

West Ilsley News

OCTOBER 2025

www.westilsley.org

Editors

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Deadline for the next publication is:
5 pm on Saturday 25th October

EDITORIAL POLICY

We are editors (though we don't edit unless we have to) – we are not reporters, so we only write something if we want to. We rely on villagers to contribute news and information and welcome updates from groups, committees and businesses to let the village know what is going on in their area of interest. We are always happy to receive feedback about WIN so please get in touch if you have anything to say.

DISTRIBUTION

If you have received a paper copy of this newsletter but have access to email, please join the email distribution list by contacting westilsleynews@westilsley.org – help to save paper and shoe leather!

What's on in West Ilsley

OCTOBER

5th Harvest Festival and Harvest Lunch
10th Village hall Sleep Talk
12th Church cafe

NOVEMBER

5th Bonfire night
14th Village hall Quiz night

DECEMBER

6th Village hall Christmas Jumper party

JANUARY

24th Village Hall Burns Night Supper

FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday 18th November 2025 7:30 pm Full Council

Tuesday 10th February 2026 7:30 pm Full Council

Tuesday 19th May 2026 7:00 pm

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

Tuesday 19th May 2026 8:15 pm

Annual Parish Meeting

A few notes from the West Ilsley Parish Council ("WIPC"), meeting on 9th September, from Tim Pearey.

Traffic

- Public Petition - We are sending a public petition to West Berkshire Council ("WBC"), for a weight limit restriction on Bury Lane. This is to prevent HGVs being diverted through West Ilsley when the A34 is closed. It will be for access only, so farm lorries can still use the road. But we need your help. If the petition gets enough signatures, we may be able to present our case directly to the next full council meeting on 27th Nov. Please watch out for an email soon, with a link to sign the petition. We will also put hard copies in the Harrow and Cricket Club.
- Village assessment - Gareth Dowding (WBC Principal Engineer, Traffic & Road Safety) and Cheryl Evens (Road Safety), have agreed to meet members of the WIPC to walk through the village and assess options to reduce speeding and traffic calming measures. We will also point out the need for better road markings/speed signs on all the entrances to the village and the appalling state of our pavements.
- Tractors – a few tractors have been speeding through the village over the summer. These are NOT from West Ilsley farms. We know where they come from and Alan Bloor is going to, "have a word."

Flooding

- Village assessment – Chris Barnes (WBC Project Engineer - Asset Management & Flood Risk), is meeting members of WIPC and Justin Pilditch (Flood Warden) on Wed 17th Sept, to walk through the village and advise on any further action to be taken. We will also discuss the funding for pumps and the clear out of Keeper's Stables Pond.

Other

- We have instructed a tree surgeon to take out the dead trees around the village pond.
- On this point, a reminder that we live in an area where a removal or reduction of a significant tree requires a Tree Preservation Order.
- There are also a number of properties with vegetation overgrowing/overhanging on to pavements – please clear ASAP.
- Jonny Rayfield has kindly volunteered to carry out maintenance work around the village, including playground repairs, village signs, the goal post wheels and broken fence boards around the cricket pitch.
- Katy Morris carries out a weekly assessment of the playground, to maintain the insurance. This will soon be done on-line, and we would kindly ask for volunteers to help with this routine.

- Various policy documents were reviewed and approved, and we are changing the WIPC bank account to get a better service and interest on the deposit account.

UPDATE FROM Cllr Carolyne Culver

Dear Residents

On Monday 22 September 2025, West Berkshire Council introduced its three-weekly black bin collections (instead of every fortnight). The council says, 'West Berkshire is currently one of the top 10% highest waste-producing areas in England, ranking 25th out of over 300 local authority areas for waste generated per person (Defra, 2023/24). Recent analysis shows that 42% of black bin contents could be recycled using our many kerbside recycling options with 22% of the black bin being food waste alone. This highlights a big opportunity to improve our recycling collected and reduce the amount of waste we throw away'.

Recycling will continue to be taken away every fortnight, and food waste every week. More information is available via www.westberks.gov.uk/3-weekly-collections

There is a new electrical reuse scheme at both tips – Newtown Road and Padworth. Residents can now drop off used mobile phones, tablets, laptops and desktop computers at dedicated collection points at either site, giving their old devices a new lease of life. Visit www.westberks.gov.uk and click on 'News' and you will see stories about the black bins and the electrical reuse scheme, and you can read more about the details. Next spring the scrutiny committee that I chair will look at the impact of the three-weekly black bin collection regime, and the extra recycling services that the council is offering and make recommendations to the council Executive if we think there could be improvements.

If you are aware of any social homes being sold off on the private market please let me know. We are going to look at social housing on the scrutiny committee that I chair, because councillors are concerned about sell-offs. We are also aware of the poor state of repair of some social housing and how long this takes to rectify, plus the fact that housing associations are wary of adopted social homes on new housing developments because of the costs associated. Furthermore, housing associations do not have to reinvest the profits from home sales back into our local area – they can spend them elsewhere in their company's geographic footprint. We don't want to see a decrease in the number of social homes available locally.

Regarding the proposal that West Berkshire, Vale of White Horse District Council, and South Oxfordshire District Council should merge, the aim is to send off a formal proposal to the government in November. There are other proposals for this area too. The most significant one from our perspective is the 'whole Oxfordshire' proposal that Oxfordshire County Council is promoting, because if the government chooses that option it would mean Vale and South Oxfordshire would become part of a new Oxfordshire unitary authority and West Berkshire wouldn't be part of it. Meanwhile, in July Reading Borough Council debated a proposal to ask the government to modify the boundary between Reading and West Berkshire. Reading Borough Council argues that areas like Calcot, Tilehurst, Theale, Pangbourne and Purley have a strong connection to Reading. We should find out from the government in spring 2026 what they think the best option is. There isn't going to be a referendum on this – it's up to the government.

Residents can report problems (unemptied bins, broken streetlights, potholes, abandoned vehicles on public highways etc) by visiting www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem

For information about road works (eg utility companies digging up roads) please look at One Network <https://uk.one.network> which contains a map where you can search for details of what is happening in your area.

Best wishes, Carolyne

Cllr Carolyne Culver

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

Chairman, Scrutiny Commission

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www.westberks.gov.uk

THE ILSLEYS NEWSLETTER

As you all know, this school has started a brand new academic year. There are nine new reception children and one child who has joined us in Year 4. All of the children have settled in really well and are having a great time at our school.

There are new topics to learn about in Curriculum as it is the start of a different term. Arctic (Reception and Year 1) are learning 'All About Me'. Pacific (Year 2, 3 and 4) are learning about 'Hunter Gatherers'. Finally, Atlantic (Year 5 and 6) are learning about 'Ancient Egypt'.

We are still taking part in lots of exciting clubs this term and even more have been added to the list for September 2025! There have been many new clubs added to the list so we now have Games Skills and

Football Club with Danny, Street Dance, Netball, Speed-stacking, Recorders, Board Game Club and Arts & Crafts.

We have also now got our own After School Club called uKids which is convenient for parents who work during hours after school. This club is open until 6.00pm. uKids provides tasty snacks and many enjoyable games for the children. The children even get to spend time outside and get some fresh air.

We also have Stay and Play for local children who are interested in joining the school in September. The next date for this is Monday 6th October. This is a chance for you and your child to get to know the school and the teachers before your child starts so please do pop along if you can! Existing parents are also very welcome.

Written by a Year 6 and a Year 5

OCTOBER AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Sunday 5th Harvest Festival at 11.00am

Sunday 12th Communion at 8.30am

Sunday 19th Communion at 9.30am

Sunday 26th *No service at All Saints'*

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

<https://www.eastdownland.org.uk/news-and-notices/this-week> for other services in the benefice during October.



Harvest Festival followed by Harvest Lunch

This will be on Sunday 5th October – The Harvest Festival service will be at 11am in church followed by Harvest Lunch in the Village Hall. If you would like to bring donations of non-perishable goods to the service or to the lunch, these will be distributed to West Berks Foodbank. Hopefully you will have booked your tickets for the Harvest Lunch from Rosanne by now. Do come to the service even if you are unable to join us for lunch or to the lunch if not able to attend the service, but we look forward to seeing you at either or both events.

Café in All Saints' Church

Our next monthly cafe is on Sunday 12th October between 10.00am and 11.00am. No charge but donations go to a different charity each month. Last month donations amounted to £100 and were sent to Home-Start, which supports families in the community. Everyone is always very welcome to join us for coffee (or tea!), cake and a chat!

Pet Service

It was good to see around a dozen very well-behaved dogs attending together with one very brave cat, and their owners. The collection of £135.10 has been sent to the National Animal Welfare Trust at Trindledown Farm.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 8th November **from 10am** - Church and churchyard tidy up

Sunday 9th November at 10.55am - Remembrance Service.

Private Prayer

All Saints' will continue to open on Saturdays and Sundays for private prayer between 9.30am and 6pm.

Pastoral

If you would like prayer (or other support) for you or someone else, please get in touch. We are happy to be contacted by phone or email using the details of contacts shown below.

If anyone needs help, do contact the wardens or clergy who will do their best to help.

To subscribe to the weekly pew sheet, which contains readings, prayers and notices about church events in the benefice, please go to the East Downland website (see above)

Contacts:

Churchwardens: Ian – 01635 281625; Alexandra – 01635 281306

Rector: Revd John Toogood – 01635 247566 or 07748 822336 - edownlandrector@gmail.com

Associate Priest: Revd Douglas Dales – 01635 247404 – revdjdales@gmail.com

East Downland Benefice Office: 07957 458107 - eastdownland@btinternet.com – Usually manned on Thursday & Friday mornings between 9am and 1pm.

Kay and Ian Fewtrell-Smith

**Harvest Festival at Catmore Church
will be at 4pm
on
Sunday October 12th**

WHO TO CONTACT

DEFIBRILLATOR is outside the village hall - code: C159

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT Olivia Bailey MP

If you want to get in touch with me or book a surgery appointment you can email me at

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

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

PARISH COUNCIL

Council members are:

Alan Bloor alan.bloor@westilsley.org

Georgie Carlisle-Smith georgie.carlisesmith@westilsley.org

Katy Morris katy.morris@westilsley.org
Tim Pearey timothy.pearey@westilsley.org
Rachel Hudson rachel.hudson@westilsley.org
Johnny Rayfield jonny.rayfield@westilsley.org
Sarah Marshman – Clerk clerk@westilsley.org

PATIENT REPRESENTATION GROUP rep is Joe Clerkin
(01635) 281150 or joeclerkin@georgeweb.co.uk

PRESCRIPTIONS are delivered from Compton on Tuesday mornings at 8.30. Please collect yours from Ann Barnes, 3 Morland Close on **Tuesdays only between 2 pm and 4.30 pm**. Repeat forms can be posted through the letter box at any time before Monday evening for the following week's delivery.



TENNIS COURT "Pay & Play" is available to non-members for £10 per hour. Non-members can book up to 24 hours in advance. To book the court please use <https://westilsleytennis.jezzam.com> or scan the QR code!

For all enquiries, please contact the

Tennis Committee via

<https://westilsleytennis.jezzam.com/contact>

VILLAGE HALL

Bookings & enquiries:

Any new bookings should now be done via the village

Website: <https://www.westilsley.org/>

Any booking enquiries please contact Louise by email:

village.hall@westilsley.org

Anyone without access to the internet can leave a message on: 01635 281762

Rates: £12/hour for villagers and £15/hour non villagers.

WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL – REPORT A PROBLEM:

<https://westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem>

WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL – REPORT SPEEDING:

<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/speedingtraffic>

WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL – REPORT DOG FOULING:

<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/article/36781/Report-Dog-Fouling>

HOW TO CONTACT WEST BERKS COUNCIL REGARDING

EMERGENCIES 01635 551111

[https://westberks.gov.uk/emergency-](https://westberks.gov.uk/emergency-contact#reporting%20outside%20office%20hours)

[contact#reporting%20outside%20office%20hours](https://westberks.gov.uk/emergency-contact#reporting%20outside%20office%20hours)