

Email: eiceditor2021@gmail.com



Tales from your Parish Clerk



Welcome to issue 103 of the EIC, and our first edition of 2021. Firstly, we are delighted that Sally Allsop has agreed to guest edit the next editions and we look forward to working alongside her to keep this publication going and landing on all door mats in the village. The internet and social media are amazing things but we know not everyone has these and this remains the best way to reach everyone in our community.

So, what has been happening in your Parish Council since the start of 2021? It continues to be busy behind the scenes and a number of 'projects' are finally coming into bloom. The first important one we want to tell you about is the Pond project. As you may remember, we sourced guotations from contractors back in early September and the costs far exceeded our ear marked reserves, so much so that it was impossible for us to meet the quoted costs. Undeterred we scoured grant funding websites to see if we could gain some assistance. It was bad news; all funding had been allocated to supporting Covid recovery projects and nothing matched with our criteria. Then in December, West Berkshire Council announced that they had a pot of £500,000 of CIL money (Community Infrastructre Levy) that they would distribute to projects across West Berkshire upon successful 'bidding'. We immediately began to put together a bid proposal in conjunction with our Flood Warden, Nick Watkins and our District Councillor, Carolyne Culver and this required an enormous amount of research and reading of West Berkshire Policies, to support our bid. The final proposal was sent in to West Berkshire at the beginning of January and we received notification in February that we had been successful and they will give us £14,122.46 (56% of the total cost) towards the project. This is absolutely fantastic news, a lot of hard work has paid off and we are now in a position to re-engage with the contractors for re-quotes, and securing dates for the commencement of the project. Add this to our ear marked reserves, and the precept for 2021/2022 work now really does begin in earnest and we are hopeful that within the next 2 months, you should start seeing heavy machinery, safety fencing and the start of what will be a wonderful transformation. Watch this space!

The good news keeps on coming; in January we heard that our grant application to assist with the restoration of the war memorial plaque for Rex Wells was approved and we are now working alongside the War Memorial Trust, English Heritage and the War Memorial Restoration Company to restore this plaque to its original condition. We are hopeful that work will be completed towards the end of the Summer and that we can finally place the plaque inside St Mary's Church so he can be remembered along with the other fallen soldiers of the World Wars. The Oxford Diocese have also granted us the 'faculty' which allows us to re-home the plaque in the Church. There has been media interest in this project and ITV Meridian will film a 'human interest' story alongside the Newbury Weekly News. Look out for camera crews in the village in the coming months!

As you read this, I, as your Clerk and Reponsible Finance Officer, will be embroiled in the annual tasks of 'Year End'. As a public body, we have strict compliances to follow with our reporting, income, expenditure, analysis and governance, including both an internal and external audit. A lot of work goes into preparing all the documents and ensuring we have accurate figures and paperwork ready for review. If I am a little quiet in early April, you'll know it is because I'll be very busy!

Finally, with the gradual lifting of the restrictions placed on us for the past year, things are looking brigter and more optimistic, spring is springing, evenings are lighter and better times are coming. Stay safe and well, enjoy the issue and we will see you at a meeting very soon,

Fen.

We are thrilled to have been awarded the following certificates!



Community

Awards 2020

East IIsley Emergency Response Team

Congratulations on being commended by the judging panel and thank you for the amazing work you have done to support your local community throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

Covid Response Community Group of the Year -

supported by Greenham Trust

Councillor Graham Pask, Chairman of the Council

/sahan Van.

Nick Carter, Chief Executive

Number











The High Sheriff of The Royal County of Berkshire Mary Riall

to

East Usley Emergency Response Team

In recognition of outstanding service and contributions to improving the lives of those in the community.

Dated 10th day of March 2021



Future Meeting Dates of the Parish Council

Date	Time	Location		
Annual Meeting of the Parish Council:				
Tuesday 4 th May 2021	7.30pm	via Zoom*		

* Parish Councils are authorised to continue with online meetings until 6th May 2021.

The Zoom log in details for the above meeting can be found below:

May Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86521533141?pwd=V1drbm9RcHZKY1c1T0Z6TFJRdUNRUT09 Meeting ID: 865 2153 3141 Passcode: annual

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council we will plan out the schedule of meetings for the coming year and publish those on our website, and in future issues of the EIC. As we will be conducting this via Zoom, we are unable to host the Annual Parish Meeting safely, this will return in 2022.

We hope that face to face meetings will be able to start again after 21st June 2021, we will need to liaise with The Ilsleys Primary School about the use of the school hall in terms of Covid risks and cleaning requirements, whilst we work through the vaccination program. If there are any issues we will be working with BALC (Berkshire Association of Local Councils) and NALC (National Association of Local Councils) to agree a plan which legally allows us to carry out Parish business as safey as possible.

How to contact the Parish Council:

- Phone: 01635 228104 or 07912 565665
- Email: <u>clerk@eastilsley-pc.gov.uk</u>

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

- Facebook: @eiparishcouncil
- Twitter: @eastilsleypari1
- Instagram: @eastilsleypc



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







JULIAN JEFFS 5TH APRIL 2021

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From your friends at the Parish Council and the village of East Ilsley!



From the Guest Editor...

Welcome to the Spring edition of the EIC.

Firstly, I want to say a big thank you to all our contributors to this edition of the East Ilsley Communicator. For a spring edition, we have bumper content and it's great to see that so many of our local societies, local services and clubs have been using their time well to prepare for the roadmap out of lockdown.

For those of you who don't know me - I've lived in the village since 2003, firstly at Vine Cottage and now 'up the hill' and down Old Stanmore Road - trust me 18 years seems to have flown by, and I can honestly say according to the "locals", I'm still not qualified to be considered a "real

local" Since late last year, I have retired from my corporate role and now run a couple of local small businesses. I enjoy being part of our amazing community, I am a trustee for the Millenium Green Open Space, a member of the East Ilsley Responders and can now add EIC Editor to the list too. I can be seen regularly, being towed around the village by our new pup, let's just say heel walking is a work in progress.

Over the last few months, it's been exciting to hear of new residents moving to East Ilsley and I'm not speaking alone, when I wish you all happiness in our beautiful village - we all look forward to welcoming you to our normally vibrant village as the shutters of lockdown are once again lifted.

With newbys coming in, we have also sadly said goodbye to a number of villagers, again on behalf of the village, we wish you well in your new homes - and remind you that you can leave East Ilsley, but it will never truly leave you - we look forward to seeing you back here soon!

As I write this - we are still on track for Step 2 of the COVID Roadmap, Page 7 provides details of what we can look forward to on the 12th April, fingers crossed that these dates do not slip - we must all continue to be vigilent and uphold the "safe behaviours" to do our part towards making this roadmap as smooth as possible.

Stay safe, keep well, see you all soon, Sally Allsop <u>Eiceditor2021@gmail.com</u>



Update from Bobby on local Egg Deliveries

It is with deepest regret that I have come to the decision that I will no longer be able to conduct my weekly egg delivery.

I would like to thank you all for the support over the years, but due to my back deteriorating I'm finding it harder to get in and out of the car travelling around the village.

Eggs will still be available for collection from my home in worlds end, please text me on 07919033161 if interested. Alternatively, our eggs are also available at Chieveley shop.

Best wishes Bobby

COVID-19 RESPONSE - Spring 2021.

HM Government

Presented to Parliament by the Prime Minister.

The following imagery summarises the steps that have been proposed by the UK Government for progression out of the current lockdown.

The Government have been clear that the dates are provisional only and are subject to change.

In the meantiume we should all continue to undertake "safe behaviours" and maintain a high level of caution when outside our own homes.









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

Hello everyone,

I hope you are all well. Firstly, I want to thank our parish clerk Fen Woods and all of the covid/emergency volunteers in East IIsley. It's been clear from the regular covid volunteer coordinators meetings I facilitate in this ward that the village communities have worked hard to help people during the pandemic. Thank you to Martyn, Liam and Karen at the Crown and Horns for all their efforts too.

A cross-party group of councillors is concerned that residents making planning applications are being stung for Community Infrastructure Levy charges for simply not completing a piece of paperwork which they didn't know about, and the council did not alert them to their error. Once the deadline for submitting paperwork has passed, they are charged - some for many thousands of pounds. We want this to stop. The process should be transparent and fair. Councillors were not given the opportunity to debate a Liberal Democrat motion about this issue. It was sent down the rabbit hole of confidential 'advisory groups' and 'Executive decisions'. But we will continue to challenge this. If you are aware of any local cases please let me know.

West Berkshire Council's annual budget was approved on 2 March. I'm leader of the Green Party group on the council and I issued this statement to the media after the budget meeting:

"Green Party councillors walked out of last night's council's annual budget meeting in solidarity with the Opposition Liberal Democrats because of the Conservatives' attempts to shut down democratic debate. Once again our respective budget amendments were lumped together rather than considered individually, making it easier for the Conservatives to find an excuse to oppose them en bloc. Shortly after debate began on the Liberal Democrats' amendments to the revenue budget a Conservative requested that debate end and we move to a vote. Yet earlier the Conservatives had been happy to waste time queuing up to highlight all the great projects that their own wards will benefit from.

"West Berkshire Council is an elective dictatorship. The only way to end this is to elect parties that will abandon the ridiculous Executive system and use the more democratic committee system.

"The Leader of the Council had the cheek to say these budget proposals could have been made earlier in the year. But we aren't included in the Conservatives' discussions with officers when the budget is drawn up - we only get to amend it at the annual meeting. Most motions and petitions during the year get delegated to secretive committees that we aren't allowed to talk about, or judgement is passed down by a member of the Conservative Executive. Our Universal Basic Income motion in December was condemned by the Leader of the Council as divisive because all three parties didn't agree on the topic. In February she complained about members of the public asking questions. Is this a democracy or a dictatorship? She should abandon her autocratic style of leadership."

There is still no news about when the Compton Institute site will be debated at Western Area Planning Committee. Perhaps no news is good news! While the consensus is that a brownfield site that's been left to deteriorate should be put to good use, there is widespread concern about the pressure on schools and the doctor's surgery, and the impact of construction traffic and increased car traffic through East IIsley.

If you have any issues you need me to take up with West Berkshire Council please let me know.

Best wishes

Cllr Carolyne Culver

Carolyne.culver1@westberks.gov.uk, 07976 374146



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The Crown of Thorns: A reflection by Revd Dr Simon Thorn



For our online Epiphany service, I sang a verse of *We Three Kings of Orient Are*. My part was Melchior, the gold-bearing Magus: "Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring to crown Him again, King forever, ceasing never Over us all to reign.

I confess I'm a monarchist. I love the Queen's Christmas and Easter messages. Her Christian faith and dedication to serving her people have guided her all her life. She is one of the few people alive to have worn a real earthly crown, and certainly worn it the longest: nearly 70 years. Unlike so many elected politicians and presidents who crave power and more worrying refuse to relinquish it when democracy has spoken, the Queen expresses her humility in acknowledging that there is only one Ruler of Princes, King of Kings, and that is God in Christ Jesus.

At the beginning of Lent, we were reminded that after his baptism Jesus was tempted in the wilderness for forty days. Satan took him to the top of a high mountain to view all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. He offered Jesus political dominion over them, all the earthly crowns, if he only would bow down to worship the Devil. Jesus replied: "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, Worship the Lord your God, and serve only Him."

We are all similarly tempted, being constantly told that material wealth and status are signs of success, a source of pride and a means of lifetime security. From our relative comfort we envy those who can afford the latest fashions and luxuries. And we pity those who have little or nothing, thanking our lucky stars we are not one of them. Or worse, we listen to those who say they brought misery on themselves. But these are the very people whom Jesus calls us to serve, as he did: the marginalised, the oppressed, the persecuted, the helpless, the unloved. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the Earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied."

On Palm Sunday, Jesus entered Jerusalem cheered on by the crowd laying palms before him. They wanted to turn him into a political hero to lead an armed rebellion against the Romans. They were offering him an earthly crown. But Jesus refused to be hailed as an earthly king; at the Last Supper he washed his disciples feet as a servant. Yet they still argued about who was the greatest among them, who would sit at his right when he sat on the throne as king. Jesus said: "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves."

And then came Jesus' trial, where Pontius Pilate interrogated him as a pretender to King Herod's throne: "Are you King of the Jews?" Jesus replied: "You say so." So Pilate had him flogged. The soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!', striking him and spitting in his face. So Jesus was finally crowned, with a ghastly instrument of torture that drew scarlet beads of blood on his brow. Jesus was not born to show us how we might aspire to earthly kingship and power, to wealth and status. No. Quite the opposite. He came to share the suffering and pain that the worst of human sin can inflict. Those first beads of blood on his forehead were his blood to be shed for us and for all for the forgiveness of sins.

With love in Jesus, Revd. Dr. Simon Thorn

Services in April and May in East Ilsley and Compton

Date	East IIsley	Compton		
Sunday 4 th April	Sunday Online Worship with the Hermitage Team			
Easter Sunday	On Zoom at 11am			
	Meeting ID: 881 9001 6060			
	Passcode: Sunday			
Sunday 11 th April	Sunday Online Worship with the Hermitage Team			
Easter 2	On Zoom at 11am Meeting ID: 881 9001 6060			
	Passcode: Sunday			
Sunday 18 th April	11am	9.30am		
Easter 3	All Age Praise	Holy Communion (CW)		
	(Back in Church*)	(Back in Church*)		
Sunday 25 th April	No Service here today	9.30am		
Easter 4		Holy Communion (CW)		
		(Back in Church*)		
Sunday 2 nd May	9.30am	11.00am		
Easter 5	Holy Communion (CW)	All Age Praise		
	(Back in Church*)	(Back in Church*)		
Sunday 9 th May	No Service here today	9.30am		
Easter 6	Holy Communion (
		(Back in Church*)		
Sunday 16 th May	11.00am	9.30am		
Easter 7 / After Ascension)	All Age Praise	Holy Communion (CW)		
	(Back in Church*)	(Back in Church*)		
Sunday 23 rd May	8.00am			
Pentecost	Holy Communion (BCP) @ Hampstead Norreys Church*			
	10.00am			
	Team Service at Hermitage Church*			
	All are welcome to join us			
Sunday 30 th May	10.00am			
Trinity Sunday	Trinity Service @ Compton Church*			
	For both East Ilsley & Compton Congregations			

* Back in Church Information

The Clergy Team and Churchwardens are working towards a return to worship within Church buildings from Sunday 18th April 2021. It is very possible that with the easing of restrictions there is an increase in Covid-19 cases in our area which will jeopardise these plans. The Clergy Team will work closely with the Church of England, Oxford Diocese and the UK Government to ensure legislation is followed and everyone can keep safe. Please be prepared that the schedule printed above may change, depending on the number of cases in the area. If we need to revert to Online Worship, the services will be at 11am using the same Meeting ID and passcode as stated above for early April services. Keep an eye on our website and social media for up to date information. Posters will also be added to Church notice boards once we have confirmation.



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

Contacts in the Hermitage Team: Team Rector:

The Revd. Wayne Lautenbach 🖀 07825 502309 l 📾 wayne@hermitage-team.org.uk **Team Vicar:** The Revd. Sue Webster 🖀 628333 📾 sue@hermitage-team.org.uk Associate Clergy: The Revd. Clive Jones Transformation for the second Associate Clergy: The Revd. Dr Simon Thorn 🖀 07714194591 🖆 simonathorn@gmail.com Licensed Lay Minister: Mrs Wendy Willoughby-Paul 201705 📾 wendywp@waitrose.com Licensed Lay Minister: Mrs Cathy Hawkins ☎ 578480 ≤ cathy@dragondes.co.uk Licensed Lay Minister: Mrs Margaret Fisher 🖀 200350 🖆 fishermargaret940@gmail.com

Our Clergy Team are here for you and are available for phone calls, email conversations and even Zoom calls. Just get in contact with them using the details on the left and they will arrange something with you. Whether you just need a chat, have a spiritual question, or need a sounding board during these strange times they are happy to help.

www.hermitage-team.org.uk www.facebook.com/hermteamministry



Little Angels is back at Hampstead Norreys! Next session on Friday 7th May at 10am. Come along to the Church for Bible Stories, Music and Play time! Parent, Grandparents, and Carers all welcome for a Chat and all Covid guidelines will be followed.

St Mary's Church Parochial Church Council







May we please remind all dog owners that dogs are **not** allowed to run free within the Churchyard. If you choose to walk through the Churchyard, please ensure your dog is kept on a lead at all times. Also, do not allow your dog to do its business in the Churchyard, this is disrespectful to those who are laid to rest there and for the families visiting their loved ones. Signs will be placed in the Churchyard to remind you all of these two courtesies we would like you to observe at all times.

Thank you for your help and understanding.



Unfortunately, with this awful pandemic, we had to stop our meetings and find other ways of operating. So, we produced a regular members newsletter which includes various suggestions of things to do, articles of what members have done plus a competition with a small prize which is posted out once a month.

Obviously, that all comes at a cost and we are incredibly lucky to receive the support both in grants, kind and donations from the East Ilsley Trust Fund, Compton & East Ilsley Parish Councils plus many individuals. These funds allowed us to replace our wheelchair that we let out to anyone with a short term need and we will be purchasing some exercise equipment as soon as it is safe to do so.

We even managed to organise a substitute for our successful lunch that we always hold on Christmas Day for people on their own by replacing it with a delivery service. A big thank you to all those of you that helped on the day.

With the recent Government announcement there is hope that we will be able to resume near normal operation this year subject to the availability of the Wilkins Centre. Although we do have the option of the Village Hall if guests want to attend.

But first it looks like we can start with some outdoor activities, so we are planning a Garden Party as a launch pad plus the ever-successful pony and trap ride around Compton.



So as a Management Committee we are READY TO GO!!!

Patricia Burnett Chairman 07786 856 440

Emergency Active Travel Funding



West Berkshire Council has been awarded a grant as part of the Department for Transports emergency active travel funding. This has enabled the Council to bring forward a number of schemes and introduce new initiatives aimed at encouraging active travel.

The consultations for these proposals are due to go live on Monday 22nd February and we would very much like your views. To learn more about the schemes and provide feedback, please visit the <u>Active Travel engagement platform</u>. Some proposals are at a relatively early stage, so this gives our residents a great opportunity to have their say during the development, these consultations are open for between six and eight weeks (so please check the dates on the platform to ensure your comments are received within the consultation time frames).



Also if there are any additional locations or improvements that can be suggested to make West Berkshire a cleaner, greener environment for walking and cycling then please use the <u>Active</u> <u>Travel Heat Map</u> to 'have your say' and help us prioritise and identify future schemes. **The Heat Map is open for comments until Friday, 2 July 2021.**

The most exciting difference in this new engagement platform is that once the scheme is introduced everyone will still be able to engage with the council and feedback on the impact of schemes. This will provide essential feedback on the completed schemes.

Downland Volunteer Group





DOWNLAND VOLUNTEERS GROUP COMPTON SURGERY OFFICE

'The Downland Volunteer Group(DVG) car service to the surgeries and hospitals and the Handybus service remain shut down due to the coronavirus pandemic. We continue to review the situation but cannot consider restarting these services at the present time. We continue to monitor events and take guidance from the surgery. As soon as we believe it safe to restart, we will advise you through the Parish Newsletters and by email if you are on our database'

www.downlandvolgroup.org Charity Commission Reg. No 112181 Registered Company No 5572984

Berkshire LIBRARIES NECKS

To All West Berkshire Libraries Customers

We are pleased to bring you the latest news from West Berkshire Libraries, including details about the services we are currently able to provide in line with government rules on managing the risk of COVID-19.

We are delighted that the government's roadmap for lifting the current restrictions offers public libraries the opportunity to **re-open on 12 April**. (This date is subject to the Government's satisfaction that transmission rates continue to fall nationwide this month.)

We hope it will once again be possible for visitors to come into library buildings from 12 April to choose their own books and to use our PCs, printing and copying facilities. We are now working hard to finalise arrangements for this and will have more information for you in our April newsletter. As always, please continue to check our <u>social media</u> for the most up to date news.

Online activities

If you missed our recent **Rhymetime**, you'll find it <u>available to view now on YouTube</u>. We're pleased to say that Berkshire Maestros are preparing another Rhymetime session for us, which will be available from Wednesday 31 March. Check our social media on the day for the link. Don't forget that you can find out about all our online **Storytimes**, **children's crafts** and other activities and news by following @*WBerksLibraries* on **Facebook**, **Instagram** and **Twitter**. New guide to Libby

Libby is one of our suppliers for e-books and e-audiobooks, which are FREE to borrow for all members of West Berkshire Libraries.

The easiest way to access these resources is to download the Libby app from your app store (Google Play for Android users or the Apple app store for iOS users). You can then search for West Berkshire Libraries and log in with your library card number and PIN. We've put together <u>a</u> short online guide on using Libby to help you get started.

E-magazines are moving to Libby app

From 10 March we will be moving our digital magazines from RBdigital to the Libby app, too. In connection with this, anyone who has borrowed an e-magazine from us over the past six months will shortly be contacted by RBdigital. After this move you will still be able to browse, borrow and enjoy all the same great magazines that you loved in the RBdigital app, but with even more choice – another good reason to download the Libby app now! And more...

Don't forget that we have e-books and e-audiobooks for you from our supplier BorrowBox as well, plus a fantastic range of e-newspapers available for free through PressReader. Everything in our e-library is available 24/7, with no overdue charges for late returns. <u>Find more information about this, along with details of our e-resources for study and leisure interest, on our website</u>

Q1Care - A Spring Story

Mother's Day

What a year we have had!

Last year the news broke about Coronavirus and from 23 March 2020, we faced "lockdown", we were uncertain how long it would go on. Q1Care carried on providing excellent services to our existing and new clients.

One story relates to a lovely lady we helped get home for Mother's Day in March 2020. Her story demonstrates what can be done in times of crisis - she was in hospital following a suspected stroke, when she got stronger and her health improved, she was ready for discharge - she needed a tailor-made care package to come home with. Her daughter contacted Q1Care for advice, so we made a detailed home assessment and created a professional care plan sensitive to build up her confidence and independence in time for Mothering Sunday. Working closely with her, her family and a multidisciplinary team of community health professionals we pulled it off. Seeing the warmth and joy is the driving force behind the work we do every day in Q1Care.

We helped her gain confidence by safely assisting and encouraging her. A week after discharge she was able to celebrate Mothering Sunday with her daughter.

Q1Care were in place to support and care for this lady. We were sometimes the only people she saw. We talked with her and her daughter regularly to make sure things are going well, we have given practical help to both mother and daughter with shopping/pharmacy collections/GP appointments and keeping connections to the outside world and to have tea and a chat!

Contact us for details of how we may help following hospitalisation, for personal care, meal preparation, assisting with medication, light household duties, companionship, overnight care and so much more.

Please call us: 01189 323865 Email us: <u>info@q1care.co.uk</u> Visit our website: <u>www.q1care.co.uk</u>















Sight loss does more than take away a person's sight, it can take away their self-confidence and independence and leave them isolated.

Berkshire Vision supports hundreds of blind and partially sighted adults and children across the county helping them to combat isolation, supporting their independence and allowing them to live their lives to the full.



Our Sight Loss Support Officers can offer help; from understanding benefit forms to accessing technology that could improve daily life. This can range from setting up a new tablet to identifying solutions for work.

We have an extensive programme of both remote and face to face activities and adapted sports to bring people with sight loss together. Remote activities can be accessed from the safety of home, without the need for internet access. They include quizzes, history talks and murder mysteries. Our sports range from gentle exercise through to tennis, golf and even rock climbing! We don't believe that there's anything people with sight loss can't achieve with the right support. Our social activities programme includes walks, picnics and theatre trips. If you, or someone you know, would like more information visit <u>www.berkshirevision.org.uk</u> or ring the office on 0118 987 2803.

If you would like to know more about our Children's, Young People and Families please email Carol on children@berkshirevision.org.uk

If you are interested in volunteering, we have opportunities for both face to face and volunteering from home; please contact Gill on volunteering@berkshirevision.org.uk

HAMPSTEAD NORREYS WI

At the beginning of March, we were treated to a fascinating talk, via Zoom, by Emma Benson. She is the founder and owner of Mrs. B's Kitchen in Faraday Road, Newbury.



She told us how her love of cooking and recipe books had

developed over the years. From humble beginnings making biscuits to sell at school bazaars she now runs a thriving business. Mrs B's Kitchen is not just a delightful café it is the hub of a community of people who enjoy good simple food and excellent service.

The business began as a top end party and wedding caterer. In 2019 the business moved to its current site where it is expanding, and the café is gaining in reputation for mouth-watering food. Emma supports local businesses and uses fresh produce from nearby sources.

During the lockdown Emma is providing on-line shop orders and take away coffees. She has a website that will tickle your taste buds and show the full range of services provided by her at <u>www.mrsb.kitchen</u>

It was a joy to listen to someone who has such a passion for her subject. The only sad part of the meeting was the lack of tasty treats to sample!!!!

Help us save 'Lost Ways' in East Ilsley!

LOVE IT.

SAVE IT.

ODN'T LOSE

Do you use a pathway, track or secret passage anywhere in East Ilsley and the surrounding area that is not recorded on the Definitive Map held by WBC?

We need to hear from you so it does not get lost forever!

Type 'West Berkshire Definitive Map' into Google and have a look at the recorded pathways, bridleways and by-ways and see if the routes you know are recorded. If it is not on there, let us know and we will campaign for it to be added.

clerk@eastilsley-pc.gov.uk

EAST ILSLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: ERIC SAXTON

EDITORIAL - Lockdown

I was booked to give a talk to a local WI group last October but this of course, like all live meetings, was cancelled because of the restrictions.

One unexpected bonus of the current lockdown has been that lots of local family history groups belonging to the Berkshire Family History Society, have had their monthly meetings online in the form of Zoom meetings. This has meant that, not only have I been able to join the talks given by the local Newbury group, but have also had free access to others in the County in Reading and Windsor.

Our little group of members in East Ilsley has not been idle, continuing to do research in our own homes. (see Sue's feature article). This would not have been possible before the internet. I remember having to travel to London just to look up ancestors in the censuses, and to visit County Record Offices, and draughty village churches in far off counties, to gain access to parish registers, something which now takes a few minutes to do in the comfort of your own home.

Unfortunately because of the lockdown, the library in Newbury where I do my research for my '100 years ago' articles, is closed, and therefore I have been unable to look through the Newbury Weekly News for 1921.

NEWS - Updating the EILHS web-site:

The EILHS web-site has been in its current format for a good many years, but the software it uses is no longer supported so it has not been possible to update it easily. The decision has been made to update it using more readily accessible software (WordPress) that will enable us to keep it more up to date. This will mean some additional on-going costs to the society for hosting of the web-site but we have had an offer of technical support from Tony Gadd in revamping the site, for which we are very grateful. It will take some time for it to become operational, but we will keep you updated on progress. Hopefully we will have a lot more historical photos and information about East Ilsley to share with you all later this year. We are always pleased when members renew their subscriptions which are due from January 1st each year. Your help really does make a difference with ongoing expenses.

VANISHING VISTAS - Now you see it.....



A painting, depicting a snow-scene, dated 1978, oil on canvas.

This view is from the churchyard wall looking across to Hill House Stables, also showing 'The Firs', 'Leonora House', and the roof of The Star, just visible on the right hand side. Much of this view has since changed or been obscured. The 'Gallops' houses stand on the site of the now demolished Hill House Stables, and dwellings above and behind the former 'Star' pub now hide The Firs and (almost)Leonora House.

Now you don't! Leonora House

The same view in 2021. The only part of the original panorama still visible is the corner of Leonora House. The Star is obscured by a thick beech hedge. Most of the trees now hiding the new houses were not there in 1978.

FEATURE ARTICLE - By Sue Burnay

What links an Essex girl, the slave trade, a famous brand of gin, a Somerset schoolteacher and an Oxford academic to East IIsley?



The answer lies in the occupants of the Rectory in the late 19th century. I was taking part in another mini-project for FACHRS (Family and Community History Research Society) on parlourmaids and was allocated Sarah Winright who was working for the Rev. Hansell at the Rectory in the 1881 census. In researching who Sarah was I came across some fascinating information about her life and the people she worked for and was associated with.

Sarah was baptised on 24 Dec 1837 (born 27 Nov) in Great Ilford, Essex, the daughter of Samuel Winwright (an agricultural labourer) and his wife Catherine. There do not appear to have been any

other children of this marriage and Catherine died age 31, when Sarah was just 10 years old. Samuel remarried 2 years later, so by the time of the 1851 census she was living with Samuel and her stepmother Ellen in Leyton, West Ham - then a relatively rural part of Essex. As with so many girls from such a background, Sarah went into service and by 1861, age 23, she was living in Bedfordshire in the household of the Rev. Hugh Blagg Smyth in the village of Houghton Regis, working as nurse to his 6 children aged from 2 to 11. Hugh Smyth was the vicar of Houghton Regis and a county magistrate, and originally from Macclesfield in Cheshire.

Rev. Hugh Blagg Smyth came from a wealthy Cheshire family. His father Edward Smyth was mayor of Macclesfield and a well-known banker, and owned extensive land in the area. Hugh was also related to Dame Ethel Smyth, the composer and suffragette, and to the Pickford family (of Pickford's Removals). His grandfather Thomas Smyth made his fortune on slavery, owning several ships in Liverpool, and actively campaigned against the abolition of slavery and succeeded in getting compensation from the British government for loss of business when slavery was abolished!

In the 1871 census, Sarah appears in the household of the Rev. Edward Hansell in East Ilsley, Berks but she probably had already worked for him when he lived in Oxford and had moved with the family to East Ilsley in 1865, after the death of Hansell's wife. At the Rectory, Sarah (now age 33) was one of 3 servants and was still a nurse. The household consisted of the Rev. Hansell, his daughter Mary, age 12, three of his four sons, Reginald 9, Arthur 8 and Herbert 5, plus Rosa Maria Austin, 33, visiting professor of French and music, Martha Hibbert 18, housemaid, and Ellen Stanmore Ralph 14, nursemaid - the latter 2 were local girls, born in East Ilsley. Rosa Austin was from Bedfordshire and had formerly been a governess in the substantial household (with 12 servants) of Charles Tangueray not very far from Houghton Regis - had she or her employer recommended Sarah to Rev. Hansell? Charles Tangueray was the creator of the well-known gin brand but he came from a long line of clergymen in Bedfordshire and may well have known Rev. Hugh Blagg Smyth, Sarah's former employer. Rev. Edward Halifax Hansell came from a quite different type of family. His father, Rev. Peter Hansell, was a minor canon and preceptor of Norwich Cathedral and minister of St John de Sepulchre in Norwich. Edward was born in Norwich in 1814 and initially studied at



Balliol College in Oxford but then received a demy scholarship to Magdalen College (equivalent to half a fellow - originally for poor scholars of good moral standing). He became a tutor and mathematics lecturer at Magdalen and was a well-respected scholar. He left Magdalen College to become minister at St Peter's in the East in Oxford when he finally married (at the age of 38). He continued to act as lecturer and wrote several scholarly books, but his wife died in 1865 and he left Oxford to become rector of East Ilsley, where he devoted his life to parish duties. He is remembered as a quiet modest man, devoted to his books and his parish.

By 1881, Sarah, now 43 and single, was still in East Ilsley at the rectory with Rev. Hansell but was now listed as parlour maid. At this time, only Hansell's daughter Mary Beatrice was still living at home, all of the sons had gone. Rosa Maria Austin was also still part of the household, together with 2 other servants, a cook and a housemaid, both Berks born but not from the village. In the next 3 census records, for 1891, 1901 and 1911, Sarah Winright was living in Templecombe,



Edward H. Hansell as a full fellow of Magdalen College Oxford 1847-52

Abbas Combe, Somerset as companion to Elizabeth Pask, schoolmistress. But Sarah is shown as living on private means how did the daughter of an agricultural labourer, who was a servant first as a nurse and then a parlour maid, come to have sufficient funds to live on private means? This had to be a bequest of some kind and so it proved to be. The Rev. Edward Hansell died in 1884 leaving a gross estate of £38,315. The bulk of the estate went to his surviving children but there were several interesting beguests in his will. He left the income from £1000 to Sarah Winwright, with the specific instruction that she should be paid interest of 4% on the sum until such time as the first interest on the investment could come through. He also left the income on £2000 to Rosa Maria Austin with the same instructions and a lump sum of £50 to his gardener Henry Talbot (who was the subject of my previous mini-project!!). The bequest gave Sarah a modest income that enabled her to live out the rest of her life without having to continue working as a servant.

Sarah continued to live at Templecombe with her friend Elizabeth Pask until her death in 1928 at the age of 90, but she must have kept some links with East Ilsley and the Hansell family. Sarah's will also makes interesting reading, with two of Rev. Hansell's children acting as her executors. She leaves all her clothes to the Mother Superior of the convent in Woodstock Road, Oxford, for the benefit of the poor. This convent lay only a short walk away from the former residence of Rev. Hansell's family when he lived in Oxford, indicating that Sarah was probably in service there before they moved to East Ilsley. Out of a gross estate of £505, she leaves bequests of £60 to Elizabeth Pask; £40 each to Mary Beatrice Graham (the widowed daughter of Rev. Hansell) and Mary's four brothers; £20 to Miss Ariel Austin of Melbourne, Australia; £10 each to her godchildren - William John Field of East Ilsley, Alfred Stimpson of Steventon, Berks, and Lucy Mary Fortescue of Cowley Road, Oxford. The residue of her estate is split equally between the Rectors of East Ilsley and Templecombe to be used however they think fit for the benefit of the church. So at least part of Rev. Hansell's generous gift to Sarah comes full circle back to East Ilsley.

We are indebted to the Magdalen College Archives for the photographs of Edward Hansell.

CONTACTS

Chairman:Sue BurnaySecretary & Newsletter Editor:Eric Saxton01635 281388e-mail the Society at info@eastilsleyhistory.comAnd don't forget our website www.eastilsleyhistory.com, which members can access using the
current password



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION COMPTON, ILSLEYS & NORREYS BRANCH - AN UPDATE

Poppy Appeal 2020 - despite the challenges of the pandemic, which saw us having to rethink our initial plans, the RBL was able to come up with an organisation wide contingency plan to ensure the Appeal could still go ahead safely, keeping the safety of the public, our volunteers, members and staff as being our number one priority. With the help of everyone across our amazing Legion family and the public, the income raised from the Poppy Appeal nationally so far is £24 million. Thank all of you our readers who contributed so generously locally to this great total. During the previous year, RBL spent just under £50m on its welfare services.
Local Activities - are necessarily curtailed because of Covid, but the Branch hopes to return to business as usual just as soon as it possibly can. Meanwhile some members have attended training in support of the RBL's Community Support Programme. Please see the poster displayed in this newsletter.

Membership - come and join us! - our small RBL branch would welcome you as a member. 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 £18. To join, please contact one of the undersigned. Steve Allison tel 07812 991013 email <u>steveallison1888@aol.com</u> or David Norbury TD, tel 07770 326128 email <u>davidnorbury@btinternet.com</u> - thank you. The Compton Branch are looking for a new volunteer to be their next Poppy Appeal Organiser, get it touch if you can help!



NEED SOME ADVICE?

If you're serving or have ever served in the Armed Forces, The Royal British Legion can offer you and your family advice & support visit **rbl.org.uk** call **0808 802 8080**

or contact your local British Legion Branch by calling **07812 991013** or **07770 326128**



NEWSLETTER MARCH ~ 2021

Hello Everyone.

If things progress as we all hope and people don't do silly things, we can look forward to the end of lockdown in June and a return to some kind of normality.

We are planning to have a committee meeting in July to plan our activities for the rest of 2021 starting with a coach trip on the 22nd of September.

In the meantime, keep safe and well.

With all good wishes and kindest regards. Tony Elliott ~ Secretary

The Crown & Horns

The Crown and Horns looks forward to welcoming all our customers both old and new back to the pub.

We really cannot thank you all for the continued support we have received throughout the pandemic.



During lockdown we have been extremely busy with our Pub shop along with refurbishing the property to make sure its an extra special place for all our guests.

Our new look Beer garden is certainly a treat for all with additional pergola seating areas accompanied by our all new recently converted Horse box bar. The perfect way to spend those long summer evenings.

Our chefs are busy finalising the all new menu to ensure your visit back is as enjoyable as ever. Watch our Facebook page for further updates.

Fancy a stay with us, why not book one of our recently refurbished hotel rooms? Our hotel has also been refurbished, all our rooms come with a fresh interior design, larger flat screen TV's, Coffee machines as standard.

As many have asked, our Pub shop will remain for all the essentials you may need.

In line with government advice our outdoor seating areas only will re-open on Monday 12th April. Our booking system is now open so book your table now!

Until we are able to meet again we shall continue to provide our takeaway service Thursday-Sunday and are pub shop will be open Tuesday-Sunday. We also have Easter Sunday lunch sorted so you can enjoy the time at home safely, don't forget to take part in our fantastic easter raffle, tickets available at the pub shop.

We really appreciate the support and can't wait to see you all, with love Crown and Horns







The Millennium Green Update

Ilsley's Stonehenge

On a cold damp morning towards the end of 1999, a contingent of about a dozen soldiers of the 42 Survey Engineering Group (Hermitage), arrived at the open area which was later to become East Ilsley Millennium Green, with lorries, low-loaders, and equipment necessary for moving very heavy loads. They had collected 34 sarsen stones from a field near to Ashdown House, which is between Lambourn and Ashbury, on behalf of the trustees, which they proceeded to put into positions around the green under the direction of one of the trustees.

Some of the stones were intended to serve as seating for visitors, while others, which had dips and hollows in them, would hopefully provide birds with drinking pools. It was hoped that children would enjoy climbing on, and playing around the stones.





The placing of the stones was not random. The two large stones at the entrance from the recreation ground were specifically spaced to prevent vehicular access, a group on the path to the left were arranged around a central stone so that children could sit around a teacher.

To celebrate the creation of our new Facebook page. The trustees have set a challenge for you: Can you find the 'Dolphin Stone' on the Green? When you find it, post your pictures of the "Dolphin Stone" or any pictures of

you enjoying our open space and at our next meeting we'll chose our favourites @East Ilsley Millennium Green.

Eric Saxton(chairman), Ian Wilson(treasurer), Jane Bexx(secretary), Raine Hunter, Sally Allsop , Sheila Kidd, and Paul Finch.

INSIGHT 2021 new opening dates

We are moving *INSIGHT 2021* to September so that we can offer the pleasure of an exhibition experience at The Base as close as possible to normal, but in line with government guidance. Visitors will be able to enjoy the Open Studios flagship exhibition every day from Saturday 18th September to Sunday 10th October, 10am - 5pm.



Open Studios artists will be opening their own studios in May and September. We are working through the logistics of the new dates and guidance; more details of the changes will be published as they become available. Full up-to-date details on our new website <u>www.open-studios.org.uk</u>.

Meanwhile we should like to express our huge thanks to the management teams at The Base, the Corn Exchange and Greenham Trust for all their help and support.

John Brazendale Chair: Open Studios

Free gadgets engineered for people in & around East & West Ilsley

The pandemic hasn't stopped the volunteer 'MakeAbility' engineers from making equipment and gadgets for people with disabilities or special need. Among the projects recently completed locally by the charity Remap have been:



- Specially-padded bathroom steps to help a six-year-old with the rare RERE Syndrome get in and out of the bath.
- Long-reach window-opener for a woman who finds it impossible to stretch up.
- Wooden extensions to the legs of a dining table so a wheelchair user can sit comfortably close.
- Conversion to the wheels on a walker to allow it to be used on soft ground.

The 25 volunteer 'MakeAbility' engineers at Remap Berkshire enjoy using their skills to create custom-made equipment and gadgets for people in the county who have disabilities or special needs and who cannot find anything suitable to buy.

This 'MakeAbility' service is entirely free. Panel members have a wide variety of expertise between them, ranging from IT and electronics, to metalwork, carpentry and 3D-printing - the list is endless. Remap Berkshire engineers often work alongside health professionals like occupational therapists, physiotherapists, doctors or Special Educational Needs staff to make sure that the equipment provided safely meets individual situations.

Remap Berkshire has assisted people in all age groups with a wide variety of issues. Some 'MakeAbility' projects are simple, others extremely challenging - all can make a real difference to the recipient's quality of life.

Each piece of equipment is tailor-made to suit specific needs. Many of the materials used are recycled, but some have to be bought using funds kindly contributed from sources including charitable foundations, Rotary Clubs and community groups. Although no charge is made to users, many are so pleased with the service that they choose to make a donation to facilitate projects for others.

The MakeAbility service has continued throughout the pandemic, with all necessary precautions being taken.

Remap Berkshire is one of 70 county 'MakeAbility' groups spread across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The charity (reg. no. 1137666) was founded in 1965 and assists around 3,000 people every year.

Further information: Remap Berkshire can be contacted in complete confidence: 07790 127123 berks.caseofficer@remapgroups.org.uk <u>www.berkshire.remap.org.uk</u>

If you would like a Remap Berkshire speaker to make a Zoom or in-person presentation at your Club, Group or healthcare team, please call 01491 671998 or email berks.publicity@remapgroups.org.uk There is no charge.

To find out more about volunteering with Remap, please visit: <u>https://www.remap.org.uk/volunteering/making-equipment-for-people-with-disabilities/</u>



fou can find our schedule on Facebook on the Ilsley Under fives page or contact us via email a ilsleyunderfives@gmail.com for more information.

Ilsley Under 5s activities are starting back on the 7th of April.



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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Last year, West Berkshire Libraries worked with children's reading charity BookTrust to deliver over 3,500 Bookstart book packs to families with babies of 0-12 months and to children aged 3-4 years. Packs are normally distributed for us by the district's Health Visiting Teams and by pre-schools and nurseries, but during lockdown this wasn't possible. If you have a baby who has already had their 8week check or a child who is now nearly 5 and you have not yet received a Bookstart pack for them, you can collect one from your local library. Please ring any West Berkshire library to arrange a collection time.

Coming Soon.....



Your Local Picture Framing Service Is nearly here..... we're just

finalising our brand new workshop!

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Why not like and follow our FB Page and we'll keep you posted when we are open for business...



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Downlands Weight Management 07973 518395

6 & 6a Bus Timetable:

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

MONDAYS - SATURDAYS SERVICE No. 6a 6a 6 6 6 6 6 NEWBURY Station [T] 辛 0842 1807 1022 1222 1422 0650 0850 1030 1230 1430 1615 1815 Newbury The Wharf [D] 0652 0657 0852 0857 Newbury - Park Way [P] 1032 1232 1432 1617 1817 Donnington, The Castle Inn 1040 1240 1440 1625 1825 Shaw Cemetery Chieveley, East Lane 0907 0707 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 East Ilsley, Broad Street 1505 1509 1105 1305 1650 1850 1309 1109 1854 1654 WEST ILSLEY, The Harrow PH 0721 0925 1115 1315 1515 1700

Connect

SERVICE

		MO	NDAY:	5 - SA1	URDA	YS	
SERVICE No.	6	6	6	6	6	6a	6a
WEST ILSLEY, The Harrow PH East Ilsley, Broad Street Compton, The Swan	0722 0728 0732	0930 0936 0941	1117 1123 1128	1317 1323 1328	1517 1523 1528	1702 1708	1854
Hampstead Norrey, Water Street Hermitage Post Office Beedon, Coach & Horses	0741 0748	0950 0958	1137 1145	1337 1345	1537 1545		1901
Chieveley, East Lane Donnington, The Castle Inn Shaw Cemetery	0756	1006	1153	1353	1553	1725 1729	1905 1914
Newbury, Park Way [Q] Newbury The Wharf [H] Newbury Station 	0805 0806	1012 1013 1018	1159 1200 1205	1359 1400 1405	1559 1600	1733 1735	1918 1919 1922 R
The Oaks NEWBURY College Tesco The Triangle	0816 0818 0818						
Park House School, Monk's Lane Wash Common, Glendale Avenue	0821						

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 Kennection

Directory



Cllr. Carolyne Culver Tel: 07976 374146 Email: Carolyne.Culver1@westberks.gov.uk *Ridgeway Ward*

East Ilsley Parish Council:

Cllr. Andrew Sharp	Tel: 07778 800024	Email: andrew@eastilsley-pc.gov.uk
(Chair)		,
	T 0707/7/0000	
Cllr. Tracey Murray	Tel: 07876 740890	Email: tracey@eastilsley-pc.gov.uk
(Vice Chair)		
Cllr. Brendan McGrath	Tel: 07816 875914	Email: brendan@eastilsley-pc.gov.uk
Cllr. Stephen Meadows	Tel: 07584 125737	Email: stephen@eastilsley-pc.gov.uk
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Fenella Woods	Tel: 07912 565665	Email: clerk@eastilsley-pc.gov.uk
(Clerk)		
Website: www.eastilsley-pc.	aovuk	
	JOV.UK	

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

llsley Under 5's	01635 281327
The Ilsleys Primary School	01635 281225
The Downs School Compton	01635 27000

Utilities

BT Faults BT General Enquiries Southern Water Thames Water Southern Electric (SSE)

Handy Bus

DVG Co-ordinator

07437 543098 dvg.handybus@gmail.com

0845 7708090 (Emergencies)

0845 9200900 (Emergencies)

105 or 0800 0727282 (Emergencies)

Citizens Advice Bureau

Hermitage Team of Churches

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

0300 222 5941

151

0118 957 5877