on the day has become increasingly difficult. In the last 6 months one in 7 days on average have seen the duty doctor struggling to see over 40 patients. (The BMA suggests that seeing over 35 patients in a day is unsafe). The stress of duty doctor is a major factor in GP burnout, and we are hopeful that Mike's intervention will take off some of that heat. We still ask people to think about their needs carefully and consider taking advice from online sites such as NHS.UK, other healthcare professionals (such as Pharmacists) or a trusted friend/family member before calling for an urgent appointment. Debbie Green is a very experienced senior nurse who will be joining us to fill the gap left by the retirement of Meryl Peckham.

Immunisations

The last year has reminded us of the power of vaccinations in preventing serious disease. Perhaps it is time to remind ourselves that there are still other diseases out there that can be prevented by immunisations. In 2021 over 150 admissions to hospital were caused by diphtheria, mumps, measles, and whooping cough. Now many of you are old enough to remember the days before we had vaccinations and will recall "measles parties". What we forget is that in the 1960s about 6000 children died each year from measles. In addition to the short-term impact of these diseases- which can all be fatal- several of them can leave people damaged after the infection. In the case of German Measles (Rubella) an infection during pregnancy can cause deafness in the unborn child.

Over the coming months we plan to revitalise our immunisation program particularly focusing on the following:

- MMR vaccine (Measles, Mumps and Rubella).
- Pneumococcal vaccine (protects against pneumonia).
- Shingles vaccine.

If you receive a reminder from us in the coming months for a jab, please don't ignore it. I know you may be tired of having a sore arm, but it might just save your life!

James Cave

A message from our MP - Laura Farris



As we head into Spring with longer days and, hopefully, some better weather, many of you might be starting to plan day trips. Did you know that you can have a fascinating and free tour around the Palace of Westminster?

The tour takes in a number of historical areas including the Chambers of both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, the State Rooms in the House of Lords, Central Lobby and Westminster Hall.

Tours are conducted by Parliament's expert guides and take around 75 minutes. The guides highlight some of Parliament's dramatic history, explain the work of Parliament and set out ways to get involved and engage with the democratic process.

They are held daily when Parliament is sitting, and regularly during recess. It is an absolute privilege to work there and I always enjoy welcoming constituents for visits – something I have been able to do far too little of during the pandemic. Whenever possible, I like to meet constituents at the beginning or end of their tour so that I can answer any questions you may have and I would love to see a group from East Ilsley if it was of interest.

Tours can be booked through my office at:

Phone 01635-551070

Email laura.farris.mp@parliament.uk

Mail Laura Farris MP, Park Street Offices, Park Street, Newbury, RG14 1EA



St Mary's Restoration and Reordering Project

We're hoping to hold a
Grand Auction
in aid of the

St Mary's Restoration and Reordering Project

Work is progressing on repairing the fabric of St Mary's, our Grade 1 listed historic parish church, making it safe and weatherproof. Once all the essential repairs are completed, we can reorder the interior to include modern facilities and create space, which can then be used for a variety of activities by local people and community groups.

Later this year we plan to hold a live auction with a guest auctioneer. Date and place to be confirmed, but probably at the Crown & Horns. We are seeking contributions and donations of lots to sell! Ideally it will be a mixture of tangible items and services, with plenty of variety and interest.

Do you have any treasures you are willing to give, such as a bottle of your home-made sloe gin, plants from your garden, a painting or photograph? Vintage items welcome.

Would you be willing to offer your time, talent or expertise in any way, such as cooking, gardening, babysitting, photography, tuition etc.

Perhaps you have contacts who can offer free tickets to an event or attraction, or might be willing to donate an item.

Anything else you can think of that someone might like!

Please get in touch if you can help.

Kay Sanderson

Email kaysanderson@gmail.com Telephone 281274

John Hibbert

Email jwt.hibbert@btinternet.com Telephone 281885



Hampstead Norreys WI

At the February meeting we were spellbound by Angela Ryan who told us about her mental health challenges and the way she has overcome them. She was an inspirational speaker who pulled no punches and talked us through her journey from utter despair to deciding to help others.

She founded Recovery in Mind in 2016 having seen the need for an organisation in West Berks like those that had helped her. This is a community organisation, where adults living in West Berkshire get the opportunity to learn lifelong skills and tools to improve and manage their mental health and wellbeing. Angela and other trainers supply free courses teaching people a variety of ways to learn how to re-educate thought patterns and feelings to cope with life's challenges again and lead a fulfilled life.

It was so refreshing to listen to her honest and at times humorous account and enthusiasm for life! The talk was uplifting for us all and we left with a great deal to think about.



The AGM was held at the March meeting, and we are ready for the year ahead with an enthusiastic group of helpers. After the business part of the evening and the refreshments we were treated to some pictures of our president's recent visit to Muscat in Oman. The photos were stunning, and we all marvelled at the steep mountains and Jan's courage in climbing to a hotel which, quite literally, clung to the side of the mountain. Jan's presentation was lively and full of anecdotes about her trip and made a very entertaining end to the evening.

There is an interesting programme planned to include talks, walks, a plant sale on May 21st in Hampstead Norreys churchyard and an Open Meeting on June 7th when we welcome friends and families. This year the Open Meeting will be a presentation about Diamond Light. This may interest the men in your family too. Please make a note in your diaries of these two events.

We meet at 7.30 on the first Tuesday of the month in Hampstead Norreys Village Hall and the April meeting is a talk entitled 'My career with the Thames Valley Police'. Why not come along and see what we are all about?

You will be very welcome.



ILSLEY EVERGREENS

NEWSLETTER – March 2022

Hello everyone.

The Ilsley Evergreens held their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 23rd of February at 2pm in the Wilkins Centre, Compton. The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the 25 attending members. The minutes of the previous AGM were approved and the Chairman gave her report on the group's activities since our last AGM in February 2020. The treasurer gave his report and the accounts for 2020 / 2021 were approved and signed off. Two members have left the management committee and a new committee was voted in including three new members. The subscriptions will remain at £10. We will continue to fundraise with our Coffee Mornings and Family Bingo nights.

Theatre trips would commence as soon as it was agreed safe to do so and suitable shows were available. The Chairman would look into the possible venues for our Christmas lunch. From the list of 17 suggested destinations the members voted for the following; Windsor, Cardiff and St Fagans living museum, Bucklers Hard Medieval Village with boat trip, Poole and Compton Acres, Swanage, Salisbury, and Bristol.

Also, a visit to a Christmas Market will be arranged. Dates to be finalised at the management committee meeting on the 16th March.

A proposal from Joan Hughes to make Avis Dockrell an Honorary Member was unanimously accepted and approved.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 3:30 pm for refreshments and the raffle draw which raised £87.

Kind regards.

Tony Elliott ~ Secretary



Extracts from Berkshire West Your Health Newsletter

Your Health

Update for patients and the public in Berkshire West
(Includes West Berkshire, Wokingham and Reading)



February 2022

COVID Restrictions are still in place



Although Covid restrictions within England have now ended, most NHS premises will still ask patients and visitors to stick to the 'hands, face space'. This is to comply with infection prevention and control guidance while Coronavirus remains in circulation. The Royal Berkshire Foundation Trust's hospital sites will continue with these guidelines to prevent Coronavirus spreading.

Individual GP surgeries have the option to do the same, so please check what arrangements your surgery has in place.

Vaccine Walk-in Sites

Our Health on the Move van is still supporting the Covid vaccination programme by visiting locations across the Berkshire West area that don't have their own vaccine centre. You can get a dose of the Covid-19 vaccine from a walk-in site or the Health on the Move (HOTM) van, without an appointment, and you don't need to be registered with a GP.



Current Situation at the Royal Berkshire Hospital Emergency Department

Like most of the NHS, the Royal Berkshire Hospital's Emergency Department is currently under extreme pressure. Please remember that unless it's a medical emergency, calling NHS 111 or visiting 111.nhs.uk may be the best port of call to get the care you need.

CALL 999 IN A MEDICAL EMERGENCY

This is when someone is seriously ill or injured and their life is at risk. Medical emergencies can include:

- signs of a heart attack
- signs of a stroke
- severe difficulty breathing
- heavy bleeding
- severe injuries
- seizure (fit)
- sudden, rapid swelling – of the eyes, lips, mouth, throat or tongue

VISIT 111.NHS.UK FOR URGENT MEDICAL CARE

NHS 111 can help if you have an urgent medical problem and you're not sure what to do. Go to NHS 111 online, if you have:

- Minor head, ear or eye problems.
- Fractures, sprains, strains, cuts and bites.
- Children's minor injuries and ailments.
- Abscesses or wound infections.

Team Effort to Reduce Ophthalmology Waiting List

Trusts across Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West have been working together to treat patients who have been waiting the longest for cataract, squint and ocular plastics surgery.

Earlier this year, the Royal Berkshire Foundation Trust completed 315 additional cataract, corneal transplants and squint operations in just two weeks. These procedures were carried out across three Trust sites: the Prince Charles Eye Unit in Windsor, the West Berkshire Community Hospital in Thatcham and the Royal Berkshire Hospital. As a result, the number of patients waiting longer than 18 weeks has reduced to just 31 patients – largely due to lack of donor material.

The Trust set up 'one-stop cataract clinics' so that most patients were able to be diagnosed, and prepared ready for surgery in a single visit. They also arranged for patients to have their post-operative checks carried out with community optometry practices. All of this work was helped by switching patient records to a fully digital system, providing greater flexibility and allowing the Trust to treat patients at whichever site has capacity.

Covid Test Payment Scam

Now that the Government has announced that free Covid tests will be coming to an end on 1 April 2022, please be aware of a related scam where people are receiving text messages requesting payment for Covid tests.

A person recently targeted by fraudsters reported that they had received a text message requesting payment for Covid tests. Given the recent news that free tests are coming to an end, the targeted person clicked on the link in the text. The target then received a phone call purporting to be from their bank, advising of suspected fraud and the need to protect their accounts. The caller advised the target to check the telephone number that they were calling from against their bank website to prove that the call was genuine. The target did check their bank's website, and confirmed that it was the same phone number calling them. However, the caller, who was a fraudster had cloned the bank telephone number when making the call.

Fortunately, the target became suspicious and ended the call. They later reported the incident to their bank who told them that this was a known scam.

Building Berkshire Together - Join the Hospital Redevelopment Project

In 2019 the Royal Berkshire Hospital was announced as one of 48 sites across the UK that was selected for the Government's New Hospital Programme. We have submitted our Strategic Outline Case, and while we await feedback to progress to the next formal stage, we have devised a range of options to either redevelop or relocate the main site of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, which we plan to evolve further to reach a preferred option.

We have established a small Building Berkshire Together team, led by Programme Director, Alison Foster to work on developing the options with patients, carers, staff and the local community. We would love you to join our network and be part of the team to design the hospital with us.

We will be looking for people from across the community to be involved as much or as little as they wish, either with a general interest in the hospital or those with specific skills. Please email buildingberkshiretogether@royalberkshire.nhs.uk or call Lynn Bushell, Communications and Engagement Lead on 0118 322 5360 for further details.

Royal Berkshire Foundation Trust Awarded 'Veteran Aware Status'

We're pleased to announce that the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust has been awarded Veteran Aware accreditation. In the UK there are nearly 3 million veterans who have additional healthcare needs. In Berkshire, we have a particularly large veteran community - right across the spectrum of the services.

We already have a strong record of supporting patients who are veterans, along with the wider veteran community, and of championing improvements in veterans' health care. A significant portion of our staff and patients are either veterans, in active service, or a family member of the aforementioned, and it's important to us that we provide ideal working environments to care for all of them.

Becoming a fully Veteran Aware accredited Trust proves our commitment to ensuring members of the armed forces community do not face disadvantages compared to other citizens when accessing NHS services.

Royal Berkshire Foundation Trust's Green Plan to Reach Net Zero

The NHS has pledged to reach net zero direct carbon emissions by 2040 and net zero indirect emissions by 2045. The Royal Berkshire Foundation Trust is proud to support this NHS goal by launching its Green Plan which sets out how it will get to net zero carbon.

Example projects include promoting alternative travel options to staff and patients, increasing recycling, and developing sustainable models of care.

The Trust has already achieved a lot:

- Removed two miles of leaking, inefficient underground pipework on the main hospital site and at the same time installed a new eco-friendly boiler.
- Introduced five electric staff pool cars
- Embedded their Wastewatchers initiative to ensure no waste goes to landfill
- Ensured recycling options are more readily available

The Trust is engaging with staff, patients and the wider community to help them reach their net zero goal and would welcome any ideas, comments and suggestions. They are also looking for people who would like to join their Net Zero team to help them shape activities. If you would like to be involved however much or little, please email green@royalberkshire.nhs.uk

YOUR NHS HERE FOR YOU	 Know where to go should you need medical advice
 SELF CARE	For basic ailments such as cuts, grazes and an upset tummy
 PHARMACY	Advice on ailments, medicines and healthier living
 NHS 111	Call 111 FREE, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, or access the service online 111.nhs.uk
 GP	Call your practice or visit their website to make an appointment for an illness or injury that won't go away
 999	Life-threatening emergencies only



Extracts from WBC Leader's Report for February 2022

West Berkshire Council

Council

There was no Council meeting in February – the next meeting is on Thursday (3 March) and will deal only with the WBC Budget for 2022/23 (see below). There will be another full Council meeting on Thursday 17 March to deal with non-Budget matters.

Executive

The Executive met on 10 February and, as well as dealing with public and Members' questions: · Approved the West Berkshire Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2021-23; · Endorsed the Newbury Town Centre Masterplan; Approved the West Berkshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2022-2027; · Noted the 2021/22 Revenue Financial Performance Quarter Three

The next meeting is on 24 March.

2022 Updates to the Highway Code



At the end of January, the Highway Code changed, with changes implemented to improve safety for people walking, cycling and horse riding. Every road user still has a responsibility to keep themselves and each other safe, and the changes mean being ready to give priority, leave space and be considerate of others.

In summary, irrespective of your method of transport, a new hierarchy of road users has been introduced to ensure those who can do the greatest harm have the greatest responsibility to reduce the danger or threat they may pose to others. This means:

- Giving people crossing and waiting to cross, and cyclists going straight ahead priority when turning in and out of junctions
- Giving plenty of space when passing people cycling and horse riders
- And making sure drivers are acting with responsibility and respect to all road users

The changes can be viewed by visiting: www.gov.uk/dft/highway-code-changes.

Appeal for return of unused equipment

Anyone with equipment on-loan from the NHS or Adult Social Care that is no longer needed (beds, hoists, commodes, etc) is asked to get in touch to arrange a collection.

Returned items are cleaned and re-issued, which helps to reuse and recycle – saving money, and ensuring that necessary equipment is available to more patients so they can be discharged from hospital safely.

Anyone wishing to return an item needs to look for the NRS sticker or label which includes a bar code, and contact NRS Healthcare: either by telephone on 0344 893 6960 during opening hours (08:30 to 16:30, Monday to Friday), or by email to enquiries@berkshire.nrs-uk.net.

West Berkshire Co-production Steering group for Environmental services

We are looking for up to seven local people to join a 'Co-production Steering Group'. The group will be shaping a new approach to providing public services in West Berkshire called Co-production, which is about local people and professionals working together in equal partnerships. The initial focus of the group will be the Council's Environment Strategy, which includes supporting green growth and businesses, energy efficiency, protecting and enhancing biodiversity, and sustainable transport.

Steering Group members might be from local organisations, businesses, green groups or local people with an interest in environmental issues.

We hope the first meeting will be face to face in Newbury on 29 March from 1pm-4pm. From then on the group will meet on Zoom once per month for six months.

All reasonable expenses will be covered.

Below are the main criteria for applicants:

- An interest in environmental issues
- Knowledgeable about and involved in your local community
- An interest in finding out more about co-production
- Some experience of working in groups or committees
- The ability to take a collaborative and constructive approach
- Awareness and understanding of equality and diversity
- Able to attend the meetings by Zoom and face to face on the dates listed above
- Able to keep sensitive information confidential
- An interest in learning from other people

How to apply:

The deadline for applications is 5pm on Friday 18 March.

To find out how to apply please email: Environment@westberks.gov.uk and we will send you further details. If you have any questions, please contact pete@coproductionworks.co.uk



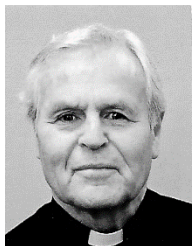
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Our Passenger transport service offers a 17 seat minibus and an 8 seat vehicle all supplied with a driver to take you and your friends or family to any location or event throughout the UK. Ideal for airport transfers, Royal Ascot etc

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Email: mark@penmartransport.co.uk

Musing from the associate clergy's desk



The last two years have been a trial for us all, when we are reminded each day on the news of the number of people who are ill, the number of cases in hospital and finally the number of deaths from this virus. Hopefully it encourages us to be more careful in what we do, where we go and remembering always to carry a face mask with us.

However, it also points to the fact that we are mortal and that death can come at any time, whether we are young or old. I mention all this, not because I feel depressed, or to make you depressed, but because the Christian hope is to look to the future.

I am sitting writing this at the beginning of February, as I look towards the church period of Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd – the time when we have an opportunity of examining our own lives, and hopefully, seeing where we can improve not only in our daily living but also in the way we can help others. Jesus often reminded his followers that there are two commandments – love God and love your neighbour. How good are we at doing this day by day?

As far as I am concerned there are many ways in which we can fulfil Jesus' teaching to love, but for me one of the most important is through prayer. He also taught us how to pray by setting out the words of the Lord's Prayer – the Our Father.

This brings me to something positive – each Lent we hold a Lent Course on one subject or another, and this year the subject is very apposite – what we can learn from the words of the Lord's Prayer and how to put them into practice in our own lives. There are five Sessions in the course called 'Come and See' and it gives us an opportunity of exploring the Christian Faith in a small group, of asking questions that we have long thought about, and perhaps, been too shy to ask, and contributing to the general discussion.

Certainly, this will be a positive way of using Lent as a time of reflection. There will be three or four groups held each week in different parts of the Team, and you will be reminded of these nearer the time. I hope and pray that through this course God will help us all to understand our faith more easily, and to live it out more fully in our daily lives as we continue to face the remnant of this pandemic.

So 'Come and See' what we can learn together, and practice in our lives each day.

God bless you,

Reverend Clive Jones.

Associate Clergy, Hermitage Team Ministry

March & April Services at St Mary's Church

Sunday 6 th March Lent 1	9.30am – Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday 13 th March Lent 2	No Service here (9.30am – Holy Communion (CW) at Compton Church)
Sunday 20 th March Lent 3	No Service here (9.30am – Holy Communion (CW) at Compton Church)
Sunday 27 th March Mothering Sunday	11.00am – All Age Praise Service for Mothering Sunday
Sunday 3 rd April Passion Sunday	9.30am – Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday 10 th April Palm Sunday	No Service here (9.00am – Palm Sunday Procession from the Foinavon Pub to the Church) (9.30am – Holy Communion (CW) at Compton Church)
Sunday 17 th April Easter Sunday	11.00am – Easter Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday 24 th April Low Sunday / Easter 1	No Service here (8.00am – Holy Communion (BCP) at Hampstead Norreys Church) (10.00am – Team Service at Hermitage Church)



Easter Blessings to you from the Hermitage Team of Churches



An invitation to journey with us through Holy Week

On Palm Sunday we remember Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem by receiving a palm cross and in some churches there may be a procession. (Read Mark's gospel, chapter 11)

On Maundy Thursday we remember Jesus' last supper with his friends and the altar is stripped in recognition of the humiliation Jesus suffered at his arrest. A service of Tenebrae (which means shadows) includes readings and the extinguishing of candles, ending in darkness. It recreates the sense of abandonment and betrayal that Jesus felt at his arrest. A vigil offers quiet time for personal reflection and prayer. (John, chapter 13)

On Good Friday services include the story of Jesus' death on the cross and offer stillness to reflect upon the story. Easter walks and trails help to remind the world of the significance of this day. (Mark, chapters 14 and 15)

On Easter Sunday we celebrate the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ, it is the most joy-filled day in the Christian calendar. Alleluia, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed, Alleluia! (Mark, chapter 16)



These special Easter Card will be available to collect from the Church by the end of March, pop them on your fridge and come and explore Holy Week with us!

Other lent activities

We will be holding the following online services during Lent:

Monday's at 9am (7th, 14th, 21st, 28th March and 4th April)

Online Morning Prayer via Zoom

Thursday's at 7pm (10th, 17th, 24th, 31st March and 7th April)

Compline Online via Zoom

Friday's at 9am (11th, 18th, 25th March, 1st and 8th April)

Online Morning Prayer via Zoom

The links to the Zoom services will be published nearer the time. They will be available on our website, social media and via the weekly update email.



Little Angels takes place on the first Friday of the month, at 10am at Hampstead Norreys Church. It is a lovely group for the under-fives and their parents and carers. Join us for Bible stories, music and playtime, led by our Licenced Lay Minister, Wendy Willoughby-Paul.

Cuppa a Cake is back! On the third Tuesday of every month, 2.30pm to 4pm in the Adelaide Room at Holy Trinity Church, Hermitage, pop along for a cuppa, some lovely cake and friendly chat, all are welcome.

Online Service in the Team on Zoom:

Monday Meditation @ 5pm

Contact Judith Denny via email for the latest link judith.denny@crackley.co.uk

Wednesday Team Pilgrims / Online Meditation @ 7.30pm

Contact Reverend Sue via email for the link sue@hermitage-team.org.uk

Keep an eye on our website as changes made are reflected there, there is a special Online Services page here:

<https://www.hermitage-team.org.uk/page/82/online-services> which is kept up to date.

We will continue to add recorded services to our YouTube Channel, please subscribe and you will be alerted when a new service has been added. <http://bit.ly/hermitageteam-youtube>

If you would like to receive the weekly update email, please visit our website (www.hermitage-team.org.uk) and complete the 'Contact Us' form which can be found on the homepage, near the bottom of the page.

Ukraine statement from the Archbishops



"The horrific and unprovoked attack on Ukraine is an act of great evil.

"Placing our trust in Jesus Christ, the author of peace, we pray for an urgent ceasefire and a withdrawal of Russian forces.

"We call for a public decision to choose the way of peace and an international conference to secure long term agreements for stability and lasting peace.

"We invite Christians to make this Sunday a day for prayer for Ukraine, Russia and for peace.

"We also give our support to the call from Pope Francis for a global day of prayer and fasting for peace on Ash Wednesday, March 2."

Archbishop Justin Welby and Archbishop Stephen Cottrell



LENT COURSE 2022

Our five week Lent Course for this year is 'Come and See' by the Oxford Diocese based on The Lord's Prayer. All are welcome to explore their faith with us at one of the sessions below:

Sessions:

Monday 14th, 21st, 28th March and 4th April Online via Zoom

Meeting ID: 870 1255 0835

Passcode: HTLent

Wednesday 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th March and 6th April @ 10.30am at Coppice Gate, Frilsham and 7.30pm in the Fisher Room, Cold Ash

Resources will be provided at the sessions



**COME
AND
SEE**

Adventures in faith and trust
oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see

Civil War at Shaw House



Discover what life was like for those who had to take up arms against their fellow countrymen. Witness soldiers training to use swords, muskets and pikes and visit some of the tradesmen and civilians who accompanied the armies. Plus, living history demonstrations inside Shaw House.

Shaw House and Café open from 11am – 4pm with free entry to the house.

Saturday 12th March, 11am – 4pm, FREE, no need to book.

Online talk: Last Orders, A History of the Pubs of Thatcham



This Talking History online talk by Nick Young will look briefly at the history of a number of pubs in Thatcham. Differences between pubs and inns will be discussed and a number of the people associated with the pubs and trade. These will include long gone pubs such as the Bell, the Bull and the Shah, some we know little about, and various other interesting facts

Tickets (£5 per household) for this zoom talk must be purchased in Advance

Wednesday 16 March | 7-8pm | £5 (per household) | Online (Zoom)

Workshop: Spring Flowers

Spring Flowers, the perfect treat for Someone Special or a Mother's Day gift. Come and join in the fun creating your own arrangement in a basket or container. All materials and instruction provided.



Wednesday 23 March | Shaw House | 1pm & 6.30pm (2.5hrs) | £45 (with option to upgrade to a glass of Prosecco or non-alcoholic Nozeco for the 6.30pm session)

Blaze's Buddies



Come and take part in our monthly under 5s session, Blaze's Buddies. This month's session theme is otters!

Places are limited and free tickets will be available from the museum reception desk from 10am onwards on the day on a first come, first served basis.

Thursday 3rd March | 11am | Suitable for 2-5 years | FREE

Spring Food and Craft Fair

Spring is in the air and we are celebrating with the return of our Spring Food & Craft Fair! Explore the House and browse over 60 stalls offering artisan food, drink and locally produced crafts, giving you the perfect opportunity to shop for unique gifts and treats. The children's entry price includes an activity trail in the grounds and a goody bag to take home.

Adults £2, Children £1 (Free for children aged 3 years and under)

Sunday 3 April | Shaw House | 11am - 4pm | Tickets must be pre-booked in advance.



Domestic Electrical Installations

For all your electrical Design/Installation
Fault rectifying, Periodic Inspection & 110/230Vac
Portable Appliance Testing requirements
ELECSA & ECA approved electrical installer

Not VAT register **LIGHTING FOR MOST OCCASIONS**

Festoon 20 and 100 metre cable lengths with white or coloured lamps at either 240/110 incoming voltages.

Multifunction 12 metre Chasing Rope Light, 240V.

Extension cable 110 and 240 Volt, 16 Amp, 20 and 25 metre lengths.

All donations received for the equipment hiring will go too either Sheep Fair and/or Bonfire committee funds.

Contact Keith Pentecost Tel: 07985-797333 & 01635-281389 (East Ilsey)

www.klp-electrical.co.uk<http://www.electricalsafetyregister.com/>

Electrical Safety Council Product recall online link :www.esc.org.uk/reall





Share the joy of reading



This month we invite you to help us **share the joy of reading** with family, friends and our local communities. Although we offer a wide range of services including information and advice, free computer use, space for private study, self-service printing and copying, meeting rooms for hire and a variety of events and activities throughout the

year, undoubtedly when people think about libraries the first thing they think of is books and reading.

From the latest bestsellers to board books for babies, we have something for everyone. We don't only have books in print either. Audiobooks, e-magazines and e-newspapers, e-audio and e-books from several major online suppliers are all available to library members for FREE.

Free books for babies

As part of our commitment to encouraging reading, we have a Partnership Agreement with the national charity BookTrust which currently allows us to provide free 'Bookstart packs' for babies and young children. Baby packs are normally distributed for us by Health Visitors across the district. However, if you have a baby older than 10 weeks and you have missed out on this for any reason, you can collect a Bookstart pack from your local library.

Our Bookstart packs for children aged 3-4 years are normally distributed through nurseries and pre-schools, but if you have a child of this age who doesn't attend one of these settings you can collect a pack from any West Berkshire library during normal opening hours. (Available while stocks last.)



Educafe at Newbury Library



Did you get a chance to drop in to the Educafe in Newbury Library during February? If not, don't worry - we're delighted to tell you that this friendly community café will now take place every Wednesday, 11am-2pm.

Educafe in the library provides a safe space for people to make new friends, eat and learn. Come and join us to enjoy arts and

crafts, games and puzzles, activities for parents with babies, IT support, a befriending service, our 'chatty corner' for anyone who wants to improve their English language skills, and lots more.

Refreshments provided – all welcome to come and enjoy a chat and free cake!

Science Week

British Science Week runs from 11-20 March this year. In connection with this we'll be holding a special STEM Week on Instagram, starting on Monday 14 March, when we will be highlighting some of our favourite titles relating to science, technology, engineering and maths. We hope these will provide you with plenty of inspiration for what to read next. As usual, all the books we feature will be available to reserve and borrow free of charge from West Berkshire Libraries.

British
Science
Week
2022



LEGO Clubs



Our monthly LEGO clubs are a great way for youngsters to use their imagination and experiment with creating their own structures.

Children over 5 years can join us at any of our sessions. Parents/carers need to stay with children under 8. While you are there, why not have a go at building something yourself?

Burghfield Common Library – first Friday of the month, 4.15-5.30pm

Hungerford Library – first Saturday of the month, 10.30am-12pm

Newbury Library – first Saturday of the month, 2-3pm

Thatcham Library – first Saturday of the month, 10.30am-12pm

Thatcham and Theale libraries also run Duplo Play sessions for young children. Please ask in the library for details

Online fun

Throughout March, new book-related online crafts for children will be available every weekend on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter as usual.

This month's online storytime is ready for you to enjoy on YouTube now. Come and listen to Beth from West Berkshire Council's Archaeology service reading Princess Scallywag and the brave, brave knight, written by Mark Sperring and illustrated by Claire Powell.

Free health checks



Hungerford, Newbury and Thatcham and Libraries now have Wellpoint 'health kiosks' available for customers to use. Try them out to measure your height, weight, BMI, blood pressure, heart age and cardiovascular risk. It's quick and easy to do and will help you to maintain your health and wellbeing.

Living with Covid

West Berkshire Council appreciates everything that residents have done over the past two years to protect each other and the West Berkshire community. Although all domestic legal restrictions relating to the virus have now ended, we all need to continue to behave responsibly and consider the people around us. Thank you for your consideration for others when you are visiting our libraries.

You can find details of all West Berkshire Libraries opening hours, including our Mobile Library timetable, on our website: www.westberks.gov.uk/libraries.



EASTER IS 5 WEEKS
WHAT WILL YOU LOSE?

1lb a week is 5lbs
2lb a week is 10lbs
3lb a week is 1st 1lb
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Call now for more information:
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Local Business Advertisements:



GONE BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN
Grave tending services

Grave & Memorial Services include clearance of decayed flowers, debris, weeds and litter.

Headstone / Memorial cleaning, grass cutting / trimming, cleaning of vases and ornaments.

Areas Covered - Reading and West Berkshire.

One Off Visit / Regular / Anniversary visits.
Before & After photographs provided.

Contact Ian on 07468 858807
E mail - heny3023@sky.com for further details.

Gone but never forgotten - Grave tending & Memorial Services.



Ilsley Under Fives Make New Friends

We are a small and friendly toddlers group run by parents from East and West Ilsley and surrounding villages.

Fun Activity We run outdoor only meet-ups every Wednesday morning during term time from 10am to 11:30am.

Each week we visit a different venue, from parks to forests and trips out doing whatever we can in these difficult times to have fun and learn in the outdoors with your littles ones.

You can find our schedule on Facebook on the [Ilsley Under fives](#) page or contact us via email at ilsleyunderfives@gmail.com for more information.



Helping Hands
Caring since 1989

Helping Hands Newbury is delivering care in your area now

With over 30 years' experience in caring for people within their own homes, and a commitment to using only directly employed carers, we have the expertise to provide the best care possible from **30 minutes to full-time, live-in care.**

For more information, or to arrange a meeting with our Newbury team please call: **01635 959 145** or visit helpinghands.co.uk

FITTER MOTHER

MUM FRIENDLY FITNESS

AT FITTER MOTHER WE BELIEVE THAT HAVING LITTLE ONES SHOULDN'T GET IN THE WAY OF GETTING FIT & FEELING GREAT. IT'S WHY ALL OUR SESSIONS ARE CHILD FRIENDLY. WHATEVER THEIR AGE AND WHATEVER YOUR STAGE WE HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU.

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FIONACHAILLIER@GMAIL.COM



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appointment 07973518395

6 & 6a Bus Timetable:

NEWBURY THE WHARF - SHAW - HERMITAGE - HAMPSTEAD NORREYS - COMPTON - THE ILSLEYS

Connect
SERVICE

6

6a

MONDAYS - SATURDAYS

SERVICE No.	6a	6a	6	6	6	6	6
NEWBURY Station [T] ➡	.....	0842	1022	1222	1422	.....	1807
Newbury The Wharf [D]	0650	0850	1030	1230	1430	1615	1815
Newbury - Park Way [P]	0652	0852	1032	1232	1432	1617	1817
Donnington, The Castle Inn	0657	0857	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Shaw Cemetery	.....	.....	1040	1240	1440	1625	1825
Chieveley, East Lane	0707	0907	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Beedon, Coach PH	0711	0911	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hermitage Post Office	.....	.....	1050	1250	1450	1635	1835
Hampstead Norreys, Water Street	.....	.....	1057	1257	1457	1642	1842
Compton, High St, opp The Swan	.....	.....	1105	1305	1505	1650	1850
East Ilsley, Broad Street	.....	.....	1109	1309	1509	1654	1854
WEST ILSLEY, The Harrow PH	0721	0925	1115	1315	1515	1700	.....

MONDAYS - SATURDAYS

SERVICE No.	6	6	6	6	6	6a	6a
WEST ILSLEY, The Harrow PH	0722	0930	1117	1317	1517	1702	.....
East Ilsley, Broad Street	0728	0936	1123	1323	1523	1708	1854
Compton, The Swan	0732	0941	1128	1328	1528	.....	.....
Hampstead Norrey, Water Street	0741	0950	1137	1337	1537	.....	.....
Hermitage Post Office	0748	0958	1145	1345	1545	.....	.....
Beedon, Coach & Horses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1721	1901
Chieveley, East Lane	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1725	1905
Donnington, The Castle Inn	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1729	1914
Shaw Cemetery	0756	1006	1153	1353	1553	.....	.....
Newbury, Park Way [Q]	0805	1012	1159	1359	1559	1733	1918
Newbury The Wharf [H]	0806	1013	1200	1400	1600	1735	1919
Newbury Station ➡	.....	1018	1205	1405	.....	.....	1922R
The Oaks	0816	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
NEWBURY College	0818	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tesco The Triangle	0818	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Park House School, Monk's Lane	0821	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wash Common, Glendale Avenue	0825	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

No service on Sundays or Public Holidays. For additional journeys between Chieveley and Newbury, see Service 5c. Tickets are inter-available.

Notes:

— Served when the College is in session

— Served when the College is not in session

➡ — Rail station nearby

R — Continues to the Rail Station if requested by passengers



These services are
operated under
contract to West
Berkshire Council



Service operated by



Directory



District Councillor:

Cllr. Carolyne Culver
Ridgeway Ward

Tel: 07976 374146

Email: Carolyne.Culver1@westberks.gov.uk

East Ilsley Parish Council:

Cllr. Mike Lewis
(Chairman)

Tel: 07717 156912

Email: mike@eastilsley-pc.gov.uk

Cllr. Andrew Sharp
(Vice Chair)

Tel: 07778 800024

Email: andrew@eastilsley-pc.gov.uk

Cllr. Stephen Meadows

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Email: stephen@eastilsley-pc.gov.uk

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Cllr. Nick Watkins

Tel: 07720 294905

Email: nick@eastilsley-pc.gov.uk

Fenella Woods

Tel: 07912 565665

Email: clerk@eastilsley-pc.gov.uk

(Clerk)

Website: www.eastilsley-pc.gov.uk

We currently have one vacancy on the Parish Council.

Hospitals & GP Surgeries

West Berkshire Community Hospital 01635 273300

Royal Berkshire Hospital 0118 3225111

Radcliffe Infirmary 01865 311188

John Radcliffe Hospital 01865 741166

Downland Practice Chieveley 01635 248251

Police

Thames Valley Police 01865 841148

Emergency 999

Non-Emergency 101

Crime Stoppers 0800 555111

Schools

Ilsley Under 5's 01635 281327

The Ilsleys Primary School 01635 281225

The Downs School Compton 01635 27000

Utilities

BT Faults 151

BT General Enquiries 0118 957 5877

Southern Water 0845 7708090 (Emergencies)

Thames Water 0845 9200900 (Emergencies)

Southern Electric (SSE) 105 or 0800 0727282 (Emergencies)

Handy Bus

DVG Co-ordinator 07437 543098 dvg.handybus@gmail.com

Citizens Advice Bureau 0300 222 5941

Hermitage Team of Churches

Reverend Wayne Lautenbach 07825 502309 wayne@hermitage-team.org.uk