

West Ilsley News

AUGUST 2025

www.westilsley.org

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Deadline for the next publication is:

5 pm on Monday 25th August

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

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What's on in West Ilsley

SEPTEMBER

27th Macmillan coffee morning – village hall

FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday 9th September 2025 7:30 pm Full Council

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

PRE FETE PARTY

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the West Ilsley Pre-fete Party to kick off the fete weekend, it was brilliant to see so many people enjoying themselves and we saw so many amazing outfits!

We hope everyone who came had a great time!

A huge thank you to everyone who helped organise the event and to everyone who helped out on the night - it wouldn't have been possible without all the support we received from the village!

We hope to see you all again next year!



FETE REPORT

West Ilsley fete is done and dusted for another year, and what a fete it was!! The weather did not dampen our spirits! The sound of the Blewbury Brass Band, crockery smashing and the smell of burgers in the air, it was all very traditional of West Ilsley.

Here goes.....

The BBQ did a roaring trade and were busy all day feeding the masses with delicious burgers and hotdogs. Thank you Dewi and his team, Alan Bloor, Alan Beaumont, Justin Gilbert and Roger. 100% of the BBQ profit goes back into the village and is the fetes main earner. Your hard work does not go unnoticed !! 🍔 🍌

The cricket club bar was open all day. Charlie did a great job of keeping everyone well hydrated & happy. Thank you to everyone who pulled some pints. 🍺 🍷 Thank you to Nigel and Wes for running an outside bar too! You can never have too many bars! 🍺

Louise B, Anna, Henry & his daughter, Andrea, Louise T and Aunty Linda, on behalf of the tennis club, were busy selling teas & coffees, as well as delicious homemade cakes. You all did an amazing job, thank you! Thank you to everyone who baked cakes too.



The clothes stall did a great trade this year. Vicki, Tricia, Avice, Christine and Sara, thank you so much for

all of your hard work. I'm sure lots of people walked away with some great bargains. 📺📺👗👗

The bric-a-brac was back again this year, with lots of interesting items for sale. Thank you Katy, Kristie and Vic for running it. Also thank you to Sam and the cadets for helping hold the gazebo down when the wind picked up.

This year the dog show was judged by Vera from East Ilsley. Thank you very much! Best In Show went to Red, the red Labrador, well done. Sadly, Red's owner, Rupert, couldn't be found, so we gave the Best In Show trophy to Rubie, who won the Veteran class! 🏆🏆

A very big thank you to all the families who sponsored the dog show, your donations helped cover the cost of the rosettes, prizes & treats. 🐕🐕🍗

The raffle was very popular, with some pretty impressive prizes up for grabs. It raised almost £500. Well done to everyone who won prizes. 📦

The Booze In a Barrow was won by Rob Storton, he couldn't believe his luck! 🍷

The crockery smashing and coconut shy (without coconuts) are always popular, thank you to Rosanne, Ian & Kaye and Suzie & Colin for running them on behalf of All Saints Church. 🥥

The bottle stall was very busy and sold out pretty quickly, raising nearly £200!! Thank you to Dan & Henry for running it and a BIG thank you for all the bottles from very generous villagers! 🍷🍷

A very big thank you to The Pearey Family for letting us hijack their paddock, move their sheep and use it as a car park for the day!! 🚗🚗

I roped Michael Junior in this year to be our MC. Michael did a great job and entertained everyone with his banter, thank you. It's not an easy job! 🎤🎤

Georgia Pilditch and Annabelle Hudson painted faces all day. I saw several robots, tigers, butterflies and many more! The queue was never ending! You did a great job, thank you! 🦁🦋

Our circus performer, Storm in a Teacup was a great hit. The children enjoyed playing with her stilts, hoola hoops and plate jugglers. The bubbles were epic too! 🎈🎈

The FIPS (Friends of Ilsley's Primary School) were running a bowling game and a sweet stall, they were kept busy and did a great job, thank you to Vicky, Gemma and Angelique. 🎳🎳

We had a table tennis tournament in the marquee, which was fun. Thank you Donna & Steve for working hard all day. 🏓

Mr. Muddle's joined us this year, he had a great audience for his magic shows and kept all the children entertained. He made some fantastic animals out of balloons too. 🎈

How many balloons in a tractor, was won by Andrew Chandler with his guess of 79, well done. He took home a lovely toy tractor for Bertie and Agatha.

Thank you to Rowles Farm for the loan of the tractor! 🚗🎈

Marnie and Angela had fun with some palm readings and general witcheyness. 🧙🏻‍♀️🪄

Marnie was delighted by the interest shown and flyers taken on her first ever outing. Knowing what the soil is doing and understanding how to balance for optimal grazing can greatly help the horses health and well being.

For any more info www.soilecologylab.co.uk.

Another huge thank you to Pete Carlisle and his team for ferrying fete kit backwards and forwards from various barns and garages around the village! 🚗

Amongst all the usual fete stalls we had some lovely produce stalls, including Geoff Wand with his brilliant art work, Helen Shilton with her earrings and paintings, Anne Wand with her Danish crockery, Emma Dweck with her lotions, potions, crystals & gorgeous towels and Flo Sews with her lovely handmade scrunchies and hair clips.

The welly wanging was super popular this year all because of the lovely Juliet Ryder and her merry gang. Welly's were wanged and records were broken. Thank you very much for all of your help and enthusiasm.

WELLY WANGING RESULTS 🦵

Men - Alex - 28m 20cm

Ladies - Cass - 19m 25cm

8-16 boy - Rory Manson - 26cm 10cm

8-16 girl - Holly Ryder - 12m 50cm

Under 8 boy - Bertie Chandler - 5m 76cm

Under 8 girl - Agatha Chandler - 6m 83cm

Looks like the Chandlers cleaned up!

West Ilsley Produce Show 2025

Thank you to everyone who took the time to enter this year's produce show. We had a huge number of entries, and it was really lovely to see everyone's handiwork.

Some classes were very hotly contested – The Maltings seems to be harbouring some of the best bakers in the village with the Gentleman's bake cup being awarded to Philip Knight for taking 1st place with his lemon drizzle cake and 2nd place with his loaf of bread.

Noah, Zach and Matilda baked some very tasty butterfly cakes whilst Hugo, Zelig and Henry wowed with their wonderful cookies – well done!

The Pilditch house is obviously the place to go if you're feeling thirsty! Justin Pilditch placed joint first for his sloe port with Juliet Ryder's elderflower cordial and Justin also took second place for his sloe gin.

The ladies' cup was awarded to Amanda Slater for her pet portrait and this year the rose bowl went to Tricia Monro for her beautiful arrangement of sweet peas. The new Tony Elliott cup for the best decorated house was awarded to Kate for her wonderfully colourful display of ribbons and bunting!

The full results are detailed below – thanks again to everyone who took part.

	1 st place	2 nd place	3 rd place
Best single flower	Ted Wilson-North	Rosanne Pilditch	Kate Tiffany
Best floral arrangement	Tricia Monro	Matilda Wilson-North	-
Best hanging basket	Olive (Cold harbor cottages)	Mrs Butterworth (Hillside)	The Wells at 14 Main St
Homemade drink	Justin Pilditch and Juliet Ryder	Justin Pilditch	-
Loaf of handmade bread	Dan Hudson	Philip Knight	Jo Bret-Day
Lemon drizzle cake	Philip Knight	Dan Hudson	Louise Taylor
6 butterfly cakes (7 and under)	Noah & Zach	Matilda Wilson-North	-
6 cookies (14 and under)	Hugo Lucas	Zelie Rich	Henry Hudson
Adult pet portrait	Amanda Slater	Graham Woods	Louise Beaumont
Children's pet portrait	Honor Pilditch	Holly Ryder	Barney Briggs
Best decorated house	Kate Tiffany	-	-

The fete wasn't the same without our Tony! He was thoroughly missed! I hope we did him proud.


From the takings of this year's fete we will be donating to all the village groups as well as The Air Ambulance.

The fete wouldn't happen without the hard work of the committee and volunteers who help on the day! Thank you to each and every one of you!

We also had a lot of help from the Air Cadets, a big thank you to them.

From your 2025 fete committee

Georgie Carlisle-Smith, Hayley Morricks, Justin Pilditch, Katy Morris, Rachel Hudson, Nigel Ryan, Will Thomas-Ferrand, Tim Pearey, Tony Elliott (in spirit)

Next year's fete will be held on Sunday 5th July, save the date!!!! 

If you would like to join next year's committee, please let us know. Your fete needs YOU!

And that's it!

AUGUST AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Sunday 3rd Family Service at 11.00am

Sunday 10th Communion at 8.30am

Sunday 17th Communion at 9.30am

Sunday 24th *No service at All Saints'*

Sunday 31st *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-noticeboards/this-week> for other services in the benefice during August.

Fifth Sunday – 31st August

There will be a United Benefice Communion at St Mary's Church, Chieveley at 9.30am, followed at 11am by a United Benefice Family Service, so a service for everyone. Do come to one or both.

Café in All Saints' Church

On this National Lazy Day, come and spend an indolent hour enjoying coffee and cake at our monthly cafe on **Sunday 10th August** between 10.00am and 11.00am. Donations go to a different charity each month. A pleasant time in the shady part of the churchyard last month raised £155 for Children Heard and Seen charity, which supports children with a parent in prison. Everyone is always very welcome to join us for coffee (or tea!), cake and a chat!

Date for your Diary

Sunday 7th September – 11am Pet Service

Sunday 5th October – 11am Harvest Festival followed by Harvest Lunch in the Village Hall

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

Autumn Group
incorporating the
Hobbies Club

We have invited Anthony Cribb, to talk to us about his career and what led him to become a Arms and Armour Antiques Specialist.




It is a truly fascinating story. Anthony brings with him a wealth of experience and will share the many pitfalls in buying and selling of the wide range of products in various conditions in hat has become a global market place.

The meeting will be on Tuesday 26th August in the Wilkins Centre, Compton at 2pm.

There will be an entrance fee of £5 to cover refreshments. Members at their normal rate

For further information and membership details contact:
Patricia 07786 856 440 or Fiona 07769 654 604

Autumn Group
incorporating the
Hobbies Club

We have invited  to talk to us on various issues and explain what steps can be taken to plan for the future.

Tax, Care and Toy Boys

What subjects will they talk about?

- Protecting your family's nest egg
- Inheritance tax
- Prevent 'sideways disinheritance'.
- Lasting Powers of Attorney
- Vulnerable Persons Trust

The meeting will be on Tuesday 12th August in the Wilkins Centre, Compton at 2pm.

There will be an entrance fee of £5 to cover refreshments. Members at their normal rate

For further information and membership details contact:
Patricia 07786 856 440 or Fiona 07769 654 604

THE ILSLEYS NEWSLETTER

As you all know, we had Sports Day on Monday 23rd June. The children took part in many races like sprint races and obstacle races and much more. The pupils were very competitive and did well in their houses. They all enjoyed this day and made the most of it.

A week ago, we had an art day that had a nature theme which involved eco-friendly, sustainable activities. Some examples are mandalas and making clay prints. Some classes even went on a walk out in the open. The children enjoyed all of this and had a great day.

Last week, the Year 6s went on a trip to PGL for the whole week. The location was Osmington Bay, Weymouth. There were 4 people in each sleeping room and they came all together during the day. They did a range of tasks that they all really enjoyed. They made the most of the holiday and behaved really well. On 9th July, it was Transition Day which meant all of the pupils moved into the years they will be in the next academic year. That meant that the Year 6s went to The Downs for 2 days and the new Reception pupils came in for a day. Everyone moved into their new classes for the whole day.

On 15th July, it was the school play which was 'Olivia with a Twist' and had two performance times - 2pm and 6pm. All of the students worked really hard on this and so did all of the teachers. The props took team work and co-operation to make and decorate. They didn't have much time to organise this so they did a great job in getting everything done.

During the later weeks of the term, we had the class Curriculum Assemblies all about what they learnt about in the past few months. They shared all of their learning with their parents and the whole school.

A few days ago, the school had an iRock concert to show what the children have learnt about music during the term. They played songs on different instruments that they learnt to perform on. There was a range of music types during the concert.

On 16th July, it was the Swimming Gala Finals at Northcroft Leisure Centre. It was a tough competition but we won two trophies. The students worked as hard as ever and did amazingly well!

On 18th July, the school had a Federation Challenge Day at Hampstead Norreys which included both schools coming together. This involved many activities, such as sports and calming exercises. Instead of being grouped by houses, the children were put in completely random teams. It was a great day.

After the challenge day, at 6.00pm, the Year 6s had a Leavers' Prom which had the theme 80s and 90s disco. There was even a special addition this year which was face paint! All of the pupils that went had an amazing time. There were awards at the end as usual and all of the ear 6s were happy with what they got.

On the last day of term, we will have a Leavers' Assembly to say goodbye to Year 6.

We hope you all have a lovely summer.

Written by a Year 5 pupil

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE AT WEST BERKSHIRE LIBRARIES – 'STORY GARDEN' THEME

This summer, West Berkshire Libraries are once again inviting primary-aged children to take part in the annual Summer Reading Challenge, running from 1 July to 15 September 2025. Developed by national charity The Reading Agency, this year's theme—Story Garden—celebrates the magic of nature and storytelling, encouraging children to keep reading throughout their summer break.

Children can read up to six library books and earn free rewards for their achievements, including medals and certificates for those who complete the challenge. Just drop in to your local library now to get started!

Little ones aren't left out either—a Mini Challenge is available for pre-school children, offering a fun introduction to reading and library visits.

Pop-Up Library at Compton Village Hall Join us on the second Thursday of the month—14 August and 11 September—from 10:15am to 11:45am to explore our pop-up collection. Sign up, swap your books, and discover new stories to enjoy at home.

Whether you're an avid reader or just beginning your journey, there's something for everyone—and new members are always welcome!

Come along, meet fellow book lovers, and dive into a summer filled with stories. We can't wait to see you there!

Elizabeth Beverley
Libraries Manager

Community Services, West Berkshire Council
Newbury Library, The Wharf, Newbury, RG14 5AU
Phone 01635 519197 Mobile 07557254145 | E-mail Elizabeth.Beverley1@westberks.gov.uk
www.westberks.gov.uk/libraries

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 – Carolyn Culver 07976 374146
Carolyn.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>