

West Ilsley News

JULY 2025

www.westilsley.org

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Deadline for the next publication is:
5 pm on Friday 25th July

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

JULY

4 th	Pre fete party
6 th	Fete

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

UPDATE FROM OLIVIA BAILEY MP

I am delighted to be writing my first column in West Ilsley News, and I'd like to update everyone on two local issues I have been campaigning on: unsafe A34 slip roads and cleaning up the River Pang.

Earlier this year, nearly 500 residents responded to my survey about the dangerous slip roads at East Ilsley and Beedon. Since then, I've shared their stories in Parliament, taken National Highways on a site visit, and presented a Ten Minute Rule Bill in Parliament -

an effective way to bring the Government's attention to a specific issue.

I have a meeting with the Roads Minister in the diary and have been engaging with her and the department in the meantime. I want to see a safety review delivered quickly, alongside any necessary improvements so that people in West Ilsley and surrounding areas who use the slip roads no longer feel afraid commuting to work, or every time their child drives into town.

I have also been continuing with my campaign for more protections for the River Pang. Chalk streams like the Pang are incredibly rare – there are estimated to be only around 200 worldwide with 85% in England. I'm sure many of you have fond memories of walks along the Pang, but unfortunately like many other chalk streams, it is in desperate need of protection from pollution.

There is brilliant work going on locally to monitor the Pang's water quality, and campaigners, citizen scientists and landowners are working in partnership to deliver innovative new projects. I have also met with those involved in the Flagship Project and the other day, I visited the Pang at Hampstead Norreys with the Angling Trust and on the Yattendon Estates with Natural England. It was great to discuss the opportunities for restoring habitats and enabling greater access.

This month, I made a speech in the House of Commons to call for enhanced legal protections for chalk streams including the Pang, to go alongside the recently passed Water (Special Measures) Act that addresses poor performance from water companies. I was delighted with the Minister's promise that he is keen to consider this issue further and I will continue to engage with Government ministers to secure the protections our chalk streams need.

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/qgoHw>.

INFORMATION FROM WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL:

Postal Votes now need to be renewed every 3 years. New rules for absent voting mean that postal votes will need to be renewed every 3 years.

In West Berkshire, there are currently 19,000 people whose vote is due for renewal by the end of January 2026. The Council's Elections Team will be contacting those people this week, either by email or letter.

Find out more about how to update your postal vote at www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote

If you have any questions about your postal vote, you can call 01635 519464.

Next Community Forum announced

Please join us at 6:30pm on Tuesday 15 July for our next Community Forum, an informative session on Local Government Re-organisation and Devolution. The Forum will focus on the proposal for a new unitary council 'Ridgeway Council' covering the districts of West Berkshire, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. This initiative is part of a broader government plan to replace two-tier local government structures with larger, single-tier unitary councils. This will be one of a number of engagement events that have taken place during the engagement period.

Forums are an opportunity for residents, community members, and stakeholders to come together to discuss local challenges and opportunities that can shape the future of our neighbourhoods.

The aim of this Forum is for you to learn more about the proposal, for us to understand your views on the proposal and what it would mean for our communities.

Please send your questions to

CommunityForumQuestions@westberks.gov.uk by midday Friday 11 July and we'll answer them during the Forum.

You can attend the Forum in person at Theale library, Church Street, Theale RG7 5BZ or join us online via Zoom, making it convenient for everyone to participate.


You will need to register at


CommunityForumQuestions@westberks.gov.uk and state if you will attend in person or online. Online participants will receive the joining link closer to the time. The event will also be streamed live on our YouTube channel.




Sunday 6th July 12 - 4pm


It's nearly fete time and as always we are calling upon the village for help.

 We would love your good quality ladies, men's and children's clothes and accessories for the clothes stall. Please let us know if you would like to donate and we can collect or bring it along on Saturday 5th July to the cricket pavilion. We are also running a bric-a-brac stall, so any home accessories, toys, games etc. we would love to give a new home.

If anyone has any crockery they would like to donate for the crockery smashing stall, please let one of us know. 

Remember to decorate your houses ready for the Best Dressed House competition!! There is a prize up for grabs!!

If you were lucky enough to win any silverware at last years fete please could you return them. 

Please let us know if you would like a stall or to help at the fete this year, we always need your help! 

Your 2025 fete committee

Tim Pearey, Katy Morris, Nigel Ryan, Rachel Hudson, Will, Hayley Morricks, Justin Pilditch

Produce Show 2025

This year's show classes are on the poster below, and we are very much hoping that there will be a bumper number of entries in each class. There is something for everyone and it's very much the taking part that counts!!

As well as the usual cups and trophies, this year the Tony Elliott Cup will be awarded to the best decorated house in West Ilsley.

So hang out that bunting, get practising your baking and perfect those pet portraits!



West Isley Summer Fete 2025

Sunday 6th July 2025
12 - 4:30pm Recreation Ground

BBQ & Bar
Bouncy Castle
Classic Cars
Dog Show
Face Painting
Ice Cream

Local trade stalls
Popcorn & Sweets
Produce Show
Raffle
Tea & Cakes
Tug o' War
Wellie Wanging

and much more!



Proceeds go to local charities and organisations

West Isley Produce Show

FLORAL

1. Best single flower
2. Best floral arrangement
3. Best hanging basket

Only £1 per adult entry and 50p per child entry

KITCHEN

4. Home made drink (alcoholic or non-alcoholic)
5. Loaf of hand made bread
6. Adult bake: Lemon drizzle cake
7. Children's bake:

All classes are open age except where marked

Rosettes for winners

- Six butterfly cakes (age 7 and under)
- Six cookies (age 14 and under)

PHOTOGRAPHY AND CREATIVE

8. Adult photography: Pet portrait
9. Children's photography: Pet portrait (age 14 and under)
10. Best decorated house in West Isley

All entries to be registered in the marquee by 1:00pm on fete day. Classes 3 and 10 will be judged in the week before fete day.



West Isley Dog Show 2025

1. **Cutest Puppy (under 1)**
Sponsored by the Axtell and Gilbert families
2. **Best Veteran Dog (over 7)**
Sponsored by the Storton & Duckworth families
3. **Prettiest Bitch**
Sponsored by the Fraser & Banks families
4. **Most Handsome Dog**
Sponsored by the Dray & Hagen families
5. **Best Junior Handler (under 12)**
Sponsored by the Yarnall & Briggs families
6. **Dog That Looks Most Like Owner**
Sponsored by the Sugden family & Janice Sheppard
7. **Best In Show**
Sponsored by the Beaumont and Woods families

£2 per entry

Rosettes for winners and a treat for every dog taking part



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

We are very excited about a new addition to the Village Hall Library, the South East Guide for Parent Carers of Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

This easy-to-understand guide is designed for parent carers in our region and offers crucial information on how to support those with additional needs from birth to 25 years including information on targeted support, early years assistance, education and learning, preparing for adulthood, financial support and much more.

If this would help you or someone you know, head down to the Village Hall Library to borrow a copy.

JULY AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Sunday 6th Family Service at 11.00am

Sunday 13th Communion at 8.30am

Sunday 20th Communion at 9.30am

Sunday 27th 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-notice/this-week> for other services in the benefice during July.

Café in All Saints' Church

Our next monthly cafe will take place on Sunday 13th July between 10.00am and 11.00am. Donations go to

a different charity each month. Last month £63 was raised for Pancreatic Cancer UK. Everyone is always very welcome to join us for coffee, cake and a chat!

Date for your Diary

Sunday 7th September – Pet Service at 11am.

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 – revjdales@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

THE ILSLEYS NEWSLETTER

Just before half term, Year 3 & 4 took part in a mini tennis tournament at Park House which they enjoyed. Also, Year 6 visited the Open Studio at The Base in Greenham and were grateful for this experience.

On June 5th, Atlantic Class went to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford to find out about more about their topic which is Ancient Greece. They discovered many artefacts and statues that were made thousands of years ago. Annabel's and Zafira's favourite part was the workshop and getting to hold real artefacts that were not replicas.

On June 17th, Years 3 to 6 took part in the District Swimming Gala at Northcroft Leisure Centre and we are happy to announce that we won many races, including a small school relay! Five people went and they all did around two races each. When they came back to school, all the pupils were happy to hear the results and are looking forward to the finals in July. We were glad that no-one got disqualified.

This month, we have been enjoying many activities such as a Kindness Workshop which taught us all about the importance of kindness for our mental health; we also created our own way of giving kindness such as

songs, raps, kindness boxes, posters and thank you cards.

Arctic and Atlantic were visited by Newbury Fire Service and they told us how to be safe and help prevent fires from happening. They showed us around the fire engine and the teachers tried on the clothes they would wear. Arctic were very excited as their topic was 'Emergency Emergency'.

On June 18th, Year 3 and 4 went to Englefield for a school trip which they go on annually. One of their activities were looking at antler bones from muntjac and deers and they also looked at some stuffed animal skins from animals which had once been alive. They really enjoyed this experience and were super well-behaved.

Children from the school opened the Sheep Fair by singing our school songs and, on June 17th, the new Reception pupils for September came in for Story Time at the end of the day.

Sports Day will have taken place by the time you get this newsletter. More on this next month!

Written by a Year 6 and a Year 5

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>