

# West Ilsley News

APRIL 2023

[www.westilsley.org](http://www.westilsley.org)

## Editors

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Deadline for the next publication is:  
5 pm on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April

## 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

Our aim is to reach every dwelling in the village. Most homes have signed up to receive WIN by email, but for those who haven't, the Parish Council produces paper copies which are delivered by volunteers. 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](mailto:westilsleynews@westilsley.org) – help to save paper and shoe leather!

## What's on in West Ilsley

### MAY

4 <sup>th</sup>	Local elections
7 <sup>th</sup>	Coronation events
15 <sup>th</sup>	Parish council meeting and annual assembly

### JULY

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Village fete
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## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The scheduled meetings of West Ilsley Parish Council through to May 2023 are as below. The agenda will be available on the village website 3 clear days before the meeting. You can also read the latest Parish Council Minutes and hear how village matters are being addressed. Visit our village website at [www.westilsley.org](http://www.westilsley.org) - all the latest information from our meetings is available under the "Parish Council" tab. You can see the draft minutes of the March PC meeting by looking on the website or clicking: [here](#)

Date of Meeting	Type of Meeting
2023	
Monday 15th May	Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
Monday 15th May	Annual Parish Meeting

**Welcome** to the several new residents who have arrived over the last few months. Thank you to those who have signed up to receive WIN on email, and you will also be receiving details of activities and events via email too. Here are details of regular sessions currently running in the village which you might not yet be aware of – contact details below if you would like to join in:

**Pilates** Thursdays, 6-7 pm

contact Lois - [lois2@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lois2@hotmail.co.uk)

**Sound bath** Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 7.30-8.30 pm and  
Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> 10 am – 12 noon

contact Emma - [emma@dweckdesigns.co.uk](mailto:emma@dweckdesigns.co.uk) and  
07796 272 386

**Fishman** - outside village hall every Thursday morning 9 am-9.30 am - no contact details but if he has to cancel he will contact someone to send an email round

**Café church** - There is a cafe in the church on the second Sunday each month from 10-11am with drinks and homemade cakes - donations to a local charity. Everyone is welcome. Please bring your own mug.

## UPDATE FROM THE PC

Delighted to welcome Tim Pearey onto the PC and would like to thank Liz for all her efforts and in particular on the Speed Indicator Device (SID) – Liz is still operating this but could do with some assistance, please contact Liz if you would like to help. Please remember that Photo ID is being introduced for the first time and will be required to vote at the local council elections (being held on Thursday 4 May). Passport or driving licence is absolutely fine but if anyone needs more information feel free to contact the PC and we will try and help. It is also worth noting that the upcoming elections includes Parish Councils so if anyone from the village wishes to put their name forward this is your time to do it. If anyone is interested please let me know and I will be happy to help.

Although we are nearing the end of the official Great British Spring Clean (which runs until 2 April) if anyone fancies co-ordinating a general tidy up through the village let me know and I will assist.

Finally, sad to see Pete and Jacqui leave the village and is certainly the end of an era and we all wish them the very best for the future. Alan Beaumont - Chairman

## LOCAL ELECTIONS – 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023

Local elections throughout West Berkshire are taking place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May. This is for all the parish councils, including West Ilsley Parish Council, and for West Berkshire Council. The formal notifications of election at both the parish and district levels can be found on our website and the noticeboard.

For West Ilsley Parish Council it is possible to elect 6 councillors.

For West Berkshire Council all wards are included, however, relevant to West Ilsley is the Ridgeway ward where 1 councillor can be elected.

For West Ilsley Parish Council, if 6 or fewer applications are received, these applicants will be elected uncontested to the council. If more than 6 applications are received, there will be an election for which the residents of the parish will vote on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

Regardless of whether you need to vote for your parish councillors, there will be a vote for your District Councillor on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

To vote in the elections this May, you will need a photo ID if you are voting in person. If you do not have this, you can either apply for a postal vote or a Voter Authority Certificate. **If you need any help with applying for election or applying for the free ID or want to request an application form, contact the electoral services team at West Berkshire Council by calling 01635 519464 or emailing [vote@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:vote@westberks.gov.uk).**

Acceptable forms of Photo ID include:

- Passport
- Driving licence (including provisional license)
- Blue badge
- Certain concessionary travel cards
- Identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- Biometric Immigration document
- Defence identity card
- Certain national identity cards

Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo.

Dr. Sarah Marshman PSLCC  
Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer  
West Ilsley Parish Council

## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

### April at All Saints' Church

Palm Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Family Service at 11am  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> Compline with Reflection at 8pm  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Midday Prayer at 12 noon  
Easter Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Family Communion at 9.30am

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Family Communion at 9.30am  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> No service in All Saints'  
Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> United Benefice Communion 9.30am  
Please look on the notice board in the lychgate or on the East Downland website:  
<https://www.eastdownland.org.uk/news-and-notice/this-week> for other services in the benefice during April.

### Clay Pigeon Shoot-Thank You

This took place on a chilly but dry day in March, when 28 teams of around 4 collected to shoot clays, just off Bury Lane below the Ridgeway. Bacon baps and coffee were very much appreciated beforehand, while hot drinks and a plentiful selection of cakes were on offer afterwards. Our thanks go to everyone involved, particularly Richard and Giles, but also to the generous sponsors, trappers, shooters and those who turned out on a cold Sunday morning to cheer them on. All proceeds, when finalised, will help with the finances of All Saints' Church.

### Easter Church and Churchyard Tidy up - Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April from 10am.

As well as the usual cleaning, cutting and trimming, which we would very much welcome help with, we will be glad of a number of extra volunteers with wheelbarrows, shovels and rakes to spread pea shingle on the path. We hope you can spare an hour or so to help make your church sparkle for Easter.

### Holy Week 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> April

There will be short reflective services twice a day at 12 noon and at 8pm during Holy Week at different churches in the benefice – a time to sit quietly and bring a period of calmness to our usually hectic lives. Details will be on the Easter card, which will be coming through your door soon, but West Ilsley will be holding a service on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8pm and on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. (See services above).

### Good Friday Walk

This year the Service of Prayer at the Cross will take place at Beedon at 2pm after the walk, which will again be led by Lesley Chandler. We will start at Peasemore Church between 9am and 9.15am and walk to Farnborough, arriving around 10.15/10.30am. After a short rest, it will be on to West Ilsley, arriving around 11.45am, where there will be a stop to eat packed lunches in the Village Hall. At around 12.45pm we leave for Beedon to arrive in time for the service at 2pm. All times, except starting time, are approximate. Join or leave the walk at any time, but arrive a little earlier than the times indicated if you are not planning to walk the whole way. For further details ring Lesley on 07767 355435.



### Easter Services

All Saints' will be holding a Family Communion service on Easter Sunday at 9.30am – we hope to

see you there! There will be a variety of services here and in the rest of the benefice during Holy Week, on Good Friday and on Easter Day, so do look on the church notice board or on the benefice website (see above) for times and places. An Easter card announcing all our Easter services throughout the benefice will be coming round soon.

### Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> April at 8pm

We hope you will come to the annual meeting in church and hear the review of the past year.

### Electoral Roll

We are currently updating our Church Electoral Roll – if you would like to be on the roll, which enables you to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting please contact Rosanne Pilditch ([rosanne@pilditch.com](mailto:rosanne@pilditch.com) or 280553). To be eligible to join you need to be baptised, be a member of the Church of England and be a resident of the parish.

### Private Prayer

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

### Dates for your Diary

**7<sup>th</sup> May** – There will be a special service in church to celebrate the accession of King Charles III, followed by refreshments.

**3<sup>rd</sup> September** – Pet Service

### 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 or would just like to chat, do contact the wardens or clergy who will do their best to help.

### Contacts:

**Churchwardens:** Ian – 01635 281625; Alexandra – 01635 281306

**Rector:** Revd John Toogood – 01635 247566 or 07748 822336 - [edownlandrector@gmail.com](mailto:edownlandrector@gmail.com)

**Associate Priest:** Revd Douglas Dales – 01635 247404 – [revjdales@gmail.com](mailto:revjdales@gmail.com)

**Associate Priest:** Revd William McDowell – [rev.w.mcdowell@gmail.com](mailto:rev.w.mcdowell@gmail.com)

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

Kay and Ian Fewtrell-Smith



Nights are getting lighter, the weather is, hopefully, getting warmer and it's a new year at the tennis court. Why

not dust off your racquet, dig those shorts and trainers out and enjoy the fresh air?

Membership for the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 is just £45 for a family, £25 for a single adult and £15 for a single junior (under 18).

This gives you access to the court booking system where you can book and play as many times during the year as you like for no additional fee.

All enquiries to:

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

## CORONATION WEEKEND



Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May – There will be a special service in church to celebrate the accession of King Charles III, followed by refreshments.



Coronation Village Picnic  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May from 12.30pm  
West Ilsley recreation ground

All villagers and guests are invited to attend a BYO picnic on the recreation ground (cricket pitch), from 12.30pm on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May. To encourage a prompt start, a glass of meaningful Pimm's will be offered to those arriving on time. A long banquet table and chairs will be laid out and a marquee, in case of inclement weather (guaranteed).

An exhibition village cricket game will follow lunch, with the cricket pavilion open throughout, providing further entertainment and merriment into the afternoon.

And, maybe, just maybe, The Harrow will be open for sundowners.....

### THE CORONATION 1953

A couple of us are cataloguing for the Parish Council a lot of village documents and photographs which have been kept in a loft for some years. We came across the following article which was one of the display papers for the West Ilsley Parish Council 1994 centenary celebrations – we thought the villagers of

2023 might be interested to see how things were done 70 years ago! The author is Tim Morland.

"The Coronation celebration at West Ilsley got everybody in the village working together; we raised money from raffles and donations and from a fur and feather whist drive, enough to provide mugs for each ("a nice momentum for the kiddies" said Fred Verney) and to lay on a party for everybody and drinks to toast the Queen in Mr Hinds' barn. The drink did not stretch as far as we had anticipated as a lot of the Hodcott stable lads drank up and held up their mugs for more before we had got round. Eventually the toast was drunk however; for me it was flat champagne in a chipped King Edward VII mug. There was a dinner for all the old people, but when Denis Morland went to tell Loyd Newton and offered to ferry him, he just said "I ain't old" and shut the door in his face.

Most of us listened to the service on the wireless, but my brother Ben was invited to go and see it on the Eagles' new television. I think the Burkes were the only others in the village to have a set.

Eventually the climax of the evening was reached when the entire population was taken by tractor and trailer up on the Ridgeway for the bonfire and fireworks. Charlie Watts, gamekeeper and special constable, volunteered to keep an eye on the houses while we were away. The bonfire was enormous, carefully built from straw bales, old motor tyres and assorted timber. Denis Morland had a major hand in its construction, and both Jimmy Gore and Norman Hinds provided material and labour. It was lit with a trail of straw soaked in petrol (Fred Angell was soaked in petrol too but he was kept out of harm's way). Very magnificent it looked despite the wind and the rain which caused most villages to postpone theirs. Lots of passers-by on the main road came up and jointed in.

The fireworks were bought from Waeco near Salisbury; they came packed in a tea-chest together with full instructions as to how they were to be set up. The rockets were to be placed on a table-like structure which had two layers of wire netting about a foot apart. The idea was to put down a piece of card which was the fuse, arrange five on each side with the blue touch paper on the card, then light it so that a salvo of ten rockets went up together. However we thought we would save time by putting all the rockets out beforehand with the result that ten went up as planned, closely followed by ninety more, which looked magnificent but left us without any more for the rest of the display. However all the other Roman candles and things were fairly successful, except for something called a "Blitzkrieg" which fell over and surrounded me with sparks and bangs – very unnerving but no harm was done.

Even more unnerving was the moment when Denis Morland, in trying to light a "Golden Waterfall" (which

was a row of fireworks joined together and timed to something which looked like the crossbar of a football goalpost), found the fuse was too short to be reached from the ground. Accordingly he positioned the Landrover underneath it and lit the fuse while standing in the back. Then he jumped for the driving seat – but the Landrover wouldn't start. The sight of the golden rain pouring down on the Landrover was one not to be forgotten.

Finally came the tableau with ER and a crown, and everybody clapped and went off to bed.

The following weekend at Drayton I watched exactly the same firework display being let off properly in calm weather, with the rockets spaced out and the rest staying the right way up. It seemed a little tame after ours ..."

## NEWS FROM THE ILSLEYS PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Written by a year 6 pupil

This month, The Ilsleys football team played Bucklebury in a match. Our team had great fun and really enjoyed it. The results of the games were: 1-0 and 0-0 - we won one game and tied in the other. We are looking forward to future matches with other schools!



We also had World Book Day where we got to come in dressed up as characters from our favourite books. We had lots of opportunities to read books throughout the day. In assembly, we had a whole school photo. We had a great time and loved seeing each other's and the teachers' costumes.

Pacific recently had a class trip to the Science Museum in London where they learnt lots about space. They also got to see the incredible Space Exploration gallery. During the day, they had a fun, educational workshop all about space. They had a wonderful day and learnt lots of interesting information.

On the topic of Space, Pacific Class have also been making their very own planets in Art! They had help from Jill Hobbs – an amazing artist – and used balloons and plaster. They blew up the balloon, covered it in plaster and added the finishing touches. Everyone really enjoyed this project and the finished planets look amazing!

Meanwhile, in preparation for the upcoming NCTs, the Year 6s have really enjoyed spending the day at



Hampstead Norreys School every Monday for study sessions. We have been able to make lots of new friends and have had more opportunities to revise together. The Year 5s have enjoyed being the eldest at The Ilsleys on Mondays.

We have also had Red Nose Day, and were able to express ourselves by wearing our own clothes. Money was raised for the cause and we hope that it made a difference.

Another exciting event that has taken place is the school cross-country run. A few children from year groups 3-5 were selected to compete in a 4km run. Pupils from many other schools around the area were there and everyone supported each other and cheered on from the side-lines.

Arctic Class are loving their topic at the moment – which is all about transport – and they had a very exciting school trip recently. They went to Didcot Railway Centre to learn all about trains! All of the little ones were very excited and could not wait to spend the day there and to see all the huge trains and carriages.

We hope you have an amazing and well-deserved Easter break, from everyone at The Ilsleys

### **BIRTHDAY GATHERING, APRIL 8TH**

There will be a party from 7pm at the village hall for a small birthday (! 🎂), on 8<sup>th</sup> April. Kicking off from 7pm, feel free to come along, and bring a drink, if you fancy a dance. Apologies for any disturbance on this special Easter weekend! Any queries, contact Matt Yarnall (Hebron Cottage, 07929 569 050).

### **WEST ILSLEY VILLAGE HALL SURVEY 2023**

Thanks very much to those who completed the West Ilsley Village Hall survey. We had 50 responses from around 130 houses, which was a fantastic response.

Most respondents (20) have been in the village 10-30 years, with 16 having been in the village 30+ years, 7 respondents up to 3 years and 4 up to 10 years. It was great to see feedback from such a range of households. See answers to question 3 below.

Respondents were predominantly households of 2 people (21) with 17 respondents being a 4 person household. And ages of people in the household were well distributed, predominantly 30 to 80 (58 respondents) or 5 to 29 (33 respondents), see answers to question 5 below. Highlighting the high number of families in the village, and the need to cater for all ages.

The majority of respondents had visited the hall in the last week (13), or the last month or 3 months, highlighting the increase in events over the winter months. See answers to question 6.

When asked what events respondents would be interested in attending at the village hall, the majority

(44) said socialising, followed by well-being (29) and adult education (27). See question 9 below.

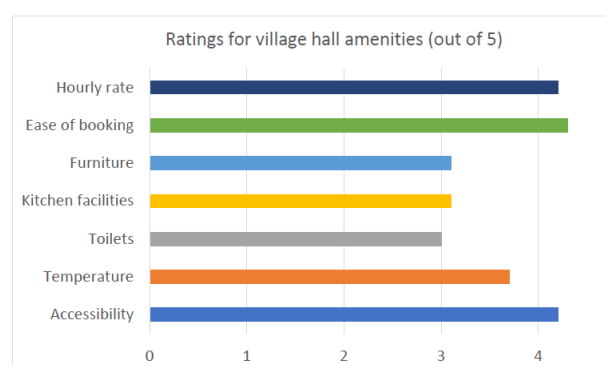
Specific suggestions included pop up café, film nights, art exhibitions, table tennis, dance classes, a shop, library, repair shops, race nights etc. Preferred day and time for such events was not surprisingly weekend evenings followed by evenings in general.

When asked if respondents would be interested in having office facilities at the village hall, 15 said yes or maybe. This information will be provided to the West Berks village halls organisation, which is investigating support for such facilities.

Most people heard about events through ad hoc WIN event emails, or the monthly WIN.

Around half (24) of respondents said that they were planning or maybe planning on booking the hall for an event in 2023, with reasons for those saying they weren't including 'no need', 'kitchen inadequate', 'atmosphere' or 'furniture'. This feedback will be used to aid the short and long term development opportunities for the hall.

This will also be guided by the ratings for the village hall amenities, which were as follows.



It was great to see that 9 people said yes or maybe to the question 'do you have a hidden talent or knowledge that you would be happy to share with others'. Comments included sewing, cooking classes, sport nutrition, flower arranging, wine, and talks on space.

Following the very successful talk from Zu and Jacqui, the survey provides further incentive to put more of these events on, with 2 more lined up already. The aim is to do these over the winter months, to avoid clashing with WICC gatherings and brighter nights when people may want to be outside.

Even more pleasing were the 16 who said they were interested or maybe interested in supporting events or helping with the running of the village hall. We will be keen to make contact with those who volunteered themselves, to help bring even more events and people together in 2023.

## WHO TO CONTACT

**DEFIBRILLATOR** is outside the village hall - code: C159

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR** – Carolyn Culver 07976 374146

### PARISH COUNCIL

Council members are:

**Alan Beaumont** chair@westilsley.org 07980 875179

**Alan Bloor** alan.bloor@westilsley.org

**Clive Hooker** clive.hooker@westilsley.org

**Alan Muir** alan.muir@westilsley.org

**Graham Woods** graham.woods@westilsley.org  
07905 558884

**Sarah Marshman – Clerk** clerk@westilsley.org

**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT** – Laura Farris

laura.farris.mp@parliament.uk 01635-551070

**PATIENT REPRESENTATION GROUP** rep is Fred Carter on  
281621 or fred\_kathcarter@btinternet.com

**PRESCRIPTIONS** are delivered from Compton on Tuesday mornings at 8.30. Please collect yours from Ann Barnes, 3 Morland Close on **Tuesdays only between 10.30 am 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** membership and enquiries email -

tennis.bookings@westilsley.org

Book and play without joining via

westilsleytennis.jezzam.com

### VILLAGE HALL

**Bookings & enquiries:**

Any new bookings should now be done via the village

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

Or by email to: [village.hall@westilsley.org](mailto:village.hall@westilsley.org)

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

Rates: £10.00/hour for villagers and £12/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>