

+

Ide Times



March Madness...but what's really going on?

Continued on page 15

MARCH 2015

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MARCH 2015

Ever hopeful of getting more of you to contribute, we will, next month, be starting a series of occasional articles, entitled 'Past Lives', nothing to do with reincarnation, but simply stories from a time when your life was very different from how it is now. We know there are some fascinating, entertaining, hilarious and moving stories out there and I think we will all be surprised by the wealth of human experience we have in this small village. The phrase 'all human life is there' popped into my head, but then I remembered that this was the motto of 'The News of the World' newspaper and that is probably not the direction we want this series to go!



Please start dredging through your memories and see if you can come up with something for us, and if you can think of a better title let me know. Ann Boyce
Can we please have your articles for the April Ide Times by the 20th March. They should be sent to Brenda at brendaspivey123@btinternet.com

USEFUL NUMBERS

Community Policeman: 101
The Revd Mark Nightingale: 01392 494741, mark.nightingale@me.com
Doctor: Dr S.Vercoe: 01392 439868
M.P. Mel Stride: 02072 197037 melstride.mp@parliament.uk

Community Shop Opening Hours: (Tel. 410035)
Monday – Friday 8am – 12 noon and 3pm – 7pm
Saturdays 8am – 1pm
(Please note that the shop is not open on **Saturday afternoons**)
Sundays & Bank Holidays 9am – 12 noon



Post Office Opening Hours
Monday – Friday 9am – 11.45am and 3pm – 5pm
Saturdays 9am – 12 noon.
Sundays and Bank Holidays **CLOSED**

IDE MEMORIAL HALL – to book the hall for your event/party please contact Carol Whitehart on 01392 213608.

The Mobile Library will be in the Huntsman car park, Ide, from 11.45am to 12.30 on Monday, 16 March.

IDE PARISH COUNCIL

Defibrillator: The defibrillator training and awareness session has been arranged for Saturday 7th March from 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. in the village hall. Once this session has been undertaken, the defibrillator will be “up and running” and will be registered with the local police and ambulance service.

You are all invited to attend – no medical knowledge is needed – so please come along.

Again we thank Lucy Gillett and everyone who helped to raise funds for this amazing achievement.

If anyone is interested in helping to raise funds for a second defibrillator for the top end of the village, please contact us (see below).

Ide War Memorial: We have recently received confirmation that the War Memorial has been added to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. It is recognized as a modest, yet dignified and well-carved memorial to those who gave their lives in the conflicts of the twentieth century.

Proposed cuts to the local Bus Service: – Devon County Council is launching a consultation on proposals to save £1.7m from its annual public transport budget. Included in the proposed cuts are the 15.00 Exeter to Ide, 15.24 Ide to Exeter and the 18.42 Bridford to Exeter, which passes through the village.

You can read the proposals and make your opinions known by visiting toughchoices.co.uk

For more information, call 0345 155 1015

The consultation closes on Monday 20th April 2015 – please have your say. We have also been told by Stagecoach that the 21.45 service from Exeter to Okehampton will no longer call at Ide after 2nd April.

Dog Bins – We have been asked by residents to provide bins for dog waste at intervals “around the world” and have obtained funding from Teignbridge District Council’s Electors’ Fund. The extra bins are planned for the far end of The College, the pull-in at the entrance to Weir Meadow and at the top of Haynes Lane.

Elector roll registration: I’m sure you are aware that there is a general election this year! It will be held on Thursday 7th May, together with District and Parish Council elections.

If you haven’t already registered to vote, you can register online any time at gov.uk/register-to-vote. If you’ve changed address and need to update your details on the electoral register, you will need to re-register at your new address.

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please make contact as below.

Parish Council Meeting - The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 21st January are on display on the Parish Notice Board in Coronation Gardens.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 18th March 2015 at 7.30 in the Memorial Hall.

If you have anything you wish to be discussed please bring it to the attention of one of the Councillors or contact the clerk for it to be included on the agenda. You are welcome to attend the meetings and there is a ten minutes' slot allocated for public participation.

Contact us: The contact details for the Parish Council are shown below.

Village website – www.idevillage.org.uk

Barry Hookins, Chairman, 01392 215726 Mobile 07591 551162 or email barry.hookins@fsmail.net

Rose Saunders, Clerk, 01392 420461, Mobile 07776 300686 or email ideparishclerk@gmail.com

The Councillors are: Barry Hookins (Chairman), Chris Bishop, Nick Bradley, Sally Cooke, Peter Pattison, John Smart, Sarah Tiley, and Louise Watson. Andy Swain is currently co-opted on to the council.



**CLASHES BETWEEN VILLAGE
EVENTS COULD BE A THING OF
THE PAST IN 2015**

Check out the dates of Public Events online
at the **Village Website Calendar**.

www.idevillage.org.uk

If you want to add an event to the calendar
contact Andy Swain

andy@stygian.org.uk

3

IDE PARISH COUNCIL

THE COMMUNITY HEARTBEAT TRUST

DEFIBRILLATOR AWARENESS SESSION

7TH MARCH 2015

11.00 A.M. TO 1.00 P.M.

IN THE MEMORIAL HALL

ALL WELCOME TO COME ALONG

No medical knowledge required.



IDE COMMUNITY SHOP & POST OFFICE



If, as the saying goes, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, the group of us that attended the grand opening of the new community shop in Spaxton, Somerset, certainly felt that the similarities between this lovely new shop and our own were indeed a great compliment. Members of their shop committee visited us several times during the planning process and their chairman generously acknowledged the help and inspiration that we had provided. There was a band, tea and cake and lots of villagers very happy to have a shop again after 4 years.

As the weather improves and we start to think about restocking our gardens, Springwell Nursery will certainly be sadly missed. To help fill the gap, we are now stocking very healthy and reasonably priced herbs, perennials and small shrubs (eg. large Lupins and perennial wallflowers in good sized pots £3.99. Azaleas and rhododendrons various sizes from £3.99.) Later on we plan to have bedding and vegetable plants



If you have any special requirements, please just speak to or leave a message for Penny Smith or Ann Boyce and we will do our best to get the plants you want.



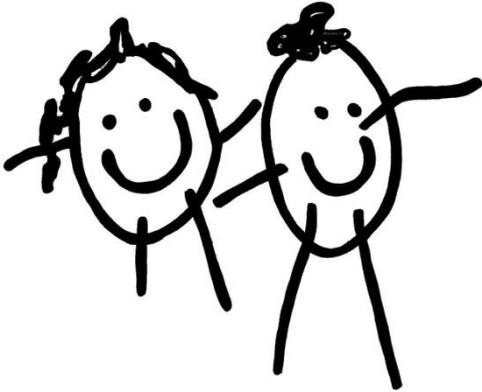
POST OFFICE NEWS

Need Insurance?

The post office offers a competitive range of car, home, and travel insurance. We have booklets to provide the details of these. If you choose one of these insurances, you can either fill in the form in the post office or do it on line and as long as you include our post office code number, the shop gets the commission which makes a very useful contribution to community funds.

Ide Childcare Trust

Job opportunities in Ide



Ide Childcare Trust is the charitable organisation which provides Preschool Education and Wraparound Care in Ide for children aged 2-11 years. We are situated on the school grounds at Ide Primary School and enjoy strong links with the school.

Through our Preschool, Breakfast Club, Teatime/Afterschool Club and Holiday Club we are able to offer quality childcare from 8am-6pm five days a week all year round.

We currently have exciting opportunities for new staff to join our experienced and committed team. We are looking for an enthusiastic person or

people to work part time as:

Preschool Assistant

Teatime/Afterschool Club Assistant

Please note, these two roles could be combined into a more substantial post. Experience and relevant childcare qualifications are desirable but not essential.

We may also soon be able to offer:

Administrative Assistant for approx 6 hours per week.

In addition to these roles, we are always keen to hear from energetic and positive people who would like to join our team of **bank staff for occasional work, including Holiday Club.**

If you are at all interested, or would like more details please see our adverts under 'Preschool/Nursery' and 'Out of School Clubs' at www.devonjobs.co.uk (search Ide Childcare Trust) or contact our Manager, Kayleigh Sweetland on 01392 459594 or email: idechildcaretrust@hotmail.co.uk

We look forward to hearing from you.

Mother's Union for March.

This Month prayer group will meet after the 10.30 am service on Wed. 4th. As always, all are welcome.

We meet again on Wed. 25th at 2.30 pm at Sue Campbell's home, 15 Fore St. when the curate, Mark Nightingale, will be talking to us. Topic to be decided! Again, you are welcome to join us.

Sue Campbell



JUBILEE CLUB



We had our Christmas? maybe Candlemas lunch on February 2nd at Fingle Glen, it was a very pleasant gathering of fifty one members and visitors for a good meal, companionship, finishing by the drawing of lucky numbers in the raffle, keeping Bill, Enid and, Tony busy and the persuasion? of other helpers, distributing the many lovely prizes. Thank you to the Ide Community Shop for their kind donation of a prize.

It is with sadness we learn of the death of Mary Wyke a member for many years, our thoughts with her family.

On February 16th it was a delight to have not one but three firemen at the club to give a talk on fire safety in the home. Gareth`s talk was not only informative but very entertaining. He has been with the fire service for 28 years. That week was national chip week, the introduction of MacCains oven chips has greatly reduced the risk of chip pan fires. The number of fires in the home has reduced, and deaths down. Always try to remember to turn the stove down when the doorbell or phone rings, do not use the toaster against a wall and under the worktop, turn off the television power at night. Take care with candles, the metal stud in the bottom of tea lights become very hot, place them in a container. Chimneys must be swept yearly at least. Take care with the positioning of mirrors as the reflection of the sun can start a fire. There were two members who did not have smoke detectors, Gareth made arrangements to visit and fix an alarm, there are also smoke suitable for the hard of hearing supplied free by the fire service. Should you be unlucky enough to have a fire in your home, be prepared, have an escape plan for your property, in the event of this not being practical stay put, and contact outside help. Do attempt to put the fire out yourself. Gareth took the trouble to go around and speak to everyone.

We are planning an outing on April 27th. a boat trip with Stuart line from Exmouth up the river to Topsham and back, with a ploughman`s lunch, visitors welcome. Sheila Stone drew our attention to discounted rail fares available for disabled people including the hard of hearing.

DIARY DATES

March 2nd	Sally Elliott Heir Hunters
March 16th	Ide Schoolchildren with songs for Mothering Sunday ,followed by a quiz.
March 30th	A video of Pam Ayres
April 13th	Jan Thom Farewell to China.

Jean Hoskin

Fordland - Exeter's Pleasure Garden in Ide

A beautifully illustrated book by Exeter historian Todd Gray portrays the history of Devon's gardens and I was surprised to see that it included Fordland.

These gardens occupied the valley leading to the site where Perridge House would later be built. Created by an Exeter lawyer and councillor, James White, it reached the height of its popularity in the early 1800s.

“Fordland was an Exeter Pleasure Garden in the manner that the famous Vauxhall Gardens was that of London. They differed not only in that Fordland was a more modest affair but also that it remained respectable!” While Vauxhall was notorious for assignations, Devonians would visit the gardens simply to appreciate their beauty and not to ‘carry on’ behind the bushes! There were walks of about 7 miles with rustic temples and seats where visitors could enjoy elegant picnics.



“A cottage, an occasional residence is at the end of a sweet little lawn, commanding a view through the two vales. rich with water and luxuriant oaks” a delighted visitor wrote.

The lily pond is illustrated in a drawing of the time showing elegant ladies strolling alongside, and above the dam is a rustic seat, so that visitors could sit and admire the beautiful views. As a child in the 1940s I remember the lily pond as a magical place and I now realise that the beautiful lilies I enjoyed were the descendants of those planted in 1815 to enhance the lake. Then, you could still walk all around the lake (which you can't do now), but there was no pretty rustic bridge to allow you to cross the Fordland Brook at the far end.



Sylvia Moore



IDE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The HUB DIARY – MARCH 2015

Thursday, 5th	COFFEE MORNING	10.30 – 12 noon
Saturday, 14th	KFP - Pots to plant. Flowers to arrange. Bring your pots or use ours. Take home for Mothering Sunday. Pizza lunch for all	From 10.30 am
Saturday, 28th	AFTERNOON FILM CLUB 'Easter Parade'	2.30 pm
Tuesday, 31st	TREASURE HUNT with an Easter theme A joint event with St Ida's church From 10.30am Details to be announced.	

For HUB room bookings, please contact Jackie Chadwick;
Tel 01392 211150 or jacky.c@talktalk.net



The Badge Making Day at the Twisted Oak was a great success and much enjoyed thanks to the facilities provided and support of mums and friends who joined in. More than 14 adults and 20+ children (difficult to count them all) and babies were there. A visiting family were welcomed to join in. 46 badges were decorated and made and donations covered the cost of machine hire and badges from Exeter Scrap Store, Belmont Park, EX1 2DH. info@exeterscrapstore.co.uk

Why did we change the venue for the BADGE MAKING session to the Twisted Oak you may ask. The idea stemmed from a mum saying they hoped to go to the pub to see the new indoor family facilities on the same day. Would this mean that there would be very few coming to the HUB or even be there for the pizza lunch? After visiting the Twisted Oak and being shown the facilities and being given the go ahead by Director, Tania, arrangements were put in place. Still worrying about the 'if's and but's', Adrian Wyatt gave his approval and placed the event on The HUB Ide facebook. Judith Mbaabu at our Federation offices saw it and sent it round all our Congregational churches. It was even seen by someone in New Zealand! The 2014 Community Award we received was for 'Faith in Action, Church in the Community' and it was one of the deciding reasons that we linked with a new local business and met the wishes of families and others who meet at the HUB.

Plans are under way for the Treasure Hunt so look out for the posters during March.

PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT IDA



1st March	Lent 2	9.30am	Parish Communion
4th March	First Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion
8th March	Lent 3	9.30am	Morning Praise
14th March	MESSY CHURCH 10am to 12 noon		
15th March	MOTHERING SUNDAY	10am	Special Service
22nd March	Lent 5	9.30am	Parish Communion
29th March	Palm Sunday " AN AWAY DAY " 10am at the Kenn Centre, Kennford. Service for all three parishes (with special activities for children), followed by bring and share lunch and fun quiz.		

On the 17th February we were delighted to have a Shrove Tuesday Concert in Church given by Ide Aloud, with drinks (including wine) and pancakes during the interval. The proceeds from the concert being donated to the Church Roof Fund. The singing was excellent with a wide variety of songs including Scarborough Fair and a song about St Ida. Thank you Jane and all the choir for putting this concert together and also a big thank you to Sue Cloke and Mary Bradley for the delicious pancakes.

You will have noticed the fenced area in the churchyard, which Teignbridge have arranged because of a large deep hole which appeared. It seems that an underground tomb has collapsed and this will in due course be filled in. You will also have noticed the small pieces of yew on the path near the bottom gate. We are not sure what is causing this and can only think that the squirrels are biting off the tips of the yew branches. We hope the tree is not dying.

On Mothering Sunday, 15th March, there will be a special service in Church at 10am. Flowers will be given to all the ladies present and the Mothers' Union will provide Simnel Cake with tea and coffee for everyone at the end of the service.

On Palm Sunday, 29th March, there will be a joint Communion Service for all three parishes at the Kenn Centre, Kennford - during the Service the children will go to different rooms for activities. The Service will be followed by a bring and share lunch and a fun quiz.

On Tuesday, 31st March, Messy Church is joining with the Congregational Chapel for a Treasure Hunt, craft, games and lunch.

The Church Annual Meeting will take place in Church on Wednesday, 23rd April, at 7.30pm. This is when the Church Wardens and PCC are elected.

For the first time in approximately forty years we have a Vicar living in our village, so we thought it was about time we put him to work! Therefore, if you need to speak to someone about anything regarding St. Ida's, including the booking of the church building could you please get in touch with Mark Nightingale; his contact details are at the front under 'useful numbers'.

MESSY CHURCH



MESSY CHURCH on the 14th February was great fun. The theme was 'Temptation' and we remembered Jesus being tempted in the wilderness to turn stones into bread (we made rocky road), then being tempted to jump from a high place (we made little people from dolly pegs and gave them plastic parachutes, which floated down from the balcony). We ended the session by playing 'Twister' and having prayers under a big parachute.



Our next Messy Church will
on **Saturday, 14th March**,
from 10am to 12 noon
in Church.

Gertrude Squib of the Hams passed away on January 21st 2015 at the age of 94 years. She had lived happily in Ide for 50 years, loved her garden, enjoyed walking the local lanes and rode her bicycle into her late 80s. Some of her contributions to the community included: joining the Parish Council to get a bus shelter through a petition, being a volunteer for over 20 years at Ide school teaching needlework, starting up the Ring and Ride service and contributing to the start of the Community Shop. She will be greatly missed by her family and all who knew her.

Sacha Palfrey (daughter), Upper Kingswell Farm, Longdown



Gardeners/Growers/Cooks

Please put this date in your dairies

12 September 2015

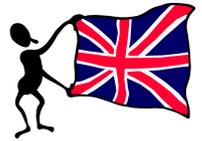
Ide Village Show

Have you ever dreamed of winning a prize for :

- your garden produce,
- the longest parsnip,
- the funniest vegetable,
- your miniature garden or flower arrangement,
- your cup cakes or Victoria sponge
- the best jam

Well,! 2015 could be Your Year

Get started at the
Great Ide Plant and Seed Swap in April
Details Next Month



March greetings – it's a good short month is February, pay day rolls around fairly quickly, and for those who opt for a 'dry January', remaining teetotal for the month, then February brings relief as glasses can once again be raised. Or trifle eaten.

The right sort of trifle.

Ide Twinning matters progress; we haven't actually got round to a dry run involving e.g. checking out the toilet facilities at 'Barometer World' but did recently have a (damp) trial run for a 'Safari Supper' evening, in preparation for our forthcoming French visitors in June. Now, the Oxford Dictionary defines a safari as an expedition to observe/hunt wild animals; our version was less fauna-fied tho' I think someone saw a goldfish at some stage. Tricky creatures, always likely to charge at you, pectoral fins wagging. I daresay most of you are aware of the nature of a safari supper – for those of you who don't it's quite simple. The courses get served at different people's houses, thus sharing the workload regarding catering and clearing up. Think of it as a pub crawl with the added ingredient of fine dining aka gluttony. It worked well, though if the French are subject to the same rulings as applied this time then they had better have large appetites. No, you can't return to France until you've eaten ALL the trifles, chocolate mousses etc. A thing learned; just like 8 out of 10 cats prefer whiskers then a similar ratio of preference prevails when it comes to trifles – the more booze that goes in them, the higher the customer satisfaction. And perhaps a good way to get rid of all the (yucksome IMHO) calvados that is pressed upon us by French twinnings at every opportunity. The evening ended messily, with disco dancing, and no ages barred.....

An advance date for your diaries: **4th July there will be a BBQ on the village green, open to the whole village.** We will all miss village BBQ event being in Joyce and Debbie Stevens' garden, but things have to move on, so we'll see how it goes on the Green.

Next Poachers Quiz is March the 1st. You may've seen the posters. Writing quiz questions to suit all is a taxing business, and I am always aware of how difficult quizzes are for anyone below the age of 30 – the younger you are the less chance you've had to gather wisdom, or rather trivia in the case of pub quizzes. It is with this in mind that I try to put in some questions that suit only younger people. Another view is that most people who attend pub quizzes are older as really, if you're young you have/should have better things to do with your time than traipse along to your local and spend time with a bunch of -er um oldies answering daft questions about things that mostly happened before you were even born. So, I've decided for next quiz to pander to those who feel challenged by the fact that a few questions might be about recent cultural or technological phenomena and go for a 100% retro quiz! Yes, just like a dodgy political party I'm going for the 'grey vote' !

Last quiz was won by a team led by (hmmm....'led by'that's a bit strong) Tony the Landlord. The team probably had a rude name. Can't remember what it was. Oh and next quiz I'll be cracking down on numbers of people in a team, and won't be fooled by any of that 'oh but we've only got 5 in our team, paul/pauline is just here to say hello' or 'don't count steve/stephanie as he/she are completely witless and haven't answered a question since 1956'. You've been told.....

BTW, you'll have surmised from the non-report report of Safari Supper that we twinnors have a good time - just remember that it's open to all. You'll need to pay a fiver membership fee, but easy payment options can be arranged with treasurer Dave Williams, and I think that this year if you buy a sewing machine from him you get free membership for life, or is that bobbins?

Pete Bishop

Traffic near The Twisted Oak.

There are still large numbers of drivers using Doctors Walk and Balls Farm Road illegally as a rat run and making life unpleasant and dangerous for walkers, runners, cyclists and children going to school.

The traffic restrictions are "No motor vehicles except for access" on Balls Farm Road, St John's Cross, Doctors Walk and the Twisted Oak. No-one should be driving on those roads unless they are accessing properties on them.

In addition there is a restriction of "No motor vehicles" at all using Doctors Walk between Ide Road the C50 and the Twisted Oak, between 7am and 9:30am Monday to Friday.

It is OK to use Balls Farm Road and St John's Cross, to access the Twisted Oak and the Ide walking bus. It is illegal to use these roads to access West Exe School or as a short cut to avoid congestion on other roads.

Most of the vehicles on these roads are violating the traffic restrictions. Children have been hooted at and harassed by impatient drivers who seem to think pedestrians should scramble into the hedgerows when in fact the pedestrian's journey is just as important as the driver's and allowing vehicles to overtake on a single track road is a courtesy not a duty. We are very lucky in Ide to have such a great environment and our children have a lovely route to school. They have every right to enjoy safe passage on that road.

The police are aware of the problem and are making Balls farm road a priority. If you have any concerns or wish to report specific incidents, the Alphington team covering Balls Farm road can be contacted via

<http://www.devoncornwall.police.uk/teams/Alphington>

Andy Swain, Pete Bishop, Pip Smithson, Stuart Brooking, Janet Smithson



DUNCHIDEOCK FILM NIGHT.

Film Night has its 10th anniversary this month. It was set up in response to pleas for more village events, and we began with *Calendar Girls*. It has been a feature of the winter months in Dunchideock ever since - 11 films a season (110 in all) mixing the best of the new with a sprinkling of the classics. So we will be cracking a bottle or two of bubbly on March 13th and saying a word of thanks to everyone who has made it possible. And then on to this month's offering, which stars the same wonderful actress as that first film a decade ago.

Friday, March 13th, 7-45pm, Village Hall.

The Hundred Foot Journey.

Glowing French countryside, magic close-ups of cooking, and **Helen Mirren** as the formidable proprietor of a Michelin star establishment confronted with an Indian family planning to set up an Indian restaurant in her village – add the director of *Chocolat* and you have what this writer and his wife found to be a delight, but with an edge. "It's hard to resist." says the *Telegraph*. "A warm-hearted drama that doesn't have to be taken too seriously." says the *Daily Express*.

And following this:

Friday, April 10th "The Theory of Everything" featuring **Eddie Redmayne's** multi-award winning performance as Stephen Hawkins.

Friday, May 8th "The Imitation Game" starring **Benedict Cumberbatch** as the codebreaker Alan Turing

A Taste of Ide Charity Cookery Book

An additional 50 copies of the Taste of Ide cookery book are being printed and will be available within the next few weeks for those who missed out on the first print run. The book will again be available to buy from the community shop. However, I am taking pre-orders now should you prefer (07525706374). All proceeds will go to Children's Hospice South West.

Unfortunately, there was an omission of spices from the ingredients for Martin's curry recipe in the last copy which has been corrected for the next print run. I have had a flyer printed with the full list of ingredients for those who purchased the last copy to collect from the shop so they can be posted out to those given as gifts and to pop inside their own copies. I apologise for any inconvenience and disappointment to those of you who have not been able to cook the lovely tasting curry.

Louise Watson

The Madness of March Hares

Normally nocturnal, solitary and shy, “mad March hares” behave very differently, engaging in erratic behaviour and often brutal ‘boxing bouts’, with punches exchanged and fur flying. Male and female hares are virtually identical, so for a long time it was assumed that males were fighting for females; but the boxing matches aren’t battles between males competing for the attention of the female, but females fighting off the unwelcome attentions of the males. She can be fighting off up to 10 at a time. The female is picky and only wants the best, beating off her suitors (aka ‘stalkers’) until only one remains. This all makes most human courtship rituals seem relatively tame!



Ann Boyce



Registered charity no. 1050108

*The League of Friends attached to Ide Lane Surgery. Co-ordinator **Jane Greenslade Tel 428902 email jane.greenslade@nhs.net***

We support patients by providing volunteer transport to medical appointments for elderly and disabled people, befriending isolated people and providing information/ support for carers.

The Ide Lane Friends Book Sale was well supported and we took £177 for the books. Thank you to the volunteers who helped and to everyone who attended. We are planning another book sale/coffee morning for Sat 16th May. The book stall in the surgery will continue on the first and third Monday morning of the month.

Donations

Due to a couple of generous donations recently ILF have been able to purchase some portable weighing scales for the district nurses to use and some otoscopes for the surgery (these are for ear examinations). Many thanks to the donors.

Companionship and help

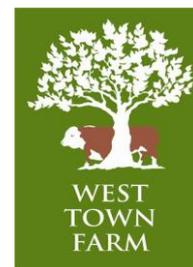
Don't forget that we have volunteers who are happy to visit patients of the surgery of any age for a chat and a cuppa. They can also help older or disabled people with small practical things that they find difficult especially if they have recently come out of hospital. So do give Jane a ring if you would like this.

MARCH NEWS FROM WEST TOWN FARM

With the spring equinox just around the corner we're starting to feel a change in the weather and with spring comes spring cleaning. To start with we've tidied up our children's birthday party packages. Making them so easy to use it would be foolish not to try one.

(We're more than happy to host for adults as well)

We've also been having a reshuffle of our livestock. We've started to wean and move last summer's calves to the Barton so their mums can have a bit of a rest before the next lot arrive.



Our little orange army of Christmas piglets have also been weaned this week. They're now seven and a half weeks old and called weaners instead of piglets. We've found that the easiest way to wean piglets, with the fewest escapees, is to move Mum to the other side of the farm and leave the little ones where they are. Mum seems quite grateful to have returned to 'pig city' with all of the other pigs and away from eleven loud hungry mouths.

On February 14th Calving 2015 started with the arrival of a tiny heifer calf to a first time Mum. She's called Valentina and like the rest of our calves she's a Hereford Friesian cross. Despite being a first timer, Valentina's mum did excellently, which means Valentina will probably have a few calves of her own in the future.

If you'd like to visit Valentina or the weaners you can do so by contacting sian@westtownfarm.co.uk. Let us know as soon as possible before visiting so someone can meet you on arrival and we can provide you with the necessary safety information.

We look forward to seeing you on the farm soon...
Andy, Jenny, Alex, Sian and Javier

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